

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/15/2021 12:08:09 PM

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Comments: The Devils Hens Nest project needs to be reviewed, many changes made to meet the definition of stewardship, multipurpose use, and the directive issued by President Biden that each Federal Agency to address climate change. Has there been a National Forest Management Act since the one in 1976? Is a new National Forest Management Act being drafted? The current Jefferson national Forest Plan dates to 2004. When will it be updated? Other sales in the Jefferson are in progress that will supply wood to communities.

I do not see what current conditions on the ground need to be changed. It is a magnificent, mostly intact forest. It is a major carbon sink as the mature trees and old growth trees store far more carbon than young trees. A reverse of the myth of young trees storing more carbon. The air there smells like the air in the early 1940's. No where else across America- have I smelled air so fresh. So the forest is making clean air for us and we so badly need all that we can get.

This forest area is a source of clean water for homes, communities and cities down stream. The water quality and precious wetlands will be impacted by the proposed road building, burning of large areas, and spraying. The invasive species are already there. The USFS has lacked the resources to have research and treatment that could have saved old growth hemlocks from the woolly adelgid. Work needs to be done to engage our Congress to far better fund the USFS with repair, maintenance monies, treatment monies....

The mission of the National Forest was not to supply a stable supply of wood products for local needs. That could strip the National Forests and sounds transactional rather than stewardship or multipurpose. Private land owners do that. The Devils Hens Nest Vegetation Project is too big of a take. There has not been the study of environmental protection needed many species of plants and animals that make their home there. Or does the area have endangered species or other species found nowhere else or few other places. Ordinary environmentalists do not know the ins and outs of the plan. The plan does not seem to address what new species of trees might do better as the climate is warming. The ash trees recently lost. Hemlocks devastated. The USFS, Agriculture Department and Department of Interior should be making laws that prevent insects that devastate species of our trees from reaching our shores. New Zealand controls that and places a higher value on forests.

This thing about Ruffed Grouse Society calling for openings in the forest is largely but cover for timbering. My grandmother in the 1880's heard the Ruffed Grouse drumming all around her childhood home in the forested Blue Ridge. The Ruffed Grouse is known to do perfectly well in an intact forest. That is why they are found in the deep forests. The mature forest has its own openings and wetland openings. The drastic decline in bird populations and crashing insect populations is not factored into this project plan. The snails, lizards, salamanders, snakes, turtles cannot escape the fire and heat.