

Date submitted (UTC-11): 9/30/2017 9:44:05 AM

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Comments:

Spring 2017 Material Plan Building Blocks

I would like to submit a public comment opposing the use of public forests and lands for large scale mining, timber operations and industrial use. As a small business owner in the Outdoor Recreation Industry, there are thousands just like me, who's business, jobs and employees, rely on conserving these irreplaceable areas. Our Industry provides long term domestic jobs and tax income if these lands are managed protected. Entire communities thrive on tourism, feeding the local economy and taxes, both income and sales. These lands have great value. To some they are short term value, to be destroyed, used up & abandoned, leaving taxpayers in the hole with unusable land. To many more, these lands have great value, long term. Generations have enjoyed these lands for fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating and vacationing with their families, and will continue to do so if they are protected. Please consider the impacts to thousands of small and large business owners. From retailers, to guides, to lodging, restaurants shops & gas stations. Our jobs and our businesses are more important than a short term profit making venture.

Thank you

Jane Ochsenbein

most recent statistics show-

THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY IN NORTH CAROLINA GENERATES

260,000 Direct Jobs

\$28.0 BILLION In Consumer Spending

\$8.3 BILLION In Wages and Salaries

\$1.3 BILLION In State and Local Tax Revenue

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