## **GA Stakeholder Forum June 2017 Review Synopsis**

UNICOI MOUNTAINS	
Agreement	Needs Collaboration
General:	Restoration and resiliency:
Restoration and resiliency:  Restoration and water goals are good. Like using the GAs to call out geology issues.  Access/Veg Management (timber and other mngt):  Partnerships:  Fire:  Habitat Mngt (wildlife):  MA distribution: A good mix of MAs in this GA—balance, mixture not sure if captured in the narrative  Recreation:	<ul> <li>Need better clarification on size of openings in rich cove</li> <li>Take out N. hardwoods from goal</li> <li>Add dry-mesic oak hickory to be consistent with the DC</li> <li>Ash Cove – water based items. Not an IRA.</li> <li>Strengthen goals for restoration of oaks</li> <li>Gipp Creek is an outstanding resource waters</li> <li>Some ecological restoration could occur in area adjacent to J.Kilmer, and in N. Flying Squirrel habitat. Also, many balds in this area.</li> <li>Access/Veg Management (timber and other mngt): <ul> <li>Grouse hunting and access into Snowbird. FS 75 road. Would like that section not included in Wilderness. Is an IRA area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Partnerships: <ul> <li>Would like to add opportunities for partnering to preserve wilderness characteristics in JK Slickrock</li> <li>Partnerships for restoring road access and special need users.</li> <li>Possibility mention the "gateways" into the county/forest for economics.</li> <li>Upper Santeetlah that "works for everyone and many areas". Special for many people for many reasons.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Habitat Mngt (wildlife):
	<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>Goals do not mention cerulean warbler area. Especially in Joyce Kilmer,</li> </ul>

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

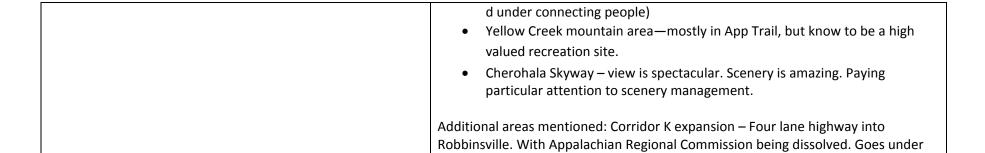
- Area northern part of Cheoah Bald is also a grouse hunting area. 418 section is heavily hunted by bear hunters, deer hunters, and grouse hunters.
- Downslope of Cherohala Skyway serious drainage/erosion issues and mitigating Carolina flying squirrel crossings.
- Elk restoration. Moving down from the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



AT.