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Pisgah-Nantahala forest plan

I have come to find out that the US Forest Service has recently released a draft of a plan for forest service management which would open up 700,000 acres of Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests to logging.

The idea of logging 700,000 acres or the act of simply "opening up" this percentage of the forest to potential logging is absolutely preposterous. Pisgah and Nantahala National forests are NOT a crop. Though I believe sustainable logging can be a part of a successful forest plant, the areas and magnitude of currently proposed logging is unacceptable and would yield disastrous effects on the health of the forest. Equally important, it would also crush the area in terms of recreation and tourism economy.

As an avid user of these forests for recreational purposes, I've seen that the forest service can't even maintain or keep up with the current logging roads which are in place. How and why can you plan to build more? All while destroying trails and recreational opportunities. Defending this argument by saying the actual "trail" will not be logged is insufficient. As we saw this past summer with the logging in North Mills River, the trails were still closed during the logging and the environment of the forest/trail was destroyed and is still disturbing to those who value this place for the beauty and recreation it provides.

I can only hope that the Forest Service begins to see the environmental, recreational and ecological destruction which the current forest plan draft would allow. Please protect our most valued natural places in Pisgah and Nantaha Forests so they can continue to be enjoyed by current and future generations.

Thank you,

Brent Bookwalter

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Brent Bookwalter

BMC Racing Team

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