

October 28, 2024

Via Email

Reviewing Office

ATTN: Administrative Review Staff,
USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region,
626 E. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Subject: Objection, Buffalo Springs Restoration Project

objections-eastern-region@usda.gov

Re: Objection to Buffalo Springs Restoration Project, and Accompanying Environmental Analysis

Reviewing Officer,

Hello. I am Carl Anderson, and I'm Orange County Highway Superintendent. During the comment period for the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed Buffalo Springs Restoration Project, I expressed concern for the potential damage to the roads from the ongoing transportation of logs. According to the Final Environmental Assessment recently emailed to me, it mentions that the logging of 4846 acres will continue for 12-15 years. To my knowledge this is by far the largest amount of logging I have seen in the county, at least in my lifetime. This will have a drastic effect on the conditions of the infrastructure in the area at a very high cost to our very poor county.

I have seen that you mention the annual payments totaling \$113,938 to Orange County. This is appreciated and useful to help maintain operations of our county government, our schools and its infrastructure. During normal operations this might serve adequately. In reading the Final Environmental Assessment, however, I noticed that no additional payments or assistance would be provided though with the implementation of this project. We are quite concerned about the extra stress that this project will do upon the care and maintenance of our local roads and bridges, especially those on the rural secondary roads where the project will be. By extension this project will have a much-added stressor upon our limited staff and budgeted resources. Due to this at this time we have to object to this proposed project going forward without further study and discussion to come to a solution of these important concerns.

I hope that we can discuss this much more to come to a satisfactory solution that will help to alleviate the financial stress to our already strained budgets. Please feel free to contact me to discuss this very important matter more fully so that we can come to a mutual solution before this project is implemented.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,



Carl Anderson, Orange County Highway Superintendent