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Comments: This proposed (Devils Hens Nest) project needs some serious informed thinking. It is so devoid of information that it is difficult to comment on, but I have concerns:

1) A complete in-depth survey of the plant kingdoms that exist in this mostly intact forest should be performed -- trees and plants -- to inform our thinking.

2) A complete in-depth survey of the animal kingdoms should be undertaken to inform our thinking.

3) A complete in-depth survey of the watersheds involved in this area should be undertaken to be able to assess the damage that will surely occur, both to the quality of the streams, their inhabitants, and also the delicate intricate relationship it has to other components of this mostly intact forest, to inform our thinking.

4) A survey should be undertaken to determine the approximate storage of CO₂ in this mostly intact forest, to inform our thinking, since we are now living with climate change, working to alleviate the most disastrous effects, and have been assured by the current administration that this will be one of our goals.

5) In conclusion, I am concerned that the destruction, claiming progress for the economy, is further damaging far southwest Virginia in its aspiration for future economic development. Our thinking for a future economic plan should not be short sighted -- destroying forests that take decades, if not centuries to form, and touting this as an adequate excuse for short-term- enriching status for a very few. I know it is a thought process that is foreign to us, but different thinking is absolutely necessary.

Man often thinks he can do better than nature. History displays something very different.

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