



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0435

ROBERT J. MARTINEAU, JR.
COMMISSIONER

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

To: Office of Policy and Planning

From: Maggie Joyce, Policy Analyst

Date: October 30, 2015

Re: Katy Branch Thinning Project

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) received a request for comment from the Unaka Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest on the proposed Katy Branch Thinning Project, which is categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(12). The Forest Service proposes improve the vegetation of the proposed area, located in Washington County, Tennessee; by thinning the strands by using variable density techniques to a range of basal areas from 35 to 60 sq. ft. per acre. Following the thinning operation, damaged and/or undesirable understory and mid-story trees would be slashed.

TDEC's Division of Natural Areas (DNA) and Tennessee State Parks and Real Property Management have reviewed the proposed project and supporting materials and have indicated that it is not necessary for the department to provide comments.

MEJ