

Date submitted (UTC): 11/16/2014 7:31:07 PM

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Comments:

Pisgah-Nantahala Forests Deserve Better

I am disturbed at the direction the Forest Service is going with its draft plan by opening up almost 70% of the forest as suitable to logging. This is a shocking proportion of the landscape to be designated for timber production and ignores the wide array of ecological services and economic benefit WNC?s provide to local communities, especially considering that many of these areas are roadless, potential wilderness areas. I think that the new plan should include the following elements:

- 1) The revised plan should include strategies to prevent invasion by non-native plants, pests, and pathogens.
- 2) Protections for stream buffers and old-growth forests from the 1994 plan should be carried forward.
- 3) Roadless Areas and Potential Wilderness Areas should be placed under management that does not allow commercial logging and road building.
- 4) The new plan should focus on restoring the most degraded ecosystems on the National Forest, rather than manipulating areas that are currently in good condition.

I frequently travel from Texas to hike and enjoy the botany of western N. Carolina mountains. Money into your local economy. Thank you for considering my comments.

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