0:0:0.0 --> 0:0:21.610
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
This malones for supervisor for the National Forest in North Carolina. We're gonna go through some intros just for the benefit of everyone. I know it might be a little bit repetitive for folks that have been on before, but just to make sure everyone that that might be joined for the first time get gets some some good context. So I'll turn over to Nancy for a few.

0:0:22.830 --> 0:0:54.100
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Kind of tech and and housekeeping things and then we'll get into that. Great. So these are the art opening remarks similar to what we did on day one and I know that most of you that are on the line have been on the line, but there may be some new folks as well. And so we just wanted to make sure that you're comfortable using teams and that you know where the raised hand function is on the on the bar, the taskbar. So that if if you want to enter into the dialogue you can use that.

0:0:54.530 --> 0:1:8.490
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Hand Chris that hand on the tag bar there and and let us know you wanna speak the closed caption feature is available to you where the three dots are that say more right in the middle of that.

0:1:9.200 --> 0:1:17.0
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Umm screen that comes down allows you to turn that closed caption feature on ohh which can be important.

0:1:18.30 --> 0:1:37.710
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We again want you to know that all three days of this session are being recorded and that by attending this meeting you're agreeing to to be recorded. We've been doing that and that recording and the transcript will be made available to you on the forest website after the meeting.

0:1:38.430 --> 0:2:7.640
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Weeks after the meeting, if you have any technical difficulties whatsoever, please feel free to call the Quincy Gordon. There's a phone number in many places, but here it is on the wall for you there. The meeting calling number is there. If you get kicked off for any reason, you can call in. And as shared is on the line. Someone you come in on the phone line, we can't allow. We can't ask you to raise your hand. You can't. You don't have that possibility. But when.

0:2:8.350 --> 0:2:19.450
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Once we've set-up the the topics, and if there's a point that you want to enter in and can raise your hand, please let us know and we'll make sure you get in the queue OK.

0:2:20.430 --> 0:2:20.910
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44
OK.

0:2:22.10 --> 0:2:23.0
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So.

0:2:25.190 --> 0:2:32.760
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I think that's all I need to cover. There's no chat box here. People have been sharing screen with supplemental information that seems to have been working pretty well.

0:2:34.190 --> 0:2:35.540
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And so that's a possibility.

0:2:36.340 --> 0:2:44.930
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Alright, so uh, technology wise, I think I've covered it back to James. Hey, thanks, everyone. I'm just gonna hit a few.

0:2:47.70 --> 0:2:51.380
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh high points. Just for a little bit of background in context.

0:2:52.820 --> 0:2:53.340
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The.

0:2:54.40 --> 0:3:9.440
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The Nantahala and Pisgah are are special places and and I know I'm honored to to steward those along. All of you are partners, volunteers and employees that that dedicate their careers to to this work.

0:3:10.980 --> 0:3:20.360
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know, looking back as we think about the next generation of of managing these lands, you know, looking back over the past century or so, kind of where we came from.

0:3:21.400 --> 0:3:51.50
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We're with some of the first tracks of land over the weeks act were were were purchased here on the Pisgah and and how we have turned those cutover lands to where they are today. I'm biased, but I think one of the most amazing conservation success stories out there. So now as we look forward, obviously we've been working on our forest plan to help guide.

0:3:51.210 --> 0:4:11.430
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Guide that next generation of the plan and we've been working for almost 10 years with with all different interests and groups across Western North Carolina and across the country that folks that love these places. So it's been an extraordinary effort in collaboration to get to where we are today.

0:4:12.590 --> 0:4:14.80
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We know we've heard.

0:4:14.560 --> 0:4:29.30
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Umm, the the things that are most important to to so many folks around sustaining biodiversity and wildlife habitat, the spiritual connections to nature, providing food for families through hunting and fishing.

0:4:29.890 --> 0:4:43.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Access to those special places and the importance of of the forests for supporting local economy and jobs and and locally grown forest products and and so much else.

0:4:45.410 --> 0:4:55.830
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
At the end of the day, I we believe that there's room for all of all those uses and values within the over 1,000,000 acres across an entail and Pisgah.

0:4:57.90 --> 0:5:6.900
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We're proud of the fact that we're the birth place of scientific forestry in America and the first tract of land under the Weeks Act that created the Eastern National Forest.

0:5:8.160 --> 0:5:15.230
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Now as we look forward, especially with the complex challenges and the kind of the rapid, rapidly increasing.

0:5:16.730 --> 0:5:21.80
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Rate of change that we're seeing, it's more important than ever.

0:5:22.200 --> 0:5:25.670
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
To ensure the far forest ecosystems are healthy and resilient.

0:5:26.890 --> 0:5:39.800
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And that's critical to the long term sustainability of the habitats these forests provide and for all the uses that we know are important, as we have some of the most visited national forests in the country.

0:5:41.760 --> 0:5:54.980
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We we've really tried to step back with the plan and and as we looked at all these intricacies and say there's four common themes that we see that that kind of are.

0:5:56.280 --> 0:6:25.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Repeated throughout the plan, which is sustaining healthy ecosystems, providing cleaning abundant water, connecting people to the land, and doing that all through the lens of partnering with others. I'm very proud of the fact that we probably have as much or more volunteer and service hours of any National Forest in the country. Last year. I think that was valued at over $5 million. Pretty amazing. The contributions from everyone to these forests that we all love.

0:6:26.140 --> 0:6:26.600
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Umm.

0:6:27.270 --> 0:6:55.860
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So you know I, we we all love and value the lands, but of course you know, sometimes the exactly how and and and where we do things is where we can reasonably disagree and work through those complex issues. So that's that's a big reason why we're here today to kind of work through those. Those objections that were filed. So we'll hear those additional thoughts and then discussing any remedies that you all have from your objections.

0:6:56.560 --> 0:6:59.800
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Rick Link is here to listen and ask questions and.

0:6:59.880 --> 0:7:5.180
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh folks that have been with us this week, Rick does a great job of of answering.

0:7:5.330 --> 0:7:13.570
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Like uh, providing some great questions and having a good dialogue. So it's not just one way, but it's a chance to hear different perspectives.

0:7:14.770 --> 0:7:33.410
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So Rick is the reviewing officer in the process. Rick will take a few minutes to talk about that process and then go get back to to Nancy to provide a little bit more ground rules and agenda for the rest of today. And so thanks everyone and turned over to Rick.

0:7:34.620 --> 0:7:38.710
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah. Thanks, James. Good morning, everybody. And for those that are joining for.

0:7:39.970 --> 0:7:58.500
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Day 1/2 and now 3. Welcome and thank you. Those are just joining for the first time today. Also welcome and thank you. I'm Rick Lynn, one of your one of your deputy regional horses for Region 8. And I'm serving as the reviewing officer for this objection process.

0:7:59.700 --> 0:8:9.50
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And again, really respect your time and that you're making time for this and your your commitment to to the the forest here.

0:8:10.30 --> 0:8:11.40
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And.

0:8:12.250 --> 0:8:26.10
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I'm gonna cover some of the same information I've covered on the other days, so might be a repeat for folks, but I wanna go ahead and say it again. Especially one is a refresher and two for the folks that are just joining us today.

0:8:27.370 --> 0:8:29.810
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
As James mentioned that the purpose of this meeting.

0:8:30.630 --> 0:8:41.920
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Is to help me better fully understand some more of the complex issues that were raised in your objections, and especially to explore the potential remedies.

0:8:43.360 --> 0:8:46.610
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Everybody provided a lot of information in the written injections.

0:8:48.200 --> 0:8:59.540
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Having said that, it wouldn't be possible over the next over the over these last three days, including a day to go over each and every issue. Therefore, during our our time together.

0:9:0.740 --> 0:9:6.910
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You have selected a a broad array of issues covering multiple topics that I I felt warranted.

0:9:7.720 --> 0:9:9.50
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Additional verification.

0:9:10.420 --> 0:9:18.980
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And so this this meeting will allow us to focus on your proposed remedies. You've offered on some of your specific issues.

0:9:19.950 --> 0:9:23.220
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
There, there's really no need to restate your objections.

0:9:23.300 --> 0:9:44.630
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
But you know enough to provide the context that's necessary, but the idea is you really want to hear the those resolutions. You know, after all, it's a it's a resolution meeting. So my review of the objections to the Netherland Pisgah Forest Plan considered objections submitted by 819 objectors wide for range of issues.

0:9:45.870 --> 0:9:54.860
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
In addition, there were 40 individuals eligible as interested persons, which is a category of people commented before and are interested in being part of the conversation.

0:9:55.700 --> 0:10:1.240
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We'll be inviting both the objectors and the interested persons to speak when that topic comes up.

0:10:2.370 --> 0:10:12.200
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And that's all because it's very important to me to have a a fuller understanding of the issues, including the perspective of others with a stake in this decision.

0:10:13.730 --> 0:10:15.740
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Along with my review.

0:10:16.600 --> 0:10:20.70
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Objections teams review and that objections team is.

0:10:21.930 --> 0:10:36.200
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Big group of interdisciplinary subject matter experts from across the country that we've we've asked to help. They're reviewing the objections coming through them and proposed remedies to the revised Land Management plan.

0:10:37.280 --> 0:10:46.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We were evaluating the plan the team is going through the IIS, going through the draft record of decision and the project record.

0:10:47.820 --> 0:10:57.940
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
To ensure all the current laws, regulations and policies have been met, and then they'll provide me with their recommendations for whether changes are warranted to improve the analysis.

0:10:58.520 --> 0:11:5.210
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS

The plan itself and the final decision and what we talk about here today, is a very important part of that review process.

0:11:7.30 --> 0:11:8.80
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
After this meeting.

0:11:9.20 --> 0:11:13.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
All prepare my my final written response to the objectors.

0:11:14.620 --> 0:11:28.790
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And that response will reflect my findings from the review and the objections. And as I mentioned, including the current laws, regulations, policies, agency direction and the remedies that you've proposed, as well as the discussions that we have here this week.

0:11:30.350 --> 0:11:35.570
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And that that decision, that written response may include instructions.

0:11:36.400 --> 0:11:47.190
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
To James to address changes that I I find are necessary to address those objection issues you've raised about the same time improving the plan.

0:11:48.250 --> 0:11:52.190
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
To sit the final plan decision plan and supporting documentation.

0:11:53.370 --> 0:11:58.30
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And again, this week's discussion, this dialogue we're having will help inform my response.

0:11:58.940 --> 0:12:3.100
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
But please know I'm I'm not making decisions today. We're we're doing intake.

0:12:3.850 --> 0:12:9.530
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We're going to evaluate and then get all that information in front of me so I can make some decisions.

0:12:12.10 --> 0:12:12.480
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And.

0:12:14.550 --> 0:12:28.920
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The way the written response will be, it'll be one response to all objectors and interested persons,

combining the issues under general topic areas, and my response will be the final decision for the US Department of Agriculture regarding your objections.

0:12:31.300 --> 0:12:37.650
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And throughout throughout the week and discussions and hearing hearing from everybody that we've, we've I've had a chance to hear from.

0:12:38.420 --> 0:12:50.690
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
It it's really impressive to me and and obvious that we we share that passion and the commitment to all our forests for the the Ellen Piska in particular.

0:12:51.530 --> 0:12:58.200
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And that that, that, that those sentiments are lost, you know, comes through clear and again.

0:12:58.960 --> 0:13:12.810
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I have a huge respect for what you have to offer and the the time and energy that you're you're helping us to to make this plan. As we said on one day make make the a good plan even better. So thank you.

0:13:14.90 --> 0:13:14.580
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So.

0:13:15.310 --> 0:13:24.400
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
During the day, share your thoughts with me. I wanna hear your solutions and especially details about your remedies so we can continue to work together.

0:13:25.110 --> 0:13:28.680
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Managing these forest lands that belong to all of us.

0:13:29.610 --> 0:13:34.320
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh, next going to have Nancy Walters after Silodor talk about.

0:13:35.110 --> 0:13:44.870
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Some about the meeting. OK, good. Thank you very much. My role here is is to help to create an environment that is safe.

0:13:45.490 --> 0:14:1.220
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
For you to engage and have you to want to, to engage and also to create enough structure so that we can have this constructive discussion, we have been having. I I say that it's my role, but I also recognize that it's everybody's role to.

0:14:1.400 --> 0:14:32.520
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Umm. Create that environment where we can all hear from each other and also advocate for what is of interest to us. And I again wanna say I think we've been doing that really well. We went into this on Monday night quite sure how this virtual format will would allow us to have a dialogue rather than just a let's hear you one at a time but I think we've been doing that OK and partly the reason why that's been working is because you've been willing to keep the pace the pace has been really important I think.

0:14:32.770 --> 0:14:36.180
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Gonna keep the pace. Allow for some.

0:14:36.700 --> 0:15:0.150
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh pauses and for Rick to hear and reflect. If there's something to reflect on for you to not think, you have to communicate all of your thoughts in one stream, but to take turns back and forth and and you have been dialoguing with each other. So I think that was our our hope. And you've been doing a really good job at that. So I I appreciate that.

0:15:2.770 --> 0:15:21.50
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So, so again, it's not just the three of us that are in this room, but we have a room full of support folks that we'd like you to be able to see and know about. So Shelley's gonna pan the room. We were using this OWL technology in the middle of the table, and that's how she's doing this.

0:15:25.530 --> 0:15:30.340
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Good morning, everyone. I'm Shelley Kelly, executive assistant here for the National Forest in North Carolina.

0:15:31.690 --> 0:15:36.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Running everyone together, we check for statement coordinator and Objections Coordinator here in Nashville.

0:15:42.80 --> 0:15:48.110
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Good morning. I'm Michelle Aldridge and the planning team leader. Good morning, Debbie Anderson, administrative review specialist.

0:15:51.190 --> 0:15:54.800
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Good morning to Quincy Gordon, regional objects to coordinator for the Southern region.

0:15:55.920 --> 0:16:18.570
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And you can see the screen on the wall there. That's where we are actually looking to see your faces, which is why it looks sometimes like we're looking up instead of into the howl. But that's that's the way

it works. And then we have one more Deputy Forest Supervisor, Kevin Fitzsimmons, who is actually in Arizona, I think with COVID in his hotel room. Would you introduce yourself?

0:16:19.280 --> 0:16:31.780
Fitzsimmons, Cavan -FS
Morning Gavin Simmons Dev before supervisor National Forest, North Carolina, and yes, Nick, I have unlocked in a hotel room in Texas. I was on the fires in Texas, so I'm here in with COVID as well.

0:16:34.370 --> 0:16:36.950
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you for sticking with us, Kevin. Kevin.

0:16:38.270 --> 0:16:38.900
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So.

0:16:42.970 --> 0:16:43.500
Deirdre Perot, Back Country Horsmen (Guest)
Let me just.

0:16:42.110 --> 0:16:44.160
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Let me just finish up by.

0:16:44.950 --> 0:16:48.130
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So there are little what remind people get their phone.

0:16:49.240 --> 0:16:51.930
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah, if you haven't muted your phones, we're getting a little bit of feedback.

0:16:52.700 --> 0:17:2.370
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Let me just go to the ground rules we set initially for the meeting that feel like they've been holding us in good stead. They're posted on the wall.

0:17:3.70 --> 0:17:13.880
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Behind Rick, and just to remind you, we've said that we are asking you to focus on the issue, not on the person who you think might be.

0:17:15.620 --> 0:17:24.210
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The offender but but to not allow personal attacks and we will and have been and will continue to.

0:17:25.50 --> 0:17:37.440
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS

To reign us in if it gets going in that direction, we really know that passion is a part of all of our lives. We care about these things a lot and it's hard to kind of.

0:17:39.0 --> 0:17:51.810
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Train ourselves in sometimes. So one person at a time is the 2nd ground rule. We are finding that that's working out pretty well because of the of the raised hand feature. It is that structure helps with that quite a bit so.

0:17:52.670 --> 0:18:3.180
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We also know that there are some people on the phone that don't have the ability to raise their hand, and as I mentioned, to share it earlier, for when the time is right and you're on the phone and you wanna enter in.

0:18:3.930 --> 0:18:7.180
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
He was up, let us know and we'll get you in the queue.

0:18:8.250 --> 0:18:9.960
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The third ground rule is around.

0:18:11.140 --> 0:18:28.50
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Coming with a curiosity about what your fellow participants have to say, in addition to a desire to advocate for your viewpoint, and I again, I feel like that dialogue we've been having the last three days shows some of that and this is really constructive.

0:18:28.780 --> 0:18:53.530
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And the the last thing is kind of a a rephrase of what Rick already mentioned that the purpose of this meeting is to concentrate on the remedies and anything additional you have beyond what you've already entered in written form in your objections. So so with that focus and with that behavior, I think we can have a constructive day.

0:18:54.990 --> 0:19:4.760
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So let's focus on the day then agenda for the day. It's behind me, but Heather's gonna put up a slide as well.

0:19:9.710 --> 0:19:13.620
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So last day, starting now and ending at 3:00 o'clock.

0:19:14.680 --> 0:19:16.950
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And the.

0:19:17.620 --> 0:19:23.730
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The topics were covering our wildlife, plant and aquatic species. We've got a 2 hour block of time for that.

0:19:24.590 --> 0:19:28.260
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We'll go to tier one and Tier 2 objectives after a morning break.

0:19:29.70 --> 0:19:36.480
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We'll take an hour for lunch, come back and at one we'll we'll just have 45 minutes on climate change.

0:19:37.150 --> 0:19:41.320
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And 1/2 an hour on monitoring before we close out.

0:19:42.780 --> 0:19:43.250
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So.

0:19:45.0 --> 0:20:7.950
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And then one last reminder, each time we set, Rick sets up the platform for discussion on these topics. He will be referring to some of the remedies that have been offered just as a way to kind of get our heads in focus on remedies. And those remedies are listed in the at a glance document that you were sent in July and then again earlier this week.

0:20:8.730 --> 0:20:11.800
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So any questions about how we want to proceed?

0:20:15.680 --> 0:20:16.290
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Right.

0:20:17.10 --> 0:20:32.890
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you very much. Back to James. Yep. Thanks. I I'm just gonna give a a bit of a quick history on kind of how we got to this point today. I know many of you have been with us every step of the way. I was thinking this morning I had to take my son to the orthodontist.

0:20:34.290 --> 0:20:43.960
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know he'll be going to the third grade and wasn't born when we started the process. So a lot, a lot of life has happened for all of us from when we started.

0:20:45.200 --> 0:21:2.250
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS

So our our current plan was written in 1987 and amended significantly in 1994. Obviously a lot has changed since then. Both how users use the forest and the our understanding of.

0:21:2.390 --> 0:21:26.980
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Of ecological and and and forced conditions and the the the stressors we're seeing with invasive species and and pests and disease. And so really as we see all those those challenges that we're facing from impacts of development pressure on adjacent private lands that we talked about some yesterday.

0:21:28.20 --> 0:21:58.270
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The increase in recreation growth of that wildland urban interface and all those impacts being kind of even even more stressed from climate change, we began in 2012 using the then new 2012 planning rule to start our force plan revision process. As many of you all know it's been.

0:21:58.350 --> 0:22:19.810
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
It pretty intensive effort for for a long time with with just an incredible amount of public involvement. Over many years we've hosted more than public 50 public meetings and of course attended dozens and dozens of meetings hosted by others, including collaborative groups and local governments and our tribal partners throughout that process.

0:22:20.890 --> 0:22:21.630
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So.

0:22:22.570 --> 0:22:53.40
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Building on all the input that we've received during the different phases of of the of the plan revision we published the draft EIS on Valentine's Day 2020 and the before times one more month later. COVID hit of course. And so we had that 90 day comment period and we extended that as we transition to virtual public engagement, we received thousands of comments for consideration during that time.

0:22:54.790 --> 0:22:56.780
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So in response to those comments.

0:22:57.980 --> 0:23:4.960
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We added an alternative between draft and final and made modifications within that range of alternatives that was published.

0:23:5.40 --> 0:23:11.350
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The at the DI the draft stage earlier this year in January.

0:23:12.240 --> 0:23:14.820
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That we freeze up. Can folks hear me OK?

0:23:16.370 --> 0:23:16.740
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK.

0:23:21.80 --> 0:23:45.50
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We published the the final EIS and revised Len Land Management plan in January of this year and that's kicked off the the 60 day objection period. And so that's kind of where we got to today bringing all those those objections in and analyzing them as Rick described. So this is another step in that process.

0:23:46.760 --> 0:23:49.440
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Right, OK. And we're working on our video here.

0:23:50.780 --> 0:23:51.310
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
To.

0:23:53.870 --> 0:23:58.700
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
To make sure we've considered all the needs before we we finalize the plan.

0:23:59.380 --> 0:24:16.920
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Umm, so at this stage of the process, the forest team kind of steps back and that national team and and a group of experts from across the country led by Rick reviews those objections and concerns to see if there's changes that need to be made.

0:24:19.210 --> 0:24:20.160
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And.

0:24:22.510 --> 0:24:31.850
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Rick is the reviewing officer for for that process. I led the planning process as the responsible official and will sign the final record of decision.

0:24:33.480 --> 0:24:38.530
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
On the plan after incorporating any instructions that that I received from from Rick.

0:24:39.610 --> 0:24:44.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So I think with that, we'll pause, see if we can't get our video back up.

0:24:46.500 --> 0:24:47.770
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
They're with us for a SEC.

0:24:58.710 --> 0:25:4.850
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I think then we might have to issue some take on this meeting now and it's worked pretty hard for us to go on.

0:25:11.190 --> 0:25:12.620
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
It is listening a little bit.

0:25:20.250 --> 0:25:20.490
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Alright.

0:25:21.720 --> 0:25:22.310
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
What's that?

0:25:23.420 --> 0:25:24.40
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Ready.

0:25:25.610 --> 0:25:26.580
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you.

0:25:28.220 --> 0:25:30.90
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Shelly, you're a rock star.

0:25:31.580 --> 0:25:32.150
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK.

0:25:32.820 --> 0:25:37.640
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Ready to go? You wanna set the stage? Sure thing. Yeah, up first we've got.

0:25:38.480 --> 0:25:41.610
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
A wildlife species, plant species and aquatic species.

0:25:42.230 --> 0:25:48.260
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I'm going to run through the some of the suggested remedies resolutions that we've got.

0:25:49.460 --> 0:25:54.260
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And it'll take me a minute because there's almost 20 that I'm gonna go through here.

0:25:56.300 --> 0:26:2.170
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
First, reinitiate consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service using best available signs.

0:26:4.110 --> 0:26:8.830
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Depend less on regeneration, harvest treatments to achieve desired conditions.

0:26:10.650 --> 0:26:22.80
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Contribute to the recovery of every federal listed species and establish specific standards and guidelines to protect listed species that would be impacted by regeneration. Harvest as well as other management activities.

0:26:23.970 --> 0:26:29.580
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Include species specific plans as well as robust and forceful protections for their habitat.

0:26:31.490 --> 0:26:43.120
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Used a more rigorous course filter. Fine filter analysis to capture the fully capture the impacts to listed and sensitive species, and develop mitigation measures to achieve viability and recovery goals.

0:26:45.480 --> 0:26:50.750
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Reinstate PAD Dash S-01 in full.

0:26:53.720 --> 0:26:57.120
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Include nnas in the course filter analysis.

0:26:58.230 --> 0:27:8.350
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Reclassify old growth, rich subtype of rich code, forest rich subtype of northern hardwood forest, and basic subtype of montane oak. Hickory Forest is rare habitats.

0:27:10.690 --> 0:27:13.680
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Conduct Rd density analysis at a logical scale.

0:27:15.440 --> 0:27:19.560
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Create and maintain early serial habitat to halt the decline of rough grass.

0:27:21.500 --> 0:27:34.970
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Provide for adequate protections for each species listed above, including protection of relevant habitat components that serve as nest roost sites and or food sources during timber harvest and or prescribed burning.

0:27:37.370 --> 0:27:39.200
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
People coming through keep going, OK?

0:27:41.960 --> 0:27:46.300
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
It should be informed by specific management guidelines from relevant recovery plans.

0:27:49.890 --> 0:27:50.170
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You.

0:27:52.650 --> 0:27:59.560
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Nobody moved. We got him back. Include impacts from other recreation activities for peregrine Falcons.

0:28:1.150 --> 0:28:8.100
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Include standards which require wider streamside buffers and safety measures beyond BMP's and known habitat of imperiled species.

0:28:9.720 --> 0:28:15.730
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Consider how increased sedimentation so and siltation from roads will impact listed species.

0:28:17.550 --> 0:28:20.740
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Analyze the impact from sedimentation on these species.

0:28:22.560 --> 0:28:30.490
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Perform a rigorous fine filter analysis to provide for the ecological conditions necessary to contribute to the recovery of the species.

0:28:32.690 --> 0:28:39.140
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Developed plan components, free habitat and population surveys and protection of these habitats from saltation.

0:28:40.80 --> 0:28:41.10
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And lastly.

0:28:41.800 --> 0:28:50.520
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Reword PAD Dash S-05 to address all human disturbances to peregrine to the peregrine Falcon.

0:28:53.290 --> 0:28:53.840
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK.

0:28:54.950 --> 0:29:9.550
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Anything ready? Yeah. Like to hear more about the concerns for the planning components not meeting and Dangerous Species Act or NEPA obligations with with you know, as we work through the proposed remedies.

0:29:11.30 --> 0:29:16.620
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. So we start with the the one of the lead objectors that are representing many of the the interest here.

0:29:18.40 --> 0:29:20.40
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Umm, SLC?

0:29:24.190 --> 0:29:30.360
Alyson Merlin
Good morning. I'm Alison Merlin with the Southern Environmental Law Center. Thanks for the opportunity to start us off.

0:29:31.580 --> 0:30:0.600
Alyson Merlin
I think it might make sense to frame our conversation today similarly to how we spoke about it yesterday. Umm, sort of, focusing on some of the analytical issues briefly first, so that we can spend the bulk of the conversation on some of the more specific fine filter components that might be necessary. So if that works for folks, I'd like to maybe start out with our our three biggest concerns about the analysis on the species.

0:30:1.970 --> 0:30:2.670
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Very good.

0:30:0.680 --> 0:30:2.770
Alyson Merlin
Aren't the first being.

0:30:3.420 --> 0:30:10.780
Alyson Merlin
Thank you. I I happy to adjust if if as needed, if that doesn't fit what the conversation needs to be but.

0:30:11.930 --> 0:30:17.530
Alyson Merlin
You know the the first thing I wanna focus on is an issue of fungibility in the analysis in the plan.

0:30:18.690 --> 0:30:43.120
Alyson Merlin
There is a lot of analysis in the EIS on how much is going to be actively managed and in what ways those areas are gonna be actively managed, but there's no analysis on the impacts to species on where that management occurs and that makes a really big difference, especially for some of the dispersal limited or especially sensitive and rare species on the forest.

0:30:44.680 --> 0:30:50.650
Alyson Merlin
I'm gonna share my screen briefly to just exemplify this a little bit further, but.

0:30:53.770 --> 0:30:57.630
Alyson Merlin
Technological issues on everybody's end today, so.

0:30:58.660 --> 0:31:1.930
Alyson Merlin
Let me know Nancy if this is big enough on y'all screen.

0:31:2.650 --> 0:31:5.300
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You're gonna have to tell us what we're looking at is quite small.

0:31:6.20 --> 0:31:7.260
Alyson Merlin
OK. Yeah. So the.

0:31:6.240 --> 0:31:9.230
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Just walk us through we can. We can see different shades of purple.

0:31:10.470 --> 0:31:40.180
Alyson Merlin
Perfect. Uh. So this is a map of alternative C on the forest and the purple that you see is where salamander habitat and at least cost path analysis of where salamanders move between their habitat is currently in matrix and interface. So these are areas where different management activities can occur unconstrained regardless of the presence of these salamanders. Barring of course, the specific.

0:31:40.440 --> 0:31:48.840
Alyson Merlin
Standards and guidelines around projects that we'll talk about later and I'll Scroll down here just so you can see the difference between.

0:31:49.520 --> 0:32:18.530
Alyson Merlin

Uh alternative. See an alternative E so alternative C was significantly more purple on the map, about 15,500 acres more purple where salamander habitat is in matrix and interface, and the analysis found that the two alternatives had no functional difference for these species. So that sort of shows how some of these gaps in analysis are having real impacts and where important.

0:32:18.930 --> 0:32:34.920
Alyson Merlin
Important species groups are falling through the cracks. We find it very hard to believe that, you know, 15,500 acres of species of habitat for salamanders doesn't make a difference, especially because if you look at how far apart these areas are on the map.

0:32:35.660 --> 0:33:1.410
Alyson Merlin
We all know that salamanders are dispersal limited species. They're not going to be able to cross from one area to another, so there needs to be analysis on where things happen. It matters very greatly to species. If that active management that's taking place is where they currently are, or if it's across the forest in a place that you know theoretically we'd like to think they could make it too, but realistically, that's not gonna happen.

0:33:1.930 --> 0:33:31.620
Alyson Merlin
Umm. And we can see that that that's true across a lot of different species. So this map here is where federally listed species are in matrix and interface. In alternative E the one that we're looking at now and and this map is where species of conservation concern are in matrix and interface. So all of that just to show that there are already a lot of species that are in areas not protected by the course filter.

0:33:31.840 --> 0:33:52.80
Alyson Merlin
That have to rely on the fine filter components of the plan, the specific species related constraints on projects, and I expect a lot of us have things to say about the inadequacies of some of those fine filter components later on. So so this really takes us back to the conversations we were having yesterday about allocations.

0:33:52.710 --> 0:34:22.840
Alyson Merlin
You know, we know areas like NHN's old grow existing old growth, wilderness inventory at areas have a disproportionate amount of these rare species. These listed species, you know, old growth, bark epiphytes, they're not gonna be able to travel from one area on the forest to the other. So it doesn't really matter the total number. Of course it matters, but it's not enough to consider just the total number of certain type of ecosystem or certain.

0:34:22.930 --> 0:34:53.740
Alyson Merlin
Age of ecosystem on the forest, it really matters where that activity is occurring and where there's going to be damage to species, and we just think that that analysis was really missed in the plan. We think allocations are one way to fix it, but obviously redoing that analysis allocations in addition to some of

the fine filter components we'll talk about. But of course redoing the analysis is ideal and and we think that that's an area that was sorely missed. So I do have some other.

0:34:53.840 --> 0:35:0.850
Alyson Merlin
What political issues? But I'll pause here and just give everybody a minute and see if other people have things to add.

0:35:1.790 --> 0:35:7.840
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You don't want to check the Allison, just to clarify, when you talked about Alternative C and alternative E.

0:35:8.780 --> 0:35:18.810
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Did you say that alternatives C had more purple had 15,500 acres of Sally salamander habitat in matrix more than alternative B?

0:35:19.870 --> 0:35:20.870
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Or did I get the chance?

0:35:19.670 --> 0:35:51.860
Alyson Merlin
Yeah. Thanks, Rick. Thanks for giving me a chance to clarify that. So for us, that's sort of an example of how this knippa analysis was insufficient. You know, there was found to be no, no difference to salamanders between these alternatives. And to us, that's because some of the analysis didn't ask the right questions. And one of the questions it didn't ask is where is is management going to occur and what impact does that have on species. So yes, alternative C had significantly more salamander habitat.

0:35:51.940 --> 0:36:15.380
Alyson Merlin
In matrix, but that that wasn't shown to be significant in the forest services conclusions, they found that the alternatives were the same in terms of impacts to salamanders, and we just think that that represents the issues with the analysis writ large and how they're not specific enough to address the analysis is not specific enough in meaningful ways to address the actual impacts to species on the ground.

0:36:16.350 --> 0:36:28.480
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And then just to just to follow that thread for clarity, is alternative E should have shown an improvement because it had less salamander habitat in matrix and interface.

0:36:29.860 --> 0:36:59.490
Alyson Merlin
It as compared to alternative C in just the the habitat in matrix, yes. But you know we would have really also liked to see a comparison to an alternative that didn't happen and on alternative where management area allocations were more nuanced and specific where areas of high biodiversity were

protected and where there would have been fewer salamanders at risk in the 1st place. So yes, we believe the analysis should have shown some improvement there between.

0:36:59.910 --> 0:37:21.80
Alyson Merlin
Just the the issue of habitat. But there's also an analysis that's missing, which is what would have happened to salamanders if we had taken some of these cores. Filter issues like like fungibility and like management allocations in a different direction. We would have loved to see that. And if you're willing to supplement the EIS, we'd still love to see it.

0:37:22.180 --> 0:37:29.290
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK, anymore. So say that again. Missing analysis would like to see an alternative that.

0:37:30.880 --> 0:38:1.70
Alyson Merlin
Yeah. So we haven't been presented with an alternative that had management allocations and analysis specifically focused on where rare species are and where management activities occur. So we would love to see what it would have looked like for species if the analysis had taken into account the impact of of logging in one place versus another or road construction in one place versus another instead of treating sort of all age classes.

0:38:1.330 --> 0:38:4.840
Alyson Merlin
Or all ecozone types as interchangeable with one another.

0:38:6.380 --> 0:38:13.670
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you for that clarification. That's helpful. And and maybe maybe not just for you Allison, but Ben and others, I I guess.

0:38:15.610 --> 0:38:28.800
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We've been talked about this, you know, plan level versus project level, how how detailed you can get into plan to be able to say we're gonna do exactly these things and these places over the next 20 or 30 years.

0:38:28.880 --> 0:38:31.450
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That any any thoughts on?

0:38:32.670 --> 0:38:36.820
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
What's adequate at the plan level to to be able to to?

0:38:38.330 --> 0:38:45.130
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Knowing that we we we always need to do the project level analysis, so not just a question for Allison.

0:38:46.940 --> 0:38:51.20
Alyson Merlin
I'd love to give others the opportunity to talk, but if I may, I'd like to respond to that.

0:38:52.340 --> 0:39:21.410
Alyson Merlin
I I think that's a great point, James. You know, obviously we can't expect you to know each individual stand that you're gonna need to do each individual type of management on for the next 20 years. And you know, I I hope that you don't think we expect that of you because that would be magical. You know, you'd have to have a crystal ball. But what we can know at the plan level and what we must know at the plan level is what areas are possible for what types of management and when you're looking at total impacts to something like salamanders.

0:39:21.760 --> 0:39:51.810
Alyson Merlin
Or sediment sensitive species like uh, you know elktoe or, you know, other listed species or species of conservation concern on the forest, the total impact to their habitat matters a lot, as does whether we're going to protect the specific places where they're present right now. So, you know, I know I'm talking about this fungibility issue a lot, but I think it's really important if you have old growth species and existing old growth and you don't have things in the plan protecting that old growth at the.

0:39:51.890 --> 0:40:22.110
Alyson Merlin
Management allocation level and you also don't have sufficient project specific components which we think we do not in this plan to protect them at the project level. Then you end up with what we've had so far, which is everybody fighting over every stand in the moment trying to convince each other about what the most important issues are. And we'd really like to see some of that conflict taken out at the project level by saying these areas that we know are special because the state agrees that they're special or because you know the.

0:40:22.190 --> 0:40:28.510
Alyson Merlin
It has all growth that's unseen on other parts of the forest, or because it's incredible wilderness that passes all these tests.

0:40:29.280 --> 0:41:1.270
Alyson Merlin
We don't think that we need to be fighting about those places anymore at the project level and we don't think that it shrinks the ability of the Forest Service to do that active management elsewhere by protecting those special places up front for us. It's not about the volume of what the Forest Service is able to do with regards to timber or roads or other issues. It's really about where and I think it would be very difficult to think through that where question on a project to project level where we're only looking at a small section of acres each time.

0:41:4.410 --> 0:41:10.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS

Ready to move on to another voice? Thank you. That was that was very clear. Appreciate that. How about you Jason?

0:41:11.140 --> 0:41:12.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Kind of for biological diversity.

0:41:13.880 --> 0:41:29.60
Jason Totoiu
Sure. Thank you. Good morning. Jason Tutoie Center for Biological Diversity. I just want to echo what Alice and just said, but I also wanna add to a little bit maybe starting with the kind of context of salamanders, since that seems to be.

0:41:30.130 --> 0:41:38.830
Jason Totoiu
Of the species that we've really focused in on this morning, I think there's actually a couple of ways we could go about this. And from a solution.

0:41:40.70 --> 0:42:9.560
Jason Totoiu
Base standpoint, but you know we we talked yesterday about you know what specific standards and guidelines could be implemented to help protect these types of species. And I think that's where the fine filter now sis, it can really be put into action with these standards and guidelines. So we spoke about ephemeral stream buffers yesterday, which I certainly would include in that. But there are a number of others that where we've identified, you know.

0:42:10.960 --> 0:42:41.850
Jason Totoiu
Higher concentrations or species richness in certain areas that we could put in place, smaller forest openings using group selection harvests is one of them, but I like to, I think, also drive ones attention to to an issue that for some reason I'm not sure why it was abandoned, but the the idea of using parkas, priority amphibian and reptile conservation areas. A lot of this work has been done already. Top herpetologists have identified.

0:42:42.270 --> 0:42:47.700
Jason Totoiu
I'm six key areas where a lot of this species richness occurs.

0:42:48.810 --> 0:43:8.860
Jason Totoiu
For instance, and so it's. It was really unclear from the EIS why this was abandoned. I'm just quoting here that it appears the the basis was that quote these areas alone will not offer conservation value to all terrestrial salamanders. It's a little frustrating.

0:43:9.820 --> 0:43:24.60
Jason Totoiu
It you know, just because it might not provide all all value or all benefits, I'm not sure that is is an adequate justification for a banding it in its entirety and moreover to the extent that the Forest Service.

0:43:24.830 --> 0:43:49.690
Jason Totoiu
Is also and I think previously mentioned. Refer relies on old growth to to to provide that protection. As we've heard in the last couple of days. You know these old growth protections just simply aren't there when a lot of this these lands aren't being inventoried and then much less leaving at a project by project determination as to whether or not those old growth stands are to be cut so.

0:43:50.690 --> 0:43:53.740
Jason Totoiu
Those are just a couple of examples of where we could.

0:44:13.690 --> 0:44:14.450
d79a88f0-7741-4f11-9b84-cd8160c03140
For the filter.

0:43:54.450 --> 0:44:15.360
Jason Totoiu
I think easily and efficiently help protect some of these of these salamander species, and I'm I'm happy to stop there, but as the Center for biological diversity, is it just as you're aware from our our objections that if this pretty much when we talked about coarse filter and find filter made-up the?

0:44:15.990 --> 0:44:26.530
Jason Totoiu
A a significant part of our objections. And so we went detail pretty detailed species by species were identified over 100.

0:44:27.230 --> 0:44:39.520
Jason Totoiu
Unique species and what needs to be done to protect those. So I'm happy to to get to to discuss more by also wanna leave space for other folks on the on the on the phone and on zoom. Thank you.

0:44:41.660 --> 0:44:43.280
Jason Totoiu
Or teams, I guess we're in teams.

0:44:44.810 --> 0:44:53.580
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That thanks, Jason. I didn't have a question. That's great. Thank you. So back to our not back to but two Ben Freighter centers of Boiler.

0:44:54.520 --> 0:45:14.690
Ben Prater
Wonderful. Thank you, Nancy. I just wanna provide some just additional context in the spirit of sort of what we understand is the responsibility of the Agency. I do have some very specific remedies related to particular species, but I'll pause before I go to those. But you know, I just wanna make it clear.

0:45:14.770 --> 0:45:37.240
Ben Prater

Umm, you know, for those of us that do this work, you know it's important to recognize that we are truly in the midst of the biodiversity crisis across this country, across the globe and the responsibility to meet this crisis head on is really shouldered in a significant way by our federal Land Management agencies. This is enshrined in the Endangered Species Act and, of course, codified in the Forest Service planning rule.

0:45:38.400 --> 0:46:7.810
Ben Prater
And a forest plan must contribute to the recovery of federally listed species and maintain viability of features of conservation concern. I wanna stress that because a lot of the planned language just sort of ends at this conclusion, but only providing for persistence is not enough for species that are facing extinction and managing for persistence or a simple status quo condition does not meet.

0:46:7.890 --> 0:46:37.360
Ben Prater
The far services obligation. With that said, I do also want to recognize that the planning team in this instance, you know from a global view has really done an admirable job of helping us assess the impacts of management on thoroughly species. However, there are, as I mentioned earlier, it really a few key places where the plan comes up short. I wanna just offer one example and then I'll pause. But one of the most puzzling for us is the removal of draft standard three in the plant animal diversity section.

0:46:37.900 --> 0:47:7.580
Ben Prater
The standard is originally drafted, established a mechanism for project level surveys for listed species, and directed that you know in areas occupied by those species and species conservation concern management shall maintain characteristics required by these species. The sender was just completely removed in the final plan and without retaining it. It's really difficult to argue that the far service is being proactive to really meet its legal obligations, but again I'll pause there, but I do have.

0:47:7.930 --> 0:47:19.640
Ben Prater
A list of about 7 very species specific fine filter components. I'd like to offer to the group, but wanted to pause and see if there's any questions and then I can dive into those or or or or get back in the queue.

0:47:23.720 --> 0:47:29.530
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I don't have any questions. Thank you, Ben. So why don't you continue? Yeah, sounds great. So.

0:47:30.970 --> 0:47:46.400
Ben Prater
First up, let's talk about Carolina Northern flying squirrels. We have really appreciate the focus and the effort in trying to plan to restore Bruce for Forest. This is, of course, one of our most threatened ecosystems. Harbors several listed species, including the flying squirrels.

0:47:47.130 --> 0:48:16.940
Ben Prater
Uh, we're concerned at the plan is not really adequately addressed. The need to maintain connectivity

across those habitats to allow for gene flow and population growth, of course, which supports recovery, we recommend and continue to recommend that the fire service develop specific planning components that consider buffering around known occurrences to mitigate impacts of meditation management, because we do want to see our screws for forest restored. But we believe that that restoration must be prioritized in the context of where species are located.

0:48:18.320 --> 0:48:25.540
Ben Prater
So that's one. Then let's talk about bats. A lot of attention is given the bats in this plan and and for very good reason.

0:48:26.840 --> 0:48:41.210
Ben Prater
And that's because bats are not doing well. In fact, this is the sweetest species, the first dwelling bats were the only ones really considered by the visualize service to be potentially adversely impacted. And I just quickly wanna as a footnote.

0:48:41.290 --> 0:49:0.680
Ben Prater
Umm I you know, the my assessment of the biological opinion I I believe quite frankly, it's insufficient. It really misses the mark. It doesn't go into enough detail. It's conclusions seem to be a little bit, you know throw away. But regardless, we strongly encourage the far service dot measures and the plan to limit gap size.

0:49:1.430 --> 0:49:31.80
Ben Prater
In those hardwood dominated forests that are within a half a mile of known bat populations, you know the the best available science really focuses on that 10 acres or less. You have to plan, allows for up to 40 acres at a minimum and to really do that effectively. Again, it relies on knowing where the bats are and one of the things that we have come to understand is that there's a real lack of effective monitoring that happens at a scale or really give us an indication of where those bats are located.

0:49:31.320 --> 0:49:43.950
Ben Prater
So the technologies is advancing, the opportunities are out there in an army of volunteers and other interest can support that. And of course this monitoring need is substantiated in the biological opinion as well.

0:49:44.710 --> 0:49:45.90
Ben Prater
Umm.

0:49:46.520 --> 0:49:48.300
Ben Prater
Next up? Uh, cerulean warblers.

0:49:49.660 --> 0:50:7.870
Ben Prater

These are these are Neotropical migrant bird that's in steep, steep decline and the decline is really a product of the fact that they depend on mature forest here in the applications for the reading habitat. And while we really appreciate that both cerulean ANS and Goldman Wobblers were considered in the plan.

0:50:9.130 --> 0:50:39.180
Ben Prater
We we find it a little a little sort of mystifying, that those two species are completely lumped together when it comes to playing components. And that's again, does it sit with us because those birds have very different habitat needs. There are some intersectionality of their habitats at the at the margins, but overall, we feel like the plan missed the boat to really address the needs of cerulean. And therefore, we believe a standard that really prioritizes those.

0:50:39.260 --> 0:50:43.850
Ben Prater
Early serial targets for the sort of thy focal species that the plan calls out.

0:50:45.430 --> 0:51:1.40
Ben Prater
Should be developed and actually helped separate from an additional standard for providing habitat conditions more suitable for surveillance. Again, I think just to under score this, I wanna make. I don't. I'm not shy about repeating this over and over again. I've been doing it for 12 years, but we have to.

0:51:1.710 --> 0:51:19.780
Ben Prater
Uh, handle and deal with these species where they are known to occur, and that's why the allocations is a really elegant way to satisfy a lot of our concerns because it automatically from the start from the onset says these are the places these species are known to be. And this is these are areas that we're gonna be protecting in these ways.

0:51:25.420 --> 0:51:27.210
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You got 4 #4.

0:51:21.530 --> 0:51:31.910
Ben Prater
And then finally I wanna go. Not finally, sorry. Next I'd like to, but I'm happy to pause. So just just let me know. I don't wanna filibuster here, but.

0:51:31.570 --> 0:51:36.320
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Let's do one more and then we'll take it. Because you got 7 and you're on #4.

0:51:36.690 --> 0:51:46.940
Ben Prater
Yeah. And the last one is aquatic species, so maybe that's worth holding separately, but let's get to one more terrestrial and that is the rusty patch. I'm sorry.

0:51:47.830 --> 0:52:18.480
Ben Prater
Right, that's the rusty patch. Bumblebee. This is a species. That is. The plan is a plan correctly states does not is not currently known to inhabit the National Forest. That's both the product of the monitoring and also the product. The fact this is very elusive and hard to define species. But the EIS acknowledges that with the levels of the edge habitat and early seral forest that we're going to be working to sustain and provide, we're gonna be creating a lot of suitable habitat.

0:52:19.390 --> 0:52:49.100
Ben Prater
And these habitats, of course, and the quality of them that we know the Park Service can provide are vital for the recovery of the species. And you know, we, we we fully agree that the Forest Service is really in the best position to provide that habitat, to maintain and sustain that species and to also help recover. And I think we all understand that this plan is meant to last for decades and it stands to reason that with the amount of habitat that's gonna be created to the plan and the relative proximity of known.

0:52:49.210 --> 0:53:20.150
Ben Prater
Populations that this species is likely to move into the forest, and we want to see that happen because we believe the Forest Service in the best position to sustain that habitat long term. But one of the challenges here is the plan states that, but it does not go far enough to really even get at whether or not we're gonna know when those that species shows up. And that's why, you know, real monitoring strategy should be adopted in the plan. And then again, part of that morning strategy is sort of the proactive and predictive to say, you know, if and when they get here.

0:53:20.250 --> 0:53:24.540
Ben Prater
Here are some best practices that we should establish once that habitat becomes occupied so again.

0:53:25.860 --> 0:53:57.610
Ben Prater
You know the the 2/2 full thing monitoring to understand where the species are and then best practices in plan or plan components to address those species needs. We feel it's a shortcoming of the plan to state that this species we will build it and they will come, but we're going to just address that later. That's just not sufficient for endangered species. So one example may be for the best practice would be think consider restrictions around herbicide use in these edge habitats where this species is known to occur.

0:53:58.0 --> 0:54:28.170
Ben Prater
Uh and Nancy, I apologize. There actually was one more terrestrial. It's super quick. I'm gonna continue on here, but that's just with Noonday globe. You know, this, this species I think really calls out just simply how special manohla piska is. This is a endemic species whose entire global population is found that just a two mile stretch of the high cliffs and Nahla Gorge and the good for us. The good news is most of that area is that outright protected based on allocations, but.

0:54:28.580 --> 0:54:52.910
Ben Prater
We are concerned about how the application of prescribed fire may impact those species, and we'd like to see a little more thought given to that to be inclusive of again monitoring trends and then also addressing with the best available science of how we may see prescribed fire effect that that species directly because again, the global endemic you can't mess around with those.

0:54:52.990 --> 0:54:53.280
Ben Prater
In the.

0:54:54.340 --> 0:55:10.570
Ben Prater
It's it's a, it's a. It's a. It's like a blink out. So again, I will just pause there. I do have again some additional ideas around sediment sensitive species, but if we wanna just hold Aquatics for later, I'm happy to shut my mouth so.

0:55:12.650 --> 0:55:29.500
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
All right. Anything. I got all of those very, very clear. I think you've done and that I think that's a helpful, helpful distinction. Let's let's follow the thread of terrestrial species for a while here. And so anybody online who want to enter in on terrestrial, other terrestrial species or the concept in general.

0:55:30.690 --> 0:55:32.720
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
On the I mean, sorry.

0:55:35.50 --> 0:55:35.660
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Hey, who's this?

0:55:31.120 --> 0:55:37.810
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Yeah, I I'd like to. I'd like to chime in. This is Josh Kelly. This is Josh Kelly with mountain true.

0:55:38.350 --> 0:55:41.500
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK, I meant I meant on the phone, Josh. But you go ahead.

0:55:41.230 --> 0:55:43.370
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Ohh sorry about that. Yeah, I'm I'll, I'll.

0:55:42.890 --> 0:55:43.980
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That's OK with my bed.

0:55:45.650 --> 0:55:47.580
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
I'm happy to see to the phone or I can proceed.

0:55:48.460 --> 0:56:17.670
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Please proceed. Alright. Well, good morning, everyone. Yeah. You know, wildlife has been a very important topic considered by this planner vision and there has been a lot of discussion on how to balance the habitat needs of young forest habitat associates disturbance, habitat associates and disturbance sensitive species. And this is a really important question particularly in the context of the southern Blue Ridge which is.

0:56:18.410 --> 0:56:41.40
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
That global hotspot for unique plant and wildlife diversity. In fact, the Nantahala Pisgah is the largest unit of public land in the southern Blue Ridge and the southern Blue Ridge has the highest number of globally or locally endemic species species that occur nowhere else on earth of any of any area in the conterminous United States of its size.

0:56:42.960 --> 0:57:1.420
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
And when you look at those endemic species, they skew very heavily towards disturbance sensitive species. So in other words, the species that benefit from disturbance tend to be have ranges that are continental scale ranges and great examples of this are rough grass and golden wing warbler whose range is extend far into Canada.

0:57:2.950 --> 0:57:23.180
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
That are also locally of conservation concern and require young forest habitat. When you contrast those with locally endemic species such as Carolina northern flying squirrel or some of the snail species and salamander species of very different picture, you're talking about a lot of these species have ranges on a single mountain or very restricted ranges.

0:57:24.670 --> 0:57:39.200
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
And we're really fortunate to have very good records on a lot of these species. And earlier in the planning process, mountain true offered a solution, a hypothetical solution to these problems and simple GIS analysis.

0:57:40.820 --> 0:57:41.410
d79a88f0-7741-4f11-9b84-cd8160c03140
Revealed.

0:57:40.290 --> 0:58:10.500
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Revealed that you could protect the high priority conservation areas that were identified as natural area priorities earlier in the plan and protect 85.6% of the known rare species populations and yet still leave

470,000 acres of consensus high priority areas for timber harvest and disturbance since disturbance dependent species that same land base that would be left for timber harvest would contain nearly 80% of the road mileage.

0:58:12.30 --> 0:58:40.400
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
And also have a significantly less steep slope on average than the areas that were in more protective management areas. And additionally, when you look at the restoration needs on the forest and this is inclusive of species composition and structure such as woodland and Savannah structure, that there are much greater needs in that more highly roaded, less steep portion of the forest than there are in the in the more remote, less roded portion of the forest.

0:58:41.300 --> 0:59:10.810
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Now, since since that proposal was first developed, there has been additional compromise that mountain True has signed on to, and it has expanded that area of what I would call the greatest or the largest zone of consent may not be a unanimous consent, but it's the largest zone of social license and as expanded that area for timber production and disturbance dependent species to over half a million acres. So this is just to again put a plug in for the land.

0:59:10.910 --> 0:59:16.710
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Location course filter solution that is waiting for us to to to solve a lot of these issues.

0:59:17.870 --> 0:59:35.760
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Finally I did wanna mention the proposed resolution to add the rich subtype of northern hardwoods forest. The rich subtypes of Rich Cove Forest and the rich subtype of oak Hickory forest to the list of rare communities on the forest as a more.

0:59:36.570 --> 0:59:41.200
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Find filter component because we don't know where all those habitats are and.

0:59:41.980 --> 1:0:2.480
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
The rare botanical species on the forest, the rare vascular plants in particular, skew very heavily to those natural communities, and so to treat those as being the same essentially as all other code for us and all their OK, great forests and other northern hardwoods for us would be erroneous and could lead to some damage to some rare species hot spots.

1:0:4.870 --> 1:0:5.640
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, Josh.

1:0:7.520 --> 1:0:11.370
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah. And can you name this again the the code Hickory?

1:0:20.670 --> 1:0:21.60
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK.

1:0:12.290 --> 1:0:22.860
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Yeah. And you, Rick, you and captured those very well in your introduction. I just wanted to emphasize that in your introductory resolution potential resolutions you you had those captured.

1:0:23.530 --> 1:0:24.380
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Very good, great.

1:0:25.210 --> 1:0:34.150
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Alright, thanks. So let me let me state again more clearly anybody on the phone who wants to enter in and can't raise their hand at this time.

1:0:39.410 --> 1:0:46.270
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
All right, so let's keep moving. Go to go to hue and then Nick B.

1:0:48.20 --> 1:0:58.150
Hugh Irwin
Hi you were when with wilderness society uh and I wanted to connect our discussion of yesterday on on.

1:0:59.520 --> 1:1:15.740
Hugh Irwin
Problems in the modeling are to our discussion now on species. Are the EC tool that was used in the analysis to assess species impacts of the plan.

1:1:16.510 --> 1:1:34.120
Hugh Irwin
Is built on the results of the modeling that we talked about yesterday, specifically comparing results from the NRV model as a baseline with the spectrum model for future effects.

1:1:34.890 --> 1:1:55.670
Hugh Irwin
In uh, the inaccuracies of those models are propagate through the EC model results, specifically the distortion in the models. Comparing factors like our growth.

1:1:55.750 --> 1:1:59.70
Hugh Irwin
Ohh, you know, propagate those.

1:1:59.920 --> 1:2:24.930
Hugh Irwin
Inaccuracies. Uh into the results of the EC tool so you know there's a a big concern. You know that the

models you know as as we stress yesterday the models have effects and those models have effects in the species and impacts in the in the EC tool used to.

1:2:25.590 --> 1:2:42.960
Hugh Irwin
Ohh, you know assess a impacts to the species of conservation concerns so you know again those models have a tremendous impact on the analysis that was done in the models.

1:2:43.100 --> 1:2:51.570
Hugh Irwin
Ohk ohk in the OHC environmental analysis, including in the species effects. Thank you.

1:2:54.110 --> 1:2:55.540
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yes, thank you, you.

1:2:56.560 --> 1:2:57.920
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Hey, thanks, nick.

1:2:58.810 --> 1:2:59.270
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The Miller.

1:3:0.950 --> 1:3:13.520
Nick Biemiller
Yeah. Thanks, Nancy. Nick, be Miller with the Rough Grass Society and American Woodcock Society, I'd like to respond to just some of the comments about Cerulean warbler specifically and maybe share my screen.

1:3:14.590 --> 1:3:17.60
Nick Biemiller
If I could to provide some supplemental information.

1:3:18.700 --> 1:3:21.310
Nick Biemiller
Looks like the share screen option is turned off.

1:3:22.610 --> 1:3:23.100
Nick Biemiller
There we go.

1:3:22.990 --> 1:3:24.520
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah. Yeah, it's on.

1:3:25.870 --> 1:3:26.210
Nick Biemiller
Right.

1:3:30.310 --> 1:3:31.820
Nick Biemiller
Pool is everybody able to see this?

1:3:33.90 --> 1:3:35.20
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh, not yet. It's coming.

1:3:36.70 --> 1:3:37.820
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Oh, but it's very small. Can you make it?

1:3:38.560 --> 1:3:42.140
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Use that slider at the bottom, make bigger little bigger yet.

1:3:41.760 --> 1:3:44.230
Nick Biemiller
Uh might be challenging, but OK, here we go.

1:3:45.230 --> 1:3:46.40
Nick Biemiller
So I think.

1:3:45.20 --> 1:3:49.180
Nick Biemiller
I just walk us through at the sure. Yeah. So as we're thinking about.

1:3:49.840 --> 1:4:15.620
Nick Biemiller
Some of these species, I think that we could all appreciate that many wildlife species don't always fit into kind of the discrete buckets that we put them in when it comes to species, we think about as mature forest obligates or disturbance dependent or disturbance sensitive and they can reality. Oftentimes some of these species have much more diverse habitat requirements than some of those buckets.

1:4:16.880 --> 1:4:21.910
Nick Biemiller
Can clearly show and I think cerulean warblers are good.

1:4:23.330 --> 1:4:53.80
Nick Biemiller
Uh indicator for that. And so I think it's just important as we think about Cerulean warbler and all defined filter solutions to these species that we use, the best available science and we use evidence. And so this is the surly and warbler BMP guide for the Appalachian region. And I think this section on Cerulean response relative to silvicultural treatments is particularly useful for this conversation. That's wanted to point us to the fact that this study found that.

1:4:53.930 --> 1:4:55.460
Nick Biemiller
Cerulean warblers.

1:4:56.720 --> 1:4:57.510
Nick Biemiller
When?

1:4:58.880 --> 1:5:29.370
Nick Biemiller
When when silvicultural prescriptions, namely timber harvests, were implemented across all of the different harvests that occurred cerulean warbler, territory density increased. The only places where it did not increase were in pre harvest areas that controls where there is no harvesting that occurred and that the largest and most consistent increase in cerulean territory density was in shelterwood harvests that reduced the basal area to 40 to 90 square feet per acre. And so I.

1:5:29.460 --> 1:5:52.370
Nick Biemiller
I definitely don't disagree with the comments that sorelians you know are that they utilize those very late successional old growth conditions, I would say, namely those very late successional old growth conditions that provide very kind of diverse heterogeneous structure and provide that basal area range of 40 to 90 square feet.

1:5:53.60 --> 1:6:23.450
Nick Biemiller
Which a lot of our mature forests, a lot of our mature second growth forests and a lot of our, you know, later forests and some old growth forest types don't provide this range. So these conditions to provide for cerulean warbler abundance are not only provided through older characteristics, they could also be provided through active forest management. So we'll culture. So I just wanted to highlight kind of this BMP guide as something that should be considered when it comes to resolutions and find filter approaches.

1:6:23.550 --> 1:6:26.0
Nick Biemiller
Do you thinking about Cerulean warbler specifically?

1:6:27.980 --> 1:6:38.610
Nick Biemiller
I also have some information that I'd like to kind of share more broadly to the topic of birds and more disturbance dependent species.

1:6:39.140 --> 1:6:42.470
Nick Biemiller
Umm would now be a good time for me to dive into that.

1:6:44.250 --> 1:6:44.560
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Sure.

1:6:45.230 --> 1:6:45.640
Nick Biemiller
Look up.

1:6:45.850 --> 1:6:46.150
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yep.

1:6:47.650 --> 1:6:56.370
Nick Biemiller
So I think you know as we think about both rough grouse and forest, wildlife and species that depend upon more habitat diversity.

1:6:57.430 --> 1:7:1.310
Nick Biemiller
I wanted to share a little context with the group so.

1:7:30.500 --> 1:7:30.810
d79a88f0-7741-4f11-9b84-cd8160c03140
Question.

1:7:2.390 --> 1:7:34.760
Nick Biemiller
The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies formed a eastern Grass working group, so this is all of the state wildlife agencies across the eastern United States. They developed a report two years ago in 2020, which highlighted that we have lost 71% of roughed graphs, population abundance in the southern Appalachians alone since 1989. And so that's a pretty dramatic reduction in just one species. Population abundance over A3 decade.

1:7:36.790 --> 1:7:37.160
d79a88f0-7741-4f11-9b84-cd8160c03140
4.

1:7:34.830 --> 1:8:5.370
Nick Biemiller
Period. And that report clearly showed that, yes, there are secondary variables that are driving decline, including West Nile virus, climate change predation. But that report, which included leadership from all of our state wildlife agencies across the eastern United States, made it very clear that the loss of young forests is the primary driver of that decline. And I don't wanna just provide a lengthy quote for no reason, but I think this quote is really.

1:8:6.300 --> 1:8:15.720
Nick Biemiller
Important for us to consider and really aligns with the intent of our objections from rough grouse society, so I'll quote that app will report.

1:8:16.400 --> 1:8:29.370
Nick Biemiller

Uh, and I quote, the loss of young forests impact not only grouse but also forest health, forest resilience and the entire suite of species of greatest conservation need and that that that rely upon young forests.

1:8:30.80 --> 1:8:40.250
Nick Biemiller
Declining grouse populations are an urgent indicator of the plight of other species, which use young forests during critical life stages, including many that we classify as mature for a species.

1:8:41.40 --> 1:9:12.670
Nick Biemiller
Urgent action is needed at the landscape scale, above and beyond localized habitat improvement efforts to halt this decline of rough grouse and other young forest species to fulfill our public trust responsibilities, natural resource agencies must redouble their efforts in habitat restoration, partner collaborations and landowner outreach to stop range contractions and slow population declines. To do otherwise compromises our collective mission of ensuring sustainable populations of rough graphs.

1:9:12.830 --> 1:9:38.720
Nick Biemiller
And other young forest species for present and future generations think that quote really articulates the need that we see on the forest landscape. The even aged closed canopy conditions of today's second growth forests are simply not providing the habitat requirements for many forest wildlife, including grouse. And we understand that there are species that are more dispersal limited and more disturbing sensitive.

1:9:39.460 --> 1:10:8.930
Nick Biemiller
Uh salamanders included that a lot of folks have talked about. I think the difference here is that if we do nothing, those species will be protected. But if we do nothing, a lot of these young forest species, species that depend upon more disturbance are going to continue declining and disappear as a component of the overall biological diversity on the landscape. And so we respect the need to be careful with how we think about the dispersal, limited disturbance, sensitive species.

1:10:9.360 --> 1:10:21.700
Nick Biemiller
We feel like a lot of that can be addressed at the project level through the analysis that's already planned and that more restrictions at the plan level is not necessarily an elegant solution to the problem.

1:10:22.520 --> 1:10:30.660
Nick Biemiller
I do also want to share some bird specific information. I don't wanna just take up too much of the space on the call, but can I?

1:10:32.720 --> 1:10:33.80
Nick Biemiller
Sure.

1:10:29.570 --> 1:10:35.720
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Nick and you, Nick, can you hold on that and get back in the queue? I'm happy to, Yep.

1:10:37.560 --> 1:10:38.30
Nick Biemiller
Thank you.

1:10:35.450 --> 1:10:46.770
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Like that? Be great. Thank you. So, so will harlins in the queue. But then I'd like to do a process check and see if there are other voices besides those we've heard from well.

1:10:49.230 --> 1:11:1.800
Will Harlan
Thanks. I just want to again highlight a few species and and summarize the solutions that have just been proposed, because I think they're really critical once again.

1:11:2.220 --> 1:11:7.380
Will Harlan
Umm, the natural heritage areas can provide a coarse filter here.

1:11:8.380 --> 1:11:25.790
Will Harlan
A simple, elegant solution. Uh, to to a lot of these issues would be addressed. Uh. The natural heritage areas protect those high very high and exceptional areas and you solve all a lot of problems. The ephemeral streams issue that came up earlier this week.

1:11:26.240 --> 1:11:55.670
Will Harlan
Uh, I wanna talk about salamanders in a moment, and Salaman most of the salamander species listed as species of conservation concern depended some stage of their life cycle on ephemeral streams, so ensuring ephemeral stream protections would be another simple elegant solution to a lot of the species of conservation concern. And then finally the the allocations that have also been suggested as a remedy use all of the tools in your toolbox.

1:11:56.180 --> 1:12:27.400
Will Harlan
But the Mountain Treasures Wilderness inventory areas, research, natural areas, special interest areas, ecological areas, and old growth, stronger protections for known, inventoried old growth. Those three solutions could solve a lot of these problems, but they will also be required additional fine filter components that were outlining here today. But those three solutions right there could address a bulk of the issues and alleviate some of the.

1:12:27.500 --> 1:12:43.150
Will Harlan
Additional plan components that are gonna be required for all of these 303 thirty nine species of

conservation concern and the threatening endangered species that were discussing today, including many species of the forest dwelling paths. I just want to emphasize again the salamanders.

1:12:44.950 --> 1:13:14.640
Will Harlan
This is a global hotspot of biodiversity for salamanders. Nowhere else on the planet are we going to find the salamander diversity that we have right here in the Pisgah Nantahala. So I know we have to weigh a lot of competing interests here. But when you have a global hotspot of micro endemic biodiversity, I think that elevates them to a special category that needs to be considered. And the sheer volume and.

1:13:33.280 --> 1:13:33.420
d79a88f0-7741-4f11-9b84-cd8160c03140
The.

1:13:14.780 --> 1:13:44.850
Will Harlan
The diversity of salamanders here, and there's sensitivity to ground disturbance, and we haven't even talked about the aquatic species of salamanders that would be affected as well. I think that's just a really important consideration. And as mountain true mentioned, there are globally many of the species such as rough grouse have a much wider distribution, but many of the salamander species are confined only to, in some cases, parts of the pills and anahola and so.

1:13:44.990 --> 1:13:57.830
Will Harlan
For those micro endemics, we have to have fine filter components that and standards and guidelines that address that ensure unequivocally, unequivocally, that they're populations are viable.

1:14:7.620 --> 1:14:7.840
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That.

1:14:7.990 --> 1:14:24.780
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
If you will, then. OK. So let's again widen our view to all the wildlife, plant and aquatic species. And I just wanna invite anybody who has not had a voice yet and wants to to raise their hand or to speak on the phone.

1:14:28.180 --> 1:14:30.930
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44
Hi, this is Sharon Brady. I'd like to say a few things.

1:14:32.70 --> 1:14:33.30
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Darren, thank you.

1:14:34.380 --> 1:14:44.70
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44

I am. Hi, everybody. I'm sheriff Grady. I'm one of the public objectors for iheart, Piskin Brinson, Big Ivy. And I've also been a a long term resident of the Barnardsville area.

1:14:44.670 --> 1:15:0.130
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44
I'm at Monday's rally. I spoke about how everything in a forest is connected and that underground, the trees and the plants and the fungi form partnerships and stumble threads link nearly every single tree implant together in a forest, regardless of their species.

1:15:1.50 --> 1:15:16.470
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44
And it's also known that the composition of these fun guy changed dramatically after logging. It's not known, though, that if all growth dependent species will ever return, and therefore, when plants are, the trees are damaged or destroys, the whole forest suffers, including all the wildlife.

1:15:17.230 --> 1:15:24.970
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44
And cranky big Ivy Forest contains the third highest density of rear plants and animal species in the pitch, and the Halo 4.

1:15:25.790 --> 1:15:41.430
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44
And including rare orchid species bleeding hearts, Indian paint pressures and more Trillium species confuse me than I've ever seen in one place. It's simple, it just rivals the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for the diversity of plant and animal species.

1:15:42.70 --> 1:15:46.500
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44
Umm, there's so many different kinds of salamanders. As we've said before. And bird.

1:15:47.400 --> 1:16:0.460
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44
And they're all dependent on their environment for survival. And just I just absolutely cannot ban them out. Anyone could just about putting cranky big guy before us and all the other fragile ecosystems in jeopardy.

1:16:1.530 --> 1:16:5.680
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44
They're the only resolution I see is just not to log old growth forest at all.

1:16:9.450 --> 1:16:11.80
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, shared merit.

1:16:12.90 --> 1:16:16.890
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I think making a note Rick is making a note. You can't see that.

1:16:18.670 --> 1:16:18.990
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44
OK.

1:16:22.720 --> 1:16:24.510
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Good. Yeah. Thank you. Thank you, Sherry.

1:16:26.910 --> 1:16:27.520
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
All right.

1:16:27.700 --> 1:16:27.990
80d3485a-be25-4653-8a52-f87504e82a44
You.

1:16:29.640 --> 1:16:34.810
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So let's go back not seeing any new voices. Let's go back to Allison.

1:16:47.260 --> 1:16:48.20
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Great. Thank you.

1:16:37.950 --> 1:16:50.780
Alyson Merlin
Thanks, Nancy. And in the interest of what you talked about making this more of a discussion, I'd like to respond to some of the points that folks already brought up. You know, I'll, I'll frame this by saying that.

1:16:51.840 --> 1:17:11.990
Alyson Merlin
You know, it's clear that folks have have many folks have just sort of scratched the surface of the specific species components that they want to share today. And I think that really speaks to the amount of work that it's going to take on a species specific basis to do the work of the course filter. If those larger errors aren't corrected in in the final final plan.

1:17:12.570 --> 1:17:18.240
Alyson Merlin
I'm and related to that, I'd like to talk about sort of what Hugh brought up with the models.

1:17:19.600 --> 1:17:48.210
Alyson Merlin
This is another point that I think should have been taken into account at the course filter analysis and even when we do the four services relying on this spectrum data as informative and as being useful in modeling what's going to happen on these forests and and reliable enough to make decisions off of. But there are several areas where some of that spectrum data wasn't even used in the easy tool to.

1:17:48.330 --> 1:18:19.860
Alyson Merlin

Ask the question about what's going to happen to species, so an example of that is Sam talked yesterday and showed a graphic and I'm happy to show it again if that would be useful about how the modeling shows that there is going to be a complete liquidation of mid to late age for us in in the Nantahala Pisgah over the life of this plan. And there's just no analysis of that in terms of impacts to species, the question hasn't been asked how will interior forest species be impacted by the loss of late?

1:18:19.940 --> 1:18:48.450
Alyson Merlin
Those canopy areas, for example, those are the sorts of questions that are really vital if we're going to rely on the conclusion that these alternatives don't have harm to specific species and we think that's really hard to do when the analysis fails to ask important questions. So that's another question that we really think should have been asked. And I think that really ties into Hughes points about the the issues with the modeling writ large. Even if you know all of the easy modeling.

1:18:49.650 --> 1:19:8.620
Alyson Merlin
Results are based on the spectrum modeling inputs, and we've talked, you know, extensively about the issues with the spectrum model. I won't reiterate those here, but even when we do have spectrum inputs, they're not all always being used in the easy modeling and we think those are really large gaps that are again very concerning to us.

1:19:9.940 --> 1:19:38.890
Alyson Merlin
And I also wanted to take a minute to respond to what Nick said. You know, I think we're all in agreement more than we are in disagreement. You know, we wouldn't object to silvicultural prescriptions to improve or accelerate necessary old growth structure for the benefit of birds like, so really more blurs, what really matters is where those harvests are taking place and what type of harvest. What we can't support is rotational regeneration harvest.

1:19:39.10 --> 1:20:9.280
Alyson Merlin
That happens in these areas that that just unnecessarily creates a 0 sum conflict between wildlife priorities. You know, we really think that there are enough acres on the forest to meet both early habitat and, you know, disturbance reliance. Species needs. At the same time as protecting disturbance, sensitive species and not to be too redundant. But it really comes down to where we are making those decisions in the 1st place. And again, we just can't make those decisions at the project level.

1:20:9.360 --> 1:20:39.430
Alyson Merlin
You can't take into account the cumulative impacts of all the projects on the forest and and frankly, it just shouldn't be an option to create that kind of conflict at the project level. It would solve a lot of problems to make that decision now at the plan level that these conflicts are just not going to exist, that we're going to adopt the broad base of consensus that so many others have talked about. So I have plenty of fine filter things that I'd like to talk about, but I'll. I'll pause again here and make sure that others have room to speak unless you have specific questions.

1:20:42.320 --> 1:20:43.340
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Anything specific?

1:20:46.230 --> 1:20:48.520
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
No, no, thank you. That's very thorough and thank you.

1:20:49.830 --> 1:20:51.140
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So Megan Sutton.

1:20:53.750 --> 1:20:54.320
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yes.

1:20:57.810 --> 1:20:58.660
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yes, go ahead.

1:20:51.690 --> 1:21:20.880
Nick Biemiller
That make a quick response to the Cerulean silviculture one just because Allison mentioned my comment. So I just wanted, I just wanted to clarify that the study I shared about Cerulean territory density increasing that was not a silvicultural treatment that accelerated latex sessional conditions. That was a shelter would harvest, which reduced the stand basal area to 40 to 90 square feet, so that that would be part of a silvicultural rotation.

1:21:21.660 --> 1:21:23.590
Nick Biemiller
Of a long term silvicultural rotation.

1:21:24.990 --> 1:21:36.400
Nick Biemiller
In fact, the only silver cultural treatment that did not result in large increases in territory density was single tree selection, which is an uneven aged management practice.

1:21:37.170 --> 1:21:40.560
Nick Biemiller
So there's clear evidence that caroleans due respond to shelter would harvests.

1:21:43.200 --> 1:21:43.940
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks for that.

1:21:45.690 --> 1:21:46.350
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Megan Sutton.

1:21:48.420 --> 1:21:53.540
Megan N. Sutton
Good morning. I'm Megan Sutton on representing the nanny. Hello, Piska force partnership.

1:21:54.220 --> 1:21:55.920
Megan N. Sutton
And you know without.

1:21:57.310 --> 1:22:2.370
Megan N. Sutton
Invalidating any of the concerns that have been expressed this morning around the EIS.

1:22:3.750 --> 1:22:5.360
Megan N. Sutton
I do just want to.

1:22:6.460 --> 1:22:9.970
Megan N. Sutton
Point back to something that Josh mentioned earlier.

1:22:11.190 --> 1:22:15.350
Megan N. Sutton
The management allocations that the partner came up with were.

1:22:16.490 --> 1:22:24.850
Megan N. Sutton
There was a lot of give and take to reach that it was it. It was a struggle and we got there and I think that.

1:22:24.970 --> 1:22:29.470
Megan N. Sutton
Umm, you know, while not going into the the modeling or the EIS?

1:22:30.750 --> 1:22:33.920
Megan N. Sutton
A lot of these things could be addressed.

1:22:35.120 --> 1:22:53.430
Megan N. Sutton
By adopting that land allocation where we're dealing with some of these places that are of more concern for some of the species that have been outlined this morning. So I just wanted to jump in and kind of name that as a potential remedy for some of these things being mentioned.

1:22:58.660 --> 1:22:58.980
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Then.

1:23:0.170 --> 1:23:1.540
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Isn't that. Thank you, Megan.

1:23:3.290 --> 1:23:4.780
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK, back to Josh.

1:23:13.20 --> 1:23:15.930
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. And don't repeat it if you don't need to.

1:23:8.290 --> 1:23:38.740
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Well, great. I think I have a little bit less to say because of what Megan just said. I I I'm in concurrence, but I I do have a couple. I have a couple other things that I do want. It also just distinguish between the couple things. First of all, the shelter would treatments that Nick is describing are very infrequently used on the Nantahala, Pisgah. And I do think a greater diversity of silvicultural prescriptions to meet wildlife needs would. It is a really good strategy and we're starting to see that so.

1:23:38.810 --> 1:24:10.30
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
I will point to Lick Stone project. It's starting to show more of the silvicultural prescriptions, but what the Nantahala Pisgah calls a two age shelter would actually reduces basal area to 20 square feet per acre, which is below the threshold of tree retention needed for us to really and warblers. So that's something just a fine point to put. I also think it's important to to have some humility also about wildlife habitat and this really probably comes back to monitoring because there have been a number of projects over the years.

1:24:10.130 --> 1:24:40.80
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Reporting to benefit Cerulean warbler on the Nantahala Pisgah most recently Franks Creek and Fontana and the Chiwawa District and there has been no monitoring done on this project. We do not know the extent to which those are benefiting cerulean warblers or not. I can point you though to the Poison Cove project, which was done in Graham County in the 1990s. They at the time Poison Cove had several territories for nesting truly in warblers and civil cultural treatments similar to the ones Nick described were carried out there, and surely Worlders were extra.

1:24:40.150 --> 1:25:6.130
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Created from the site following that harvest. So I think those Appalachian guidelines are actually developed primarily in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee and Kentucky and May or may not be applicable to the southern Blue Ridge. I don't think we know much about how effective those are in the southern Blue Ridge. That's just my word of caution. I think we should be doing habitat management for sulin warbler, but we do need to continue to refine, monitor and have some humility.

1:25:10.510 --> 1:25:11.530
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Good, yes.

1:25:12.220 --> 1:25:25.90
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah. Thank you, Josh. So I'm looking at the clock and and the feeling like in a in a couple of minutes here. Who wanna take a a break, but I'll keep going down the the hands that are raised and ask Hugh, is this a new entry or did you?

1:25:26.580 --> 1:25:27.960
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And keep your hand up.

1:25:31.430 --> 1:25:31.780
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You.

1:25:30.730 --> 1:25:34.480
Hugh Irwin
I I'm sorry. Uh. Nancy, do you want me to go?

1:25:35.240 --> 1:25:35.710
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yes.

1:25:36.280 --> 1:25:45.970
Hugh Irwin
OK. Ohh yeah. You know others on the call have highlighted you know the solution kind of the logical solution around.

1:25:46.620 --> 1:25:51.200
Hugh Irwin
You know, allocations and plan components and you know.

1:25:51.440 --> 1:26:1.820
Hugh Irwin
Ohh course filter and fine filter approaches that you know. Would you know solve the objectors concerns.

1:26:2.490 --> 1:26:6.690
Hugh Irwin
Ohh, you know I do wanna point out that you know the other.

1:26:6.970 --> 1:26:36.960
Hugh Irwin
Ohm resolution really is to address the inaccuracies in the NRV in spectrum models to basically fix those and also fix the easy model that's built on top of the NRV in the spectrum models because you know the

methodology and the EC model does tend look like looks like it, you know, minimizes the difference between.

1:26:37.400 --> 1:26:58.230
Hugh Irwin
Uh, you know these alternatives. And part of that is due to the inaccuracies in the in RV model and spectrum model. But part of it you know is depended on you know the EC model itself. So you know there's both a a fairly easy.

1:27:0.190 --> 1:27:5.620
Hugh Irwin
Resolution. Uh. And there's, you know, much more complicated one as well.

1:27:6.700 --> 1:27:7.280
Hugh Irwin
Thank you.

1:27:10.950 --> 1:27:25.20
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Good. Thank you, Hugh. OK, Hugh. So let's do that. Let's take a break for 15 minutes. I'll come back at 10:15. We still have a lot of you in the queue because you've been being good at.

1:27:26.240 --> 1:27:31.170
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Good to differ and pace, appreciating that, but I also want to make sure.

1:27:30.530 --> 1:27:38.280
Ben Prater
Nancy, would you mind if I elbowed in just quickly since we have like 2 minutes? I just wanna make one more point about Cerulean and then maybe the breaks. Sorry, I don't wanna be rude.

1:27:38.990 --> 1:27:40.880
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah. And I and I guess I would say.

1:27:45.570 --> 1:27:45.940
Ben Prater
Yeah.

1:27:41.730 --> 1:27:46.430
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We're not going to be able to go species by species point by point, but but make your point then.

1:27:47.230 --> 1:28:19.920
Ben Prater
No, and I think I think Josh covered it well and I just wanna stay, you know that I I do appreciate Nick bringing some good science and evidence to the table. Just you know, I wanna under score Joshi's point because one of the concerns we have is that, yes, it is true that with some within a service regimes really and sue respond positively in terms of expanding and occupying territories. But without getting into the

details or understand the details of the study, Nick share, I just wanna throw out a concern which is you know occupation of territory is not necessarily a good proxy for population growth and success.

1:28:20.180 --> 1:28:51.510
Ben Prater
Where we often what we have seen in the literature with cerulean's is, yes, the males will occupy a territory with a nice singing platform. Because of that level of disturbance. But females don't come breeding doesn't happen and nest don't get you produced. And birds don't fledge. So it's just I think it's just important that with the case of the sorelians we can I think manage effectively that habitat. But it needs to be really consider a nuanced approach. But I think this is an example of a topic that partners will assist in working through, but I think.

1:28:51.630 --> 1:29:10.880
Ben Prater
For what I want to state is just the the real focus here is decoupling cerulean from goldwing warblers, which the plan does not do. So I'm glad it recognizes both species as needing management, but we need to be careful about just assuming that everything is good for goldwing is good for surely and vice versa. So that's all I wanna say. Thank you.

1:29:13.10 --> 1:29:27.880
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, Ben. Thanks for that, Ben. And so when we come back from break, I just want you to know, I'm gonna. I'll make another call for voices we have not heard yet. And I'm also going to call out the phone. The folks on the phone to give them a chance. So see you back at 10:15.

1:44:39.160 --> 1:44:49.270
Kauffman, Gary -FS
Harry says hello. I I just have. I have a he must have vomited into his text messages. I have like 6 from you. OK, well, I went back and got two more triangles of cookie for after we.

1:45:32.550 --> 1:45:32.750
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
No.

1:45:31.750 --> 1:45:34.880
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
No, no. I just send you the less we're back. We're back.

1:45:37.350 --> 1:45:38.460
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We can hear us again.

1:45:40.710 --> 1:45:41.490
92d502ca-123e-420b-9065-40304e0df393
I can hear you.

1:45:40.210 --> 1:45:43.300
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Welcome back again. OK, thanks.

1:45:43.150 --> 1:45:43.480
2d79b8ca-dc46-4829-a9cc-4a5afd3d56a3
Yeah.

1:45:44.820 --> 1:46:0.550
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
10:15 we have 45 minutes now to conclude this session. You wanna start with? Yeah? Yeah. Thanks. Well, welcome back, everybody. And really good hearing the proposed remedies there. And ohh one, one question I wanted to ask.

1:46:2.230 --> 1:46:12.180
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Talk talking during the break and it was brought up about why the the alternatives looked so similar, so kind of just wanted to throw a question out there is.

1:46:13.0 --> 1:46:15.600
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That the alternatives look so similar in effects.

1:46:16.830 --> 1:46:19.980
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Because during the formulation of the plan.

1:46:21.150 --> 1:46:28.940
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You understand there's a request from collaborators that all alternatives propose about the same levels of of the activity.

1:46:29.970 --> 1:46:33.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And so when we're talking about.

1:46:34.120 --> 1:46:37.90
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Nothing about this level of management across 1,000,000 acres.

1:46:37.860 --> 1:46:42.670
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That that may also be a reason of why there was so much difference in alternatives.

1:46:45.640 --> 1:46:50.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I'm not going to be able to distinguish hands that were up already. Are those that want to weigh in.

1:46:55.570 --> 1:46:56.460
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Boy, just.

1:46:55.240 --> 1:46:56.670
Hugh Irwin
Yeah, yeah.

1:46:55.460 --> 1:46:59.320
Alyson Merlin
Yeah, if it's all right. Oh, sorry. Someone else can go first.

1:46:58.160 --> 1:47:1.830
Alyson Merlin
Go ahead, Allison. You got it. Here, I'll go after.

1:47:1.470 --> 1:47:2.800
Hugh Irwin
Ohh yeah.

1:47:3.20 --> 1:47:5.130
Hugh Irwin
Uh, just wanna.

1:47:6.410 --> 1:47:9.740
Hugh Irwin
Weigh in on that. Rig the.

1:47:11.780 --> 1:47:16.340
Hugh Irwin
You know, I I don't think that's the case at all because uh.

1:47:16.980 --> 1:47:22.970
Hugh Irwin
Ohh. You know, as it's Allison and Ben pointed out, you know you're not seeing effects when.

1:47:24.50 --> 1:47:33.330
Hugh Irwin
Fundamental habitat for these species are, you know, getting vastly different prescriptions.

1:47:34.190 --> 1:47:40.560
Hugh Irwin
In, on the other hand, you know with the an NRV model.

1:47:41.300 --> 1:47:51.770
Hugh Irwin
That underestimates all growth and the spectrum model that overestimates all growth. You know, that's why these.

1:47:53.20 --> 1:47:58.710
Hugh Irwin
Uh, disturbance. You know, sensitive species. The model is not.

1:47:58.790 --> 1:48:6.700
Hugh Irwin
So, you know, showing a difference that that is the primary difference or that is the primary reason.

1:48:8.470 --> 1:48:16.670
Alyson Merlin
OK. And if I may answer as well, I know we want to give others the chance to speak, but I I do have a a a point to make there.

1:48:17.370 --> 1:48:47.840
Alyson Merlin
You know, I think this comes back to the fungibility issue that we were talking about earlier. You know, you can have the same level of harvest across all alternatives, but where the harvest is happening really matters for species. And I don't wanna get too much into reiterating why, but we've seen that with dispersal limited species. And just logically, when we're thinking about allowing mid to late age for us to, let's say, age into old growth, all of the species that are then going to be old growth obligates in that area.

1:48:48.200 --> 1:49:17.610
Alyson Merlin
Need to find a way to migrate to that new habitat location and not every species is going to be able to do that. So again, even with the same levels of harvest and all alternatives, it still doesn't make sense from an EPA standpoint to us why we're not seeing a difference in where that harvest is taking place, especially when we do have so many species that are going to exist where they exist and it may take, you know, beyond the lifetime of this plan or our lifetimes for them to find that new habitat if they're ever even able to.

1:49:19.130 --> 1:49:24.370
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Be good. Yeah, thanks to you and Allison, that was helpful. I appreciate you you filling that gap?

1:49:26.80 --> 1:49:31.390
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Alright, well, let's keep. Let's keep moving in the direction we were when we we took our break.

1:49:32.100 --> 1:49:39.830
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And again wanting to expand this to include Aquatics where we haven't talked much about Aquatics yet and asking Bill Floyd.

1:49:42.230 --> 1:49:43.520
bill floyd (Guest)
Thank you. Can you hear me?

1:49:44.160 --> 1:49:44.870
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah, that's great.

1:49:46.180 --> 1:49:58.710
bill floyd (Guest)
So I want to direct to three points in the in the environmental impact statement to kind of give you some problems with the deficiencies and I want to echo what I guess, Mr Peter or Prater, I may have missed misspoke in his name.

1:49:59.420 --> 1:50:11.850
bill floyd (Guest)
Uh he's he's right on point that managing for persistence is not the proper standard, and in particular for the the issue that's of concern to me, which is aquatic species on the Chattooga River, which is the trout.

1:50:12.500 --> 1:50:42.990
bill floyd (Guest)
Umm, that so that's problem #1 going to the your EIS on page 381. It's interesting because you do acknowledge something that is the truth, but yet for seven years you haven't done anything to try to actually effectuate what you say you should be doing. Let me direct you to what you say you're talking about young of the year fish and you're in particular to brook trout. That's on page 381.

1:50:43.490 --> 1:50:44.340
bill floyd (Guest)
Of the EIS.

1:50:44.970 --> 1:50:51.480
bill floyd (Guest)
And you say, therefore, it is critical that spawning habitat and juvenile age classes be monitored in future efforts.

1:50:52.140 --> 1:51:10.380
bill floyd (Guest)
OK, I'm jumping the gun a little bit. I think I gave you a warning this morning that I was not going to be able to participate this afternoon and the monitoring issue is just kind of a little sideshow. But but monitoring really is the most important thing and the 2012 planning rule has fouled things up by saying we're not going to monitor management indicator species.

1:51:11.100 --> 1:51:14.770
bill floyd (Guest)
And with respect to the shooting, the river, we just can't do that.

1:51:15.890 --> 1:51:27.650
bill floyd (Guest)
And I've already expressed to you and I won't go over that again to bore you about what the standard that's gotta be there. But but we have to comply with 1281 a the second sentence up and we have to comply with the integration mandate and we're not doing it so.

1:51:28.270 --> 1:51:54.750
bill floyd (Guest)
In your EIS, you suggested that monitoring younger the your fish is incredibly important. For seven years, I've asked y'all to go out and monitor, and for seven years, y'all said. We don't have a duty to we're not going to, so I think that's one thing you could you could correct in the IS to try to come up with a solution for the problems with the Chattooga is we have to monitor the fish to see whether there, because if they're not there then that means we had. We've had degradation that means we haven't been doing our job and somebody needs to be held accountable.

1:51:55.430 --> 1:51:58.400
bill floyd (Guest)
Our direct you second to page 387.

1:52:0.330 --> 1:52:0.840
bill floyd (Guest)
Where?

1:52:1.500 --> 1:52:11.820
bill floyd (Guest)
The extensive discussion begins about the desire to use the NCBI as the standard for determining whether our Coldwater trout streams are functioning like they're supposed to.

1:52:12.970 --> 1:52:15.110
bill floyd (Guest)
Well, once again, I hate to be.

1:52:15.910 --> 1:52:21.550
bill floyd (Guest)
The bearer of bad news, instead of being the guy that's coming to the rescue. But I'm the bearer of bad news.

1:52:22.230 --> 1:52:37.900
bill floyd (Guest)
Y'all told a judge a federal District Court judge can Asheville, NC, with respect to Tellico River. It's studying bugs, wasn't adequate for trying to determine the effects of sediment on track. OK, the NCBI is basically a model that's built on books.

1:52:39.120 --> 1:52:53.600
bill floyd (Guest)
I ended my e-mail to you earlier. Deputy Farce supervisor lent that you should go back and look at my comments and study the comments of what Doctor William Mclarney, who's an expert on brook trout who is right around the corner from us in Franklin, NC.

1:52:54.520 --> 1:53:10.770
bill floyd (Guest)
And his comment was you can't have bugs to figure out what's going on with the fish in the river. You gotta go do the fish population studies and you got to do continuous. So that would be my second point is the EIS is totally deficient by suggesting that you can use the NCBI you've already told.

1:53:11.910 --> 1:53:30.760
bill floyd (Guest)
The judge in Asheville that you can't do it with respect to the telica, so that incongruence alone kind of reflects some of my, my animosity and anger about the fact that seven years has gone by y'all keep saying the same things over and over and over and we haven't made much progress. Now the Third Point I would direct you to is on the bibliography.

1:53:31.650 --> 1:53:33.570
bill floyd (Guest)
Page 512 of the IRS.

1:53:35.520 --> 1:53:53.860
bill floyd (Guest)
And I know you can't look at it and I apologize. I hope you're writing these down. This is about aquatic systems, OK? And at the top of the list is an article named by authors Borowa, Mickey, Goudreau and Clements 2001 Wild Trout stream population monitoring.

1:53:54.630 --> 1:53:57.970
bill floyd (Guest)
Now there's 20 or 30 pages in the EIS about.

1:53:58.890 --> 1:54:4.310
bill floyd (Guest)
You know the aquatic system management for brook trout that's pegged off of that particular article, OK.

1:54:5.30 --> 1:54:14.220
bill floyd (Guest)
But that article really has nothing to do with, you know, the issue that that I'm concerned about, which is aquatic system management or the aquatic species management on the tuga.

1:54:14.900 --> 1:54:33.700
bill floyd (Guest)
And in fact, I gave you all the article that is relevant to it. Back in July 28, 2017, and I'm surprised that it doesn't appear in the literature, OK, because it is probably the most key piece of literature you can have that tells you what the baseline situation was that the Chattooga.

1:54:34.820 --> 1:54:36.540
bill floyd (Guest)
Long time ago, when I was a lot younger.

1:54:37.280 --> 1:54:44.770
bill floyd (Guest)
So I think you've got some deficiencies in your in your, in your, in your EI in that respect now more generally and I'll put in this up quickly.

1:54:45.90 --> 1:54:59.0
bill floyd (Guest)

Umm, I think I think you've got a problem in terms of trying to figure out what your solution is gonna be in developing standards for aquatic species, in particular trout, because you kind of want to seem to go back to making forest wide standards, OK.

1:54:59.550 --> 1:55:8.450
bill floyd (Guest)
And I understand how hard it is to figure out how you gonna manage a bunch of rivers, but I don't care about those other rivers. I only care about 1 river and I I know what the law cares about that river also.

1:55:9.100 --> 1:55:15.80
bill floyd (Guest)
And so you can't use general and nonspecific standards to deal with the Chattooga. You've got to be very, very specific.

1:55:15.790 --> 1:55:25.880
bill floyd (Guest)
You've got to have a standard that does what I suggested you have has to do, which is. It has to say the fish populations are going to be as good as they were in the past, and they can't ever decline, OK.

1:55:26.570 --> 1:55:36.370
bill floyd (Guest)
So I think that the problem with your chronic systems management with respect to the shuga is you're trying to make things very general now last point.

1:55:39.730 --> 1:56:0.910
bill floyd (Guest)
Back in 2020, y'all filed a draft plan and you had a bunch of things in there about people being attracted. This YouTube for brook trout, everything else. And I wrote back and said no, nobody goes to fish for trout. She too, cause aren't found in the two that's proven by the 16. She all took that out. But what was most interesting to me and kind of eye opening is that now, seven years later after we started this discussion.

1:56:1.650 --> 1:56:3.810
bill floyd (Guest)
I start this discussion and is it?

1:56:4.470 --> 1:56:8.550
bill floyd (Guest)
This plan admits, and I think it's on what page is it on?

1:56:9.800 --> 1:56:10.710
bill floyd (Guest)
It's on page.

1:56:12.620 --> 1:56:14.560
bill floyd (Guest)
354 to 355.

1:56:15.990 --> 1:56:17.220
bill floyd (Guest)
And you're talking about?

1:56:18.740 --> 1:56:20.560
bill floyd (Guest)
Watersheds, priority watersheds.

1:56:21.780 --> 1:56:22.690
bill floyd (Guest)
And you say.

1:56:23.360 --> 1:56:30.420
bill floyd (Guest)
The one impaired watershed, the one impaired watershed in the entire forest, is the upper Chattooga River washed.

1:56:31.40 --> 1:56:31.380
bill floyd (Guest)
OK.

1:56:32.200 --> 1:56:46.500
bill floyd (Guest)
And I'm I'm I'm kind of driven by the fact that now you all acknowledge that, but we really don't have any concrete plans to try to to implement the solution and that's really where y'all need to take notice and start listening, because we're running out of, we're running out of room.

1:56:47.180 --> 1:56:49.770
bill floyd (Guest)
And I'm running out of patience. My wife running out of patience.

1:56:50.520 --> 1:56:53.900
bill floyd (Guest)
And you know, I think that probably.

1:56:55.250 --> 1:57:23.710
bill floyd (Guest)
We're just not doing what we're supposed to be doing here, so that's my comments. I appreciate you giving me a time monitoring is is critical. We should have been managing, we should have been monitoring the saga for the last seven years. It The trout already management indicator species on that river, the existing current plan requires you to place, you know, when you're managing trout streams are supposed to be improving habitat as a first. We're not done any of that. And and now we're moving forward and we want to talk about putting new designations. We talk about getting new and Senate rivers want new.

1:57:24.530 --> 1:57:27.610
bill floyd (Guest)
And we still not doing what we should do. And as Mr Prater said.

1:57:28.410 --> 1:57:36.740
bill floyd (Guest)
Managing for persistence, even for dangerous species. Clearly it's not, but put on the Chattooga because of the special nature of this river and the classifications that it has.

1:57:38.140 --> 1:58:2.300
bill floyd (Guest)
We can't manage for persistence. That's not good enough. We have to have the high numbers and the densities of the fish that were on this river when I was young were incredible. OK, the young of the year, the Rose, you have young of the year. The age classes was well over 100%. OK. In 16 when they did a study they captured. I think I may have the number wrong. A total of 20 younger the year fish sampled over 2 miles of river. Eight different sample sites.

1:58:3.10 --> 1:58:11.10
bill floyd (Guest)
We've got to look at common sense. There's a lot more smarter people on this call to me. I'm just a country boy that was poorly educated, that likes to fish, OK?

1:58:11.800 --> 1:58:34.530
bill floyd (Guest)
Lot of people lot smarter than me on this call, but we're designing a system that's so diverse and complicated. Everything else we can't figure out whether we've got a BC or F OK and and where I'm standing from from 40 years, we've gotten an F appreciate so much your time. I hope y'all can come up with some solutions to avoid litigation, but I'm I'm afraid that's where we're going. Thank you so much.

1:58:35.300 --> 1:58:44.370
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, Bill, you've you've articulated very clearly you, you you right up there with all the other smart people on this call, yeah.

1:58:43.480 --> 1:58:56.850
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Well, you can't. Thank you so much. You'll have a great day. Hold on a minute. Wait a minute. I think I captured everything. All your points and page numbers and everything. So I was able to follow along and keep up. So I I captured.

1:58:57.330 --> 1:59:3.550
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Not a good, good. Well, good coverage of everything you said. I appreciate that, Mr Floyd.

1:59:4.760 --> 1:59:5.290
bill floyd (Guest)
Thank you.

1:59:5.340 --> 1:59:6.770
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Alright, thank you.

1:59:7.640 --> 1:59:11.240
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Alright, I'm Curtis knowing we haven't heard from you today.

1:59:14.20 --> 1:59:14.860
Smalling, Curtis
Yeah. Thank you.

1:59:16.500 --> 1:59:24.70
Smalling, Curtis
I appreciate it. Yeah. I just wanted to to weigh in a little bit on on the terrestrial wildlife.

1:59:24.190 --> 1:59:25.940
Smalling, Curtis
Some topic.

1:59:26.100 --> 1:59:55.930
Smalling, Curtis
Umm. And appreciate Nick bringing up the through and BMP and and kind of starting down that road of, you know, using wildlife as a as a a good and valid reason for for management. I would just echo what Josh said though and and that's you know to just put a little bit of caution in there. I have the luxury of being totally focused on birds and which is nice. But but we understand that they are part of a.

1:59:56.150 --> 1:59:58.20
Smalling, Curtis
You know of a larger system and.

1:59:59.570 --> 2:0:0.120
Smalling, Curtis
It's.

2:0:1.320 --> 2:0:7.390
Smalling, Curtis
We we've submitted pretty extensive comments originally and then as well as our objection.

2:0:8.170 --> 2:0:20.260
Smalling, Curtis
And and just wanna make clear that we also strongly support the remedies that the the pizzanet have a partnership has put forward which we are an affiliate of that organization. So things like.

2:0:21.160 --> 2:0:34.930
Smalling, Curtis
I'm clarifying land allocations could go a long way toward helping with with Trisha wildlife issues, but also things like old growth network and the rest of it also have a big impact on on on birds, on songbirds in particular.

2:0:36.280 --> 2:0:43.980
Smalling, Curtis

I would just add a couple of comments to to maybe follow on with with Josh and Ben and and Nick's comments you know.

2:0:46.230 --> 2:1:3.300
Smalling, Curtis
Audubon has a has an approach that's kind of a A, you know, do no harm or we want addition without subtraction approach to management that benefits birds. And I've spent most of my ornithological career working on Golden Wings. So so no, quite a bit about that species, but.

2:1:5.240 --> 2:1:22.570
Smalling, Curtis
You know there is a there is a big body of literature out there that that shows the response of birds to silvicultural treatments and it it runs everywhere from, you know, the the from individual species to its effect on communities and all the rest of it. And Nick knows that well as I do.

2:1:23.600 --> 2:1:35.260
Smalling, Curtis
There's there's also a growing body in existing body of literature that we talked about in our original comments quite a bit that that talks about threshold responses in bird communities and with individual species and.

2:1:36.590 --> 2:2:6.560
Smalling, Curtis
You know the the forest doesn't exist in a vacuum, and I think we put in our original analysis in their original comments. You know there's not a single 12 digit Huck in Western North Carolina that's completely owned by the National Forest Service, right? So every Creek shed has some additional ownership, whether it's could be additional public, but in most cases it's additional private. But we don't, we don't. This plan doesn't control what happens on those lands. And so taking a conservative approach that says.

2:2:6.860 --> 2:2:26.570
Smalling, Curtis
You know, if we're gonna have addition without subtraction for a lot of these wildlife species, then we need to be cautious. And as we'll talk about this afternoon, we also need to monitor what we're doing and adapt based on that monitoring, not just watch Rome be built or burn, but actually take action to to do some course correction there.

2:2:27.860 --> 2:2:49.830
Smalling, Curtis
You know, one of the things I think that's that's often sided in in Nick cited it today. You know that that a lot of birds are declining in North Carolina about 25% of species have significant declines over the last 25 years or so. About 35% of species are increasing and the rest are somewhere waffling around, you know, a flat line so.

2:2:51.80 --> 2:2:59.60
Smalling, Curtis

So there are species in decline, both regionally and nationally, and and all the rest of it. And the large percentage of those are disturbance to dependent species.

2:3:0.410 --> 2:3:22.360
Smalling, Curtis
But study after study shows that you know, while we get a an initial or even a pretty radical uptick in in species richness and diversity, thanks to Silva culture, almost every study on a close reading shows that there's one or two species, one or two areas, sensitive species for US interior species or whatever that are impacted by that, that treatment.

2:3:23.600 --> 2:3:53.150
Smalling, Curtis
And so our our goal from Audubon's perspective is is to try to minimize that to the greatest extent possible and and the literature pretty clear that we get some positive benefit across species, even forest interior species with with some levels of disturbance, you know, down to individual tree canopies for eastern wood pewee or black 30, green warbler, whatever. Those are all the way up to 40 acre minimums for Prairie warbler, for instance. But knowing that and using that on the landscape.

2:3:53.250 --> 2:3:57.320
Smalling, Curtis
Becomes, you know, the the tricky part and and I think I I've.

2:3:58.90 --> 2:4:29.260
Smalling, Curtis
All the years we've spent together with the partnership, I think it's it's really pushed me toward this notion of just being conservative and and making sure that we are in agreement and that we're looking at all the potential impacts, whether it's to green salamanders and trillions, whether it's can we take this cerulean project as the literature suggests and do a two entry shelter wood that makes it cerulean habitat, the first go in and golden wing habitat, the second go in. Can we do that? Can we?

2:4:29.360 --> 2:4:50.680
Smalling, Curtis
Can we to to Sam's point from yesterday, can we maintain more habitat for golden wings that basically use as a 7th of the footprint of a rotational harvest for golden wings? You know we need to look at all those options and and where it can help us be conservative. I think it also helps all the other.

2:4:52.870 --> 2:5:22.810
Smalling, Curtis
Needs that are being put on the forest right for abundant and clean water and recreation and timber products and all the rest of it. So if we can, I've often said this and people probably get tired of me with my little colloquialisms or whatever. But, you know, we start every meeting with 60 years ago. The Forest Service really screwed this place up, right. We don't want 60 years from now for the next group of people sitting in these rooms to say, man, those people in 2020.

2:5:22.890 --> 2:5:33.100
Smalling, Curtis

They really got this wrong, right? We need to fix what they did back then. So I really have that in the back of my mind all the time. And I think a conservative approach.

2:5:33.560 --> 2:6:3.570
Smalling, Curtis
Umm, that really emphasizes the things that the new planning role emphasizes it ecological function protecting those species. All those things are critically important and and as a lot of folks have said, and I think the partnership and I'm not speaking for the partnership today, but the reason we're involved is that you know, finding these ways where we agree and move that stuff forward is really important. And if we don't, as our last speaker just said.

2:6:3.660 --> 2:6:34.270
Smalling, Curtis
We set ourselves up for for conflict and and litigation and all the rest of it. Right. And and a lot of our work was trying to avoid that. So I would just say, you know, we, we need to, especially from the wildlife perspective, not use wildlife to to move forward some unrelated goal, but to make sure that those goals, you know, use each other's strengths and and move that stuff forward, we we do have challenges that are gonna have to be addressed and.

2:6:35.710 --> 2:7:6.730
Smalling, Curtis
Unfortunately, we we feel like a lot of folks that the the current version of the plan just didn't grasp that opportunity as strongly as it should have. And so again, from Audubon's perspective, we we thought a lot of great stuff is in the plan. It could be better and really support the remedies of the of the partnership. So again, I'd refer you to some specifics in our in our objection and in our original comments on some of the language that we feel like would benefit.

2:7:6.820 --> 2:7:9.800
Smalling, Curtis
Birds in particular better.

2:7:11.190 --> 2:7:35.410
Smalling, Curtis
A lot of things under the kind of ecological function, ecological zone, kinds of standards and guides and and planning component, but I won't won't take up any more time today on that, but look forward to talking about monitoring this afternoon because I do feel like that's that's a path forward to help us, you know, kind of do the right thing and and also adjust and adapt as we go. So thank you.

2:7:36.580 --> 2:7:37.320
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, Curtis.

2:7:38.400 --> 2:7:42.930
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Anything, Rick? Well, yeah, just with everything we've covered so far and.

2:7:43.830 --> 2:7:46.80
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Constant, constantly impressed with.

2:7:46.960 --> 2:8:2.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The the layers of information and the the the, the, the, the, the rich diversity here and and navigating things just that there there's a lot here in a lot of interest from folks as as well as.

2:8:3.680 --> 2:8:4.470
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Trying to think.

2:8:5.630 --> 2:8:30.600
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Feel well? Picture picture comes in my mind. You know, when I whenever I, you know, say get on an airplane and I I get a glimpse of the cockpit and there's those switches and dials everywhere in the windows about you know that big and there's this this whole ceiling and everything is the switches and dials and that that picture is coming to mind as we talk about talk about the the the care and the management of an anti elitism.

2:8:31.340 --> 2:8:48.70
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh, you know, and and for those of you have been involved in this for the the the whole 10 years and it hung in there and and for those that have come up you know in and jumped in and and contributed you're just incredible cause you swimming around my mind because it's been said is.

2:8:49.50 --> 2:9:3.620
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know who said today and said yesterday yesterday was hey, you know, we can have the 90,000 today is like, oh, there's actually over 500,000 acres. And I'm thinking well, taking in the ephemerals and the salamander and this species and that species like.

2:9:5.50 --> 2:9:13.690
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I I'm gonna have to dig back into some maps and and go back in, cause it seems like it it all overlaps and and again.

2:9:14.480 --> 2:9:23.420
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That cockpit and the airplane comes to mind is the psychic in the movies where they say can anybody fly a plane and you go in like, you know, Oh my God.

2:9:24.680 --> 2:9:39.290
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And what you all you all on on the on the call today and all the folks we have in the room, I think you're you're the you're the control tower that's gonna help guide me in for a landing. So I just wanted to.

2:9:40.140 --> 2:9:51.270
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And what was kind of swirling around in my brain while we were talking is this the the enormity of the task? And I'm glad you all and we are up to it. So just just just an acknowledgement. Thank you.

2:9:53.800 --> 2:9:58.110
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK, let's go to Jason again. The toy.

2:10:0.650 --> 2:10:24.560
Jason Totoiu
Everyone Jason to Toy Center for biological diversity. I just wanted to say a few words about plants, plants I think are often pull underrepresented and maybe not as often the focus of attention is some more charismatic species, but I think what we have in the Nantahala and Pisgah warrants a a real discussion. Just give him the tremendous.

2:10:25.860 --> 2:10:56.610
Jason Totoiu
A presence of what we identify as approximately 45, possibly imperiled, imperiled and critically imperiled plants ranging from sedges to lichens, as well as closed canopy associates, masses, Trillium, etc. Again, I think it goes back to the course filter and find filter deficiencies that really have us concerned when we look at the course filter approach to plants. I think the real deficiency here is.

2:10:56.750 --> 2:11:28.670
Jason Totoiu
Just not accounting for elevation. I think when we talk about many of these species of plants, they are, they're found and they occur and kind of very shorter tight range of elevation. And so going back to Sam's previous or Alison's previous point about, you know, fungibility, we can't treat all all force that I guess this is essentially the same that we've given these, these, these these nuances that you're gonna have these, this patchiness and these isolated populations, but are still.

2:11:28.890 --> 2:11:56.860
Jason Totoiu
Pretty, pretty rich and for many of these plants, they only occur in very small parts throughout the forest. So how do we remedy this remedy this, you know, I think that's the focus of today. The resolution approach here. Again, going back to natural heritage areas, I think that that is could be really helpful. We talk about protecting a lot of these plants or a course filter approach. But we've also offered several finer filter.

2:11:57.960 --> 2:12:27.190
Jason Totoiu
Approaches as well, and I think that you know it goes again to surveying, monitoring. I think that that is a concern across the spectrum from Terrestrials to Aquatics to plants. And also, you know, training staff to identify these species where they're where there is a prevalence of them having setbacks and buffers and just that the pre and post project monitoring, I think all that information gathering is an incredibly important here, so.

2:12:27.480 --> 2:12:36.590
Jason Totoiu
Uh, that's that for plants. I'm happy to answer any questions, but I feel like it was a an important issue to to weigh in on here today. Thank you.

2:12:36.750 --> 2:12:44.730
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank. Thanks for bringing up plants. Yeah. And overall with the the course filter fine filter, it's come up come up several times.

2:12:45.590 --> 2:12:50.110
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
This morning, of course it's in in, you know, objections.

2:12:52.330 --> 2:12:55.670
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Could could we just kind of throw a question out there of?

2:12:57.550 --> 2:13:5.340
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Maybe what? What? What would a more rigorous course filter fine filter analysis look like in a worse plan?

2:13:8.100 --> 2:13:8.850
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
For anyone.

2:13:10.460 --> 2:13:12.270
Hugh Irwin
Yeah. If I could jump in.

2:13:10.770 --> 2:13:14.860
Alyson Merlin
I don't wanna speak out of turn here. Ohh here it's you and I always.

2:13:15.160 --> 2:13:17.190
Hugh Irwin
Yeah. Go for it, Allison.

2:13:15.830 --> 2:13:18.600
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
How did you go this time? Allison, you are first this time.

2:13:19.370 --> 2:13:39.900
Alyson Merlin
OK. Thank you. Yeah, I I don't wanna speak out of turn. I'm sure we all on the call have great ideas about that, but what we suggested in our objection is for the course filter first to start with accurate data. So one of the things we haven't talked about much yet because we had an opportunity to discuss it earlier in the week was roads.

2:13:40.430 --> 2:14:11.690
Alyson Merlin
And the the course filter analyzes roads at at a number just over 2000 miles of roads. But if we're taking into account closed, private and unauthorized roads, we know that that number is actually 5700 plus miles of roads. And that makes a really big difference for a lot of these dispersal, limited species and species that can't subsist in edge habitats. So having a more accurate understanding of roads in the course filter analysis, I think is key.

2:14:12.180 --> 2:14:43.50
Alyson Merlin
And then you know, taking into account again, you know I don't mean to hammer home the allocations, but these places where we already know that biodiversity exists, you know, NHNAS inventory to old growth, the wilderness Area, Mountain Treasure, section 70, you know, whatever you want to call them areas. And I just want to point out for a second that this is not a hypothetical solution. If you look at the George Washington Jefferson Forest, they adopted all of the state special biological designations.

2:14:43.120 --> 2:15:13.420
Alyson Merlin
And in doing so, they were able to really minimize the number of fine filter components needed in the plan. You know, nothing is perfect there are, you know, still sensitive species that might need specific project level constraints in the form of standards and guidelines that don't make it that don't perfectly be become captured by that course filter, even if it's improved. But it is substantially different number. I mean, if you look at the objections which I know you have of the folks on this call, we're naming dozens if not hundreds.

2:15:13.660 --> 2:15:45.50
Alyson Merlin
Of fine filter species components that are necessary for all of the species on the forest that are not covered by the gaps in the current course filter. The George Washington Jefferson, if I'm not mistaken, it has less than five. And so to me, a successful course and find filter breakdown would be really taking the pressure off of you guys taking the easy route, the logical route and putting the places that are special off the table and then focusing on the very few species that are not protected by those larger moves.

2:15:45.370 --> 2:16:0.630
Alyson Merlin
And I think, you know, we're at a point in our conversation where I I have plenty of specific suggestions related to species that I would love to share, but I don't think that's necessarily the most successful course and find filter breakdown here. I think the most successful would be.

2:16:0.710 --> 2:16:9.820
Alyson Merlin
You know the most efficient and taking those special places into account, looking at where the roads actually are on the forest and then going from there.

2:16:11.890 --> 2:16:12.650
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, Austin.

2:16:13.720 --> 2:16:22.570
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So, Allison, I don't wanna. I don't want to cut you off at 15 minutes. And could you conclude the comments you came prepared to share so that we can hear from a couple more.

2:16:23.370 --> 2:16:53.40
Alyson Merlin
Yeah, I would love to. Thank you, Nancy. And I want to make sure I leave time for everyone. Just quickly, I'd like to bring it back to a draft standard that Ben mentioned earlier, that's pad SO3. I'd really like to under score that. We also think that that should be reinstated in full and that management shall, you know, to quote management, shall maintain characteristics required by these species. These being federally listed species and species of conservation concern.

2:16:53.660 --> 2:17:23.810
Alyson Merlin
We just don't think that's an optional standard, and if my requires that there be planned components to encourage the persistence of species of conservation concern and recovery of listed species, and we think it's impossible to do that if habitat is not managed for those species where we know that they exist and we find it hard to believe that that there's another solution in terms of that specific standard really quickly, I'd like to make two more points about specific fine filter components one is about.

2:17:23.930 --> 2:17:54.270
Alyson Merlin
Gaps we noticed in the models, the models show no gap creation. I have some visuals for this, but I'll try to save us the time and take out the tech issue portion of this. The model shown no gap creation. There are there's patch creation at a much larger sign size, but the model the spectrum model does not anticipate that the Forest Service will actively create any small gaps and we know that there are species that are small gap dependent. In fact, the EIS talks about especially bats.

2:17:54.360 --> 2:18:17.270
Alyson Merlin
The the ways in which those species are small gap dependent, and the standards that do exist for gaps. I believe this was also mentioned earlier. We would like to see updated to reflect those bats actual needs, so that's timber standard 14. It allows gaps of up to 40 acres in hardwood dominated forests, but the IRS has listed that certain.

2:18:18.60 --> 2:18:47.40
Alyson Merlin
Listed bats and bats of concern, like the Indiana bat, avoid areas that have gaps larger than 10 acres, so we'd really like to see that rectified, especially in known areas of these bats. And I have that FEIS page if that's helpful. And then lastly, I just wanted to make a brief comment about Aquatics species that are sediment sensitive. You know, we haven't left a lot of time to talk about them here and I see a lot more biologists on the call who can say more than I can, but.

2:18:48.150 --> 2:19:18.400
Alyson Merlin
We spoke in depth. Ohh. Over the course of the last two days about how best management practices

are not enough to prevent sedimentation and there need to be extra buffers and standards specifically in areas where we know sediment sensitive species exist. Especially some of these federally listed species like Appalachian Alto that just weren't talked about at all in the fine filter components that we currently have. So I'll I'll let others join in in the last 10 minutes, but if you have questions about those three points, I would love to answer them.

2:19:19.890 --> 2:19:22.470
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I don't have any questions. You covered really. Well, thank you, Nelson.

2:19:23.650 --> 2:19:26.300
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So let's go to Nicholas. How are we? Haven't heard from you today.

2:19:33.630 --> 2:19:35.670
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You're muted. Yeah, you muted.

2:19:36.680 --> 2:19:42.490
Nicholas Holshouser
Sorry about that. I'm an interested party registered on this topic just to just to make that clear, not injector.

2:19:43.800 --> 2:19:56.970
Nicholas Holshouser
And so I have just a couple of thoughts to share comments about. So it really, really interesting dialogue must be going on to your point earlier, you know that come with curiosity and I I learned a lot every day.

2:19:58.310 --> 2:19:58.960
Nicholas Holshouser
The.

2:20:0.0 --> 2:20:31.560
Nicholas Holshouser
My original understanding reading of the 2012 planning rule because if it's focused at the very, very first, you know that B&C&D on sustainability on ecological integrity on multiple use is has been greater. Pointed out you know the the the requirement right to not just maintain but to to enhance species. There's been discussion around you know already identified areas like natural hair.

2:20:31.650 --> 2:20:32.160
Nicholas Holshouser
Darius.

2:20:32.830 --> 2:20:33.140
Nicholas Holshouser
Umm.

2:20:34.910 --> 2:20:37.390
Nicholas Holshouser
My my impression of the role was that.

2:20:38.130 --> 2:20:48.140
Nicholas Holshouser
The change it's fundamental change. I may be wrong in this is just my my, you know self as a citizen. Was it there was gonna be more of an obligation on the Forest Service.

2:20:48.840 --> 2:20:49.750
Nicholas Holshouser
To show.

2:20:50.530 --> 2:20:55.130
Nicholas Holshouser
That specifically their actions were were were.

2:20:55.820 --> 2:21:1.970
Nicholas Holshouser
Performing the objectives of the role and we're not causing harm and I would go to Curtis's statement about being conservative.

2:21:3.310 --> 2:21:6.740
Nicholas Holshouser
To me, what that implied was that approach of.

2:21:7.580 --> 2:21:30.70
Nicholas Holshouser
Of we take a conservative standpoint knowing that so. So at a big level, we're kind of ruling out things and and to me a rule out is to say, hey, natural heritage areas are an identified you know high quality resource place. So we're going to rule them out and if we need to do something in there, the expertise the Forest Service will rule that in by exception.

2:21:31.30 --> 2:21:58.910
Nicholas Holshouser
Right. By saying we've done these studies, we know this is gonna cause no harm and I believe listening to all the other parties from from, from Will Harlan, from, from Nick B, from Josh that you know there are these different organizations understand there's no harm, they're all in support of things like ecological restoration. So it. So my real comment there is just as a I call myself the public, I'm sort of a member of the public here. I my perception.

2:21:59.850 --> 2:22:2.830
Nicholas Holshouser
Is that the Forest Service wants to retain?

2:22:3.450 --> 2:22:32.600
Nicholas Holshouser
Umm, a lot of a lot of what maybe is not granted them in the planning role and that a conservative

approach is more appropriate in this case cause again, once you lose, once you lose a species, it's gone. And so it just makes more sense to me logically, right, that the onus more of the onus. It seems like all of the responsibilities on outside the Forest Service to express objections and this will happen at the project level, right to what you're doing.

2:22:33.440 --> 2:22:34.710
Nicholas Holshouser
And that it might cause harm.

2:22:35.850 --> 2:23:5.440
Nicholas Holshouser
As opposed to the Forest Service saying that we also have a stake in the ground and we believe that the actions that we're proposing right cause no harm. And here's the proof that they cause no harm. So that's what I would look for, you know, and this is a balance, actually, between the accountability of the Forest Service to be conservative and to do, to do their diligence, that they're causing no harm along with the the external communities, the partner communities who are constantly trying it.

2:23:5.760 --> 2:23:11.70
Nicholas Holshouser
We can ultimately didn't fit the project level to to to to say that you might do harm, right?

2:23:12.320 --> 2:23:19.770
Nicholas Holshouser
And so that's where I think this course filter fine filter is is Allison pointed out a lot. It seems to me a lot of these arguments could be solved by simply saying.

2:23:20.750 --> 2:23:40.470
Nicholas Holshouser
You know the Forest Service has a responsibility and obligation to to prove that we cause no harm, right? Not not to put that onus on external communities to say that you're either benefiting us or or or risking us. And so that's sort of my observations as an interested party during this discussion. And I thank you for letting me say that.

2:23:42.360 --> 2:23:44.510
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Very good. Thank you, nick. Thank you, nick.

2:23:45.200 --> 2:23:49.130
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So we haven't heard from Mike Reardon yet with the climbers coalition today.

2:23:54.750 --> 2:23:56.90
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
Thank you very much. Can you hear me?

2:23:56.770 --> 2:23:57.330
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yes.

2:23:57.560 --> 2:23:58.30
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
OK.

2:23:59.510 --> 2:24:5.190
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
I I am switching topics a little bit to the peregrine Falcon topic. Is is that OK?

2:24:6.400 --> 2:24:6.830
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yes.

2:24:7.200 --> 2:24:7.830
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
OK.

2:24:9.410 --> 2:24:25.700
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
So to to start with them. With the Carolina Climbers Coalition and Access phone. And we we have a mutual goal of promoting successful nesting and fledgling of peregrine Falcons and we we work. We have a great track record of working with.

2:24:27.160 --> 2:24:34.880
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
The North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, as well as the National Forest on Peregrine Falcon management and monitoring.

2:24:36.490 --> 2:24:59.300
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
And and so we're very supportive of some of the climbing closures that exist around around peregrine Falcons. And so it's not the the closure, the climbing closure aspect that we're objecting to. Our objection is based on the the wording and pad SO5.

2:25:0.620 --> 2:25:3.30
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
And that the the wording.

2:25:4.420 --> 2:25:17.370
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
Over identifies climbing as disturbance where it should be or what we're hoping is that it's. It identifies human disturbance as.

2:25:20.430 --> 2:25:31.990
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
As a potential threat against climbing or sorry against peregrine Falcons, instead of the threat being specific activities that humans do.

2:25:33.490 --> 2:25:40.230
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
And and and so that's just a a small detail in wording, but.

2:25:40.950 --> 2:25:50.170
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
Often we feel that climbing is specifically targeted in the plan as a threat to different species where human disturbance would sum it up a bit better.

2:25:52.30 --> 2:25:57.880
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
The the other thing that we have seen as as a as a more.

2:25:59.290 --> 2:26:30.40
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
Active and modern approach to protecting peregrine Falcons is adaptive management and active monitoring. So as opposed to the fixed hard dates that are written in the plan of of January 15th to August 15th that the plan shows a adaptive management and active monitoring instead of those hard dates and the reason being is we've seen that fluctuate when we're working with biologists.

2:26:30.140 --> 2:26:40.470
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
Umm and I I think if if we if we just put hard dates in the plan then they'll they'll those will stay in but if we have active management and.

2:26:41.630 --> 2:26:58.410
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
Or adaptive management and active monitoring in the plan. Then that puts the onus on us as the climbing community, but also the onus on biologists to actively monitor those sites to protect them.

2:27:2.60 --> 2:27:2.880
Mike Reardon Carolina Climbers (Guest)
And that's all I have.

2:27:4.230 --> 2:27:6.410
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks, Mike. Yes, thanks Mike. I got it.

2:27:7.490 --> 2:27:8.290
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK, Megan.

2:27:11.390 --> 2:27:28.860
Megan N. Sutton
Hi there. So my Megan Sutton and on behalf of the Nahill Pisgah Forest Partnership, I just wanna point us back to some of the things that I mentioned yesterday, but maybe go into a bit more detail because I think it has potential to resolve a lot of this complexity, Rick, that you're talking about in the in the cockpit.

2:27:30.520 --> 2:27:50.240
Megan N. Sutton
So you know, as I mentioned earlier this morning, the partnerships land allocations, upper management areas, I think do resolve a fair bit of this. That coupled with the things that I shared yesterday about special interest areas and natural heritage areas in particular.

2:27:51.260 --> 2:27:56.980
Megan N. Sutton
So some of the specifics that are may or may not have gone into full detail yesterday is that you know.

2:27:58.120 --> 2:28:16.280
Megan N. Sutton
The Partnership land allocations would in effect deal with the 44,000 acres of natural heritage areas that are rated high, very high or excellent that are of concern that they are currently in the suitable timber base. So I wanted to make sure that that was clear and also.

2:28:17.150 --> 2:28:30.980
Megan N. Sutton
That you know, when we talked about yesterday about boundaries being able to readjust, you know, we keep talking heard a lot this morning about the importance of monitoring and adaptive management. Well, as we were thinking yesterday about.

2:28:31.540 --> 2:28:45.750
Megan N. Sutton
You know the importance of being able to remap those natural heritage areas when we are at the project level is really critical and it really needs to be the criteria really needs to be laid out in the plan so.

2:28:47.210 --> 2:29:2.120
Megan N. Sutton
We we need to have planned components that you know, state that the natural areas that are that the reason the the area was identified for will be corrected with whatever the new boundary is. So if dude we find we go there, we find it due to historical management.

2:29:3.30 --> 2:29:16.920
Megan N. Sutton
The population of such and such no longer exists or has changed, or we can modify that boundary, but we need to have clear direction in the plan so that we can do that and we need to have a clear plan components.

2:29:17.600 --> 2:29:23.650
Megan N. Sutton
Preferably in a standard you know the details about what coordination with the natural Heritage program looks like.

2:29:24.430 --> 2:29:30.100
Megan N. Sutton
So in particular, you know, coordinating with the natural Heritage program really needs to occur before.

2:29:30.640 --> 2:29:42.260
Megan N. Sutton
Umm, stands are being proposed for treatment and you know gone pretty far down the path of of designing a project so you know.

2:29:42.980 --> 2:29:56.690
Megan N. Sutton
From the partnerships collective perspective, again, we're trying to figure out what are the ways to resolve conflict and smooth implementation. Those are the things that are critical to us. And so we heard we heard.

2:29:57.560 --> 2:30:10.100
Megan N. Sutton
We talk about old growth. We've talked about many of the things that could do that. And so I think the the having the old growth cap and trade dealing with these you know, natural heritage areas in a way that is.

2:30:10.700 --> 2:30:14.570
Megan N. Sutton
Umm significant in, including putting in these planned components.

2:30:15.700 --> 2:30:21.450
Megan N. Sutton
We'll go a long way towards dealing with the concerns that you've heard today and I just wanted to kind of.

2:30:22.890 --> 2:30:29.160
Megan N. Sutton
Tie that back up because I think that you're hearing a lot of information and I just wanna make sure that those dots are being connected.

2:30:30.860 --> 2:30:36.930
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks for connecting the dots. Megan. Megan, what one question I have for you guys, cause we've heard this a lot, I mean.

2:30:38.310 --> 2:30:55.600
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Michelle was just showing me that the the management approach regarding us working with the natural heritage program, and I've heard a lot this week that it seems like there's a lot of skepticism over. Well, it's a management approach. You can kind of take it or leave it and kind of a thing. And we want to see that harder. So I guess.

2:30:56.690 --> 2:30:59.700
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I don't know. I just wanna dig into that a little bit I because.

2:31:0.540 --> 2:31:19.550
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We took a lot of care and putting those management approaches in to really guide the how and there's only so much you can kind of jam into standards and guidelines for certain things like that. And that's kind of the one of the tools in the toolbox that I don't want to lose the importance of those.

2:31:20.550 --> 2:31:31.340
Megan N. Sutton
Thank you for asking about that, James. So you know I I can speak from my history of working in North Carolina that the natural heritage program here in North Carolina is.

2:31:32.580 --> 2:32:2.100
Megan N. Sutton
Umm, there are a lot of political issues or the a lot of politics that come up in terms of what the natural heritage program can say and do, how much they can advocate on their behalf behalf, how their staffing has changed over the 15 years that I've been working here. And so the reason is it's not that we're necessarily assuming ill intent, OK. It's not that we're just assuming you know that you don't care about the natural heritage program, it's to ensure that.

2:32:3.130 --> 2:32:20.950
Megan N. Sutton
That you know, the people that come now and later that there is very clear guidance that they have to talk to each other even if let's say an average program is not able to advocate on their behalf of their own natural heritage areas and I think.

2:32:21.860 --> 2:32:29.0
Megan N. Sutton
That, coupled with projects that have happened historically where that has not always been the case, has kind of.

2:32:29.870 --> 2:32:33.580
Megan N. Sutton
It attributes to this desire to have it go beyond a management approach.

2:32:34.760 --> 2:32:37.960
Megan N. Sutton
And I'm sure others can weigh in, but that that's what I would say to that too.

2:32:39.570 --> 2:33:5.800
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So I I'm watching the clock and we're past our 11:00 o'clock shift to the next topic. But we can stay here if you want to hear more either of you? Yeah. We plan to break. So no, no. We check. The answer is already took it. OK, so the next 1515 tracking this ahead. Right. Good. OK. So thank you. So we actually are ahead. So Josh, did you raise your hand on the question that James asked?

2:33:6.240 --> 2:33:22.180
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Ohh yeah I I did. I did raise my hand there and yeah, I just have a a perspective on that. You know, as

someone outside there is program and has been watching most of the projects on the Nantahala, Pisgah over the years and that perspective is that.

2:33:36.40 --> 2:33:36.580
92d502ca-123e-420b-9065-40304e0df393
Please.

2:33:23.580 --> 2:33:54.310
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
The timing and the nature of the communication matters a lot. I've seen a lot of projects over the years where timber harvest have been proposed and natural heritage, natural areas and full stand exams have already been completed and a lot of investment has already been made by the time the heritage program has been consulted and generally the result of that is not much change and we can look at a number of timber sales where the Forest Service has consulted with the heritage program, the Heritage program has.

2:33:54.570 --> 2:34:0.290
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Respectfully asked that the the timber harvest not occur in the heritage area and that Forest Service seat at any.

2:34:0.890 --> 2:34:21.620
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
And I think a lot of that is because of the timing of the consultation. It much like when other groups are consulted, I I find that projects go best when when mountain true and other community groups get can help design the project and the front end rather than responding to the stands inside the project. So I think you know a.

2:34:22.810 --> 2:34:33.250
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
A standard to rather than simply require communication. I think it's the timing of the communication clarifying that it should happen prior to any project design occurring.

2:34:34.430 --> 2:34:35.320
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Would be very helpful.

2:34:36.830 --> 2:34:40.500
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks, Josh. Other voices in in response to James's question.

2:34:41.230 --> 2:35:2.890
Hugh Irwin
Yeah, this is Hugh. With wilderness society. Just to add to what Josh said, you know the timing is critical and you know others have mentioned the revision of natural heritage boundaries and you know, one of the primary reasons that that has to happen is.

2:35:3.450 --> 2:35:13.780
Hugh Irwin
Uh, you know projects that have bumped into natural areas over the years and you know.

2:35:14.440 --> 2:35:44.910
Hugh Irwin
It's not untypical to have a project where in the Forest Service will say, you know, this part of the natural heritage area isn't suitable anymore for you know that classification. And you know when you look at it, it's because of timber sales that were in that area. You know, a few years back from that. So you know that's another aspect of the timing of that that really needs to be considered.

2:35:48.340 --> 2:35:48.950
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK.

2:35:50.540 --> 2:35:53.430
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Moving, moving on, Nick, be Miller.

2:35:55.650 --> 2:36:13.560
Nick Biemiller
Yeah. Thanks. I wanted to provide maybe just two last brief pieces of context and then I wanted to provide some more specific components of the resolutions for our objection, if I could to kind of wrap a bow on at least this section of the conversation for our part.

2:36:15.700 --> 2:36:35.120
Nick Biemiller
So I think one thing that I wanted to kind of flag is the southern Appalachians are the southernmost extent of rough grasses range in the eastern United States, and of many other wildlife species that are restricted based on elevations and climate groups are very climate sensitive, bird species.

2:36:36.320 --> 2:37:5.700
Nick Biemiller
And the forest, as it thinks about climate resilience and climate adaptation, has a responsibility to manage for and help ensure population recovery and resilience of those species at the southernmost extent of their range. So I wanted to flag that as part of the need. I also wanted to highlight that there's been conversations about kind of what is kind of that win, win scenario where we can benefit more disturbance dependent wildlife.

2:37:5.780 --> 2:37:36.70
Nick Biemiller
We'll also protecting and ensuring viable populations of more disturbance sensitive species, specifically when it comes to birds. I wanted to highlight, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources commissions Bird Matrix report, which looked at 80 breeding bird species that are specific to the southern Appalachians and are known to breed on the Nantahala and Pisgah national forests. And what they did in terms of grouping those species and looking at their habitat requirements.

2:37:37.50 --> 2:37:52.420
Nick Biemiller
They developed kind of a ratio of those different structural conditions that would optimize for bird diversity across the National Forest, and their results indicate that you know, 13% early successional habitat.

2:37:53.50 --> 2:38:12.470
Nick Biemiller
Umm can be created to maintain viable habitat for disturbance dependent birds, while not doing harm to more disturbance sensitive birds as a win win scenario. So understanding that the forest is not only managing for bird species and that the Forest Service also has to meet its requirements.

2:38:13.590 --> 2:38:43.780
Nick Biemiller
Under the planning rule when it comes to ecological integrity, I did want to highlight that though as well, and I think at the crux of some of our objection issues is that we feel like it's really important as the NV model and its implications for ecological integrity across ecozones is considered, that that's contextualized based on the function of those ecological conditions as habitat to wildlife species and part of the concerns that we shared yesterday.

2:38:44.180 --> 2:39:14.210
Nick Biemiller
Are really that the definition of young forest needs to really be captured as functional young forest as habitat to species that require those conditions to recover. Otherwise we're really concerned that species that do depend on young forest conditions for parts of their life history needs will continue to decline under the current plan and some of the assumptions in the FEIS and so unlike Hughes perspective.

2:39:14.310 --> 2:39:44.560
Nick Biemiller
On kind of the NRV and the spectrum model, we came to a different conclusion after looking at that model and the FIS and we feel like the NRV model actually under underestimates the amount of historic young and open forest and that the spectrum model overestimates the amount of future young and open for us that will be created. And so I think part of the remedy here could be better defining young forest conditions and then incorporating that into both the FBI.

2:39:44.670 --> 2:39:51.570
Nick Biemiller
Models and different forest plan components and monitoring. And I think that could help resolve a lot of our concerns.

2:39:52.830 --> 2:40:18.490
Nick Biemiller
And specifically, I mentioned this a little bit yesterday when I talked about one acre patch minimum size and talking about habitat quality and quantity. But I wanted to provide more of a specific resolution here. I think language which states greater than one acre patch size and occupying at least 20% of a stand area that could be a definition that helps us.

2:40:19.90 --> 2:40:34.950
Nick Biemiller
Umm and specifically incorporating some of that language and that definition of young forest both into the models, both the spectrum model and the NRV model, adjusting the esse assessment in the FIS based on that.

2:40:35.630 --> 2:40:51.420
Nick Biemiller
Including a monitoring indicator that includes that definition of young forest and also including that definition of young forest as either a desired condition objective or a standard or guideline in the plan.

2:40:52.590 --> 2:40:56.80
Nick Biemiller
So wanted to make sure I got deep into those specifics of our resolution.

2:40:58.930 --> 2:40:59.980
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Very good. Thank you, nick.

2:41:0.440 --> 2:41:0.780
Nick Biemiller
Sure.

2:41:2.100 --> 2:41:2.600
Nick Biemiller
Thank you.

2:41:1.790 --> 2:41:5.180
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah. OK, so will Arlen.

2:41:7.140 --> 2:41:36.530
Will Harlan
Thanks. I just wanted to briefly mention some of the most important species on the piston anhelo, the aquatic species, all of which are dependent and and are affected by sedimentation. But muscles, freshwater mussels. The southeast is a global hotspot as well. This is one of the most important places in the world for freshwater mussels. We have two endangered species of mussels, the Appalachian elktoe and the little wing curly muscle.

2:41:36.960 --> 2:41:47.380
Will Harlan
And the fine filter uh analysis provided in the plan is wholly inadequate of ensuring their persistence and and and recovery.

2:41:48.780 --> 2:42:19.330
Will Harlan
These are two critically important species that only occur in in small patches, and there's nothing specific to address their persistence and recovery. Similarly, the freshwater fish of southern Appalachia.

This is another global hotspot, and the spotfin chub is another aquatic species on endangered species that the the both the course and find filter analysis fail to wholly protect this species, as well as many other species of conservation.

2:42:19.400 --> 2:42:43.320
Will Harlan
Concern the the plot side log perch and others, and then of course the aquatic salamanders, which we haven't had time to discuss. But there's dozens of rare endemic salamanders found in some cases only in the pigskin anahola, or especially in the piston anahola. I think of the Junaluska salamander Eurycea Junaluska that only occurs in six streams.

2:42:44.420 --> 2:42:53.310
Will Harlan
Most of those in the pigskin anahola and those streams are most of those streams are in Matrix currently out there. Watersheds are in matrix so.

2:42:53.710 --> 2:43:8.90
Will Harlan
Uh, really? A A failure across the aquatic species to address the connection between the the Land Management prescriptions and how they will directly affect these really important aquatic species? Thanks.

2:43:9.830 --> 2:43:25.40
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Very good. Thank you, bill. Thanks. Well, and before we shipped, I wanna ask one more time if there's anybody on the phone who has something they'd like to offer in this category of wildlife, plant and aquatic species. Anyone on the phone?

2:43:32.350 --> 2:43:35.520
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. Would you like to conclude this section in any way?

2:43:36.220 --> 2:43:47.110
Alyson Merlin
Nancy, I'm so sorry to interrupt and I don't wanna take up more of my turn, but just in the last minute that we have here, I was wondering if I could briefly respond to James's question. Would that be OK? It's OK if not.

2:43:47.790 --> 2:43:48.730
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Sure. Yeah, yeah.

2:43:49.160 --> 2:44:5.70
Alyson Merlin
Yeah, I I understood that to be a question both about the communication with the natural heritage program, but then also the the management approach just generally as a directive to the Forest Service to manage for the characteristics for why those areas were delineated, is that what you're asking about?

2:44:8.720 --> 2:44:11.660
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah, I I just in general, you know.

2:44:12.650 --> 2:44:14.950
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We tip anyway. Yeah, go ahead.

2:44:15.940 --> 2:44:46.160
Alyson Merlin
Yeah, I think it's a great question and I wanna echo what others have said that at least our insistence on standards and guidelines and I don't think anyone else has comes from, you know, and any description of malice on the on the, on the part of the Forest Service. We know that you guys are doing great work and that you know a lot more than a lot of other people about how to do that great work, a FEMA. I've noticed in the last couple of days is that folks with vastly different ideas for how the plan should be remedied are all coming from the same place.

2:44:46.250 --> 2:45:18.500
Alyson Merlin
Of disliking some of the uncertainty in the plan of not knowing how much or where harvest is going to occur of not knowing how much or where areas are going to be protected for those values. And I just wanna under score that if if that's already the approach that the Forest Service expects to take because of those management approaches and desired conditions, I think it would provide folks with a lot of clarity and assurity to be able to make plans around what's going to happen on the forest over the next 20 plus years. And and I'm not sure you lose much by giving us that if that's already the.

2:45:18.570 --> 2:45:31.420
Alyson Merlin
Approach. So I just wanted to highlight that perspective. That clarity is something a lot of us are after as well. And you know we definitely trust that everybody is doing their best and it's not coming from there. So thank you for allowing me to share that point.

2:45:34.30 --> 2:45:35.960
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, Allison. Appreciate that.

2:45:39.720 --> 2:45:40.540
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Looks writing.

2:45:43.170 --> 2:45:43.940
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks, Allison.

2:45:45.530 --> 2:45:51.370
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So I I was gonna shift to the tier one and Tier 2 objectives.

2:45:52.540 --> 2:45:58.770
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I saw some hands go up, but I say that was in, you know, well and Josh, are your hands up? Can you take your hands down for now?

2:45:59.770 --> 2:46:3.340
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I figured people were putting themselves in the queue for that. I don't know. OK.

2:46:3.740 --> 2:46:33.690
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh, so just to suggested resolutions, some of those for tier one and Tier 2, let's say a little bit about what tier one and Tier 2, the the basis of tier one and tier two, I could I could do that. Yeah, I I think a lot of this came out of our collaborative work that you know we've heard a lot today that or this whole week about we know that we all want to kind of do more things. We wanna have more sustainable trail networks. We want to have more monitoring and things. So I think.

2:46:33.770 --> 2:47:4.60
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The the the the concept between behind tier one and two was to be able to show Tier 1 being. This is what we can reasonably do with our kind of anticipated current capacity and Tier 2 being what we what we'd like to be able to accomplish with the contributions of partners and and leveraging resources to to do more. So that's kind of the concept between tier one and Tier 2 objectives that a lot of folks on the call worked really hard on.

2:47:4.220 --> 2:47:10.570
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
For a long time, thanks for that. OK. Yeah. Thank you. Thanks for bringing that out. So the.

2:47:11.200 --> 2:47:21.470
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So some of the suggested resolutions link objectives as suggested by the partnership to ensure that no one's interest benefits at the expense of another.

2:47:22.670 --> 2:47:27.340
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Adopt A management area allocation similar to the one advocated by the partnership.

2:47:28.940 --> 2:47:36.230
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Pursue a timber harvest strategy that yields higher volume per acre in tier one than Tier 2 and you heard a little bit about that yesterday as well.

2:47:39.970 --> 2:47:44.820
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So that's it, you know, that's three. OK. So, so Megan Sutton.

2:47:48.600 --> 2:48:18.620
Megan N. Sutton
And there so on behalf of the Nana Hill at Piska partnership, I really just wanna, I I I'm, I'm glad that we have this opportunity to to kind of tie this up with the bow because we've been talking about bits and pieces of it throughout. And James I really appreciated your kind of explanation for what tier objectives are and in fact it's really wanna point out that you know this is this is planning innovation, right? This is not something this is not business as usual.

2:48:19.100 --> 2:48:46.700
Megan N. Sutton
And the planning team incorporated this to really meet the needs of its stakeholders, and the partnership really appreciates seeing this and that, you know, in the draft and the final plan. And in fact the Planning Packet Committee recommendations include this as one good way to one good example of how to incorporate shared stewardship into objectives. So I I just want to affirm that we're collectively really supportive of the construct.

2:48:48.400 --> 2:49:10.810
Megan N. Sutton
The issue that remains is you know and this is not new information, but there there needs to be planned components that make a commitment to proactively managing for anticipated impacts as we go from tier one to Tier 2, particularly related to certain to certain objectives and the two that are the most critical for the partnership.

2:49:12.650 --> 2:49:34.960
Megan N. Sutton
To have some kind of tie to is related to treatment of non-native invasive species and then dealing with the road maintenance backlog. So as we are doing more active management we will in fact have increased as a common vector for non-native invasive species. It's not the only vector for certain, but there is.

2:49:36.50 --> 2:49:42.20
Megan N. Sutton
Likely to be an impact, an increase in those, and there's likely to be an increase in road infrastructure.

2:49:43.190 --> 2:49:44.560
Megan N. Sutton
And so the partnership.

2:49:45.670 --> 2:50:1.570
Megan N. Sutton
We reaffirm our commitment to meeting the needs of all of our interests and really support Tier 2 active management objectives, but with that to have that support, we require that there be some kind of direct tie to non-native invasive species treatments.

2:50:2.620 --> 2:50:22.60
Megan N. Sutton
And away like what we proposed was a road bank to address the backlog of Rd maintenance. And so

we've just we really need for non-native invasive species control and road maintenance levels to balance out increase numbers in active management and we have tried to.

2:50:23.210 --> 2:50:42.430
Megan N. Sutton
Kind of involved with the agency in tandem as iterative drafts have come out and you know, things come out in the in the Press of like, well, we would. Why would we tie our hands if we suddenly got more money to, you know, create more aquatic Organism passages or, you know, whatever the thing might be? And clearly there are many.

2:50:43.90 --> 2:50:55.530
Megan N. Sutton
Many reasons why you wouldn't, but these two in particular related to non-native invasive species and the road maintenance backlog are things that are required for our agreements.

2:50:56.180 --> 2:51:4.0
Megan N. Sutton
At these levels of active management, treatment to move forward, we kind of need these to be addressed really substantively within plan components.

2:51:11.690 --> 2:51:15.790
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I was going for for what's in the EIS now as far as the.

2:51:16.930 --> 2:51:22.790
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh, analyzing the impacts of tier one and Tier 2, that's different than what you're talking about.

2:51:23.600 --> 2:51:36.270
Megan N. Sutton
Yes, what I'm talking about is and only. I'm only talking about the plan, so the plan is as written as really siloed and its objectives, right? You know, it says we're gonna do this, and we're gonna do this, and we're gonna do that.

2:51:37.950 --> 2:51:58.20
Megan N. Sutton
But none of them are necessarily tied together and say that, you know, before we go this far, we need to make sure that we're not, you know, suddenly we haven't had an invasive species explosion that we need to deal with. And so there's no connection between for the particularly for these active management ones.

2:51:58.410 --> 2:52:5.480
Megan N. Sutton
Umm and non-native invasive species in dealing with the road maintenance backlog and that's the biggest.

2:52:6.730 --> 2:52:7.720
Megan N. Sutton
The biggest concern?

2:52:9.790 --> 2:52:13.200
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah. Thanks for thanks for clarifying that Megan and it's helpful.

2:52:14.450 --> 2:52:19.690
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Megan, go ahead and maybe maybe this is, you know, for Sam and Q2.

2:52:20.960 --> 2:52:23.530
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So that really becomes kind of like.

2:52:24.470 --> 2:52:44.510
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Some way that we're checking in, you know, because we, you know, obviously we're not gonna go from, you know, like, you know, it's gonna take time to kind of build up to some of those higher levels of of implementation in the tier one and two. So so it's really about some sort of.

2:52:45.310 --> 2:52:56.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Check at some point as we're seeing an increase to to. You know, I'm just kind of asking and and I know it's in the thing, but just to have that conversation like.

2:52:57.570 --> 2:53:7.500
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
How's that play out during planning implementation. So let's go to Sam with the comments. You came prepared to say and also for response, if you have one.

2:53:10.280 --> 2:53:15.440
Sam Evans
Yeah, I'm. I'm happy to do that. I'm also, if Megan wants to take that first, that's great too.

2:53:16.420 --> 2:53:18.490
Sam Evans
Thank cues from OK.

2:53:19.380 --> 2:53:38.440
Sam Evans
Uh, yeah. So, I mean, I think you know everything that Megan has said so far. I agree with. Yeah, I think I I can offer an additional perspective here, which is for the legal requirements that like where this comes from, from my perspective, what it means for the analysis.

2:53:39.200 --> 2:54:10.950
Sam Evans
And the, you know, sort of our ability to stay within the effects analysis, but just to start with, you know

this is, I mean this is a really welcome conversation, really glad we're having the chance to have it. We've and and we initially talked about and this is reflected honestly in the in the proposed remedies, the way this kind of emerged originally, we talked about it in the partnership as a way to sort of grow all objectives at the same time. That's really not where we're at right now. So the the idea that we've got now is smaller than that.

2:54:11.20 --> 2:54:26.610
Sam Evans
And it's focused on these places where your objectives are in really clear tension, and that's been the case for several years. But honestly, I don't think we've ever been able to talk about it with you all in real time. And so, you know, we've done. We've traded some.

2:54:27.370 --> 2:54:57.810
Sam Evans
Uh, perspectives on this in the press and in written comments, and that's really not really getting us forward. So I'm I'm very glad we're talking about it in this setting. And and James, your question is such a good one to start with because, you know, I think that the structures and how they look in the plan are probably, I mean I'll speak for myself. We're flexible on that. We're not, I don't think I can write. I can't tell Michelle how to write this to make it work in the plan. I know she can do that.

2:54:58.80 --> 2:55:10.220
Sam Evans
But like the the need that we're talking about and the need to make sure that we we're growing these specific things commensurately with each other has to be in there. And I'll kind of just give my perspective on why so.

2:55:10.860 --> 2:55:31.380
Sam Evans
You know the the starting place is like literally the first section of the planning rule. 219.1 says that plan objectives have to be attainable within the fiscal capability of the unit and what that means is that it has to be determined through a trend analysis of the recent past budget obligations for the unit, the last three to five years.

2:55:32.310 --> 2:55:32.780
Sam Evans
So.

2:55:33.550 --> 2:55:39.200
Sam Evans
According to the EIS, the Tier 2 objectives are beyond the forests physical capability.

2:55:41.0 --> 2:55:48.950
Sam Evans
I can quote you that language if you need to see it, but I think we're all on the same page about that. The whole point of Tier 2 objectives is that hopefully we'll be able to stretch in the future.

2:55:50.10 --> 2:56:6.940
Sam Evans

That's a problem for the planning rule, right, like and. So unless I think unless we're able to be creative and and come up with an innovation here, you're gonna have to delete the Tier 2 objectives. And we don't want you to do that. We want you to give us something that we can all work toward together.

2:56:7.710 --> 2:56:19.890
Sam Evans
So, but you've got to have some way to demonstrate the Tier 2 is within your physical capability to comply with the planning role and it's not within your fiscal capability. The only way out of this mess is adaptive management.

2:56:21.330 --> 2:56:40.160
Sam Evans
So there's been some confusion about what that means, so I guess, but let me explain what adaptive management is and I'll start by saying what it's not. It's not making a decision, monitoring its effects, and then making a different decision next time if things aren't working the way you expect it. That's just sort of normal decision making, iterative decision making process.

2:56:40.900 --> 2:57:8.150
Sam Evans
And you could have done that here. You could have said, hey, we're gonna start with plan that adapts to your one objectives and then say we're gonna monitor that and we can amend the plan later. We can amend the plan to add in bigger objectives down the road if monitoring tells us that we can, if monitoring tells us that we've got the ability to to grow those objectives, whichever ones they may be without limiting while also limiting the spread of non invasive species or reducing sedimentation from roads.

2:57:9.180 --> 2:57:11.530
Sam Evans
But again, that's not what you did. It's not what we asked you to do, so.

2:57:12.850 --> 2:57:41.140
Sam Evans
Acknowledging that you did what we asked you to do by putting Tier 2 in this plan, we wanted that. So we don't have to start over with another plan, amendment or revision in order to to grow together. So that's adaptive management. It's a decision that has sort of a plan A and a Plan B sort of an adjustment is what the language is, is in the core service policy. That's an adjustment when you move from your plan a, YOUR Plan B and going along with it, you have to have monitoring strategy and indicators to tell you when you're ready to make that adjustment.

2:57:42.440 --> 2:57:45.580
Sam Evans
And how and you have to explain how that keeps you within your effects analysis.

2:57:46.850 --> 2:57:47.340
Sam Evans
So.

2:57:48.70 --> 2:58:5.760
Sam Evans
This is this is what you're doing with your two objectives. You've got the adjustment, which is moving from tier one to tier two. You don't have that, that you don't have the monitoring strategy, you don't have the indicators, the indicators that we're talking about here or the alerts or the triggers, these are all the all one way to say or different ways to say the same thing.

2:58:6.440 --> 2:58:12.550
Sam Evans
And without that kind of a structure, you have an adjustment, but you don't have the rest of of what's necessary. So.

2:58:14.570 --> 2:58:15.780
Sam Evans
The Megan customs.

2:58:14.710 --> 2:58:38.840
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
But hold on a minute, Sam. Sam, hold on. Just on that, Sam, I'm. I'm following you. I I guess because I think so. I guess I think there are some monitoring questions to some of those key issues that that Megan mentioned. So is it so maybe we can dig into that. Are there some things that we could beef up or or or or you know refer back to somehow so it gets to that kind of?

2:58:39.650 --> 2:58:42.300
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Trigger piece that you were talking about.

2:58:43.130 --> 2:59:8.230
Sam Evans
Yeah. So it's not so. So monitoring is important, but it's 1/2 of what's missing from, you know, from the structure here. The other half is the is the indicator and the tells you when you can, you know, operate in the Tier 2 space without undermining your effects analysis. Right? So yes, I mean, I think that's the main. That's where we would start is we would talk about what that indicator is, what the alert is.

2:59:8.890 --> 2:59:38.500
Sam Evans
Umm, so you know and and I think it's really important again to know that this is not for all objectives, right? We're not talking about every objective has to wait on each other. We're not asking you to wait on nonnative basis species until you have enough money to maintain roads or things like that. We're talking about things that are intention. So there are their objectives that exist to like do action right and then there are other exists objectives that exist primarily to mitigate the effects of action. Those things are intentions. So if you do 1.

2:59:38.820 --> 3:0:10.530
Sam Evans
Without the other, you're causing your impacts that are gonna be outside of your effects analysis, and that's because your plan has to be integrated, and when you're analyzing your plan, you have to sort of

assume that you're gonna do it all. You can't. It wouldn't make sense to do an AIS for forest plan to say what we're just gonna analyze the effects of timber harvest. We're just going to analyze the effects of Rd maintenance or whatever you choose is you have to assume that you're doing it all. And if you're assuming that you're doing it all, but then you actually don't do it all and then some of those things are intentional.

3:0:10.600 --> 3:0:23.200
Sam Evans
Each other. You break that model, right? You take yourself outside of the effects analysis and and I will show quickly if it's OK. Just like the thing that we submitted along the way. I thought it might be really helpful.

3:0:24.510 --> 3:0:27.230
Sam Evans
To well, again, I don't have the share function and that's OK.

3:0:28.250 --> 3:0:28.600
Sam Evans
We.

3:0:29.680 --> 3:0:30.200
Sam Evans
Ohh.

3:0:28.300 --> 3:0:32.330
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
There is there is this. You should have it. The Quincy is doing is magic.

3:0:32.880 --> 3:0:34.380
Sam Evans
Thanks. You know, quick.

3:0:37.390 --> 3:1:8.50
Sam Evans
This is something I think you've seen before, but you know and and I won't walk through it in in detail, but I hope that it will be useful as you all sort of processing through the objections here. The thing I would point your attention to is that most of the arrows point to, you don't need to do any of these innovations like most objectives we can handle through sort of normal plan component development. But there are some conditions when you have those things intentional with each other.

3:1:8.340 --> 3:1:22.470
Sam Evans
Where if if you wanna grow beyond your current capability and you and you need to do that in a way that you know that protects that resources that need mitigation, then you get to this idea of being able to handle that through.

3:1:24.970 --> 3:1:33.450
Sam Evans

Drew, this kind of an adaptive management strategy, so I hope that you all go back and take a look at that. And if you have trouble finding it, let me know.

3:1:36.820 --> 3:1:37.270
Sam Evans
So.

3:1:36.540 --> 3:1:37.950
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You wanna take a pause, Sam?

3:1:38.270 --> 3:1:38.810
Sam Evans
Sure.

3:1:41.180 --> 3:1:46.290
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thing from this end? No, that that was helpful. Sam, maybe you do you wanna?

3:1:47.10 --> 3:1:48.400
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Come into this conversation.

3:1:52.80 --> 3:1:54.840
Hugh Irwin
Uh, yeah. Ohh you know I.

3:1:55.900 --> 3:2:17.20
Hugh Irwin
In understanding the tier one and tier two kind of resolution or you know, I think it's really important to kind of understand the delicate balance within, you know, tier one and Tier 2 agreements. I originally was not in favor of tier one and Tier 2.

3:2:17.750 --> 3:2:23.280
Hugh Irwin
Kind of resolution. Ohh. You know in the force plan I felt that you know.

3:2:24.730 --> 3:2:27.720
Hugh Irwin
Good ecological modeling, you know.

3:2:30.490 --> 3:2:40.870
Hugh Irwin
In our V model and spectrum model, uh for future conditions that act accurately reflected.

3:2:40.970 --> 3:3:1.230
Hugh Irwin
Uh, you know, a good estimate of past conditions and future conditions, you know, would guide and

should guide the Forest Service in coming up with, you know, the right goals and right objectives for the plan. But you know, given that.

3:3:2.640 --> 3:3:7.10
Hugh Irwin
And you know, I I urged, you know, throughout this process.

3:3:8.620 --> 3:3:28.120
Hugh Irwin
A collaborative approach to the modeling so that we could get to that place where you know everybody accepted the modeling assumptions and you know got behind them. You know as the best we could do you know no model is perfect but you know you can get toward perfect.

3:3:28.860 --> 3:3:29.430
Hugh Irwin
Ohm.

3:3:30.510 --> 3:3:41.730
Hugh Irwin
But I you know, I I did. You know, I do think the partnership reached a good balance in the Tier 2 and tier one proposals.

3:3:43.380 --> 3:3:49.740
Hugh Irwin
But that is premised on a delicate balance of getting the Tier 2.

3:3:50.380 --> 3:4:13.140
Hugh Irwin
Goals and objectives in the right places and you know not particularly for the active management objectives, not in the wrong places like in, you know, natural areas and wilderness inventories areas and in old growth and you know getting the plan components correct.

3:4:13.420 --> 3:4:24.310
Hugh Irwin
Ohh and you know if you do that, you know having less perfect models becomes a bit more acceptable.

3:4:25.190 --> 3:4:34.680
Hugh Irwin
Uh, but it does depend on that delicate balance. Amit, you know in all of these areas of allocation and.

3:4:35.300 --> 3:4:44.200
Hugh Irwin
Ohh plan components and you know also recommended designations and what.

3:4:45.340 --> 3:4:53.140
Hugh Irwin
The plan does is choose the active management portion of those tier one and Tier 2.

3:4:53.970 --> 3:5:2.150
Hugh Irwin
Our objectives and only focus on those and leaves out, you know, all of the other for most of the other.

3:5:2.410 --> 3:5:5.370
Hugh Irwin
Alright, alright, Tier 2 objectives.

3:5:6.310 --> 3:5:25.590
Hugh Irwin
And also you know totally ignores the plan components or the allocations and other elements that require you know get to that delicate balance. So you know, I just wanted to kind of highlight there.

3:5:28.450 --> 3:5:31.40
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. Thanks you. Thank you, Hugh.

3:5:31.780 --> 3:5:32.890
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And then back to Megan.

3:5:34.690 --> 3:5:43.720
Megan N. Sutton
Yeah, I want to make a number of comments and I want to start with I I don't feel like either you nor Sam represented themselves this way, but it's really important.

3:5:44.380 --> 3:5:52.660
Megan N. Sutton
To the group of people that I'm representing that it's clear that neither of them is speaking on behalf of the partnership. And So what Sam showed is.

3:5:54.0 --> 3:6:0.630
Megan N. Sutton
The document that came on behalf of the organizations that he's representing, and so I just, I just want to make sure that it's clear.

3:6:2.650 --> 3:6:3.950
Megan N. Sutton
Because it's really important.

3:6:6.50 --> 3:6:35.500
Megan N. Sutton
The the second thing I wanna say is that you know James, to answer your question is like, well, what does this look like in implementation? How do we how do we do this? And I think that I was trying to get out my trustee draft plan, giant Binder. I was trying to look it up real quick. But I do think that in the draft plan there was an objective or to that basically did this. They did like it was kind of like an if then statement. When this happens we will do this.

3:6:37.120 --> 3:6:46.650
Megan N. Sutton
You know, and so there there is an opportunity to kind of reflect and look back at some of the things that you've written, but I think that's really what it is. It's looking at how do we.

3:6:47.370 --> 3:7:1.700
Megan N. Sutton
When we do this, then we will do this. If this, then this and so I think that there's a way to build it into complan components and to tie it to monitoring, because I think obviously then you have to monitor. So you know when you've done the things.

3:7:2.680 --> 3:7:5.430
Megan N. Sutton
Umm, so I think that those are two.

3:7:6.380 --> 3:7:13.880
Megan N. Sutton
Real important issues and I also I don't know if this is the place for it yet, but I just wanna name that.

3:7:14.720 --> 3:7:15.990
Megan N. Sutton
In reaching.

3:7:17.590 --> 3:7:18.40
Megan N. Sutton
You know.

3:7:19.440 --> 3:7:49.870
Megan N. Sutton
Basically, every time you all come out with something, we go back to the like, OK, Now we've got this new thing. We've gotta gotta rustle it out in terms of and respond. And so this is one way that we've kind of scaled back what we had originally given you all is because originally we had said, hey, tie all of your objectives together, right. And it was kind of like, wait, what you know? And so we've responded by saying, OK, these two are the most important. And so on the other side, I wanna just this really important to name.

3:7:50.390 --> 3:8:8.160
Megan N. Sutton
Something that we talked about yesterday, which Rick mentioned when he read it, which is pursuing a timber harvest strategy that yields higher volumes per acre into your one than two are also critical for us to have this agreement around doing all these things. So I just want to make sure that.

3:8:9.60 --> 3:8:29.660
Megan N. Sutton
I mean, I think, Rick, you hit the nail on the head with the whole cockpit mentality like there's so many dials and so many little things to and the impact each other and that's exactly what we've been doing for 10 years together, is trying to create those dials that we can, you know.

3:8:30.980 --> 3:8:41.950
Megan N. Sutton
Well, that we can all live with and feel like our needs are represented and what we're putting forward. So I just wanna make sure that I'm accurately reflecting the all the dials.

3:8:44.0 --> 3:9:0.800
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you. Thank you, baby. Thanks, man. I appreciate you all for helping the kind of zone in on those, those key things that that are tied together. So Sam, you're next in the queue, but I wanna before before I calling you. I wanna see if there are any interested persons.

3:9:1.580 --> 3:9:3.550
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thought that would like to.

3:9:4.440 --> 3:9:7.580
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Put something forth that haven't raised their hands.

3:9:10.310 --> 3:9:11.750
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Or anybody on the phone.

3:9:18.70 --> 3:9:19.720
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK, back to Sam.

3:9:23.560 --> 3:9:30.0
Sam Evans
Thanks. Yeah. So I think you know just to get into specifics a little bit because I don't really quite get there last time.

3:9:31.300 --> 3:10:2.870
Sam Evans
You know, I I think the Megan's already named a couple of issues that we agree SLC and and our other object joint objectors require triggers. So if you expand the road network and you know the thing that will drive the expansion of the road network is timber harvest primarily without scaling up Rd maintenance and all the other things go along with that realignments decommissionings the things you would do to reduce the road maintenance backlog, you're going to degrade water quality and aquatic ecosystem.

3:10:2.940 --> 3:10:34.550
Sam Evans
Connectivity like that's how that works. You know those things? That's why those are intention and that takes you outside of the plans effects analysis. Same thing with nonnative invasive species. If you expand the footprint of active management that creates those vectors without scaling up monitoring pre treatment and post treatment, you're gonna cause a spread that's in excess not only if you're effects

analysis but probably of the your responsibilities under the executive orders on donated the basis species. So I guess the way we put this in comments before.

3:10:34.640 --> 3:11:0.320
Sam Evans
Is if you don't have the money to scale up timber harvest, you don't have the money. Excuse me? If you don't have the money to to do the mitigating things to treat non invasive species, to maintain roads, then you don't really have the money to to move to the objectives for timber harvest and and if you're confident that you can keep up with those other objectives as you stretch, then I it's hard for me to understand what the harm is and building that into a plan structure.

3:11:1.670 --> 3:11:29.770
Sam Evans
And one thing we haven't talked about yet here is, is that the the what we've called priority treatments are condition based objectives at other times the types of timber harvest and conditions that different prescriptions will be used. And if I could return to the example that we've used a lot over the past few days of code for us. So the plan currently allows you to do none, some or all of your region harvest and code forest.

3:11:30.610 --> 3:11:38.640
Sam Evans
But if you if you went beyond 30%, you would be outside of your effects analysis because that was the constraint used in your effects analysis. So.

3:11:39.500 --> 3:11:59.230
Sam Evans
I think you know one the the the partnerships pacing mechanism, again not speaking to the partnership, but that's a a remedy that we support would you know would allow you to stay within your effects analysis because it would say hey, we're half of our treatments are gonna be priority treatments and for if you look at those in detail, you can see why those kind of.

3:11:59.400 --> 3:12:4.200
Sam Evans
That would would keep you safe because you'd be doing more of the right things in the right places.

3:12:5.710 --> 3:12:14.100
Sam Evans
And again, you know, I think I said this maybe I said this before, I can't remember. There are a lot of other objectives that we can handle sort through the normal monitoring process.

3:12:14.740 --> 3:12:20.310
Sam Evans
But this is the bare minimum of what we need to see to be able to support tier two. I mean, we've really paired it back.

3:12:20.480 --> 3:12:21.770
Sam Evans
And yeah.

3:12:22.740 --> 3:12:41.710
Sam Evans
I'll speak, you know, sort of personally, try to broaden this out like we've been alarmed at sort of at the policy level. And I know this is a function of of budgeting, but at the policy level, we see a retreat from a commitment to site specific analysis and from a commitment to project level surveys happening before actions are taken.

3:12:42.250 --> 3:12:56.460
Sam Evans
Yeah, we we see this and we know what it means for us. You know, that's a that's gonna shift the burden to conservation groups and other stakeholders to be attentive to, to what's happening and and try to flag things for you before it's too late.

3:12:57.860 --> 3:13:16.100
Sam Evans
Speaking for SLC again here in in, in our joint objectors, we can't allow finalization of a plan that would shoot for these unprecedented levels of of of of, of work on the landscape without committing to like these most basic commitments for for mitigating harm.

3:13:17.230 --> 3:13:18.770
Sam Evans
So you're asking us for trust?

3:13:19.450 --> 3:13:20.890
Sam Evans
We're asking me for accountability.

3:13:21.560 --> 3:13:24.410
Sam Evans
I think trust can't happen without accountability, so it's.

3:13:24.880 --> 3:13:27.30
Sam Evans
At the you know that's the nub here.

3:13:29.620 --> 3:13:30.360
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, Sam.

3:13:34.520 --> 3:13:35.90
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you.

3:13:36.910 --> 3:13:38.260
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
All right, so, Josh.

3:13:40.930 --> 3:13:47.570
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Uh, yeah. Josh Kelly with mountain. True just on the subject of priority treatments, which I do think is a.

3:13:48.330 --> 3:14:18.470
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
A. A nice remedy for a lot of the issues that we've discussed regarding concerns around ecozone management, concerns around rare species management concerns around producing enough young forest habitat for the species that need that I think are really elegant solution are these priority treatments and then mountain trews input on the draft environmental impact statement. We noted that there according to GIS data now again this would need some ground truthing there appear to be.

3:14:18.960 --> 3:14:48.890
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Around 86,000 acres of uncharacteristic white pine. This is situations where white pine is dominating upland hardwood systems. About 34,000 acres of uncharacteristic popular dominated oak forest and 41,000 acres of below elevation pine ecozone that need work. That's a sum of 100 and 62,000 acres. And of that, at least 46,000 acres is older than 80 years old, which is a probably a good proxy for financial operability for timber harvest.

3:14:49.130 --> 3:15:8.300
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
And also in an area of high consensus and high social support for timber harvest. So that's 46,000 acres of potentially financially viable high consensus work that needs doing in this plan. And yet there are no binding plan objectives or guidelines that would would.

3:15:9.490 --> 3:15:40.80
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Would pace that work appropriately and uh, so I would encourage you all to develop a guideline for or or goals. I'm not sure what the the proper dog would be in planning language for this. If it would be a a standard or a goal or an objective but you know goals for uncharacteristic popular uncharacteristic white pine goals for restoring yellow pine communities that are acreage specific. There's more work in this plan than can be done.

3:15:41.10 --> 3:15:48.60
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
More work that needs doing so prioritization is really important and I think it's a really good way to solve a lot of the issues where we're discussing.

3:15:50.140 --> 3:15:51.710
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks. Anything from you too.

3:15:53.730 --> 3:16:11.50
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Now that. Thanks for that, Josh, I think I think you and I have others have talked about that, that, that

thing we can't do Everything Everywhere. How do we how do we prioritize those, those those landscapes where where, where we all wanna kind of.

3:16:12.290 --> 3:16:23.480
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Bring our resources to their to to to get good work done and and not you know, so that and and that's not only for kind of that.

3:16:25.350 --> 3:16:56.0
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Knowing where we're going and and and and and kind of working through that analysis, but also it's important that for all of us as your as we're looking for resources to to bring to bear to, to know kind of what, where that is, because it's if it's just kind of you know whatever pops in into someone's head where we're going next, it's it's it's hard to to to kind of muster everyone together. So I.

3:16:56.340 --> 3:16:57.260
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I hear you on that.

3:16:59.510 --> 3:17:4.40
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. So Josh, I'm assuming you just haven't put your hand down yet.

3:17:4.950 --> 3:17:9.260
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
But there are no pans in the queue. Nobody I've got in the queue at this point.

3:17:10.50 --> 3:17:14.740
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Under tier one, Tier 2 topic, is there anything that hasn't been offered?

3:17:15.470 --> 3:17:17.720
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That you would like to neck full sour.

3:17:23.130 --> 3:17:25.620
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You're on mute. We're not hearing you.

3:17:27.300 --> 3:17:33.250
Nicholas Holshouser
Sorry. Interested party again? I tried not to step in too early and and take up objector time.

3:17:34.670 --> 3:17:37.100
Nicholas Holshouser
My I just have a comment some of the.

3:17:37.930 --> 3:17:39.120
Nicholas Holshouser
It's your one Tier 2.

3:17:40.680 --> 3:17:43.50
Nicholas Holshouser
And this is a more comment going forward.

3:17:43.850 --> 3:17:57.600
Nicholas Holshouser
Yeah, for the for service in terms of projects, it's it it it is a little challenging concept. If you weren't in the planning. I understand it and I I I don't fundamentally have any objections to the tier one through two. I didn't object to any of it.

3:17:58.700 --> 3:18:29.430
Nicholas Holshouser
I have noticed already in projects and I've just use lipsticks. That's one that's on the table. Did did, did. Now scoping goes through and discusses. You know what you're doing and what goals these are achieving. It would be really helpful going forward. I guess it's part of monitoring like I I don't know for reading, I don't know what you would want to monitor. What is critical and how much of your goals you're achieving right. You. You mentioned goals that are being achieved but not which tier they're in and how much of them are being achieved. And just for informational.

3:18:29.510 --> 3:18:38.530
Nicholas Holshouser
Your wife, that would really help to understand. You know how your, how your, how you're getting, where, where the directions as you're going. So that was my comma.

3:18:40.590 --> 3:18:41.400
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah. Thank you, nick.

3:18:43.570 --> 3:18:45.320
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Alright, one last call.

3:18:47.930 --> 3:18:51.760
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Any other interested persons, anyone on the phone?

3:18:52.670 --> 3:18:53.120
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yes.

3:18:52.770 --> 3:18:57.770
ee3f0de1-caca-49d8-bec5-b3543b3b2182
Hello this is a. This is Blair Bishop, North Carolina Forestry association. Can you hear me?

3:18:58.410 --> 3:18:59.680
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yes, Blair, thank you.

3:19:1.190 --> 3:19:31.180
ee3f0de1-caca-49d8-bec5-b3543b3b2182
Thank you. Well, well, good morning. And again, I'll just keep it brief. I know we're getting closer to lunchtime too as well. Just again, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. And just briefly on this matter. You know, one thing that I've been hearing as we kind of look at tier one and Tier 2 and I think some folks are kind of summarizing a little bit today as well as is that you know we we want to get to the Tier 2 objectives and and and partnership. And I, I I hear the resounding.

3:19:31.440 --> 3:19:44.770
ee3f0de1-caca-49d8-bec5-b3543b3b2182
I I hear a lot of synergy still around that, even though I think we've come to this time quotient. You know, how long is it? Is it going to take? And I I hear a regional supervisor lint and and.

3:19:45.890 --> 3:20:16.120
ee3f0de1-caca-49d8-bec5-b3543b3b2182
Supervisor James there working that time calculus out in terms of executing it and I can just tell you that from NCS Forestry Association, you know we represent land owners, small sawmills. You know the people across Appalachia that also have an economic stake at this and want resiliency too from their forest and and we need to act. So you know, is it six months or do we you know how much how much more information do we need.

3:20:16.400 --> 3:20:34.650
ee3f0de1-caca-49d8-bec5-b3543b3b2182
We have current federal law in place and and we want to be a helpful partner and we feel like we can, you know, carry a lot of water, so to speak, in getting this work done in partnership with with everyone. So we're ready to go to work and the sooner we can do that, the better.

3:20:36.620 --> 3:20:39.10
ee3f0de1-caca-49d8-bec5-b3543b3b2182
We wanna get it here too. Yes, please. Thank you.

3:20:41.20 --> 3:20:44.340
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks, Blair. Thank you. And just one thing.

3:20:45.700 --> 3:20:57.450
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks Blair for for that and and and Nick to your point and I think something that I mentioned, I can't remember yesterday, the day before was around. I think there's some really cool things we could be doing.

3:20:58.790 --> 3:21:16.660
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Innovatively on on how to, you know, utilize a new plan in, in, in, in being able to bring in that

information into the project level and in a slick way. And one of those, I think to your point, Nick, is to be able to kind of show how.

3:21:17.780 --> 3:21:29.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know, a particular project might be contributing to objectives and things that that, that are called out in the plan. So I think there's a lot of cool things and innovations that we can that I'm excited about.

3:21:29.710 --> 3:21:44.820
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh in in terms of how to use all this analysis and things that are in the plan and and and help that to so we're not starting from Ground Zero at when we're going into the project we we have a lot of context that that we can bring into that.

3:21:47.510 --> 3:21:48.640
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So last call.

3:21:49.590 --> 3:21:52.240
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Any other interested persons, people on the phone?

3:21:57.20 --> 3:21:58.750
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
All right, Nick DeMar.

3:21:59.420 --> 3:22:0.90
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Be Miller.

3:22:1.640 --> 3:22:4.440
Nick Biemiller
Yeah. Thanks, Nancy. Nick, be Miller with the Rough Grouse society.

3:22:5.860 --> 3:22:35.230
Nick Biemiller
So we're just an interested kind of person on this topic. I just wanna kind of take the opportunity, I guess, to highlight our support of achieving those Tier 2 objectives when it comes to that full suite of habitat diversity, understanding a lot of the points being raised by Hugh and Sam and Megan and earlier are being really important. But I just wanted to kind of offer our support of those those levels and just how important achieving those levels is gonna be when it comes to.

3:22:35.290 --> 3:22:39.420
Nick Biemiller
Species that require young forests, habitat and open forest conditions specifically.

3:22:41.960 --> 3:22:42.670
Nick Biemiller
That's it.

3:22:43.310 --> 3:22:43.860
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you.

3:22:45.410 --> 3:22:53.490
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
This is good. We're getting a few responses to last calls. I'll give another last call. Any other interested persons, people on the phone.

3:23:2.330 --> 3:23:2.780
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK.

3:23:3.950 --> 3:23:32.190
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Anything to wrap up before we go to lunch? Good. Good morning, honey. Cover cover a lot of ground. Lot, lot of, lot of things within each. Each of the topics. And again, thank you for bringing up ideas for resolution. Things we can. Things we can further pursue and as well as some some nuances about the objection to provide some context and some things that we need to go back and I need to go back and.

3:23:33.120 --> 3:23:34.830
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Once more time on so. Thank you.

3:23:36.480 --> 3:23:46.160
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK, so it's almost noon. Our plan is to come back at one will start with climate change and then move to.

3:23:47.90 --> 3:23:52.50
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Monitoring. We already heard a lot of monitoring, but I know that's a big, important issue for many people so.

3:23:52.690 --> 3:23:56.760
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Umm that that's the direction we're headed with a plan to close it 3.

3:23:57.470 --> 3:23:59.580
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks so much, folks. Talk to you soon.

3:53:31.490 --> 3:53:31.940
Schaner, Jessica
Umm.

3:57:59.0 --> 3:57:59.280
Schaner, Jessica
What?

4:1:43.210 --> 4:1:43.620
Schaner, Jessica
No.

4:3:22.520 --> 4:3:23.140
Schaner, Jessica
Umm.

4:4:15.590 --> 4:4:16.0
Schaner, Jessica
Now.

4:4:39.0 --> 4:4:40.90
Schaner, Jessica
Yo.

4:28:24.320 --> 4:28:25.220
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Any.

4:28:25.980 --> 4:28:27.90
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Mike is on.

4:28:28.100 --> 4:28:29.190
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Places are up.

4:28:42.300 --> 4:28:45.70
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Get warmed up after being in that Cold conference room.

4:28:58.700 --> 4:28:59.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You see Rick?

4:28:59.670 --> 4:29:1.440
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah, there's back.

4:29:6.320 --> 4:29:11.180
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Is that is that a tax intervene fair or is that a 3 dimensional picture of 1 isn't bad?

4:29:13.250 --> 4:29:18.560
Leslie, Andrea J
Oh no, it's it's a stuffed bear. We thought that we would bring it in for Comic Relief for you all.

4:29:22.720 --> 4:29:24.80
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We've definitely been noticing.

4:29:24.800 --> 4:29:25.350
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you.

4:29:28.640 --> 4:29:28.960
c324e678-80a8-4a6a-bda4-50867797da43
OK.

4:29:29.700 --> 4:29:31.20
Ben Prater
The Bears interested party.

4:29:33.640 --> 4:29:34.490
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
There you go.

4:29:48.840 --> 4:30:0.770
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Ready. Yeah. Ready. And take care of climate change. Yeah. And just to just before we get into the the climate change topic. For those of you that might be new online, just quickly.

4:30:2.90 --> 4:30:8.100
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
A reminder for you to manage your new button on and off and.

4:30:8.730 --> 4:30:18.520
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Feel free to use the raised hand feature to let us know when you want to enter into the dialogue. I'm managing the queue. This is Nancy Walters.

4:30:19.970 --> 4:30:30.540
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
At the onset of our meeting, we created a set of ground rules that are on the wall behind Rick and so just ask for your attention on those ground rules.

4:30:31.420 --> 4:30:41.170
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And also that we are recording this session, are we recording it now? I guess it was over lunch, right? We didn't stop it and so.

4:30:42.90 --> 4:30:45.680
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So y'all are agreeing to be recorded just by the virtue of being here.

4:30:46.990 --> 4:30:50.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Any any questions before we begin again?

4:30:55.330 --> 4:30:58.720
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And do we have anybody on that wasn't on in the morning?

4:30:59.790 --> 4:31:7.220
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Raise your hand. If you're just joining us and haven't been with us because I didn't know if I needed to go over my preamble.

4:31:8.40 --> 4:31:8.670
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I've done.

4:31:9.640 --> 4:31:14.170
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The the people that are listed as objectors and interested persons are familiar.

4:31:14.820 --> 4:31:16.390
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So that's all I can say.

4:31:20.400 --> 4:31:25.510
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. Then if it's the same group, there's always this morning we will jump in.

4:31:26.190 --> 4:31:27.680
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
With climate change.

4:31:28.580 --> 4:31:33.290
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And going over some of the suggested resolutions for climate change.

4:31:34.420 --> 4:31:35.150
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I've got.

4:31:36.970 --> 4:31:37.500
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Several.

4:31:42.560 --> 4:31:45.420
Kauffman, Gary -FS
Sound like a better role than we had before. I can do that much for you.

4:31:38.610 --> 4:31:45.600
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We evaluate, include and utilize climate and carbon storage benefits of intact mature force.

4:31:46.590 --> 4:31:48.300
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
In all management decisions.

4:31:53.750 --> 4:31:56.120
Kauffman, Gary -FS
There's there's 50 people.

4:31:50.0 --> 4:31:56.150
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Manage existing, mature and old growth forest to preserve their carbon storage benefits and biodiversity values.

4:31:58.420 --> 4:31:59.670
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Somebody. So.

4:32:1.270 --> 4:32:3.910
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
It come through chibit cutting old growth.

4:32:1.730 --> 4:32:4.60
Kauffman, Gary -FS
Yeah, one more time with the meeting because everybody attention.

4:32:6.930 --> 4:32:16.360
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Require all infrastructure to be designed and maintained to accommodate increased storm intensity and frequency, and provide for fish and aquatic Organism passage.

4:32:17.970 --> 4:32:22.260
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Protect unrooted areas that provide intact connected forests.

4:32:23.740 --> 4:32:28.660
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Provide a full accounting of the force role in sequestering and storing carbon.

4:32:30.100 --> 4:32:39.570
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Reexamine the appropriateness of using timber harvest to create early seral forest. Given the impacts of climate change on natural processes.

4:32:40.980 --> 4:32:53.560
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS

Complete additional analysis of effects of the plan on carbon storage and emissions and provide a qualitative analysis of the different alternatives effects on carbon storage and emissions.

4:32:54.530 --> 4:32:58.140
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Commit to project level tracking of carbon storage.

4:32:58.850 --> 4:33:3.460
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Account for the cumulative effects of the overall timber program.

4:33:7.120 --> 4:33:8.160
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So that's that's a.

4:33:9.0 --> 4:33:9.710
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Some of the.

4:33:10.480 --> 4:33:13.330
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Suggested remedies for climate change.

4:33:14.960 --> 4:33:32.490
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And so on. I'm imagining there's a number of different perspectives out there, and reminder for us to to focus in on, on new and additional information about what you put in your written objection, specifically within the attention to the remedies and to no need to cover.

4:33:32.570 --> 4:33:43.680
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Umm. To voice the same perspective over and over again so so that we have time on this 45 minutes to hear the varying perspectives. So starting with David Reed.

4:33:47.120 --> 4:33:51.310
David Reid
Yeah. Hi, I'm David Reed here representing the Sierra Club.

4:33:52.180 --> 4:33:56.460
David Reid
And I just wanted to make some the general comment.

4:33:57.620 --> 4:34:1.170
David Reid
I think I read somewhere that you know what what is what?

4:34:2.110 --> 4:34:9.850
David Reid

The piston and Haley is just a little tiny piece of the puzzle here in terms of this big, important national and and worldwide.

4:34:10.900 --> 4:34:13.710
David Reid
Crisis that we're in, in terms of climate change.

4:34:15.10 --> 4:34:40.900
David Reid
But I wanted to I wanted to emphasize that it's critical for every Land Management area, including the Forest Service across the country and all the lands that the Forest Service manages, but particularly not to discount the important role in the piece of the puzzle that the piston down to haler represents. And what we can do here just in our backyard, so to speak, to contribute.

4:34:41.580 --> 4:34:46.910
David Reid
In whatever way we can to the solution to this major crisis that we're in.

4:34:47.610 --> 4:34:49.680
David Reid
And and and and in reading.

4:34:50.320 --> 4:34:52.610
David Reid
The plan and reading environmental impact statement.

4:34:53.670 --> 4:35:2.220
David Reid
We don't come away with the with the sense that it is as important as it is, so I think generally we'd like to see.

4:35:3.170 --> 4:35:6.570
David Reid
This carbon storage potential of our farest emphasized more.

4:35:7.430 --> 4:35:16.680
David Reid
In terms of the analysis, in terms of what's the what can most efficiently store carbon and we we happen to think that's the older, more mature forests.

4:35:17.630 --> 4:35:47.950
David Reid
Overtime that they're much more capable and efficient of storing carbon, let's not let's let's not throw away the pieces that are currently doing a good job of storing carbon in the southern Appalachian. So that's just what I wanted to say. I I'm others I'm sure will be. I'm I'm a volunteer with the Sierra Club, as is all of our activists here in Western North Carolina where volunteers. But I'm sure others will more expertly speak to that. But I wanted to say that is our emphasis here.

4:35:49.870 --> 4:36:7.940
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And and thanks, David. And and maybe not just for you but but as we talk, I I'd be interested to hear thoughts on the, the, the role of the forest in in sequestering carbon and but also the key need for resiliency.

4:36:8.150 --> 4:36:17.350
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
A to the climate change impact. So anyway, just that would be of interest to me that like that, that interplay.

4:36:18.540 --> 4:36:20.650
David Reid
Sure, I'll, I'll let others speak.

4:36:22.750 --> 4:36:23.620
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Henry dargan.

4:36:24.790 --> 4:36:55.40
Henry Gargan
Hey. Yeah. Thanks so much. Y'all. This is Henry again with the Southern Environmental Law Center. I do want to just want to start by echoing what David just had to say about the need to have a really sort of comprehensive understanding, not just of how this plan will affect carbon stores and carbon sequestration, but zooming out, even having a better understanding of how the National Forest systems overall logging program will affect carbon stores back in 2012. And I guess.

4:36:55.180 --> 4:37:25.250
Henry Gargan
Well before that, when the planning rule was being developed, there was a great opportunity to do a programmatic evaluation of what that impact would be sort of at the nationwide level. And unfortunately we didn't get that. So what that means, that doesn't necessarily get rid of the epoch obligation to understand those impacts. We have case law that says that carbon storage impacts are the kind of impact that new requires federal agencies to evaluate when they're conducting their need for evaluation.

4:37:25.480 --> 4:37:40.830
Henry Gargan
So it doesn't mean that just because the programmatic analysis didn't take place that it's not something that needs to be analyzed. I think unfortunately for folks like yourselves who are tasked with implementing and analyzing forest plans, it means that y'all have to do it.

4:37:42.90 --> 4:37:42.700
Henry Gargan
So.

4:37:43.410 --> 4:38:13.640
Henry Gargan

What we I think got instead was from the DISNDFISA sense that the forest regard the impact of storing more or less carbon through the implementation of the plan. It's having negligible impacts on carbon storage, and we don't think that's really supportable. I think in the abstract, if you analyze the impact of anything at a small enough scale, you can come away with the conclusion that the impact is negligible and it certainly from the conclusion that the plan level.

4:38:13.720 --> 4:38:24.880
Henry Gargan
Impact her negligible. It's not supportable to say we'll do this at the project level because then of course there's impacts are less than negligible. So I really just wanted to support David's point there that.

4:38:25.800 --> 4:38:39.60
Henry Gargan
This analysis has to happen at some point. It hasn't happened yet. We'd love to see it happen at the nationwide scale. I know that the folks sitting in the office today don't have a whole lot of control over whether that happens, but it has to happen one way or the other.

4:38:39.720 --> 4:38:45.70
Henry Gargan
Umm, that sort of the big picture point about cumulative impacts. I wanted to make. I have some other points to make about.

4:38:46.540 --> 4:38:53.570
Henry Gargan
Modeling and alternatives, but I do wanna pause there just to give folks and time to respond or other folks to jump in.

4:38:57.470 --> 4:38:57.730
Henry Gargan
Umm.

4:38:54.990 --> 4:39:11.820
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. Thanks, Harry. Anything from you too? Yeah. And just just a a question like my might seem like a silly question. Are we talking about new storage of carbon or carbon that's already stored or is it? Is it important to point out a difference?

4:39:12.870 --> 4:39:13.420
Henry Gargan
So.

4:39:14.230 --> 4:39:17.340
Henry Gargan
It's both which I think you probably knew that I was going to say that.

4:39:17.660 --> 4:39:26.370
Henry Gargan

I'm, as David pointed out, and I think as you all know, what the the environmental impact, which is what NEPA requires us to analyze.

4:39:27.870 --> 4:39:56.890
Henry Gargan
Of storing more or less carbon comes from both carbon that's already stored and carbon that will be stored. I think we know that if we have any shot at a burning, the worst consequences of climate change, we have to take into account every source of carbon that has been stored in every opportunity to store more of it. The environmental impacts that are related to those choices are well within the scope of what NEPA requires to be analyzed. So it's all of the above.

4:39:59.390 --> 4:40:0.880
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah. Thank you, Sir. Thank you, Henry.

4:40:2.350 --> 4:40:3.270
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Other voices?

4:40:4.680 --> 4:40:7.560
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
David, is your hand up again or did you not put it down?

4:40:14.470 --> 4:40:15.380
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Nicole hayler.

4:40:22.830 --> 4:40:35.250
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
Good afternoon, Nicole Hallers to Conservancy. We also raised the failure of the FBI to meaningfully address climate change, and I would also point out that.

4:40:35.330 --> 4:40:55.340
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
Umm, we've identified some notions in the FBI S that that clearly should be dispelled. We we've seen since we operate on the grassroots level in three national forests that our public land managers are consistently either disregarding or.

4:40:55.420 --> 4:41:13.170
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
Umm. Proffering information that we don't believe reflects the best available science in what the national horse managers can do to address climate change on a broad scale, and actually at the local level, you know, actually a recent fairly recent discussion with.

4:41:14.450 --> 4:41:42.480
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
Of course there is silver called silver culturalist that I won't name asserted that the best thing we can do to our forests here to address climate change was to cut down the trees and plant corn. And so we're

concerned that at the agency level that this problem is not being taken seriously. We see it as the common denominator. If if there is even one combinator common denominator across all the issues in the forest plan, it's got to be climate change and.

4:41:43.150 --> 4:41:51.750
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
It's certainly one of the mechanisms to address climate change as far as land allocations that we've discussed.

4:41:52.780 --> 4:41:57.790
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
Uh, quite extensively as the need to protect existing old growth and.

4:41:57.890 --> 4:42:26.860
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
Uh. Then if you take it a step further to restore a network across the landscape and and to also as far as you know, a dialogue and that also acknowledged the effects of the the soils and and the other very complex elements of old growth also factor into climate change. And either you can make the problem worse by not preserving old growth and and disturbing the soil. We've already talked even though.

4:42:28.540 --> 4:42:39.120
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
It's not a a topic of this forest plan about the old growth. I'm brushing mountain and we've all in in the Nantahala Ranger District that is scheduled for harvest.

4:42:40.160 --> 4:42:51.120
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
If you go up there and and stick a piece of wood in the ground, you can see the soil is up there in some places are about an inch thick. And so these these factors also need to come to the fore in the forest plan.

4:42:55.500 --> 4:42:56.300
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Making a call.

4:43:5.170 --> 4:43:6.100
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, Nicole.

4:43:7.200 --> 4:43:8.230
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
All right, well.

4:43:10.10 --> 4:43:28.200
Will Harlan
Just wanted to address James's excellent question. In addition to the carbon storage benefits that the the forest provides in terms of resilience, mature and old growth forests are our best defense against catastrophic wildfire and flooding, so.

4:43:29.360 --> 4:43:56.270
Will Harlan
The the piston and a Halo. The 1,000,000 acres of the piston anahola provide some important critical resilience benefits, and then the climate storage or the carbon storage component cannot be overstated. You are the largest carbon stock manager in the state of North Carolina. So while your plan may claim that you're impacts are negligible on the ground, they are very real and very important as.

4:43:57.510 --> 4:44:9.280
Will Harlan
The large largest carbon storage manager in the state and one of the largest in the southeast, you have a very critical role to play in how we address climate change in this region.

4:44:12.150 --> 4:44:14.240
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Appreciate that. Well, yeah. Thank you.

4:44:15.910 --> 4:44:20.890
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So other objectors want to represent your viewpoints.

4:44:22.220 --> 4:44:25.50
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Besides, uh, before I go back to to Henry.

4:44:26.160 --> 4:44:27.50
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So.

4:44:28.490 --> 4:44:29.420
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Rebecca came.

4:44:33.80 --> 4:44:33.760
Rebecca King (Guest)
Hi.

4:44:35.220 --> 4:44:41.370
Rebecca King (Guest)
Yes, I'm with uh Rebecca King, a public objector with the iheart Piska.

4:44:41.930 --> 4:45:11.240
Rebecca King (Guest)
Ohm and I agree that the plan fails to address the climate crisis with the real required urgency of this moment or scope as well, and I feel that increasing timber harvest does the opposite of addressing climate it, that we should be decreasing timber, client timber harvest and I wanted to point out a couple of things. I know you asked me a question about the sequestration and.

4:45:12.400 --> 4:45:22.920
Rebecca King (Guest)

I a Forest Service report that came out in 2016 stated that 92% of carbon loss out of the forest is due to harvest.

4:45:24.0 --> 4:45:31.530
Rebecca King (Guest)
And and that's in the southeastern United States, the fire insects, when drought make up the the the other 8%.

4:45:32.270 --> 4:46:0.500
Rebecca King (Guest)
Umm, so I do know that the biomass industry has a foothold here. I touched on this yesterday and they are have had a big hand in that across the Southeast. I feel like opening the forest to more increased temperament and decreased harvesting could open up for them to come in and they have. There's a lot of scientists that say they are not clean. There is a lot of faulty analysis. I've mentioned the 800 that that.

4:46:1.810 --> 4:46:28.920
Rebecca King (Guest)
Sent a letter to the EU. Another 500 has sent a letter to the Biden administration and I wanted to point out that the North Carolina plan issued the North Carolina Clean Energy Plan issued by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, does not see a biomass that says that biomass does not advance the state's clean energy plans but or clean energy economy. I would like to circle back to just a couple more points than I have her like a remedy.

4:46:30.10 --> 4:47:1.700
Rebecca King (Guest)
Uh, the 2018 climate report that we're all familiar with said that we had 12. That said, we had 12 years to act. Has something else in it that says we must simultaneously reduce carbon emission and increase the removal of active atmospheric carbon by forest growth, one of the authors on that Doctor, William Mumma, who is a tough university, and he was a lead author on that on on five other IPCC reports, has stated some has some papers about the carbon sequestering ability and he says.

4:47:1.780 --> 4:47:2.150
Rebecca King (Guest)
So.

4:47:2.820 --> 4:47:11.160
Rebecca King (Guest)
Old growth and mature and intact forests can can sequester double the amount that a young forest can sequester.

4:47:12.740 --> 4:47:25.680
Rebecca King (Guest)
So he proposed he promotes something called Pro Forestation, which was mentioned in one of your remedies that you went in over in the beginning of letting things grow. The other thing about that is.

4:47:26.760 --> 4:47:39.230
Rebecca King (Guest)

You know, a young forest, while it doesn't sequester as much forest as much, it also takes decades to grow back to that previous level of sequestration. And honestly, we don't have time.

4:47:40.160 --> 4:48:2.760
Rebecca King (Guest)
We don't have time. The crisis is here. And really, all those species that everybody talked about this morning, they don't have time either. I mean, the the salamanders, the warblers and even, and the ruffed grouse that Nicholas talking about, he's he pointed out how they were very climate sensitive. So my remedy is to circle back around at least is a great place to start.

4:48:3.390 --> 4:48:10.100
Rebecca King (Guest)
And to maybe even monitor, I know y'all have talked about monitoring to monitor this type of thing would be go back to the.

4:48:11.360 --> 4:48:14.540
Rebecca King (Guest)
To making the craggy big Ivy area.

4:48:15.240 --> 4:48:26.530
Rebecca King (Guest)
A protected area. It is full of those kinds of forests, and you already have all the public support and the local city and county support. So thank you for listening.

4:48:28.310 --> 4:48:28.880
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you.

4:48:29.750 --> 4:48:30.530
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, Rebecca.

4:48:33.140 --> 4:48:33.580
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Nick.

4:48:34.290 --> 4:48:34.900
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Mcbee.

4:48:49.220 --> 4:48:49.890
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Go ahead.

4:48:37.650 --> 4:48:51.280
Nick Biemiller
Yeah, sure. So so I'm not an objector for this. I am an interested person. I'm happy to yield the floor. If you're wanting to focus on objectors first or I'm happy to share some thoughts that I would like to share at some point during this section, if I can.

4:48:52.210 --> 4:48:52.690
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Free.

4:48:53.240 --> 4:48:53.840
Nick Biemiller
OK.

4:48:54.890 --> 4:49:2.380
Nick Biemiller
So a couple points that I wanna kind of drive home. That thing should be part of any objection resolution to this issue.

4:49:3.340 --> 4:49:27.610
Nick Biemiller
I think it's important to note that our national forests are multiple use forests that manage for diverse goods and services. As per the multiple use sustained yield act, and that it would be inappropriate for our National Forest lands to manage one service at the expense of others. For example, managing for forest carbon at the expense of early successional habitat.

4:49:28.330 --> 4:49:44.200
Nick Biemiller
And so I would argue that the only viable pathway forward for addressing this issue is to really optimize for those multiple goods and services, including forest health, wildlife habitat and forest carbon. So it's really an optimization challenge.

4:49:44.990 --> 4:49:53.820
Nick Biemiller
Umm, so increasing the amount of carbon stored in our forest should not be done at the expense of habitat diversity, especially with our National Forest lands.

4:49:54.470 --> 4:50:25.300
Nick Biemiller
We also feel pretty strongly like a holistic approach is really required in terms of how we think about forest carbon that considers the full life cycle of forest products and carbon stored in wood products long term as part of any climate mitigation strategy. So there's a lot of evidence out there about the role of substitution as we think about carbon that's stored long term and wood products being utilized more and replacing more carbon intensive.

4:50:25.510 --> 4:50:44.70
Nick Biemiller
Construction materials such as concrete that there is carbon benefits. So I think anytime we think about forest carbon on the forest level, we need to think about the full life cycle of the way in which that carbon is stored and utilized in wood products. And the way that it's used as a substitution for more carbon intensive materials.

4:50:44.980 --> 4:51:3.770
Nick Biemiller

We also really need a balanced approach when we think about this issue that balances between climate mitigation and climate adaptation goals. So the previous speaker mentioned rough grouse and then being a climate sensitive bird that is absolutely correct.

4:51:5.10 --> 4:51:38.300
Nick Biemiller
But the best way that we can help save rough grass in the southern Appalachians is to create enough biologically significant levels of habitat diversity and young forest so that we can increase the adaptation of our forests and the wildlife that live in them to some of those changing conditions and give them a fighting chance to hold on here in the southernmost extent of their range. So we recognize that those are two different things, climate mitigation and climate adaptation. And I think we need a balanced approach that considers both.

4:51:39.980 --> 4:52:9.970
Nick Biemiller
One thing also when we think about that balanced approach is that balance between carbon sequestration and carbon storage, the best available science shows that carbon sequestration rates peak in young forests, but carbon storage peaks and old forests. So we obviously recognize that mature and old forests store a lot of carbon. But like most issues and forest management, managing for resiliency and diversity is often a good strategy.

4:52:10.290 --> 4:52:26.480
Nick Biemiller
So when we think about kind of a risk averse carbon strategy, we think about managing for that diverse portfolio of young and old forests that optimizes for both forest carbon sequestration and storage, while also providing for that necessary wildlife habitat.

4:52:27.640 --> 4:52:40.640
Nick Biemiller
Tube This last points I'll make and then I'll yield the floor is I think that the risk of non action needs to be considered when we think about forest carbon, especially in some of our more fire frequent ecozones.

4:52:42.120 --> 4:52:45.430
Nick Biemiller
So for example, you know active forest management.

4:52:47.110 --> 4:53:14.960
Nick Biemiller
Well, temporarily reduce the amount of carbon stored in a forest, but it may prevent even larger reduction in carbon stored by increasing resilience and avoiding future losses due to catastrophic disturbances created from stand replacing fires that aren't, as if the stand is not as resilient to that disturbance. And then last I'll just say that forest carbon outcomes, we feel like really need to be modeled in, assessed at large landscape scales.

4:53:15.430 --> 4:53:30.400
Nick Biemiller
Rather than at the individual project level, understanding the way that habitat is maintained and carbon

pool is fluctuate across that dynamic forest landscape is really a more effective strategy than looking at things project by project, so.

4:53:31.830 --> 4:53:40.790
Nick Biemiller
Broadly, I would just say that we really support any solution that optimizes for both increased carbon storage, but also that wildlife habitat at landscape scales.

4:53:42.970 --> 4:53:54.430
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, nick. Yes, thank you. No. So I I just wanna before going back to Henry. Rebecca, did you raise your hand again to to talk on this thread that Nick put out there?

4:53:55.0 --> 4:53:57.500
Rebecca King (Guest)
Ohh yes I did and.

4:53:56.810 --> 4:53:57.920
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK, go go ahead.

4:53:58.250 --> 4:54:6.70
Rebecca King (Guest)
I just wanted to respectfully comment on the point that he was making, saying that a younger forests sequestered more.

4:54:6.840 --> 4:54:13.630
Rebecca King (Guest)
And older forest stored more and there are varying reports on that and and.

4:54:14.910 --> 4:54:24.950
Rebecca King (Guest)
I am not a climate scientist, so my research has been listening to other client scientists or reading stuff that's not an actual report because that gets in a little too technical for me.

4:54:26.190 --> 4:54:42.980
Rebecca King (Guest)
I do. I will say that there are. I have seen multiple reports that were cited by Doctor Mumma that state the opposite, that the older intact forests sequester as much, and I would happily look up the links for all and provide them. I don't have them here if you're interested.

4:54:43.810 --> 4:54:53.120
Rebecca King (Guest)
So I and I believe the consensus goes the other way. Like I said, I'm not a climate scientist, so I can't read the reports and really. But I have listened to a lot and looked. Thank you.

4:54:53.370 --> 4:54:53.670
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK.

4:54:54.510 --> 4:54:55.770
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Appreciate that. Thank you.

4:54:57.620 --> 4:54:59.190
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So back to Henry.

4:55:0.670 --> 4:55:3.640
Henry Gargan
Thanks y'all. Yeah, I I'm encouraged by this conversation.

4:55:4.910 --> 4:55:34.260
Henry Gargan
And I guess I want to emphasize just how much Nick and I agree on here. I think we both want to see a larger scale analysis of carbon impacts. And I think we both want to see a balance between resiliency and carbon storage. But I think what I want to emphasize is that what SEC and our partners are proposing does not place those two things in tension. We think that meeting ecological integrity goals as mandated by the planning rule and by NIGMA.

4:55:35.100 --> 4:55:35.680
Henry Gargan
That's.

4:55:36.510 --> 4:55:49.240
Henry Gargan
That's going to produce good outcomes, both for ecology and for carbon storage. And I think to sort of illustrate why it might be good to go back to some of the discussion we had yesterday and earlier this morning.

4:55:50.980 --> 4:55:54.580
Henry Gargan
About about those components and I think specifically.

4:55:55.750 --> 4:56:7.640
Henry Gargan
About how sort of spatial distribution, how forest type ecozone, distribution of management activities is really important. This morning we were talking to you about how that was important for Wildlife Conservation goals.

4:56:9.360 --> 4:56:23.750
Henry Gargan
And the same is true for for carbon impact. And I think the problem also with the modeling and the analysis is the same. And so when I was last speaking, I was talking about this big picture need to know.

4:56:24.850 --> 4:56:54.240
Henry Gargan
What the carbon impact of management will be and I guess what I'm talking about here is unfortunately

I'm going back to the problems we have with the models, which in this case prevent us from knowing what those problems will, or rather what those impacts will be. And I think coming back to what Allison said, the error or the cork in the modeling that prevents us from understanding, for example, the difference between the different alternatives with respect to carbon impacts.

4:56:54.840 --> 4:57:18.250
Henry Gargan
Is the treatment of every acre on the forest as essentially fungible the same when it comes to management activity? But just as it's highly relevant where management takes place for species, for habitat, for connectivity, that sort of thing. It's also highly relevant where management takes place when it comes to how much carbon will ultimately be removed from the forest.

4:57:19.410 --> 4:57:46.970
Henry Gargan
But what we have, unfortunately is an analysis that regards the carbon impacts the climate change impacts of each plan alternative is essentially the same because, as the FEIS knows and the Denis noted, each alternative does propose roughly similar amounts of harvest. And that's true, but each alternative has a different footprint. And I think as the forest snow and as you all know and as I think as we know.

4:57:47.390 --> 4:58:12.240
Henry Gargan
Umm, where you conduct harvest the the the age classes, the types of forests, the ecozones where, where, what is being removed will significantly impact not only the amount of wood, the carbon storage that's being compromised by those activities, but also because if you're not concerned with the location and the gap the disturbance regime that's at play.

4:58:12.620 --> 4:58:28.160
Henry Gargan
Umm, I'm trying to back now to ecological integrity to resilience so it's the same error, the same error being this inability in the analysis and and but of the models to sort of distinguish and to control for.

4:58:29.830 --> 4:58:59.930
Henry Gargan
Where on the forest these management activities are taking place and to wrestle with and to sufficiently analyze how those that that sort of spatial and forest type arrangement of activities, what that means for wildlife, but also what it means for carbon. And I think unfortunately we're unable to know from the analysis that we're seeing exactly what the impacts will be because again the forests have looked at all of the alternatives and concluded that the carbon impact will essentially be the same despite each alternative having a different.

4:59:0.110 --> 4:59:16.30
Henry Gargan
Footprint of management, but we can't tell a few things about what the impact will be from other information. So if possible, I'm gonna try to pull up a visual here that just shows I'm sorry to Quincy. I think I texted you a little earlier, but is it possible to get a screen share going right now?

4:59:16.690 --> 4:59:18.100
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
He's he's doing a stand up.

4:59:18.90 --> 4:59:19.20
Henry Gargan
OK. Thank you.

4:59:20.990 --> 4:59:21.600
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
There you go.

4:59:20.120 --> 4:59:22.980
Henry Gargan
It's gonna take a little time. There we go. Thank you so much, y'all.

4:59:23.720 --> 4:59:24.270
Henry Gargan
Uh.

4:59:25.410 --> 4:59:25.990
Henry Gargan
See.

4:59:32.150 --> 4:59:32.640
Henry Gargan
Here we go.

4:59:35.270 --> 4:59:35.700
Henry Gargan
So.

4:59:39.340 --> 4:59:46.620
Henry Gargan
What we do know about alternative E and with respect to its carbon impact is mostly contained in this table here.

4:59:47.200 --> 5:0:6.70
Henry Gargan
Umm So what this shows? And unlike some of the more cursory analysis of each alternative which talk about management in terms of raw acres, we actually see an estimate here of timber that will be removed from the forest under tier one and Tier 2 and under both alternatives.

5:0:7.180 --> 5:0:19.80
Henry Gargan
And so as I've highlighted here, you can see under Alternative East we have really high concentrations of timber being removed, of course then even higher, much higher historically high concentration being removed and Tier 2.

5:0:20.240 --> 5:0:49.370
Henry Gargan
And So what we know about timbering and harvest tells us that the only way to achieve these these concentrations, this productivity level on an acre 37 CCF per acre is to concentrate harvest almost exclusively and high productivity music ecozones. And the reason I bring that up is because those are the ecozones sort of forest types, whichever term you prefer. Those are the forest types that are most.

5:0:49.490 --> 5:1:15.260
Henry Gargan
Important for carving storage on the forest landscape. Those are going to be sequestering the most carbon. They're going to be the and they're also going to be most important as old growth habitat ultimately. And this is important too, to sort of tie it back into ecological integrity. To James, question about balancing resiliency, resiliency and carbon storage.

5:1:17.90 --> 5:1:49.660
Henry Gargan
This level of harvest in this carbon rich ecozone will create, as we discussed yesterday, as Sam Sam described it, it will create patches that are inconsistent with ecological integrity in those ecozones this much harvest and these ecozones cannot possibly restore ecological integrity because it will create disturbance that is not consistent with what is indicated for those ecozones. And So what we see here in what the EIS fails to disclose and really any other more explicit terms.

5:1:50.460 --> 5:2:19.990
Henry Gargan
Is that the distribution that has been analyzed of management activities will have really significant impacts compared to alternatives that should have been considered for carbon loss. There will be a lots of carbon relative to alternatives being removed from the forest landscape and what we would like to see and we think that the modeling remedies we've asked for would probably fix this would be an analysis in the next time if the.

5:2:20.70 --> 5:2:27.370
Henry Gargan
The models are redone and analysis that shows how the proposed plan, the components that are actually adopted.

5:2:28.590 --> 5:2:54.440
Henry Gargan
How much carbon will be removed from the landscape relative to alternatives? Because right now that's not something we have. And so I hope that this helps illustrate in perhaps another way some of the modeling points we can getting at. But I think more concretely the alternative that's been selected from the alternatives that were analyzed appears to have the highest possible carbon removal impact.

5:3:0.130 --> 5:3:0.650
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Connect.

5:2:56.160 --> 5:3:0.910
Henry Gargan
That that was considered and I think that that needs to be addressed. So I'll wrap up there.

5:3:2.230 --> 5:3:2.890
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Henriette.

5:3:4.330 --> 5:3:5.700
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Just to that point.

5:3:9.10 --> 5:3:17.980
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I I hear the point about that that that will made about the the carbon store across the forest in North Carolina. I'm just trying to get a sense of.

5:3:20.70 --> 5:3:22.70
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know the the impact.

5:3:22.800 --> 5:3:23.350
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Of.

5:3:24.560 --> 5:3:27.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Alternatively, versus some of the other alternatives.

5:3:28.390 --> 5:3:29.420
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
What? What you would?

5:3:31.10 --> 5:3:31.940
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Imagine.

5:3:32.790 --> 5:3:36.860
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That analysis, looking like to be able to say.

5:3:38.480 --> 5:3:41.370
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
On a, you know, given given that.

5:3:42.590 --> 5:4:1.200
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Carbon emissions are at a global scale issue. That's what I'm and you mentioned that the scale issue

earlier, but just you know, I guess what I'm trying to get in my head are we talk, do you think that there's orders of magnitude more?

5:4:3.160 --> 5:4:9.500
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Emissions that would come from alternative versus another. You know what I mean? I that that's what I'm struggling a little bit with.

5:4:9.530 --> 5:4:16.380
Henry Gargan
Well, so one thing we do know is that prescribed burn levels, for example, just to take those as an example.

5:4:17.700 --> 5:4:39.620
Henry Gargan
If adopted at Tier 2 and alternative E would be 25 times the rate of carbon emissions that are that that as compared to the carbon loss that's occurring now under the plan as implemented. So I mean 25 times from burning, I mean I think we're all aware and you know to a certain degree we support that, but it's not necessarily about.

5:4:41.0 --> 5:4:56.630
Henry Gargan
The point I'm making is sort of analytical and more to do with what the forest obligations are underneath, and I mean like the example I gave, was meant to just show that there are big differences between. For example, adopting one prescribed fire regime versus another.

5:4:58.50 --> 5:5:4.460
Henry Gargan
And this is just the the you know what I just showed you all was an example of or I guess illustration of the different timber.

5:5:6.540 --> 5:5:7.210
Henry Gargan
Uh.

5:5:6.680 --> 5:5:8.970
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
John Henry with Rick has a question.

5:5:9.410 --> 5:5:10.140
Henry Gargan
Yeah, please.

5:5:10.280 --> 5:5:11.550
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah, yeah.

5:5:12.300 --> 5:5:12.710
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
From.

5:5:13.970 --> 5:5:15.420
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know, like I'm in that plane.

5:5:16.190 --> 5:5:17.970
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I'm getting a flaps up, flaps down.

5:5:19.610 --> 5:5:21.890
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
From the control tower is.

5:5:23.360 --> 5:5:28.810
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
There's earlier discussion some of our other earlier topics that tier one wasn't high enough.

5:5:29.540 --> 5:5:32.170
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And yesterday there was a comment that.

5:5:33.40 --> 5:5:38.110
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
SLC is invested in getting to tier two. I'm trying to reconcile.

5:5:38.850 --> 5:5:40.240
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
What's being presented today?

5:5:45.730 --> 5:5:46.910
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
If I marry.

5:5:41.630 --> 5:5:50.260
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Two tier one wasn't high enough and invested in getting to Tier 2. Can we ask Josh, can we ask Josh to weigh in on that? Yeah, Henry.

5:5:50.0 --> 5:5:59.730
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Yeah, if I made this is Josh Kelly with mountain true. And I may not be speaking for all other folks who signed on with the SCLC on their objection, but.

5:6:4.330 --> 5:6:4.540
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah.

5:6:1.50 --> 5:6:11.100
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
How you get to Tier 2 manage matters, so if you get to Tier 2 and during Tier 2, if you're focusing the harvest on the Cove ecozone the Musico ecozone.

5:6:15.650 --> 5:6:15.960
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Right.

5:6:12.840 --> 5:6:36.450
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
There will be negative impacts to carbon storage on the forest. I think that that is the point. There are other ways to get to tier two, which I've presented in some of those already today, and I do think that's critical. And I think in just addressing James's question about balancing resilience with carbon storage, I would tend to agree with Mr B Miller that.

5:6:37.600 --> 5:6:49.760
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
And that there is a a bit of a tension between the rate of carbon sequestration, which is very high, and young forests and the maximum storage potential of forests.

5:6:51.780 --> 5:6:58.730
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
And also agree that the maximum storage potential of carbon in a dry forest is a very dangerous and uncle.

5:7:0.260 --> 5:7:30.290
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Unreliant situation we do not want maximum carbon storage in shortleaf pine forest. That is bad for biodiversity. It's bad for the ecozone itself, and it's dangerous as far as wildfire risk. What we want is optimized, stable carbon storage in the shortleaf pine. Ecozone and management can help us get there, prescribe fire, can help us get there. Thinning can help us get there. And those ecozones a little different situation. I think in the music ecozones. But even there, if you're talking about a white pine plantation and a music ecozone.

5:7:30.470 --> 5:8:4.260
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
That is not a resilient condition. That's gonna be those monocultures of trees are much, much more vulnerable to insects and disease, much more vulnerable to droughts and other natural disturbances. There are there are abundant opportunities to address species composition issues, structural issues that make our forests less resilient, while also increasing the carbon continuing to increase the carbon sequestration. I think it's important to acknowledge that the restoration of the forest and the southern Appalachians is one of the world's great restoration successes to this point.

5:8:4.440 --> 5:8:23.390
Josh Kelly - MountainTrue (Guest)
Forest cover in the southern Appalachians has increased dramatically during all of our lifetimes, and we

should continue to increase the carbon sequestration and I believe National Forest in North Carolina will continue as so long as we are very intentional about where we pursue our restoration in timber harvest opportunities.

5:8:24.530 --> 5:8:28.880
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I think think stress that was helpful. What helped align things for me. I appreciate that.

5:8:29.810 --> 5:8:42.620
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. Can I move on? Guys, we've got a couple of things more. Or do you wanna? OK, so the partnership is an objector. Nick Holzhauer is a interested person who we hear from Megan first.

5:8:59.770 --> 5:9:1.900
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Sorry, I misunderstood.

5:8:44.800 --> 5:9:3.650
Megan N. Sutton
So I need to clarify. So on this particular topic, the partnership is not an injector, and The Nature Conservancy where I work, that's our logo right here is an interested party. So I am switching hats. And so I need to be very clear that I've switching hats.

5:9:5.570 --> 5:9:6.140
Megan N. Sutton
So.

5:9:6.290 --> 5:9:8.420
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Speak. Please speak for The Nature Conservancy.

5:9:8.760 --> 5:9:14.430
Megan N. Sutton
Yes, I'm Megan sudden. I'm speaking. I'm have The Nature Conservancy only and.

5:9:15.600 --> 5:9:23.380
Megan N. Sutton
Yeah. I just want to say a couple things and then really address the two questions that both James and Rick have have presented, because I think they're really important, so.

5:9:23.540 --> 5:9:27.40
Megan N. Sutton
Umm, you know, from our standpoint, there's.

5:9:28.360 --> 5:9:42.860
Megan N. Sutton
Multiple pathways to get at at climate change and it it's critical to to do both. It's a both and sort of scenario. It's not a one or the other. And So what I'm referring to is the importance of carbon.

5:9:44.200 --> 5:9:47.540
Megan N. Sutton
Mitigation you know, making changes so that that we're.

5:9:48.940 --> 5:10:4.70
Megan N. Sutton
Reducing the impacts of carbon in the atmosphere is really important and the importance of resiliency and having as James as you you spoke at right at the beginning, you know more resilient for us that can adapt to climate change is also critical.

5:10:5.430 --> 5:10:6.150
Megan N. Sutton
So.

5:10:7.100 --> 5:10:36.590
Megan N. Sutton
I am really pleased that at the outset of planned revision, the Forest Service adopted as one of the data links in the assessment, TNC's resilient and Connected network, because this is a linchpin for showing the places that are the most likely to be resilient in the face of climate change, and incorporating that into the management planning. So I think that that was a huge step in the right direction.

5:10:37.520 --> 5:10:39.410
Megan N. Sutton
I think that climate resiliency.

5:10:40.230 --> 5:11:11.200
Megan N. Sutton
Is the path forward from my perspective and focusing on adaptation is really to prioritize management towards ecological restoration and integrity, and these are very similar things to what you've heard other people say. So prioritizing and really building in planned components that are not just about targets, you know this many acres of this type of forest, this many acres of this type of forest, but really how are we getting at those really robust desired.

5:11:11.280 --> 5:11:42.800
Megan N. Sutton
Conditions that your staff laid out. You know years ago, they're really good. And so making that a part of the plan and then monitoring to see if we're actually getting there because we don't know and the climate is changing. So I think both on a terrestrial and on aquatic Sandpoint, the climate is changing and our ability to build in components to the plan that allow for adaptation as we get more science, we don't know what climate science is gonna tell us in 10 years.

5:11:43.250 --> 5:12:3.80
Megan N. Sutton
And we need to be able to adapt to what's happening. I strongly agree with what Josh just said about, you know, it's a balancing act. We don't wanna maximize carbon at the expense of reducing resiliency, because I think that is a that's a win lose situation.

5:12:4.140 --> 5:12:20.950
Megan N. Sutton
We need to collectively both and prioritize both and make sure we're very clear in our eyes are wide open and that we're disclosing our choices and recognize that we're gonna have to adaptively manage. We're gonna have to come back in and monitor and see if.

5:12:21.860 --> 5:12:34.100
Megan N. Sutton
We're having unintended impacts that we're having if we're moving towards a desired conditions that we want. And so I just want to from the nature conservancies perspective, just shine a light that it is both.

5:12:35.540 --> 5:12:57.780
Megan N. Sutton
And you know, we're in this beautiful spot where we have a lot of agreement around doing the work my and getting out. Rick, towards your question like towards those Tier 2 targets, we have a lot of agreement about that. But how we do it is critical and is of critical importance around having that consensus as a path forward.

5:12:58.610 --> 5:12:59.330
Megan N. Sutton
It's out there.

5:13:0.230 --> 5:13:0.650
Megan N. Sutton
Thank you.

5:13:0.750 --> 5:13:2.110
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you. Thanks, Megan.

5:13:2.980 --> 5:13:4.390
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Any follow up for Megan?

5:13:8.60 --> 5:13:27.630
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Right. That is very good that one more, one more new voice in the room. One other thing and not that you need to answer this Megan, but just another thought that I have to and I see at least one of the revenues gets to this. You know we're talking a lot about the natural systems, but we also have infrastructure that obviously.

5:13:28.390 --> 5:13:29.760
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
It is. It is.

5:13:31.260 --> 5:13:47.910
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS

You know, has a lot of impacts as we saw with Fred last year from from these types of climate driven events. So anyway, as as you all are talking, any thoughts on that piece of that roads trails wreck infrastructure that sort of thing?

5:13:48.850 --> 5:13:54.260
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So if I'm looking at the clock correctly this time we have about one minute left in this topic, so maybe not.

5:13:54.340 --> 5:14:3.450
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Look at that too firmly. The next page is the last voice. I think we're gonna have time for under this topic.

5:14:5.470 --> 5:14:8.280
Nicholas Holshouser
Yeah. Thanks. I'm in. I'm an interested party on this.

5:14:9.440 --> 5:14:16.670
Nicholas Holshouser
It's it. It I would, you know, I can only concur that that it's it's a massively complex topic.

5:14:17.990 --> 5:14:21.820
Nicholas Holshouser
And in in support of of a lot of the other statements.

5:14:23.940 --> 5:14:31.670
Nicholas Holshouser
Dares to me, what's most important is that is that we account for what we're doing with our carbon management in a rigorous.

5:14:33.10 --> 5:14:37.980
Nicholas Holshouser
Accepted, you know, by the different organizations that that have a stake in the game.

5:14:39.650 --> 5:15:8.690
Nicholas Holshouser
It it so that we can see, you know, to me, to me it carbon management plan is kind of like a bank account, right? We put a bunch of carbon in the bank and we're gonna take some carbon out. A study by the Rocky Mountain Forest Service research station showed. And I I'm not able to share it, but they they studied the assessment of the influence of disturbing of management activities and environmental factors on carbon stocks in the United States forest and across every region, particularly in the South timber harvest.

5:15:9.60 --> 5:15:35.530
Nicholas Holshouser
Is the most impactful activity. That's not. And I'm not saying don't do it right. I'm. I'm totally with. I understand what Josh says and and what they be saying about, you know, she's where you do it, right.

This is important, but it is the most carbon, you know, reduced carbon stock reducing activity. It would be helpful, I think if part of the plan and the monitoring gave us a carbon assessment right of of of activities such that we would know, you know when a project is planned.

5:15:36.390 --> 5:15:57.130
Nicholas Holshouser
This is what we expect. We're we're spending out of the bank and carbon. This is how much it's going to take to get it back. But we believe the balance of resiliency and improved, you know the, the the improvements right that we're making in the forest and in resiliency and these other factors actually validate the cost of carbon we're removing from the. That's really what I'm you know.

5:15:58.110 --> 5:16:18.220
Nicholas Holshouser
I understand, but it's leave all that carbon out there, right? It's just not a practical solution to the problem. So to me, it's more of an act of constantly balancing, you know, through accounting, literal carbon accounting, what we're spending and what we think that investment right they were taken out of our carbon bank is gonna get us in the long run. That's just my comment.

5:16:20.410 --> 5:16:20.710
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK.

5:16:22.90 --> 5:16:22.760
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks nick.

5:16:23.490 --> 5:16:28.30
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So we have three folks that have spoken once on this topic in the queue and our time is up.

5:16:29.120 --> 5:16:33.270
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You want to move on to monitoring. Just wanna check if there's anything.

5:16:34.530 --> 5:16:45.30
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
New as far as a resolution that hasn't been brought up into the room yet, and if the if you've got that. If we could just sync plain express that.

5:16:48.10 --> 5:17:18.300
Will Harlan
In just one sentence, I'll just respond to James's request that you're looking for shared solutions that address multiple issues, and I think here is here is 1 where if you protect the old growth and address the road maintenance backlog, you were achieving climate goals and addressing issues around biodiversity. So I would encourage you to, and you also have the Biden executive order coming as well. So all of those factors would lead me to support protecting more old growth.

5:17:18.400 --> 5:17:20.190
Will Harlan
And mature forests, which would achieve.

5:17:21.240 --> 5:17:24.950
Will Harlan
A lot of the solutions we talked about this morning and also achieve your climate goals.

5:17:27.930 --> 5:17:28.600
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks will.

5:17:29.510 --> 5:17:36.560
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So we only have half an hour on monitoring and I know there's lots of interest in it. OK to move to monitoring.

5:17:39.720 --> 5:17:41.530
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So do you wanna set the stage?

5:17:42.900 --> 5:17:43.470
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yes.

5:17:44.200 --> 5:17:45.170
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Monitoring.

5:17:49.780 --> 5:17:50.150
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We.

5:17:51.600 --> 5:17:52.220
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I've got.

5:17:53.790 --> 5:17:55.60
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
To to.

5:17:56.230 --> 5:17:58.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Suggested resolutions, but they are.

5:17:58.990 --> 5:18:0.330
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
It can be fairly broad.

5:18:1.140 --> 5:18:5.90
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
One is include a robust monitoring plan.

5:18:5.870 --> 5:18:8.440
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And next use best available signs.

5:18:10.320 --> 5:18:27.90
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Forget it. So we can just say we'll do that. That covers it, right? Yeah. That was just a summary of what is this? The summary? Yeah. Capture just a. Yeah. Yeah. It taste to get started. OK. So Curtis Smalling, with the Audubon Society, will start us off.

5:18:28.700 --> 5:18:35.360
Smalling, Curtis
Yeah. Thank you. I appreciate it and and really do want to thank you for all this discussion, I think.

5:18:36.50 --> 5:18:44.940
Smalling, Curtis
It's become obvious having monitoring here at the end that I think it's been mentioned in every other session, right? Like this is an important topic.

5:18:46.210 --> 5:18:57.370
Smalling, Curtis
You know, and I'm speaking today on behalf of of National Audubon Society and and Audubon North Carolina in particular, and are kind of two and a half million members nationwide and 55,000 here in North Carolina.

5:18:58.70 --> 5:18:59.460
Smalling, Curtis
Umm, you know we.

5:19:0.950 --> 5:19:19.650
Smalling, Curtis
We're also happy that I think it's very loud and clear in the final plan that that new information and new questions to be asked and all those things don't trigger a full planner vision. So it gives us some latitude to work through this, you know, through the through the creation of the of the monitoring plan.

5:19:21.550 --> 5:19:50.260
Smalling, Curtis
So so I feel like we do have opportunities here to address a lot of the things that we've heard over the last three days kind of regardless of the outcome, right of what the of what your final decision on many of these issues is. So not to put all the responsibility on the monitoring question, but I do think it's a really important question. I'm I I think most of the tensions that we've heard about over the last three days and and frankly through most of the 10 year process here.

5:19:51.40 --> 5:20:4.870
Smalling, Curtis
Uh, kind of do boil down and we've heard this before over the last couple of days. You know it's wear and how much and and depending on how you approach that issue, the monitoring and evaluation question.

5:20:6.20 --> 5:20:23.70
Smalling, Curtis
Is agnostic. Cried it. If we design it well, it's gonna answer the questions that everybody wants to see answered. Where is it happening? How effective is it being? How is it affecting all the other desired outputs of the forest? I think of it, I think.

5:20:23.190 --> 5:20:53.940
Smalling, Curtis
Umm, you know next example of a bank account is true, right? Like there's all these. There's all these desired outputs. You know, whether it's Tim or wildlife or carbon or resilience or water or when do we have triggers? When when do we do all these other things things when do we you know post alerts to staff that we're on track or not or whatever all those things flow out of a monitoring program and and so to me and to Audubon and we've.

5:20:54.40 --> 5:21:23.990
Smalling, Curtis
I'll get into some of our specifics in a minute, but you know the remedy is really to Cocreate with a range of interests. This kind of final monitoring plan and and our we've been saying for a long time, we hope that that doesn't just fall to the regular folks who are tasked as agencies to weigh in on that, right. I mean, I think the plan summarizes, you know, WRC and the Forest Service and natural heritage and all the rest, but I.

5:21:24.110 --> 5:21:54.40
Smalling, Curtis
I think we all would like to see this being much more Co creation process because I think ultimately the questions that are asked and the the framework for those questions in the final monitoring plan, the as we've seen the details are really important to certain interests. You know, I think about Hugh and his desire to make sure we're capturing small canopy gaps in our, you know, measuring of disturbance. And for Nick to you know what?

5:21:54.130 --> 5:22:18.300
Smalling, Curtis
Nick be to want to make sure that it's functional early successional and how are we? How are we designing our questions in our monitoring plan to get to the level of detail that actually moves these things forward, right? Instead of just saying like the like the draft of the monitoring section now says how much early successional we creating you know that's not specific enough. I mean people want more detail. So we've got to make sure that we.

5:22:19.90 --> 5:22:21.600
Smalling, Curtis
Our building those things into the system.

5:22:22.800 --> 5:22:26.470
Smalling, Curtis
The place where Audubon has been really.

5:22:27.740 --> 5:22:57.490
Smalling, Curtis
Concern for a long time, I guess, is that many of the planned components and in our written comments originally plus our objection, we really want to look for opportunities to, to broaden the definition of the scale of the questions that we're asking and answering. We know that for a lot of critters and a lot of ecosystem function and ecosystem services, these things occur outside the bounds and within the bounds of the forest and so.

5:22:57.670 --> 5:23:29.900
Smalling, Curtis
You are sound like a an I've been accused of beating this dead horse for a number of years here, but everywhere that we see a a plan component that says at the at the regional and stand level, I would say put some more book ends on that to say at the at the national regional Landscape Scale Watershed scale, we should know the answers to those questions if we're measuring the context of the forest in an all hands approach, we have to know not just what's going on in the forest, but also outside.

5:23:30.100 --> 5:24:0.880
Smalling, Curtis
And I would say from a since we just finished this morning with a discussion on triggers and tears, we recognize that that's those are tier two kinds of monitoring questions, right. That's not up to the Forest Service to come forward with all the resources. I think there are a lot of people who have been on these calls and involved in this process who are already spending resources and capacity to answer those questions. And I think it's more valuable if we come together and decide on.

5:24:1.130 --> 5:24:20.840
Smalling, Curtis
What we're measuring and how we're reporting that as a group rather than SLC and Audubon and Rockhaus society and Trout Unlimited or whoever off measuring their own stuff, right, because we all come back and say, well, but you didn't consider this, we didn't consider that or you're using the wrong data set or whatever.

5:24:22.30 --> 5:24:36.70
Smalling, Curtis
We worked with the audit, the audit team, you know, with an intern from Duke right after the formal comment period closed to kind of think about some workflows for, you know, what mapping might look like we talked with.

5:24:36.870 --> 5:24:52.130
Smalling, Curtis
For a service, internal resources like the four worn system in the Eastern Forest Threat Assessment Center, scientists and other folks, I mean we have we have the data, we have the resources. I think the biggest thing now and the remedy I would suggest is that we make sure that the.

5:24:52.800 --> 5:24:53.750
Smalling, Curtis
Monitoring.

5:24:54.570 --> 5:25:7.460
Smalling, Curtis
Process the the especially this early stage of really thinking through what we wanna measure, how we want to measure it, and how we're gonna report it is a collaborative process to the broadest extents possible.

5:25:8.80 --> 5:25:10.510
Smalling, Curtis
I think there's a number of places where we see.

5:25:11.270 --> 5:25:43.940
Smalling, Curtis
Umm, where we could resolve some stuff. You know, I was thinking about when we were talking about RV, you know it it was said it took some notes, you know in RV is not used as a as a target at the project level. You know the plan says it's not used at the outside the geographic area level, right. So at the larger level in our V even though it was drafted to capture things at the landscape scale, you know at the regional scale. So I think agreeing on what we're measuring where we're measuring it and how we're reporting it and having.

5:25:44.270 --> 5:25:48.720
Smalling, Curtis
Agencies apart and in and in cooperation with the service.

5:25:49.320 --> 5:25:59.490
Smalling, Curtis
Umm help do that? Can move us a long way toward continuing the kind of trust that we've been building through partnerships and everything else. You know, as we start to implement the plan.

5:26:0.220 --> 5:26:31.980
Smalling, Curtis
Am I again we listen pretty specific things in our written comments. I won't go through those, but they they they basically boil down to saying we're gonna look at this question at these various scales and we're gonna be transparent with the results of those and they should be included in things like our scoping over project when we say what's it due to move us toward an RV at the at the ecozone level. We should also say what it does for Josh's departure model for the whole Western North Carolina, right like how is it affect that?

5:26:32.780 --> 5:26:41.920
Smalling, Curtis
Or how does it relate to that? So and and I'll close by saying I think it has two really big advantages. Well 3.

5:26:43.340 --> 5:27:8.90
Smalling, Curtis

And that's again, this transparency I think is really important for all groups. We, the the folks, have been on this this Webex for three days, have invested a lot of time for the last 10 years. But there's a whole bunch of people out there who haven't, right and who are gonna see the final product and they're gonna look to their individual groups and constituency basis to help them figure out what this means.

5:27:8.780 --> 5:27:38.670
Smalling, Curtis
I know from Audubon's perspective they they look to me as the staffer to say, is this a good plan or is it not, you know, and I want to be able to say with a lot of confidence I I have places for you to help and and to me that's the thing that's the most important about the monitoring plan is I know it takes we we do a lot of monitoring with Autobahn statewide nationwide and it takes a lot our community science work is really intensive and big and engaging and diverse and all the rest of it and it's.

5:27:38.960 --> 5:27:51.290
Smalling, Curtis
It's a big, big project, but one of the pillars of the plan is connecting people to the land right and connecting people to the forest. And this is a great way to do that. And so I think the monitoring plan can really help fill that role.

5:27:51.810 --> 5:27:54.60
Smalling, Curtis
Umm, with the Forest Service.

5:27:54.760 --> 5:28:14.90
Smalling, Curtis
You know, I did a quick look at Justice Eberts checklist. Since, you know, COVID hit or whatever they been over over 5000, checklists admitted from Forest Service lands in western North Carolina. And over the last ten years or so, there's over 10,000 checklists from points on the forest. People are using the forest for that, and they're out there collecting data.

5:28:15.190 --> 5:28:19.460
Smalling, Curtis
We need to know the limit to what that data can tell us and all the rest of it. I, you know, I get that.

5:28:20.800 --> 5:28:50.690
Smalling, Curtis
But I do think it increases our public confidence and transparency in the process and especially in the implementation phase, you know, so that hopefully folks are connected not just at the point where they want to sue the forest, not to do a project, but then they kind of understand what's going on on the project all the time. And I know you've heard that from the recreation community as well. Like we all want to be more engaged and bring our resources to the table. So again, I'd refer you to our original comments.

5:28:50.770 --> 5:28:56.920
Smalling, Curtis
In in our objection, comments for specific language but but essentially measure bigger.

5:28:57.870 --> 5:29:27.570
Smalling, Curtis
You know measure at different scales and ask the questions that each of those scales can tell us answers to I I like I said before, I'm blessed to just focus on birds, but I have a highly mobile species, right suite of species and landscape matters to them. We we know that golden wings for instance, you know are are, are kind of ebbing and flowing based on landscape level metrics sometimes even more so than what's happening right in their territory. So these these things matter.

5:29:27.650 --> 5:29:39.370
Smalling, Curtis
And and we all need to to come together to figure out which things matter and which things we need to measure and which things were already measuring. So with that I'll I'll be glad to answer any questions and hopefully that.

5:29:40.440 --> 5:29:43.80
Smalling, Curtis
Kicks us off well enough to use up the rest of our time here.

5:29:43.900 --> 5:29:54.450
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks, Curtis. Anything from either of you before we got a couple people in the queue here. Yeah. Thanks, Curtis and I, I appreciate you saying that it's, you know.

5:29:55.370 --> 5:30:9.440
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We're all going to contribute that. Yeah, I don't think it's a surprise that, you know, with our our resources for monitoring, you know, not just for us, but I think you know, in general are always not as much as we would like. And so.

5:30:9.840 --> 5:30:34.970
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I am and I think part of that was, you know again using that tier one tier 2IN in some of those monitoring questions to identify those things that man, you know, yeah, these were all like that we could achieve with partners. So anyway, I think that's a a really key key part of this as as we move forward is is how we and I think you talked about how important it is to be aligned.

5:30:36.450 --> 5:30:49.680
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And and and and not at cross purposes with with who's doing what and all that kind of stuff. So we're as efficient as we can be with the resources we have to to get the most relevant information into monitoring.

5:30:51.660 --> 5:30:52.510
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks Curtis.

5:30:53.460 --> 5:30:57.840
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So let's go to a couple other objectors, starting with the SLC.

5:31:1.0 --> 5:31:21.420
Alyson Merlin
Sure. Thank you. This is Allison with SLC again and I just want to thank you, Curtis, for setting us up. I'm really nicely to have this conversation. I really agree with everything that you said and I think you brought up some really important points about making sure this is a collaborative process. I just wanna offer a little bit more about the legal perspective that we're taking here.

5:31:22.300 --> 5:31:54.630
Alyson Merlin
The the monitoring plan is required by NISHMA to be a part of the plan, which nipa requires public comment on and I think one of the ways we could get a lot of that great Community input and consensus that Curtis was talking about is if there had been more in the actual plan for us to comment on with regards to monitoring, there's a lot that's been shifted to the monitoring guide which we understand to be a post plan process that will not be offered up for public input. And we think that you know for all of the practical and social reasons that Curtis laid out, but also for the.

5:31:54.720 --> 5:31:55.460
Alyson Merlin
Legal reasons.

5:31:56.720 --> 5:32:5.630
Alyson Merlin
That that's sort of a mistake and that we would really like to see a version of the monitoring plan or monitoring guide however you'd like to classify. It opened up for for public input.

5:32:7.450 --> 5:32:11.280
Alyson Merlin
I have a a couple more specifics, but I'll pause here and I'll let others jump in.

5:32:12.700 --> 5:32:13.650
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. Thank you.

5:32:14.730 --> 5:32:15.620
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So Hugh.

5:32:18.110 --> 5:32:18.960
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah, Q.

5:32:17.900 --> 5:32:45.270
Hugh Irwin
How do you cure when with wilderness society and, you know, monitoring is a very valuable tool, but

you know, it really depends on, you know, starting the starting position of that you start from a point of, you know, best available science and knowledge and also from trust.

5:32:46.910 --> 5:32:49.960
Hugh Irwin
And from there you, you know.

5:32:50.710 --> 5:33:22.940
Hugh Irwin
If everybody is behind uh, you know the best assessment of where we are and you know, I think people are confident in going forward and monitoring and you know, I think Curtis made some excellent points on, you know how that program should be set-up. But you know, it should be premised on good analysis and, you know, we've talked a lot, you know, in these meetings about some of the problems.

5:33:23.540 --> 5:33:26.310
Hugh Irwin
In the models and in the analysis.

5:33:26.390 --> 5:33:28.70
Hugh Irwin
Uh and?

5:33:29.470 --> 5:33:36.600
Hugh Irwin
You know, to get the trust that a a good monitoring program can be built on.

5:33:37.630 --> 5:33:45.820
Hugh Irwin
You know, I think you have to address either the issues in the starting point and the models and in the analysis.

5:33:46.600 --> 5:33:55.930
Hugh Irwin
Or pick, you know, a broad consensus that we've also talked about that where, you know, we can trust that you know.

5:33:56.830 --> 5:33:57.510
Hugh Irwin
This is.

5:33:58.720 --> 5:34:10.720
Hugh Irwin
You know the best we can do at this point in assessing the situation and going forward with monitoring, but you know, I think a monitoring program has to be premised on, you know that starting point.

5:34:15.910 --> 5:34:17.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you. Thank you.

5:34:18.800 --> 5:34:24.630
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So I've got will Arlen in the queue. Will are you an objector on this issue? I can't find you.

5:34:26.980 --> 5:34:30.640
Will Harlan
I may not be so pleased. Move to someone else if that's the case.

5:34:31.350 --> 5:34:34.360
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. Thank you Nick H.

5:34:37.620 --> 5:34:38.630
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Interested person.

5:34:40.820 --> 5:34:41.140
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Right.

5:34:37.260 --> 5:34:43.830
Nicholas Holshouser
Same here. I I'm I'm an interested person, but if we've gone, you know, if all of the actual objectors are are done.

5:34:44.730 --> 5:34:45.700
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Now you're good.

5:34:44.970 --> 5:34:46.360
Nicholas Holshouser
I'm happy to get before I could wait.

5:34:47.200 --> 5:34:47.870
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
No, you're good.

5:34:48.230 --> 5:34:48.880
Nicholas Holshouser
OK.

5:34:50.220 --> 5:35:5.340
Nicholas Holshouser
You know, we've all topics. This is probably 1 where you know I'm not a biologist. I'm not a conservationist. I'm an engineer, but I have a a a career lifetime of of professional experience, a lot of it doing with monitoring.

5:35:6.440 --> 5:35:15.30
Nicholas Holshouser
And and evaluation. So my comment here is in and I did I heartily concur with Curtis.

5:35:15.570 --> 5:35:18.600
Nicholas Holshouser
Umm, you know the importance of it but also.

5:35:18.980 --> 5:35:21.350
Nicholas Holshouser
And I guess the point I would make is that.

5:35:22.820 --> 5:35:52.810
Nicholas Holshouser
Monitoring. If it's just numbers. If it's just PowerPoints, if it's just you know we've achieved the goal underneath it all is human understanding of what those numbers mean and and this is this is a topic where there will be no value in the monitoring if there was not a human value in in in creating standards, the guidelines that the.

5:35:52.930 --> 5:35:59.740
Nicholas Holshouser
The the the the rate you know the rationale for what's good, what's bad, and you should you should monitor things.

5:36:0.610 --> 5:36:20.370
Nicholas Holshouser
That you're that you're aware of, that you're trying to achieve, right? So you know, we don't just we don't just pull in data to pull in data because I think we have a pile of data and we don't know what to do with it. And one of the things Curtis mentioned, I believe in our current you know, in the current information landscape, there's a tremendous opportunity here for the Forest Service to engage the public.

5:36:22.10 --> 5:36:52.640
Nicholas Holshouser
As citizen scientists to reach out and and you know, we have an obligation, I have an obligation as an interested party to do my shared health for our service and I and I believe across the region, people will feel that and I think you know, Kurdish makes that point with the autobahn society that there's people out there who will do work and we have to trust each other. And so I think this is a two, definitely a two way St it's needed. I'm sorry. You know there's not more definition around it in the plan but that's fine water under the bridge. Let's you know let's just go forward.

5:36:54.580 --> 5:37:8.420
Nicholas Holshouser
I hope the Forest Service engages the public. Hope is the Forest Service uses citizen science and and and and the the, the, the, the tremendous amount of expertise which is out here, right. And then at the end of the day.

5:37:10.210 --> 5:37:11.730
Nicholas Holshouser
It's it's actually peoples.

5:37:12.510 --> 5:37:42.980
Nicholas Holshouser
Thought in in in human intuition and skill and knowledge and experience, right? Which drives our use of the monitoring right? It's not just numbers, and we shouldn't just be happy because something's red or happy because something's red and sad, you know? You know, I mean, it's like that's that's not really the point, right. We don't wanna just make stuff up to satisfy ourselves. It's an opportunity to, I think. And if you know, when I've worked with the Boris service in the field, I get tremendous value out of that meeting the people and and and and understanding who they are and.

5:37:43.60 --> 5:38:0.730
Nicholas Holshouser
Like what they know. And so again, I think that's a great opportunity to to engage the public to, to do outreach, more or less to let people get more experienced person on person with the Forest Service. But I think that's the best way to build those relationships in the trust. And I think the monitoring is a key aspect which you can use to do that.

5:38:1.670 --> 5:38:2.60
Nicholas Holshouser
Thanks.

5:38:3.470 --> 5:38:4.180
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you.

5:38:6.420 --> 5:38:7.270
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So.

5:38:8.270 --> 5:38:8.990
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Any other?

5:38:9.770 --> 5:38:15.730
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Ohh formal objectors. Aside from SLC, that have yet to speak.

5:38:17.770 --> 5:38:21.370
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
Uh, yeah, Nancy, I'll go ahead and and uh, speak out now, Umm.

5:38:22.210 --> 5:38:28.80
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
Many of much of our narrative is already been captured by the dialogue that's already occurred.

5:38:28.720 --> 5:38:31.850
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
Umm and certainly.

5:38:33.380 --> 5:38:51.130
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
I want to make sure that one point that wasn't articulated in our section on the objection to the monitoring is the Chattooga watersheds unique in particular place in the Nantahala National Forest.

5:38:52.740 --> 5:38:59.850
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
There has been a visual depiction of what's called a migrations in motion.

5:39:0.790 --> 5:39:31.0
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
Of and this goes back to the climate change. And actually one point I wanted to make in that the that this watershed as a component of the Nantahala National Forest is uniquely and powerfully situated in a migratory one of the most important migratory corridors in the southeast. And in this placement should surely be factored into the monitoring program in the distinct net Hill Piska national force, especially the Nantahala National Forest, where these migratory trajectories.

5:39:31.100 --> 5:39:48.670
Nicole Hayler (Guest)
Are most prominent, and of course that also ties into our previous dialogue about old growth and the importance of preserving the overflow wilderness study here and the Alcott Rock Wilderness area to extension to add resiliency to these migratory corridors.

5:39:52.910 --> 5:39:55.200
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Right. Thank you, Nicole. Yes, thank you, Nicole.

5:39:57.720 --> 5:39:59.170
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Matter, Allison.

5:40:2.20 --> 5:40:32.360
Alyson Merlin
Thanks, Nancy Anne. I'm happy also to seed some of my time to folks like well, who haven't had a chance yet. I I know that there are a lot of really great opinions in this room, so I'm excited to hear all of them. You know, I just wanted to touch on something that I think a lot of folks have talked about, which is just how cross cutting, you know, monitoring is by definition, it really impacts the ability to implement any of the goals that we have for, for species, for ecological integrity, everything on the forest sort of depends on monitoring.

5:40:32.450 --> 5:40:32.800
Alyson Merlin
And.

5:40:32.890 --> 5:41:4.940
Alyson Merlin
And you know, Rick, I've been thinking a lot about your your metaphor of the plane and the cockpit. And I feel like without a good monitoring plane, it's like not having a radio. You know, we really, we really need to know where we're headed. And so, you know, we have some specifics that I would like to point us to in our objection. I see we don't have a lot of time, so I'll just reference those and ask you to to reread those or to read those carefully when you get to them. But really just want to under score how important monitoring is and the more input that we can have as a Community, I think the better it will be.

5:41:8.600 --> 5:41:23.560
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, Allison. Thanks a lot. So I'm assuming that, Megan, I don't see you on the list of interested persons or objects. Jr. Yeah, that you are the partnership is. I didn't see it. OK, switches, hats like that, TNC is. Yes, she is. Thank you, Megan. New next.

5:41:24.980 --> 5:41:31.630
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
See it I I put it under the partnership because I didn't know what he was. Where I don't see it's it's alright. Doesn't matter. Megan, you're next.

5:41:37.10 --> 5:41:37.390
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah.

5:41:33.180 --> 5:41:40.810
Megan N. Sutton
Well, just to be safe, I'm speaking on behalf of The Nature Conservancy, but I see what I'm hearing and I wanna point this out to you, Rick.

5:41:42.100 --> 5:42:4.600
Megan N. Sutton
Is that weaving these these ideas together so the monitoring program that is in the plan talks about three different types of questions that talks about implementation, monitoring, effectiveness monitoring and validation monitoring. The thing that I think is missing and that we've heard about across all these three days is really testing assumptions.

5:42:5.590 --> 5:42:40.180
Megan N. Sutton
And so I would just thinking about, you know, when we were talking about soil and water yesterday, there were two conflicting viewpoints shared by a lot of people, like our BMP. Good enough for protecting soil and water, or are they not, you know, building in questions that test assumptions, I think in my opinion would go a long way towards building in, you know, trust, collaboration and transparency and thinking about that. And again, these can be Tier 2 questions. We're not asking the Forest Service to say.

5:42:40.270 --> 5:42:58.210
Megan N. Sutton
Of all these issues, but we're asking the agency, I'm asking to prioritize using, utilizing the monitoring to prioritize as a way to collaborate, which is I think kind of what you've heard time and time again here is just that being an having an openness to collaboration.

5:42:59.740 --> 5:43:14.540
Megan N. Sutton
Throughout the course of implementation, and having that reflected in the plan will help you know folks get on board and stay on board right with continuing forward down the path. So I'll just add that and.

5:43:16.140 --> 5:43:16.650
Megan N. Sutton
It's up there.

5:43:16.290 --> 5:43:22.540
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So that kind of be a a higher level effectiveness monitoring. The question behind the question of.

5:43:23.860 --> 5:43:24.500
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know.

5:43:25.200 --> 5:43:27.650
Megan N. Sutton
Right. So a lot of times we we ask.

5:43:28.560 --> 5:43:46.480
Megan N. Sutton
We, you know, we're testing a hypothesis. We're not necessarily looking at what all the things that we're assuming behind that, which is exactly what you're saying. It's like, well, how did we even get to the hypothesis? What did we make? Did we assume in order to even get there? And is that the correct assumption?

5:43:47.780 --> 5:44:11.550
Megan N. Sutton
So it it is a higher level question, but I do think that the things that we and have heard time and time again with people is ways to build trust and transparency is by kind of digging a little deeper and not just are we hitting our targets and that type of thing. But really you know have that getting at the how and what's behind it.

5:44:13.950 --> 5:44:19.240
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks, Megan. Thank you. And so Nick B, as an interested person.

5:44:22.500 --> 5:44:35.350
Nick Biemiller
Yeah. Thank you. Nick B Miller with the Rough Grass Society and American Woodcock Society, I don't

need to take up too much time. I feel like this is just a really useful conversation, and I appreciate everything everyone has had to say.

5:44:36.570 --> 5:44:50.310
Nick Biemiller
I would just highlight that something that we constantly hear from our Members and observe is that the monitoring and evaluation that's currently in place with the National Forest is not very solution oriented.

5:44:51.10 --> 5:45:16.80
Nick Biemiller
So we get a lot of pushback from members when I talk about our engaged around the forest plan to folks saying, ohh, great, there's aspirational goals for Tier 2 levels of young forest creation. So what they're aspirational levels for early successional habitat and the old Forest planned and the Forest Service never achieved it, right. So I think a lot of that could be solved by some of the things that have been proposed by other parties.

5:45:16.640 --> 5:45:26.530
Nick Biemiller
Umm I I think Rick, you said it well is like a higher level effectiveness monitoring. I would also just call it like a vet like more robust evaluation.

5:45:27.910 --> 5:45:38.640
Nick Biemiller
To have kind of that solid plan in place for if things are not achieved, why were they not achieved based on evaluation and then what are we gonna change for the next cycle?

5:45:39.370 --> 5:45:40.670
Nick Biemiller
Kind of based on that so.

5:45:43.350 --> 5:45:44.880
Nick Biemiller
That's it. Thanks.

5:45:43.670 --> 5:45:46.870
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And something else. You know, there's something else or negage.

5:45:50.60 --> 5:46:0.710
Nicholas Holshouser
Yeah. I just actually maybe make some really interesting points there and I I I I might try to affirm them in and add to them and I don't even know that I I I might have tried to get there but didn't.

5:46:1.940 --> 5:46:13.370
Nicholas Holshouser
A lot of monitoring is data collection, some of it and and I I I sort of forgot the point she made that you know we we need to assess maybe counterpoints.

5:46:14.730 --> 5:46:44.660
Nicholas Holshouser
There's no reason for this not to be science, right? You know, you you have a hypothesis, right? That a is better than B and you prove that hypothesis by doing an activity and you measuring and you evaluating. And that's really actually key to the whole thing. It sort of what I got to it. Didn't say it maybe is eloquently. So I wanted a chance to restate it. If if you don't have a question and you're just taking data, what you've got is a bucketed data, right? And if you do have a question, right and you take data, then once you've got is a bucket full of potential.

5:46:45.770 --> 5:47:15.980
Nicholas Holshouser
Right. And in to the difference is the only difference there is you actually had a question to start with, right? Or you had a hypothesis that you're trying to prove you had intent in what you were doing. I think that's really the most important thing is that the monitoring program be intentful right there there, there's something we need to know and that's why we're monitoring, because we want to know. And then, as I say, I'll state again and then ultimately it's it's it's, it's what's up here. It's people's brains that that bring value to to the bucket of data.

5:47:16.180 --> 5:47:17.670
Nicholas Holshouser
Right to turn it into a bucket of dance.

5:47:20.310 --> 5:47:22.110
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. Thank you, nick.

5:47:23.30 --> 5:47:24.550
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, nick. Appreciate that.

5:47:26.850 --> 5:47:27.600
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So.

5:47:30.140 --> 5:47:35.350
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
No more hands are up, but will you had your hand up at one point? Do you wanna enter in here?

5:47:39.500 --> 5:47:43.170
Will Harlan
Yeah. Thank you. Nancy, I just want to bring up one final point.

5:47:44.410 --> 5:48:4.700
Will Harlan
Curtis and Hugh and others have mentioned the importance of the community of the public and being involved in monitoring and the success of this entire plan. We've talked a lot over the past three days about the legal and technical aspects of the plan, but one part has gone largely unaddressed and that is.

5:48:6.20 --> 5:48:24.500
Will Harlan
That this plan in its current form does not have social license. It is not widely supported by the public. And as you saw on Monday, on the doorstep of the Forest Service, and it's you've seen in headlines across every major newspaper and television station this week.

5:48:26.0 --> 5:48:33.490
Will Harlan
Most of the people want to see more of Pisgah protected, and you've heard that for the past ten years in the public comments.

5:48:34.170 --> 5:48:43.160
Will Harlan
That have come in over 96% of the 36,000 comments that have flooded the Forest Service. Want to see more of his that protected?

5:48:43.890 --> 5:49:15.180
Will Harlan
That you can forge ahead with your own plan and ignore this, but you will be inviting decades of public decades of conflict and betraying your own public process and potentially igniting the eastern timber wars. So fortunately there are simple, easy solutions already on the table that we've heard all week. And at a minimum they are protect the natural heritage areas, protect ephemeral streams, protect the craggy national scenic area.

5:49:15.880 --> 5:49:18.400
Will Harlan
Protect all known and to be discovered old growth.

5:49:19.150 --> 5:49:28.710
Will Harlan
These are the simply. These are the simple widely supported solutions that can win the public trust and get more work done. Thanks.

5:49:29.570 --> 5:49:30.170
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You will.

5:49:30.920 --> 5:49:37.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK, now we're we are ready to close this section on monitoring before we.

5:49:39.660 --> 5:49:43.300
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Do some closing remarks that cover all three days.

5:49:44.670 --> 5:49:46.950
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Any anything from you on monitoring?

5:49:50.260 --> 5:49:55.200
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And don't think so. I think I I worked on a lot of proposed remedies and.

5:49:55.840 --> 5:49:57.150
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Resolutions there that.

5:49:58.140 --> 5:50:0.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The team can begin to so. Thank you.

5:50:4.70 --> 5:50:30.660
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So we here we are at the end gonna really, really productive three days and I can tell the energy level is waning all around. We've put a lot into this and had a a full three days. So we did allow a significant amount of time for closing remarks here by Rick and so you know give it to you and see see what you wanna do with this time. Well first wanna take cleansing breath.

5:50:32.880 --> 5:50:33.360
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Ohh.

5:50:34.150 --> 5:50:35.400
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And let's do three more.

5:50:35.470 --> 5:50:38.300
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
OK. You know, today, tomorrow, the next day.

5:50:38.380 --> 5:50:39.120
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah.

5:50:40.360 --> 5:50:42.100
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Got some applause out there.

5:50:42.970 --> 5:50:43.320
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh.

5:50:44.610 --> 5:50:48.580
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I really don't and don't wanna take up a lot of time, just me talking.

5:50:49.790 --> 5:50:52.160
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I'll go for. I'll try to go for quality.

5:50:52.980 --> 5:50:54.70
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Over quantity.

5:50:55.470 --> 5:50:56.820
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
If that's, if that's OK.

5:50:58.580 --> 5:50:59.830
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I could I could wax.

5:51:0.920 --> 5:51:8.320
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Philosophic. For for days on end, but I won't. But. But no, I again.

5:51:9.200 --> 5:51:9.860
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And and.

5:51:10.970 --> 5:51:16.0
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I've said this a number of times, but I don't want it to be minimized because I said it a number of times of.

5:51:16.730 --> 5:51:20.860
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
How important this has been and how much I appreciate.

5:51:21.640 --> 5:51:25.230
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The time, attention and the level of caring.

5:51:27.80 --> 5:51:31.90
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That that you all put into the time this week.

5:51:32.800 --> 5:51:53.190
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And not just the time this week, but the contributions to the plan, and also more than that with the the folks that you you work with and represent what you're doing every day day in and day out, whether it's planned related or not. The commitment that you have to our, our our natural resources, our nation's resources.

5:51:53.890 --> 5:51:56.940
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know, just thank you. Thank you and.

5:51:58.130 --> 5:52:0.360
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh, this this is.

5:52:2.100 --> 5:52:4.140
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
With this, I feel the weight.

5:52:5.370 --> 5:52:6.370
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
On my shoulders.

5:52:8.350 --> 5:52:10.940
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
From all the information gained this week.

5:52:11.920 --> 5:52:12.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
There's.

5:52:14.230 --> 5:52:19.690
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And that's big. And then there's a lot of people, there's a lot of people here and there's a lot of poor service people.

5:52:20.930 --> 5:52:26.380
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That are probably feeling not just the weight, but I don't know if you all.

5:52:27.20 --> 5:52:47.10
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And you can probably empathize when you've you've produced something that you've put a lot of work into that have it criticized and scrutinized, and we tend, we tend to develop a thicker skin. But you know, it's it's good to. It's good to have a little empathy because there's, I'm sure, some of our folks have been listening to this all week.

5:52:47.650 --> 5:52:49.210
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And it it probably stings.

5:52:50.60 --> 5:52:50.690
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Good bit.

5:52:51.670 --> 5:53:1.510
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh, because they they've worked on this, they dug into it. They they're specialties. They have what they've devoted their time and attention to.

5:53:2.680 --> 5:53:15.770
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So if you can think back to whether it was a a school assignment or you know your your master's work or whatever, whatever you can come to mind and then think helper three whole days.

5:53:16.780 --> 5:53:19.810
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And and letters and letters and letters of.

5:53:20.980 --> 5:53:24.750
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And and it's, it's hard. It's hard to, it's hard to.

5:53:25.680 --> 5:53:38.840
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
For folks that you work through that but but but but, but we do, we do. And and that's part of it is being public servants. And you know, I don't take that lightly anyway and I appreciate it.

5:53:39.740 --> 5:53:42.920
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And it seemed like one one thing I was thinking was.

5:53:43.730 --> 5:53:48.10
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
It was interesting in in talking a little bit at lunch was.

5:53:48.980 --> 5:53:51.270
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
There was a little bit of a theme of more.

5:53:52.710 --> 5:54:2.540
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know and and so like everything we talked about was was more in some in some form or fashion, more old growth, more protection, more ephemeral protection.

5:54:4.320 --> 5:54:7.630
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
More, more, more of kind of everything, it's all.

5:54:8.890 --> 5:54:15.360
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I don't know if we can deliver more of everything unless we made more, more, Chris good and.

5:54:17.200 --> 5:54:18.70
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And that the hello.

5:54:19.650 --> 5:54:20.900
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Increase the size of it.

5:54:22.420 --> 5:54:35.110
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And yeah, I got a thumbs up there. But yeah, if you think about it, you know that that that's some of the the weight that I feel is and that's that's the Nexus that we're at is I I'm delegated.

5:54:36.40 --> 5:54:36.910
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Authority.

5:54:38.230 --> 5:54:43.370
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
In this process, for this process to make decisions on the objections.

5:54:44.470 --> 5:54:55.800
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
But nothing. Don't take that lately at all. And again, we've got teams of people and lots of review that's gonna go through a lot of staff work that's going to go through to position me to be able to make that decision.

5:54:57.20 --> 5:55:5.850
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And then James will have a decision. So where we're at the enviable war, unenviable place where we have decisions to make.

5:55:6.880 --> 5:55:24.50
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And just like you and and your roles and your leadership and your, your your groups, and when you can think about maybe some of the meetings you have where people are discussing things and there's no, there's no sure clear path forward and you yourself have to make make that decision.

5:55:24.870 --> 5:55:27.550
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And that that's similar to what?

5:55:28.550 --> 5:55:32.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
For my part in this, I'll have to do and and what James will have to do.

5:55:37.70 --> 5:55:37.540
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And.

5:55:42.230 --> 5:55:46.520
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know, in in all and say and this came out in these three days.

5:55:47.300 --> 5:55:52.0
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah. We I say we everyone here.

5:55:52.860 --> 5:55:58.890
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Everyone that's been here these three days, everyone who's not been here these three days, you know that we.

5:55:59.750 --> 5:56:14.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know, we together are up against a lot. We talked about climate change as a lot of the forces of nature, things that are going on past things, non-native invasive species. We are up against a lot.

5:56:15.200 --> 5:56:29.90
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And with the plan and whatever we do from this point forward with the plan and the objections and and the decisions that we have to make and the considering everything you put before us.

5:56:29.760 --> 5:56:31.530
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We are are still.

5:56:32.560 --> 5:56:35.110
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Up against a lot together.

5:56:36.500 --> 5:56:40.990
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And and was brought out in this is your devotion and your commitment and your offer.

5:56:41.660 --> 5:56:57.170
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
To be there with us together, not just with the monitoring, but with the other work, and that that thought, and that that offer is not lost, and it is important. So thank you for that. Thank you for what you're doing every day.

5:56:58.80 --> 5:57:19.250
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Or again, our resources and our in our world and our not just local but the, the those a lot of this is a bigger, bigger world because a lot of people come here and are influenced by the National Health system. So thank you all and I especially want to also thank the team of people that we had to put this meeting together.

5:57:20.0 --> 5:57:45.950
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Operating on the fly with getting all the technology set-up, they're coming a couple of hours early every day to get it set-up. They were staying late in the evenings to be brief and make sure that we are ready for the next day. A lot of planning went into this, a lot of preparation went into this and you know, just wanna give that round of applause to all the folks that helped them put this meeting together successfully.

5:57:47.240 --> 5:57:47.910
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And.

5:57:48.820 --> 5:58:0.950
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And then I'm gonna end there with that, thanks to thanked everybody that wanted to thanks our folks for meeting. And I'm gonna turn it over to James and that'll be my part unless anybody has any questions for me.

5:58:4.0 --> 5:58:10.310
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thanks Rick. Thanks for being quick because I got 30 minutes that I prepared for my speech though.

5:58:11.140 --> 5:58:11.830
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
But a lot.

5:58:13.570 --> 5:58:14.320
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So.

5:58:16.420 --> 5:58:38.610
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah, I'm. I'm. I'm tired. It's been a. It's been a pretty intense three days, Josh. I think at one point you talked about kind of humility as we think about you know what, how we how we manage forests going forward with all the uncertainty that Rick talked about and and and three days is is definitely a good lesson in humility for anyone going through this.

5:58:39.80 --> 5:58:45.850
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Umm so I I wanna start with recognizing.

5:58:46.620 --> 5:58:56.60
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That the team that Michelle has LED over a a long time I I've said this before, but I'm I'm biased.

5:58:57.0 --> 5:58:57.650
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
But I'm.

5:58:59.240 --> 5:59:0.150
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I I'm.

5:59:2.100 --> 5:59:15.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I I think this is the the the best team of of of public servants that I've ever worked with in, in the most biologically and kind of socially complex forced in in the country.

5:59:17.420 --> 5:59:22.590
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
This is a a career achievement for for our folks to to get to this point.

5:59:23.750 --> 5:59:28.870
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And so I just wanna recognize them and how proud I am of the team.

5:59:30.980 --> 5:59:31.310
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
That.

5:59:32.640 --> 5:59:41.90
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
At the base of it, I I believe why? I mean my position is because I believe that the four services inherently a force for good.

5:59:44.180 --> 5:59:52.290
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We always strive to learn to do better, to listen, to take into account different viewpoints.

5:59:52.990 --> 6:0:1.810
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I know we don't always agree and and and and we can agree pretty strongly, disagree pretty strongly on on things. But.

6:0:2.530 --> 6:0:5.440
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
It it always comes from a a point of.

6:0:6.510 --> 6:0:19.380
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Deep dedication to to the the responsibility that we have to try to steward these public lands, that that we get to that are that are a true treasure.

6:0:20.520 --> 6:0:23.30
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Locally and nationally and globally.

6:0:23.930 --> 6:0:24.370
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Umm.

6:0:25.740 --> 6:0:27.720
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The last thing I'll say is that.

6:0:28.760 --> 6:0:33.690
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
My commitment to to all of you is that regardless of the outcome here.

6:0:34.510 --> 6:0:49.680
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And and you know, whatever comes that that Rick kind of provides instructions that that, that we need to do to to address the issues that came up this week is that we are gonna continue and do more of the work that we do together.

6:0:50.540 --> 6:0:51.140
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I know.

6:0:52.20 --> 6:1:3.350
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You you all aren't just kind of objectors. You're your friends, your, your partners, that that we have been through a lot together and that, you know, I know Josh, you're going to be out there.

6:1:4.110 --> 6:1:15.150
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know, protecting the ash trees from the on the AT from the ash borer. Megan, you're gonna be helping us get more prescribed fire done, Nick. You're gonna be helping us to create that.

6:1:15.900 --> 6:1:39.600
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Early successional habitat and the Wildlife Commission, you know where we've, I, I say this a lot, we probably if I were to add it up, they've probably invested more into the Nantahala Pisgah in the last 50 years than the Forest Service has. But it's it's, you know, 70% or more of the game lands for the state of North Carolina are represented for the national force in North Carolina.

6:1:40.780 --> 6:1:50.440
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Our, our, our tribal partners, that Eastern Band and and and all the other folks like we are gonna continue to do that good work together cuz we know it's.

6:1:51.970 --> 6:1:54.140
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
We have a lot of responsibility.

6:1:55.390 --> 6:2:5.830
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
And and and and the importance of of these lands for so many people and and just our our ability to.

6:2:6.970 --> 6:2:19.810
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Our way of life. And so that's my commitment regardless of the outcome, we're gonna show up in, in, in, in continue to do more together. So I think I will, I will stop there.

6:2:20.370 --> 6:2:35.950
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Uh, you won't get my full 30 minutes speech that repaired. If anybody wants that, we'll, we'll, we'll do that another time. But I will pause there and and thanks everyone. Especially I do want to recognize. I think, Nick, you might have said that.

6:2:36.110 --> 6:2:48.420
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You know, there's a lot of us that are fortunate to have this be our day job, but I I've best especially wanna thank those that that are kind of volunteering their time to, to be part of this.

6:2:48.500 --> 6:2:52.320
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The It's it's quite a.

6:2:53.30 --> 6:3:3.520
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Quite a thing to to to be able to to do that when you have other responsibilities not to so. Thanks. Thanks to those folks as well.

6:3:8.40 --> 6:3:30.830
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
So I don't want to be the last voice here, but I do have two talking points that I've said before and that is next. What? What next? And that is that the the transcript and the recording from these three days will be located on the forest website after a week or so and that look forward to the fall when we get the construction.

6:3:31.500 --> 6:3:32.440
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Letter from.

6:3:33.570 --> 6:3:37.940
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
The regional forester, along with the accompanying documentation.

6:3:38.900 --> 6:3:40.430
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Yeah, yeah, that's a.

6:3:41.230 --> 6:3:46.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Under stage of time to get to work, we've got a lot of work to do, so thank thank you.

6:3:49.900 --> 6:3:53.790
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Initially they goodbye. Yeah. Unless there's anything else.

6:3:54.100 --> 6:4:2.60
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I think they're like, there's no stones and some left unturned, but no, wait, we we do have a hand up.

6:4:3.720 --> 6:4:4.170
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Fam.

6:4:3.840 --> 6:4:22.550
Sam Evans
Hey, I don't. I don't wanna start a long round or anything, but I I do wanna just thank you all for your patience and engagement over these three days. You know, I think I think I can speak for everybody on that. You y'all y'all. Listen carefully. You've asked us great questions. I hope that the discussions here.

6:4:23.430 --> 6:4:27.360
Sam Evans
That show what a great group of stakeholders you have to you know the despite.

6:4:28.20 --> 6:4:40.930
Sam Evans
Very different perspectives. We've got a lot of common ground where we, you know, we wanna see each other succeed and we're ready to work together. And I think that's a huge opportunity for you all and for us too, so.

6:4:41.70 --> 6:4:53.970
Sam Evans
But it it I think the plan this is our, this is our best shot. This is our opportunity to avoid the kind of conflicts we've been stuck in before and we've really do hope to be able to work together with you all in the future. Thanks.

6:4:55.540 --> 6:5:5.500
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Thank you, Sir. Can I just say one thing? I wish we were in in a meeting space together so we could go out in the hall and and I could catch up with all you.

6:5:7.40 --> 6:5:8.280
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
I I do miss that.

6:5:8.440 --> 6:5:12.480
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Ohh opportunity to see you face to face. Yeah, good point.

6:5:14.830 --> 6:5:20.640
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Alright, with that, have a great rest of your day and the rest of your week.

6:5:22.80 --> 6:5:28.490
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Again, hopefully you you might possibly be back on an Italian physician and enjoying joining our forest.

6:5:29.660 --> 6:5:31.150
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
Have a great day. Thank you.

6:5:32.780 --> 6:5:33.310
Ben Prater
Thank you.

6:5:34.990 --> 6:5:35.530
Dispatch, NCNCF01 -FS
You.

6:5:37.400 --> 6:5:38.260
Leslie, Andrea J
Thanks so much.