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Title:

Comments: I am writing in opposition to the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project in its entirety. There are already a number of eloquently written letters that address the project's failure to comply with current federal policy on forest protection as spelt forth in Executive Order No. 14072, issued in April of 2022 directing the Secretary of Agriculture "to conserve America's mature and old-growth forests on Federal lands" and "develop a Federal goal that charges agencies to meet agency-specific reforestation targets by 2030" - not to deforest the existing mature and old-growth forests on Federal lands.

Instead I would like to comment on the fact that the Project does not address the next steps required after any forestry activities are complete - the decommissioning, removal and rewilding of the logging roads. That former Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas himself noted the issues with roadways within public lands, writing in 1965 they point like "dagger(s) at the heart of any wilderness" and that USFS Ranger Bud Moore noted in his 1996 memoir that as damaging as logging is "we soon learned that far greater thread to the land lay in road-building than in logging the timber" highlight the enduring impact on the environment, waterways and wildlife.

USFS Regional Transportation Engineer Annora Nelson estimates that decommissioning at logging road costs at least \$15,000 per mile (in Montana) and those costs are many times higher in many other areas that are not open expanses. While I did not see projected road mileage within the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project documents posted for review, the project goal of "address transportation system needs" would appear to mean that creating additional roadways would occur.

If the project does not comply with E.O 14072 and the Presidents direction to the Secretary of Agriculture regarding conservation of mature and old-growth forests on Federal Land, and does not provide a clear method of restoring those lands impacted by the proposed logging and logging infrastructure then I respectfully request that the Forest Service reassess the Sandwich Vegetation Management Project in its entirety.

Sent via email because although the comment period ends at 11:59:59pm on Apr 1 EST, the website refuses to accept inputs as of 8:15pm on Apr 1 EST (screen-capture below)