

GA Stakeholder Forum June 2017 Review Synopsis

UNICOI MOUNTAINS Agreement	Needs Collaboration
<p>General:</p> <p>Restoration and resiliency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration and water goals are good. • Like using the GAs to call out geology issues. <p>Access/Veg Management (timber and other mngt):</p> <p>Partnerships:</p> <p>Fire:</p> <p>Habitat Mngt (wildlife):</p> <p>MA distribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good mix of MAs in this GA—balance, mixture.. not sure if captured in the narrative <p>Recreation:</p>	<p>Restoration and resiliency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need better clarification on size of openings in rich cove • Take out N. hardwoods from goal • Add dry-mesic oak hickory to be consistent with the DC • Ash Cove – water based items. Not an IRA. • Strengthen goals for restoration of oaks • Gipp Creek is an outstanding resource waters • Some ecological restoration could occur in area adjacent to J.Kilmer, and in N. Flying Squirrel habitat. Also, many balds in this area. <p>Access/Veg Management (timber and other mngt):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grouse hunting and access into Snowbird. FS 75 road. Would like that section not included in Wilderness. Is an IRA area. <p>Partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to add opportunities for partnering to preserve wilderness characteristics in JK Slickrock • Partnerships for restoring road access and special need users. • Possibility mention the “gateways” into the county/forest for economics. • Upper Santeetlah that “works for everyone and many areas”. Special for many people for many reasons. <p>Fire:</p> <p>Habitat Mngt (wildlife):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On ‘Connecting people to the land’ – regarding ‘abundant pop’n of deer’ – this is not characteristic of the area – lowest pop’n of white tail in the state. • Goals do not mention cerulean warbler area. Especially in Joyce Kilmer,

Stecoah area. Also outside those areas. Not just golden-winged.

- Area – northern part of Cheoah Bald – is also a grouse hunting area. 418 section is heavily hunted by bear hunters, deer hunters, and grouse hunters.
- Downslope of Cherohala Skyway – serious drainage/erosion issues and mitigating Carolina flying squirrel crossings.
- Elk restoration. Moving down from the Park.

MA distribution:

- Old Tellico OHV area – what is the right MA direction for this area?
- Joyce Kilmer extension areas
- Question of whether the Cheoah Bald area should be recommended for wilderness (which group advocating for this)
- Agreement in our group on the MAs in the Cheoah Bald area
- Would like to see the Santeetlah Headwaters (matrix area) in backcountry
- Would like to see the lower Snowbird Creek area in backcountry
- Snowbird watershed- eco values and hunting
- Upper Cheoah Bald Area
- South side of Joyce Kilmer
- Snowbird is an eligible Wild and Scenic River for creek. If you are a trout fisherman, this is a unique area.
- Wright Creek. Doesn't know if it falls in matrix MA. Wright Creek Falls is spectacular. Flag this area.
- Should show the eligible WS rivers, as that could influence the MA distribution
- No roads in Gipp Creek that could qualify the area as backcountry (rather than matrix) and the area around Huckleberry Knob may also qualify for backcountry

Recreation:

- Mtn Bike and Equestrian have some concern about hiking only trails (letter

d under connecting people)

- Yellow Creek mountain area—mostly in App Trail, but know to be a high valued recreation site.
- Cherohala Skyway – view is spectacular. Scenery is amazing. Paying particular attention to scenery management.

Additional areas mentioned: Corridor K expansion – Four lane highway into Robbinsville. With Appalachian Regional Commission being dissolved. Goes under AT.