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USDA Forest Service
Objection Reviewing Officer
USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region
Att. Administrative Review Staff
626 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Reviewing Officer:

The U.S. Forestry Services Houston South Management Plan proposes clear cutting and controlled burns in our Hoosier National Forest with burns totaling 13,500 acres. We are totally opposed to such an environmental rape of forest for these reasons:

It will take more than fifty years to replace the forest. I, Phyllis Newton, grew up in Montana where a fire in 1929 burned over 100 square miles of our forest into Glacier Park. After fifty years, despite attempts to re-forest, trees were no taller than a man. Granted that Montana has far less water than Indiana, it takes at least fifty years to grow a mature forest.

Despite what the USFS says, Lake Monroe will suffer an onslaught of sediment. Houston South's plan to construct silt fencing, water bars, mats, and plant seedlings will not protect the water nearly as much as the trees that are there now. And if these would "improve water quality," as ranger Chris Thornton says, why are they not installed now where needed?

Thornton mentions stressors such as drought. We in the United States want Brazil to stop cutting the Amazon rain forest to stop climate change while we are allowing our own forests to be cut in order to line the pockets of Texans. Although Indiana is an agricultural state, more money is made with lumber. Forests help guard against climate change, despite being stressed by climate change.

If overcrowding is a problem, why don't foresters mark trees that should be cut instead of clear cutting or burning at least 13,500 acres?

Using clear cutting and burning to harvest lumber is to save money not to manage forests, and therefore we oppose these poor management methods.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

With consternation,

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Phyllis Newton