Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/11/2020 1:49:00 AM
First name: Mary
Last name: Shuman
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Greetings.
I am extremely concerned about the proposal to take the historic practice of soliciting & honoring citizen input out of the decision-making processes of the U.S. Forest Service. These are public lands. You take care of these lands with public money. As a citizen, and funder of your work, I have every right to know what you propose with a detailed analysis of the science behind what you're planning to do. You have a responsibility to be a good steward of our public lands, and the public has a right to participate in decisions about the care of this land.

Furthermore, as a public agency, I would expect you to want to transparently engage with all stakeholders in your planning processes, lest you become embroiled in some type of corruption in which the public good is not served. Government provides services for its citizenry. Good democratic governance demands transparent engagement with all stakeholders, to ensure that the citizen's wishes about their lands are being fulfilled.

I am also concerned about your undisclosed plans to use herbicides. I have been tracking recent actions of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and am growing increasingly concerned about my government's ability to protect human and environmental health. Recently overturning policy based on sound scientific evidence a few years ago, suggests to me that the EPA is protecting corporate profits more than the environment. Therefore, I do not approve of your plan to rely solely on EPA guidance, devoid of input from citizen stakeholders, who will have to live with the decisions you make.

Please continue your tradition of soliciting, gathering and incorporating public input into your planning and practice.

Thank you.