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Comments: Regarding the reforestation project, I am writing to strongly suggest that the project include surveys and input from botanists and biologists, aimed at preventing damage to colonies of native or rare flowers and plants.

As a member of the Charlottesville Orchid Society, I was part of a group that went to see native yellow slipper orchid colonies in bloom along a roadside in George Washington National Forest in May 2018. All of us were horrified to learn, just a few weeks later, that herbicides had been used in the area to kill "weeds", and that all of the beautiful plants we had observed had been killed. I am very committed to preventing anything like that from occurring again in our national forests.

Because the proposed reforestation will involve many areas of the national forests, it is likely that areas where rare plants, or large native plant colonies, grow may be impacted by the reforestation plans. In particular, right of ways are known to harbor rare species of plants, and in Virginia, rare plants are often found next to roadsides or in utility right of ways.

Please ensure that botanists and biologists perform surveys addressing plants growing in areas that will be affected by the reforestation project. And please incorporate recommendations from them regarding areas that could be impacted by machinery or foot traffic, or "post-commercial chemical release treatments", as listed in the proposal, which I am guessing translates to "herbicides".