

Dear US Forest Services leading the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project,

I just learned of this project today, 12/7/2024 from a facebook post. I downloaded all of the documentation and spent the last couple hours browsing through the many documents and resources associated with this proposed action while listening to the 10/5/2021 youtube video. Many topics outside of my realm of expertise.

First, I want to thank you all for your dedication to this proposed action in terms of your professionalism, expertise and engaging enthusiasm for educating the laypeople, such as myself. I actually am enjoying listening to the 10/5/2021 video while perusing through the documents...

Some things I did not see in the environmental assessment:

1. Carbon and air pollutant emissions of proposed human management activities  
This is something FERC, EPA and other agencies included with an environmental assessment associated with proposed human management activities. Even spills and storage of fuels and machinery should be considered.
2. The last 19 months, Daily Sea Surface Temperature has left the band of average temperatures from the past 40 years. [https://climatereanalyzer.org/clim/sst\\_daily/?dm\\_id=world2](https://climatereanalyzer.org/clim/sst_daily/?dm_id=world2)  
This is an indicator that demonstrates there has been a substantial shift recently impacting this specific measurement gauge. This is sea surface, but every system is interrelated and a large forest area in Vermont makes a contributing difference. I believe that should be top priority for considerations on actions taken managing this forest.
3. I did not see any analysis on forest contaminants from human activities in the environmental assessment. In New Hampshire, water contamination has substantially increased throughout all of New Hampshire, which has increased lakes being closed due to harmful buildups. Many other contaminants are not tracked and yet can play a critical role in the health and vitality of forests.

In oil and gas supply chains (millions of miles of pipelines, 4,000 + major facilities, millions of well heads throughout each shale play area in the US) crisscrossing the US, there are literally tons of emissions (both fugitive and combustion) on an ongoing daily basis that include the following chemicals: 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane; 1,1,2-Trichloroethane; 1,1-Dichloroethane; 1,2,3-Trimethylbenzene; 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene; 1,2-Dichloroethane; 1,2-Dichloropropane; 1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene; 1,3-Butadiene; 1,3-Dichloropropene; 2-Methylnaphthalene; 2,2,4-Trimethylpentane; Acenaphthene; Acenaphthylene; Acetaldehyde; Acrolein; Benzene; Benzo(b)fluoranthene; Benzo(e)pyrene; Benzo(g,h,i)perylene; Biphenyl; Butane; Butyr/Isobutyraldehyde; Carbon Dioxide; Carbon Tetrachloride; Chlorobenzene; Chloroethane; Chloroform; Chrysene; Cyclopentane; Ethane; Ethylbenzene; Ethylene Dibromide; Fluoranthene; Fluorene; Formaldehyde; Methane; Methanol; Methylcyclohexane; Methylene Chloride; n-Hexane; n-Nonane; n-Octane; n-Pentane; Naphthalene; PAH; Phenanthrene; Phenol; Propane; Pyrene; Styrene; Tetrachloroethane; Toluene; Vinyl Chloride; and Xylene. These are only the known published chemicals. How do these impact the health and growth of the forest?

I do not believe no action is an answer. The question is what action, how much and what are the desired results and how will it be monitored.

I am not an expert on herbicides, but am learning in my gardening that there are natural remedies for pests and we do not have to utilize commercial products that contain harmful and environmentally damaging chemicals. I hope you put some clear rules of engagement for mitigating use of commercial products.

I don't see a summary of Alternative Plan C that states mission, goals and frequency of monitoring measurements (KPIs).

The Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Advisory Committee is making considerations for the northern section of forest in New Hampshire. I hope there is cross collaboration between these two projects.

<https://www.nhstateparks.org/about-nh-parks/park-administration-legislation/commissions-and-committees/connecticut-lakes-headwaters-citizens-committee>

Again, I really did enjoy listening to that video, it was long, but it was very informative. Thank you again and I am grateful for your work.

Sincerely,

Kirk Frost