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Comments:

Please be care-ful about forest vegetation.

I believe you want comment in regard to your Forestry Plan. I can't attend the meetings, but do want you please to err on the side of the welfare of the trees and other vegetation in the forests. Seems to me that sustainability of those is the reason for your existence, for the existence of national forests.

In particular, I believe there should be no fracking on forest land. It's not only not safe, not proven to be safe, but this is not the place for activity so disruptive of the environment. The same applies essentially to mining and other production of energy. Ecological restoration also seems to me the paramount goal of your work in the foreseeable future. Please don't allow core forests to be broken up. Controlled burning should be used, and natural flood and grazing should return. The national forests are not the place for commercial logging. The NC Natural Heritage Program has identified 36 ecologically important areas and these should be protected through your management. Roads and timber production should not affect Wilderness Society Mountain Treasures.

A lot of people are working diligently to understand the needs of forests and other natural areas. Please heed their advice. Commerce is important, but strong boundaries are needed to limit or prevent what can happen in national forests. The trees come first. Long term.

Thank you,
Ann Karson.