

May 25, 2021

Regarding Roberts Gap Project
To Reviewing Officer:

First let me commend you for listening to our objections and reducing the acreage that will be treated with herbicides. These chemicals are dangerous and should be phased out completely. The studies you cite are from 2011 and before. Since then Roundup has been recognized as a carcinogen by a judge in a class action lawsuit. More recently this was also recognized as a cause of parkinsons disease. Anyone approving or supervising the use of these chemicals should be willing to handle and apply this poison personally. Putting the risk onto contractors and their employees is immoral. I doubt USFS personnel will mix or supervise application onsite.

Second I want to object to the projects effectively limiting the development of old growth conditions. Classifying stands as overmature, less productive, in the 70-120 year old class is essentially stopping old growth development. Old growth hardwood forest is extremely rare and has great biological value.

Finally I want to point out again that much of the Roberts Gap project area was classified as RARE II in previous USFS studies. The original Upper Buffalo Wilderness proposal was for 25,000 acres, but it was reduced in favor of logging interests. Additionally the original proposal for Buffalo River National Park included land that

went all the way to the headwaters at the Buffalo Fire tower. The massive intervention in this area is effectively a decision in principle to limit wilderness expansion or national park expansion. This land is much more valuable as wilderness than any economic benefit from logging. The rare habitats you will be destroying will never again be seen or appreciated by future generations. Please find ways to restrict the logging and preserve this exceptional forest.

Thank you

Steve Keltner