"Allen Williams"
<williams1232@cs.com>

01/30/02 09:04 AM
Please respond to
williams1232

To: "John Gries, Southern Forest Resource Assessment Co-Chair" <jgreis@fs.fed.us>
cc: "David Wear, Southern Reource Assessment Co-Chair" <dwear@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Region 8 Southern Forest Resource Assessment Comment

USDA Forest Service
Southern Region
1720 Peachtree Rd NW
Atlanta, GA 30367
Attn: John Greis

Dear Mr. Greis,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Southern Forest Resource Assessment released in draft November 26, 2001. As a user of Forest Service and other public lands in the 13 state area affected by the assessment, it is important to me that the information presented in this assessment be used to the fullest extent possible in ongoing Forest Service land management activities and planning affecting fish and wildlife.

As a member of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance, I support active, science based management of National Forest Lands, the protection and maintenance of healthy fish and wildlife habitat, the continuation of traditional forest uses for hunting and angling, and the maintenance of reasonable access.

I want to congratulate you on providing an excellent information source on the Southern Forests and acknowledge the work that went into the document. More specifically:
1. The report provides the best science-based assessment ever done on the history, status and future trends for forests and wildlife in the Southern Region. This science should be considered significant and should be utilized extensively in USFS wildlife habitat management decisions.
2. The report should be a benchmark upon which policies of forest management, wildlife habitat management and outdoor recreation management are based.
3. The report should be the accepted standard for the current status and trends on natural resources upon which future fish and wildlife habitat management goals can be based.
4. The report substantiates, and USFS management should respond to, the need for a strong, well balanced fish and wildlife program in Region 8 that addresses the Regions biodiversity and recreational issues framed in the context of forest health.
5. And, the report substantiates, and USFS land management should readily incorporate, active forest management (including prescribed fire, thinning and even-aged management) as important components needed to address fish and wildlife habitat management in the Southern Region.

National Forest lands represent a small fraction of the land base in the Southern Region and are very important for the publics' fish and wildlife based recreation. I urge you in the strongest terms to use the information in the assessment to guide future management and maintain the Region's very productive and diverse fish and wildlife habitats for the continuation of traditional uses as well as for the benefit of future generations.

I suggest you consider extending the comment period on this assessment because of the national holiday period that occurred during the comment period and because broader public knowledge and understanding of this assessment will be highly beneficial to the southern forests' future management.

Sincerely,

Allen Williams
1320 Flint Drive
Christiansburg, VA 24073

To the recipient -- this email message has come to you via the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance web site -- a public tool for providingg input on wildlife management issues in our National Forests. The TRCA crafted this message but the sender had control to edit it.

Please contact the TRCA staff at 1-877-770-TRCA (8722) or email info@trca.org with any questions. Thank you.

This letter was composed at www.trca.org, a web site maintained by:

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