

William Thornton  
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April 10, 2022

U.S. Forest Service  
605 W. Main Street  
Russellville, AR 72801

REGARDING: Forest Plan Amendment for Appendix F

Attention: Lori Wood, Forest Supervisor

Dear Ms. Wood:

Your proposal needs to stop immediately! As I have learned you have not set aside a controlled area to study and compare with a control group. You are blindly going on a prepared plan put together by lawyers, so called experienced land managers and lobbyists from the agricultural commercial industries.

Being you are given the task to manage our forest you are tampering with the natural effects of nature to control itself. What you do can put our entire ecosystem out of balance. This is gross negligence and until you can show us a 5 up to 10 year study on a test plot (consisting of an area where you reside and including your drinking water) along with a control plot. Any activity you perform is considered harmful and detrimental to the environment. Just as you wanted to poison us by using the largest cancer causing pesticide (facing the largest agricultural lawsuit) you are putting an entire forest in a position it can or could never recover from!

I need proof your prescribed actions are not interfering with any species on the ground, under the soil, under the earth (cavern dwellers) including water. This test site may not draw from an area not connected to a different ecosystem or climate. I refute any attempts to change the natural ecosystem as it has cared for itself for millions of years; nature has been able to take care of itself. Unlike the signs left on trees from flagging timber units that litter our forest and look like you are driving down main street in Little Rock by the flagging tape that still exists from cuts or burns from years ago. Who is held responsible? Who will be held responsible for the effect of this environmental assessment if implemented when or if it goes wrong? I have a hard felt concern for the people who will grow up in a forest that you destroy! Who will be held accountable?

It is a travesty for you to be telling us to tread lightly and pick up litter but then you see where no one is held accountable by policies you put in place for dozers or steers making fire breaks down the middle of a small meandering creek flowing from a natural spring.

It is a travesty to have no one answer a phone at our local district office or have a phone mailbox that is full and you cannot leave a message for over a year. It is a travesty to see our Department of Agriculture managed from behind a desk and avoiding the people's questions.

I have no way of knowing who to contact for specific managed areas such as roads, siltation, burning, herpetologists, off road trails, bicycle trails, birds, mammals, etc. Please provide me with the assessment these departments have made on your proposed EA amendment. I need documents pertaining to the above listed departments that show their proposals that were put forth and the ones that were rejected or accepted for this EA assessment to continue to the point it is now.

Due to the delayed phone call response, waiting on documents to be mailed and still have not received all documents requested, I would whole heartedly request that my document be submitted due to the lack of no one in the office because of COVID and not returning calls in appropriate manner. I made the call on March 14, 2022 and did not receive a call until March 16, 2022 and received documents a week after that. Therefore, I would hope you understand that though you have had two to three years for your executive legal team to put down on paper, you are giving me thirty days to reply to something that I have not even had in my hands for thirty days.

I cannot make an informed decision on any environmental assessment or communication unless I have physical copies in hand not by a digital link. (If you include a link, the documents need to be included in a proposed EA that you submit to the citizen). You are leaving the citizens at a disadvantage and ignorant by not including this information deliberately. Not everyone has a cell phone, internet or a library next door. I do not have a room full of lawyers or scientists and you give me thirty days to go over something you have had years to prepare, hampered by a time limit and then trying to find links that I don't have access to.

You just give us your ruling without giving us a rebuttal to that ruling. I do not get the Russellville News. You spend many days, months and even years with lawyers and special units to determine an EA but only allow us thirty days to reply and then search up your response on the Russellville News. We need time to go over all supporting documents, what little you provide. Being that we have not been provided the documents that your team has put forward to you that have been reviewed and rejected

I need all the documents and everyone else you send EA's to, it should be included in everyone's EA and proposals. We need time, thirty days is not time. By the time they mail it and it gets to me ten days have already passed. Then you want me to search the links. You need to include the documents in the mailing that are in those links.

I need phone numbers of all departments and their prescribed specialties that I can contact, including the supervisors of those departments not an answering machine that the voicemail is full. For one full year the phone mailbox was full at our District Rangers Station in Mt .View Arkansas, you were not even able to leave a message because the mailbox was full.

It appears the Department of Agriculture has only one concern and that is a way to get more funding, not to improve natural forest ecosystem. We cannot make informed decisions without documents. All documents reviewed, rejected or approved to put forward an EA, a link does not tell me anything.

Please consider this a cease and desist on any further movement on any EA's or action in the forest until: A. You can show me a test unit has been set up and a control unit has been set up in any applications including the documents and the people and departments monitoring those units. Then these documents are to be presented to the concerned citizens of the forest. It should include the months and years it was done, who oversaw it, who the comers and goes are and were and were any outside influencers involved in these test units. B: No supporting documents were presented in your environmental assessment; therefore I was unable to make a consenting assessment of what you were doing.

Until you can provide the above corrective actions I cannot move forward on making an informed decision.

If you include any links on any governmental communications to me or others I would suggest that it be physical documents, not links. Links can be tampered with or even redirected or erased. I don't care if it is a book or encyclopedia I just want printed documents. If you live in an impoverished area that does not have broadband or a library nearby you are already disadvantaged.

We need to hold someone accountable and when links are re-routed and physical copies not used, you can always say "we changed this or we accidentally did that". In the real world of law abiding citizens we are held accountable for our actions. I expect you to be held to those same actions.

William Thornton



4-12-2022