

Date submitted (UTC-11): 8/30/2017 11:30:12 AM

First name: Jim

Last name: Bray

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1:

Address2:

City:

State:

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country:

Email: jimbrayis@gmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

Geographic and Management Area building blocks

Hi,

I've read the Reader's Guide and looked at a few other odds and ends, but really don't feel qualified to make anything but some general observations.

1. I'm not opposed to logging in principle (I feed my woodstove with my chainsaw), but I want to see logging in this NF restricted to low-impact practices solely to serve management objectives. There's plenty of tree-farm flatland NF, but a lot of places here (Panthertown for example) should be managed solely for conservation and enhancement, not for wood production.
2. The USFS LEOS are really fairly unpleasant. I generally get along well with cops, and get along great with the Dupont staff, where I swim, bike and cut firewood by permit. The USFS LEID tend to be paramilitary-wannabee thugs, and that's a fact. I don't know what you can do about that, seeing as how I'm told they don't answer to anywhere but DC, the root of most evil in my opinion and probably most folks in these parts. (No offense, and bless their hearts, etc.).
3. I'd especially like to see high-latitude areas (say 4000 feet and up) managed to try to recover big-tree old-growth conditions, whatever forests were like when the Cherokee were managing them. I don't expect to live long enough to see high-altitude and special interest (eg Panthertown) areas restored to that condition, but I'd like to know it is happening.
4. Other than having no camping, Dupont NC state forest is for me a model of how things should be done, and I wish USNFS-NC could be more like them. There's just a different attitude, corporate culture if you will. Maybe it's because the rangers and such there seem to be rooted in the local community and answer to the state and not the federal behemoth, and I expect you folks do the best you can and mean well, and I don't expect you to be able to do anything about this, but want to put it out there anyway.
5. I've seen car-camping anywhere near Brevard fairly well ruined by a combination of restriction to scarce designated areas and people including homeless people squatting these places. If I want to camp, I drive over to little-known areas in Jackson County. I'm not even sure

what to recommend here, just an observation.

Feel free to ask follow-up questions if you have any, and good luck with the plan.

Cheers,

Jim Bray