

GA Stakeholder Forum June 2017 Review Synopsis

HIGHLAND DOMES Agreement	Needs Collaboration
<p>General:</p> <p>Restoration and resiliency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal of Enhancing and restoring resiliency – agree that a) and b) are those that are in most need of restoration • Goals are all good for restoration. Pine-oak heath is more departed and there is more opportunity to use prescribed fire. <p>Access/Veg Management (timber and other mngt):</p> <p>Partnerships:</p> <p>Fire:</p> <p>Habitat Mngt (wildlife):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water goals are good. Especially, organic passage. <p>MA distribution:</p> <p>Recreation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals are good at recognizing places of recreational significance – specific places • Recreation goals are good – especially like the interpretive idea but maybe add more than just waterfalls to this list. • Goal for day use hiking and wildlife viewing. 	<p>Restoration and resiliency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May provide good opportunity for increased interpretation around restoration opps because of the high visitation in this GA coupled with high need for restoration • Would like to see discussion of clean and abundant water in the Tuckasegee hydropower area • In Connecting People to Land, protect peregrine falcon while rock climbing. Thinks it should be in Resiliency – Move to Enhance and Restore Resiliency “Maintain peregrine falcon protection by cooperating with rock climbing community and science-based seasonal closings.” Should be more about rock climbing in Connecting – Steward and manage significant rock and ice climbing areas. • Opportunities for chestnut restoration. Also, manage closed canopy forests • Opportunities for oak restoration in this area <p>Access/Veg Management (timber and other mngt):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about designated old growth areas as pertains to suitability. There’s a lot of definitions to old growth. Concerned about the impact to the economics as to what restoration do you want to cut in. Too many times gone to look at a timber sale and walked away because economically we could not do it. We don’t want to get nitpicked to death on areas where timber can be suitability managed because of a 100 acre old growth spot or access for some other use. • Connecting people/Recreation – maybe the “dotted lines” can be the places to focus on road maintenance and development. This is true in all the GAs. • Having matrix and interface along the Bartram trail would have problem

with timber production (west side of GA)

Partnerships:

- Lots of partnership opps for restoration because of the high need for restoration
- Nothing in GA about opps for partnership around preserving wilderness character in Ellicott Rock
- A lot of high end housing (WUI) surrounding NFS lands (Lake Toxaway) – opps for management (WUI)
- In Connecting People to Land, protect peregrine falcon while rock climbing. Thinks it should be in Resiliency – Move to Enhance and Restore Resiliency “Maintain peregrine falcon protection by cooperating with rock climbing community and science-based seasonal closings.” Should be more about rock climbing in Connecting – Steward and manage significant rock and ice climbing areas.
- Collaborate with NC Forest Service, Duke energy and other adjacent landowners.(eg Gorges State Park)

Fire:

Habitat Mngt (wildlife):

- Green salamander should be cited in the narrative and goals

MA distribution:

- Backcountry around the Terrapin Mtn. Area – need more conversation on whether that could be expanded – look at whether there has been any past mgmt. in that area. Matrix vegetation management? Wilderness buffer?
- Discussion about Overflow as a recommended Wilderness Area – the only WSA that wasn’t included in an alternative for recommendation
- Glad to see the east fork of the Tuckasegee is recognized as eligible WSR, but Greenland and Panthertown are not which may be an oversight

- There are some logical extensions to Ellicott Rock to the west
- Terrapin Mountain area –would like to see Terrapin Mountain area analyzed for wilderness. Would like to know why interface and matrix in there.
- Overflow Wilderness Study Area – Road 79. Road and dispersed camping should stay as it is. Seven or eight years ago, proposal brought forward where this road was cut out with allowance for historical use.
- Northside of powerline at Panthertown – curious about what differentiated northside and southside. At Dismal Falls, SIA around it. There’s a wider area, needs to be bigger. Wilder area, not very accessible, would like to see greater emphasis on special interest use. Matrix area (like a donut).
- Dismal Falls (including Big Pisgah); Silver Run preserve; Fishhawk Mountain; and Cedar Cliff/McDowell Mountain in matrix is concerning – more of a backcountry MA.
- SIA direction (SNHAs) – FS approach on management. Would like more details and using an **integrated approach** of collaboration may be an option.
- Cedar cliffs is new special interest, half of the area was identified as WRC frontcountry

Recreation:

- Would like to see recognition of managing rec. use in the upper Chattooga R.
- N. Fork of French Broad (high recreation use)– which is currently in the Scenic Byway and would like to see it WSR eligible
- Call out Protection of the Bartram Trail through the Fishhawks area under ‘Unique features’
- Might add kayakers and whitewater paddlers in upper Chatuge and Cullsaja. Equestrian use in Panthertown is significant. Mountain biking in

	<p>Panthertown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborate on Panthertown, perhaps larger special interest area. High interest in recreation.• Connecting equestrian needs in panthertown• Lack of information on angler opportunities and aquatic conditions (eg brook trout) <p>Additional Areas referenced: Whitesides, Big Green, and access to a privately owned cliff called Laurelmont. Horsepature and Chattooga WS rivers</p>
--	---