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Comments:

Protect our forest

Please enter this into public comment regarding the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest Plan. I feel it is important that the USFS continue to protect the more than 125000 acres of ancient forest including unique biological areas, ancient forest areas and recreational areas. The majority of stakeholders understand that with the current proposed plan that loggers will be bogged down with appeals and challenges resulting in less timber harvests while those who wish to recreate in the national forests will find favorite spots at risk and unprotected. Please don't let the current impasse caused by a small number of stakeholders cause the USFS to settle for a plan that will be more problematic. Untouched virgin cove forest areas need to remain untouched. Areas that can affect our watershed negatively need to be thoughtfully protected. We love our hiking trails and special places such as camping at Santeetlah lake, blueberry harvesting at Graveyard Fields. Our national forests are the reason tourists come here and boost our economy every year. Too many acres are targeted for logging in the current plan. Please reduce the areas open for logging to those areas that are already designated for logging.

Respectfully

Karen Albig Smith

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