

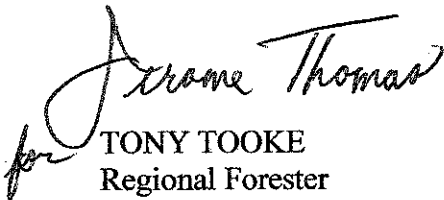
**File Code:** 1920
Route To:**Date:** July 2, 2015**Subject:** Species of Conservation Concern (SCC), Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Plan**To:** Forest Supervisor, National Forests (NFs) in North Carolina

The 2012 Planning Rule requires that a Forest undergoing plan revisions to identify SCC. SCC are at-risk species that are known to occur within the planning unit, but have "substantial concerns" about their ability to persist over the long-term in the plan area. As such, SCC represents a critical tool for Forest Service planners, biologists and managers, for conserving ecosystem diversity on the planning unit.

Under the 2012 Planning Rule, the Regional Forester identifies SCC for each planning unit, in consultation with the Forest Supervisor. The staff at the Regional Office has worked closely with the staff on the Forest to develop the list of SCC for the Nantahala-Pisgah NFs. Due to the high levels of biodiversity characteristic of the Nantahala-Pisgah NFs, many species had to be analyzed as potential SCC, and I appreciate the hard work and countless hours that the Forests, and their partners, have contributed to this process.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 219.7(c)(3), the enclosed list has been identified as 308 SCC for the Nantahala-Pisgah NFs. Please use this list to continue your work revising your Forest plan.

If you have any questions regarding the list of SCC, the process for designating the SCC, or the requirements for SCC under the 2012 Planning Rule, please contact Dr. Duke Rankin, Threatened and Endangered Species Program Manager at (404) 347-3981 or via email at drankin@fs.fed.us.



for TONY TOOKE
Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc: Robert Trujillo, Peter Gaulke, Paul Arndt, Duke Rankin

