

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/11/2020 1:09:28 AM

First name: Norah

Last name: Holsten

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Pedlar River North Vegetation Project #58783

I am writing to express my opposition and concerns on the Pedlar River North Vegetation Project #58783

This plan reduces the potential for old-growth habitat to emerge and for species dependent on such habitat to thrive. It's unethical to remove old trees in a day and age when we need to preserve as many of these trees as possible for future generations.

This plan also makes the forest more vulnerable to the predicted impacts of climate change in this area, in particular severe storms that create extreme wind and torrential rainfall. Severe storms weaken forests, exacerbating erosion and the potential for out-of-control fires.

There is a significant carbon footprint created through the burning and removal of vegetation, the burning of fossil fuels to power heavy equipment, and the potential increase in vehicular traffic on expanded Forest Service roads.

I am also concerned about the intrusion of invasive species, negative effects to the viewshed of the Appalachian Trail, and an overemphasis on wildlife species for game hunters at the expense of wildlife species valued by hikers, birdwatchers, mushroom hunters, and anglers.

I believe commercial harvest is being disguised with these management goals and an intact forest is more valuable to society, our community, and the globe than harvesting trees for pulpwood.

Please consider my comments and opposition to the plan.

Sincerely,