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Comments: The Robinson Integrated Resource Plan is an ambitious one, much of which is concentrated in the picturesque Bingo area. While some parts of the plan will expand quiet recreational activities appropriate for the area such as the equestrian and water trails, other parts of the plan will destroy the peace and tranquility most folks cherish about the area far into the future.

This project is huge. As a Hancock resident, I have watched as countless logging trucks have left with their loads, walked scarred and muddy trails, smelled the fumes of hydraulic fluid spills, and wept at the sight of clear cut hillsides.

The plans for timber harvest in the Bingo area are 3 times the size of what was extracted from Hancock and Granville. Timber harvest is planned for 9,277 acres, removing 18 million board feet of saw timber and 57,025 cords of pulpwood.

There are so many aspects to this plan to consider and comment on, but I will raise just one question that seems to be conspicuously missing from the environmental assessment.

Climate change.

The sections of the document regarding climate change are mostly on how climate change might affect the forest, not on how a massive timber harvest will contribute to the increase in CO2 levels in the atmosphere.

There is no discussion of what the average annual carbon sequestration of a mature tree or an acre of trees in a Vermont forest might be. How can the USFS plan to carry out a massive timber harvest (including prescribed burning which releases stored carbon on the ground) and not consider the long term atmospheric effects?

Yes, new growth will begin, but there is no comparison between the amount of CO2 a seedling can sequester, and that of a mature tree or forest. The estimates stated in the document are clearly unsubstantiated by peer reviewed scientific studies.

Clearly, our temperate forests help to mitigate climate change and should be preserved, intact. This document reads like forests did not and could not exist without the intervention of the USFS. I say, leave it alone and let it be.