

Globe Project

Grandfather Ranger District Pisgah National Forest

Highlights of the Environmental Assessment & Scenery Analysis



Two Decision Levels

(1) National Forest
Management
Act (NFMA)

(2) National
Environmental
Policy Act (NEPA)

Example: Forest Plan

Example: Globe project



NEPA Process

- Develop Purpose and Need (P&N) and Proposal to address P&N (fall/winter)
- Public “scoping” (winter)
- Field surveys/reviews of proposal (spring)
- Analysis (summer)
- Environmental Assessment (EA) out for public review (summer)
- Decision (early fall)



Globe Project Objectives

- Provide habitat conditions for turkey, grouse, deer, and bear
- Create a network of old growth across the landscape
- Use herbicide to control/manage pest populations (silvics too)



Globe Project Public Involvement

- January 18, 2006 - 30 day scoping period initiated (mailed to 109 individuals – 8 separate comments received)
- January, April, July 2006 - Proposal listed in Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA)
- January 26, 2006 - Press release published online (*themountaintimes.com*)
- April 13, 2006 - Meeting with members of local environmental organizations
- July 11, 2006 - Legal notice published in *The McDowell News* (Grandfather Ranger District's newspaper of record) requesting comments on the EA (30 day notice and comment period initiated)
- July 11, 2006+ - EA available online (www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc)

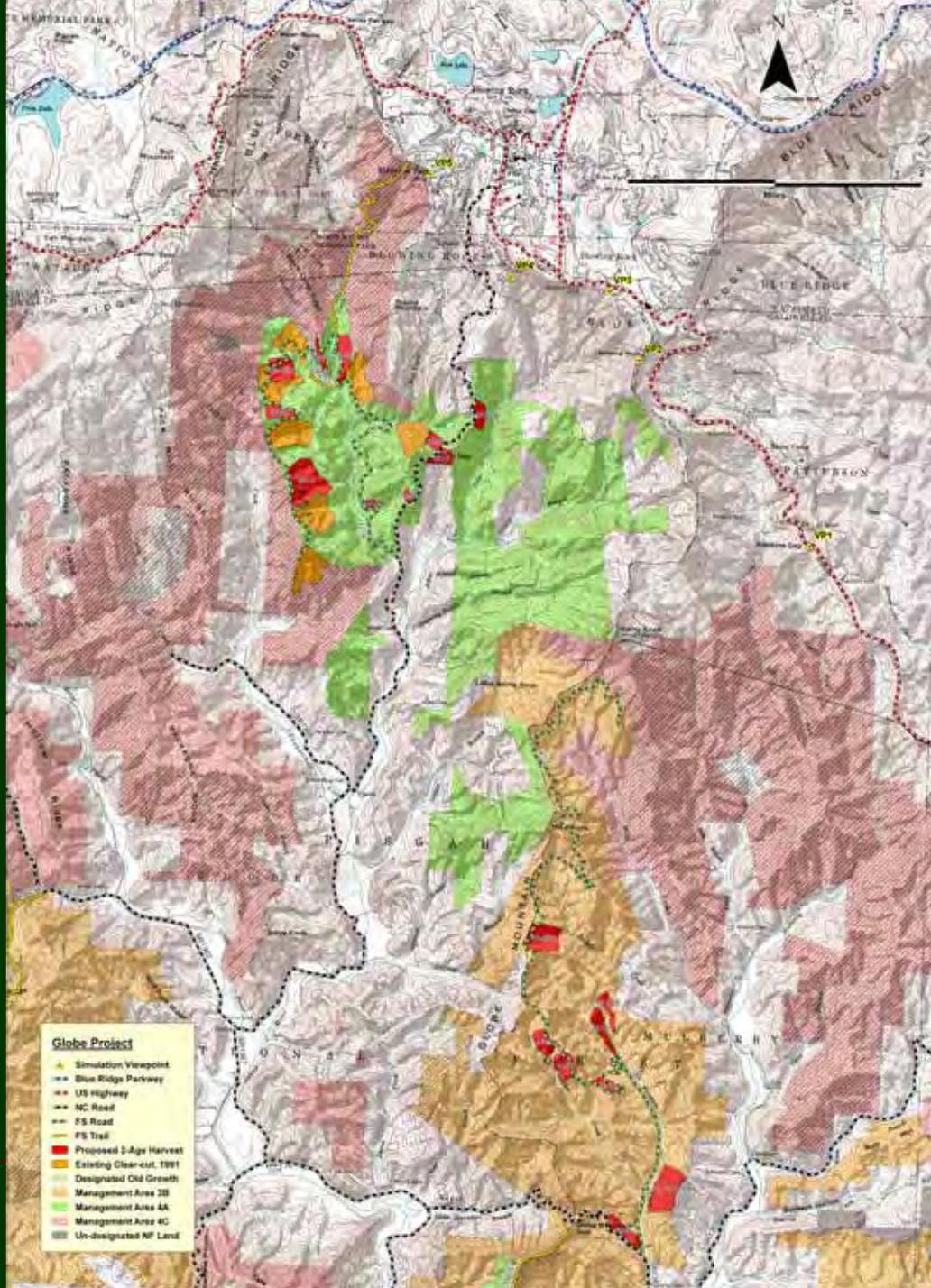


Preferred Alternative B

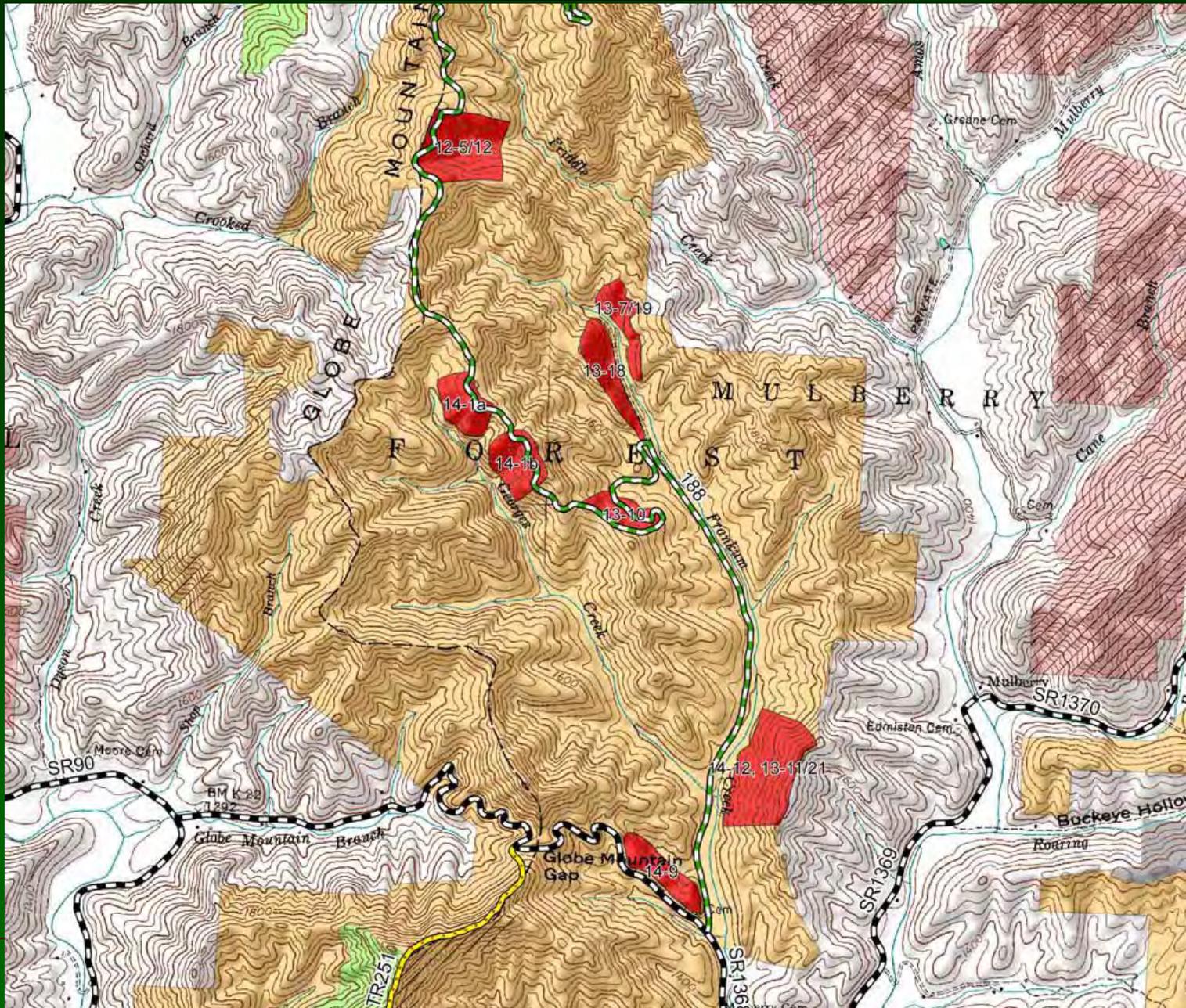
- Create 231 acres of Early Successional Habitat (ESH) by the two-age method
- Create 15 acres of permanent grass & forb habitat
- Designate 311 acres of small patch old growth
- Daylight 15 feet either side of Frankum Creek Road (#188) for road maintenance
- Install a gate on Thunderhole Road (#4071)
- Plant apple trees in log landings
- Treat invasive exotic plants along Forest Service roads and log landings with herbicide
- Disc and seed all unsurfaced temporary roads, skid roads, and log landings



Project Area Treatment Map



Frankum Creek Area



Scenery Analysis

Forest Plan Visual Quality Objectives (VQO)

- All actions in Thunderhole Creek area must meet Partial Retention VQO for Management Area 4A.
- Definition: Management activities must borrow from established form, line, color, texture; and must remain a subordinate feature in characteristic landscape.



Scenery Analysis

Forest Plan Visual Quality Objectives

- All actions in Frankum Creek area must meet Modification VQO for Management Area 3B.
- Definition: Management activities must borrow from established form, line, color, texture; but can be a dominate feature in characteristic landscape.



Scenery Analysis

Viewpoints Considered in Scenery Analysis

- State Road 1368, SR1369, Forest Service Road 188 & FSR 4111 in the Mulberry area
- NC Highway 90 & Johns River
- US Highway 321 from SR1370 to town of Blowing Rock
- Blowing Rock overlook (private)
- Canyons Restaurant
- Laurel Park neighborhood, town of Blowing Rock
- Mayview Park trails, town of Blowing Rock
- Globe Road (SR1367) and Thunderhole Road (FSR4071)
- China Ck. Trail (TR250) and Thunderhole Falls Trail (TR253)
- Blue Ridge Parkway from Grandmother Mt. to Blowing Rock
- Grandfather Mt. (private)



Scenery Analysis

Project Design Features Identified in Scenery Analysis

- Maintain 100 foot buffer between harvest & road or trail outside of cable/skid corridors
- Maintain 25 or 30 rba/ac (~20 trees per ac) minimum in identified harvest areas
- Locate unit boundaries one tree height below ridge
- Burn or lop & scatter slash visible from edge of road or trail
- Feather edge of upper unit boundaries
- Maintain uncut vegetative screen below identified roads & landings
- Minimize openings along roads or trails where applicable

With specified project design features all proposed activities will meet Forest Plan Visual Quality Objectives



2-Age Harvest Treatments



2-Age Harvest Treatments



2-Age Harvest Treatments

Photo taken one month after harvest

2-Age, 25 rba/ac

Thin, 60 rba/ac

2-Age, 15 rba/ac



Scenery Analysis

Computer simulations were done from the following viewpoint locations:

- US Highway 321 at Robbins Gap
- Blowing Rock overlook (private)
- Canyons Restaurant
- Laurel Park neighborhood, town of Blowing Rock
- Mayview Park trails, town of Blowing Rock

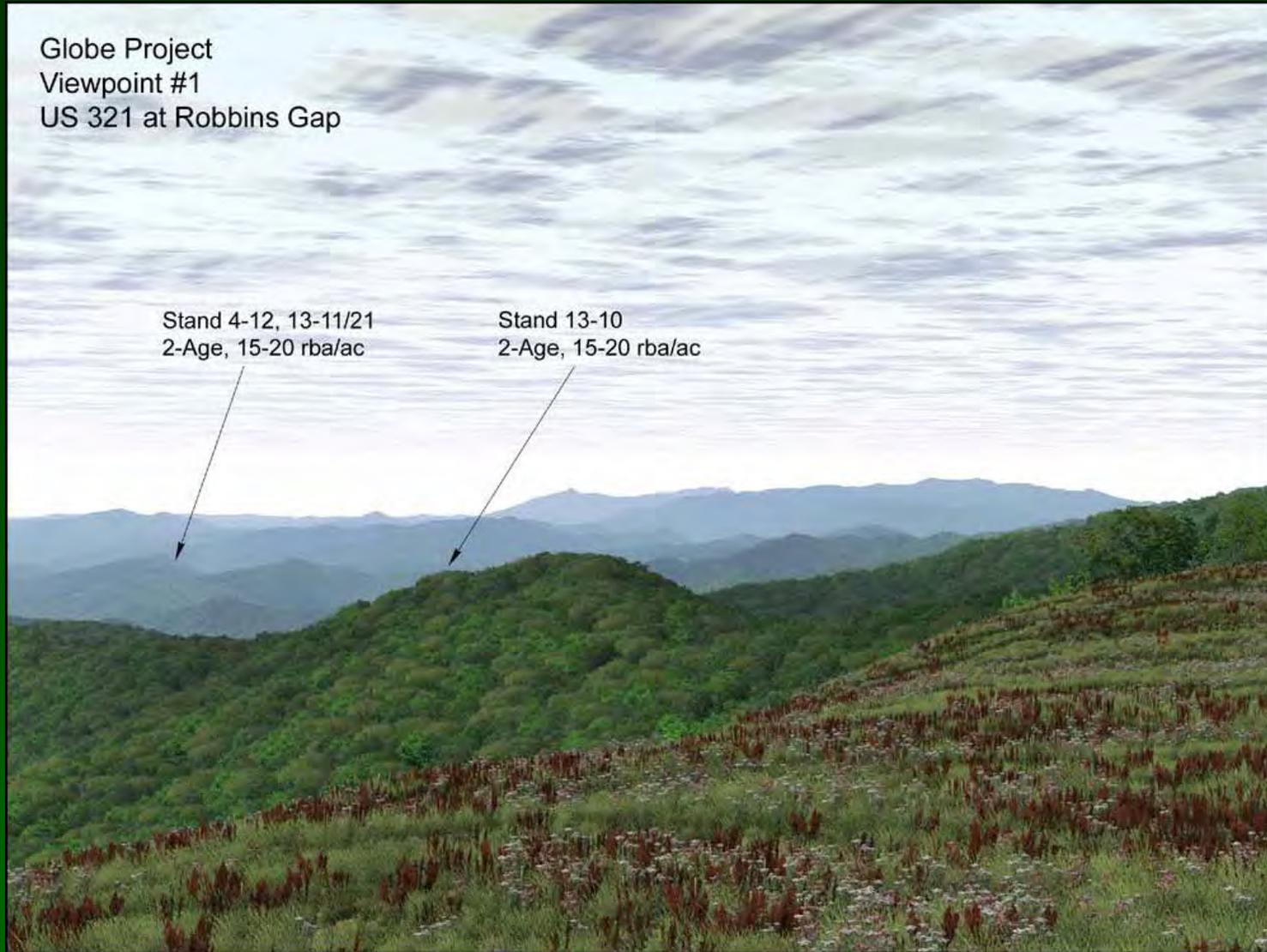


Computer Simulation

Globe Project
Viewpoint #1
US 321 at Robbins Gap

Stand 4-12, 13-11/21
2-Age, 15-20 rba/ac

Stand 13-10
2-Age, 15-20 rba/ac



Computer Simulation

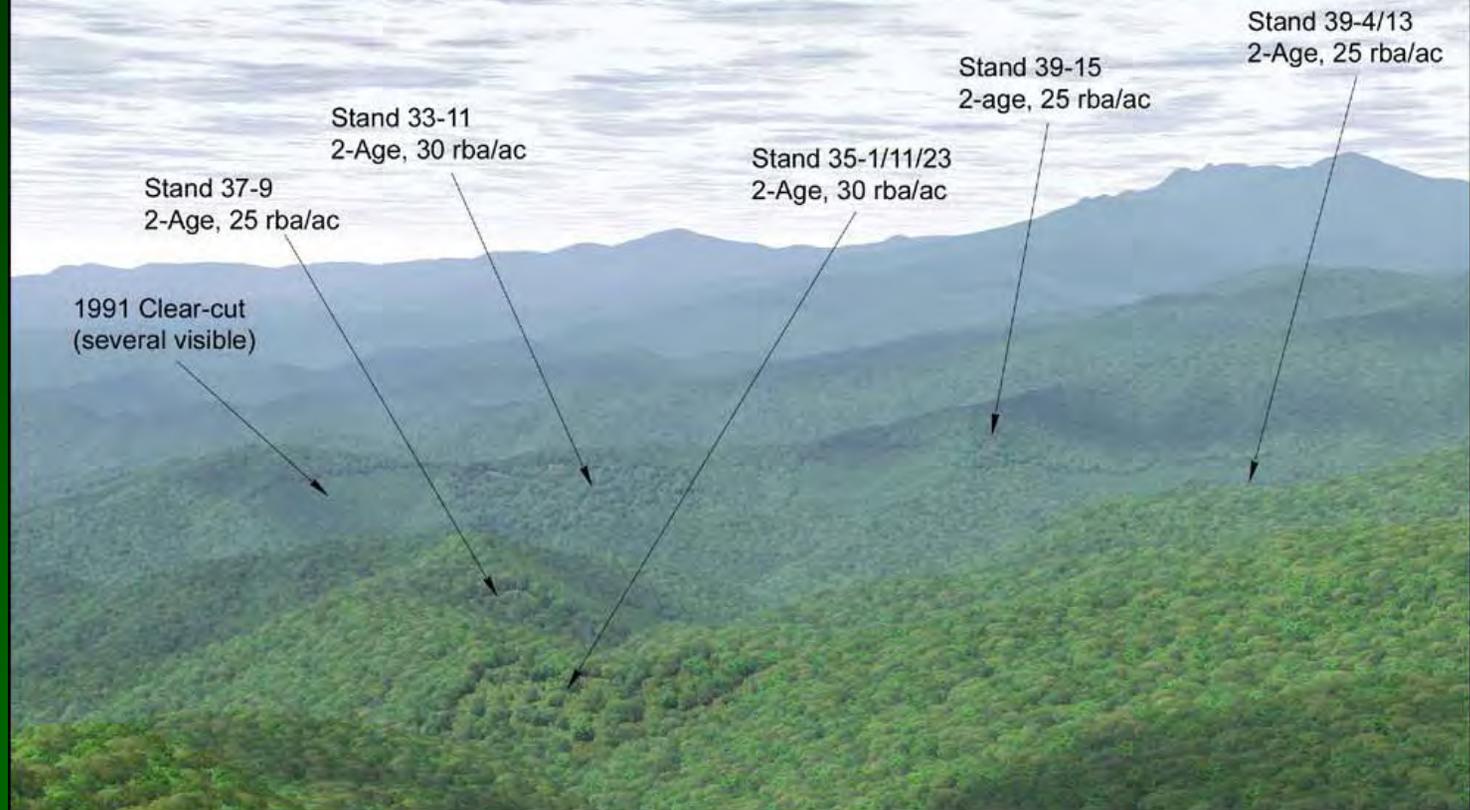
Globe Project
Viewpoint #2, Looking South
"Blowing Rock" Observation Deck (private)

Stand 4-12, 13-11/21
2-Age, 15-20 rba/ac
(screened by trees)



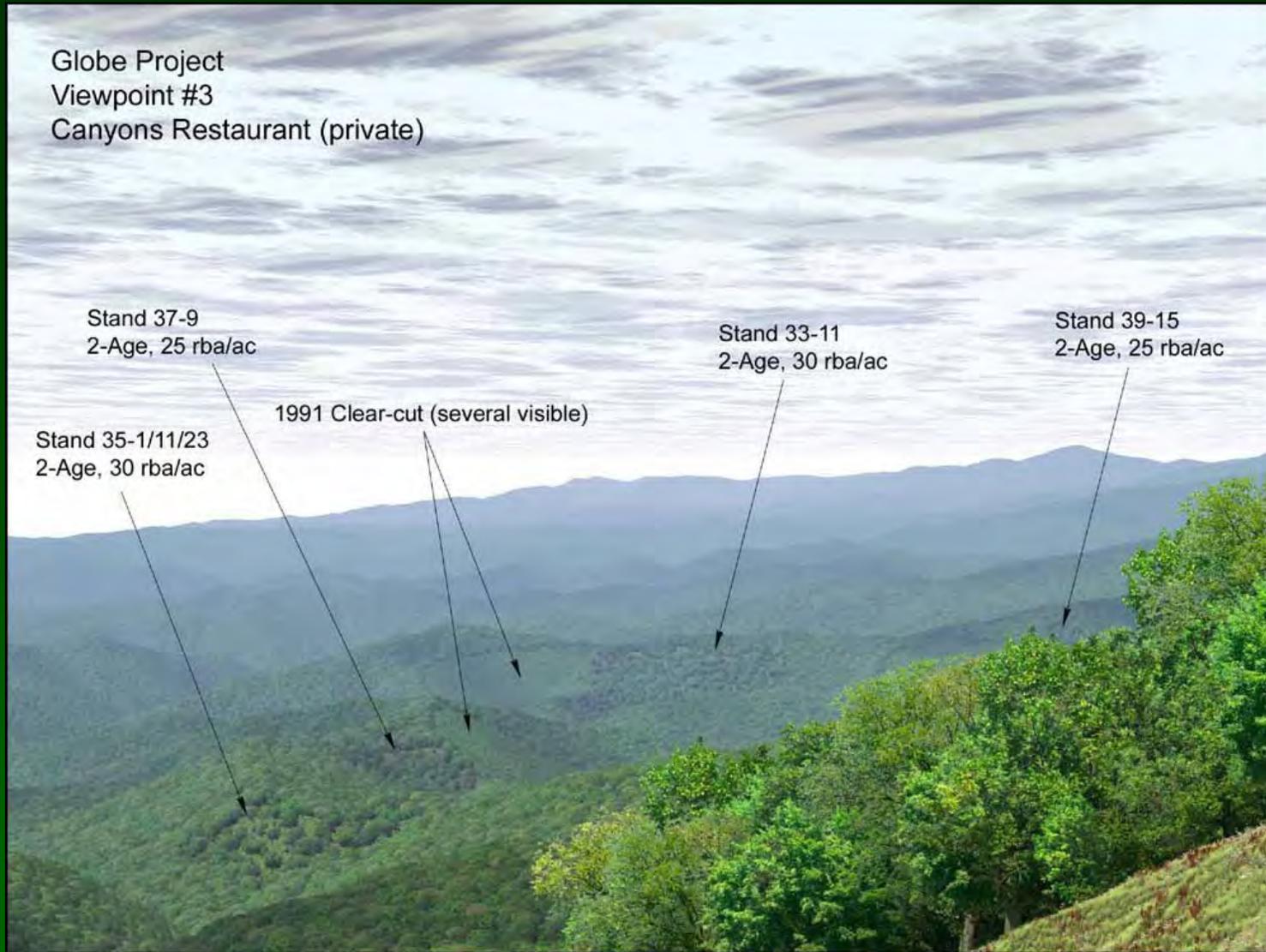
Computer Simulation

Globe Project
Viewpoint #2, Looking Northwest
"Blowing Rock" Observation Deck (private)



Computer Simulation

Globe Project
Viewpoint #3
Canyons Restaurant (private)



Computer Simulation

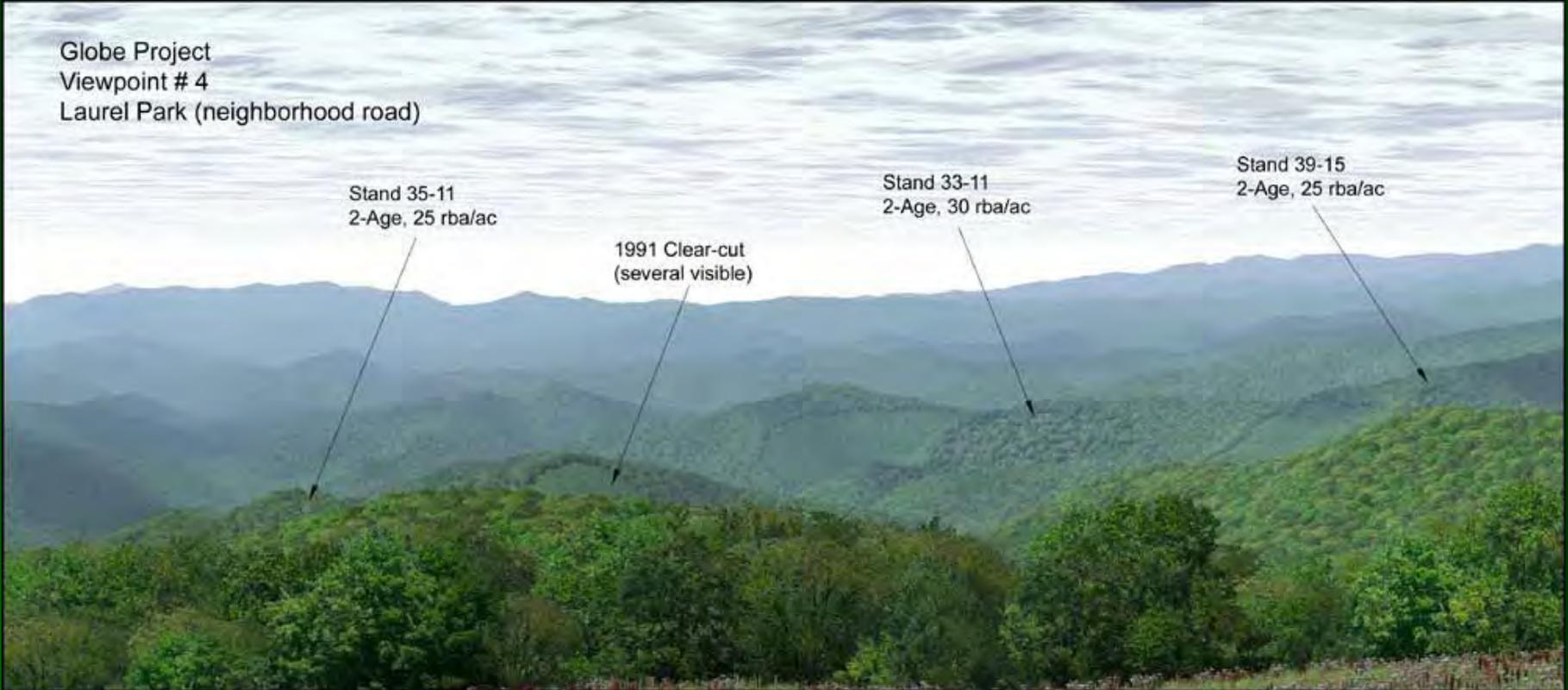
Globe Project
Viewpoint # 4
Laurel Park (neighborhood road)

Stand 35-11
2-Age, 25 rba/ac

1991 Clear-cut
(several visible)

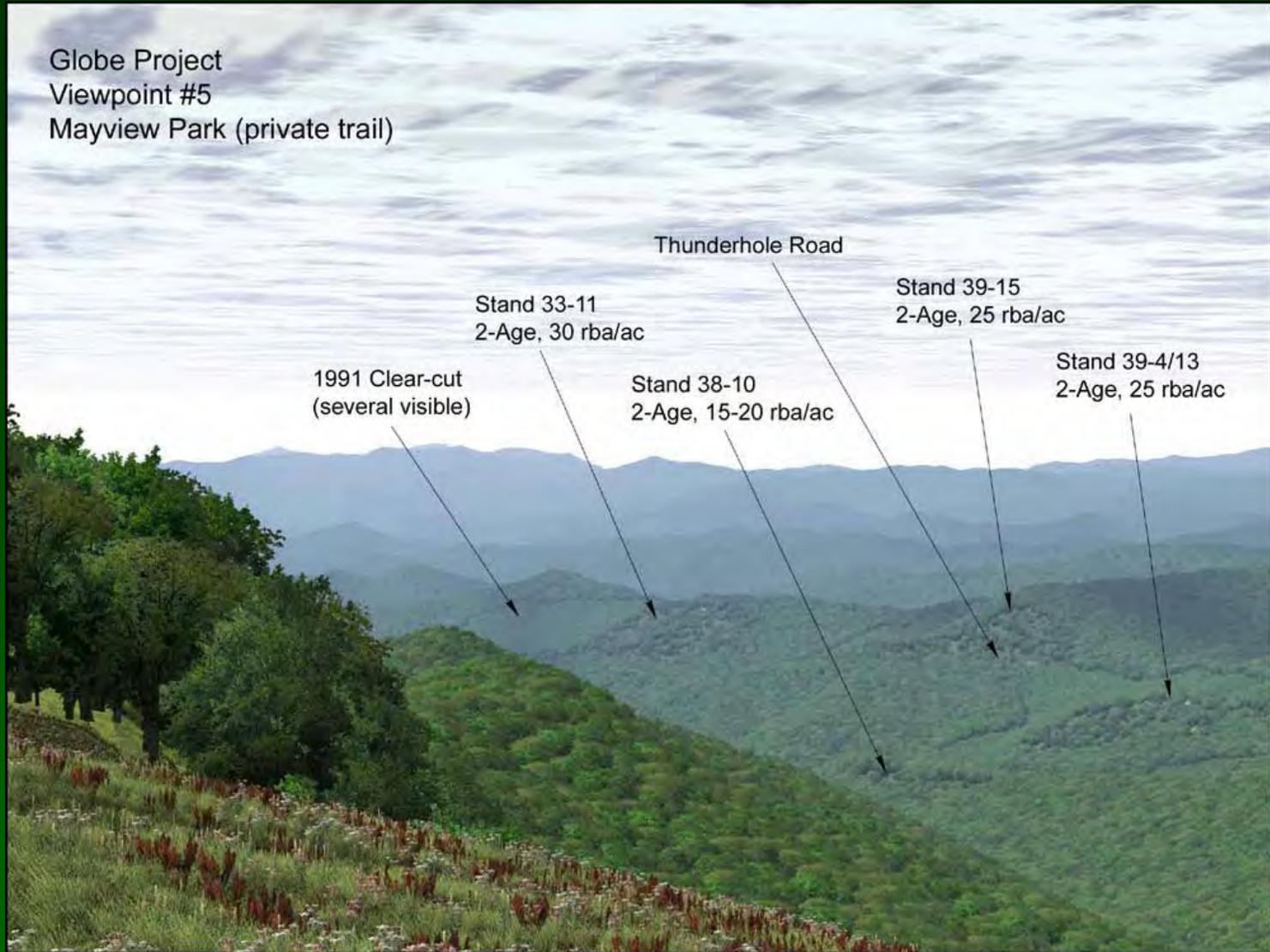
Stand 33-11
2-Age, 30 rba/ac

Stand 39-15
2-Age, 25 rba/ac



Computer Simulation

Globe Project
Viewpoint #5
Mayview Park (private trail)



Where are we today?

- Public comments for standing under 36 CFR 215 (appeal rights) must be postmarked by August 10, 2006
- Comments received at this meeting provide appeal eligibility
- Informal comments will be considered if postmarked by August 18, 2006 (comments-southern-north-carolina-pisgah-grandfather@fs.fed.us)



Globe Project

Grandfather Ranger District Pisgah National Forest

Highlights of the Environmental Assessment & Scenery Analysis

