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First name: Carol

Last name: Laverick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Concerns regarding the Spruce Vegetation Project #61599.

As we all look at the footprint the forest makes for generations to come the forest service needs to look at the biodiversity of the area. The spruce vegetation is part of a riparian ecosystem. Removing them will have a adverse affect on the other plants in the area.

Also, environmentally you need to look at the negative impact this project would have. A study by Dartmouth College "Clear-cutting loosens up carbon stored in forest soils, increasing the chances it will return to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide and contribute to climate change, a new study shows." Emily M.; Petrenko, Chelsea L.; Friedland, Andrew J. Evidence for Losses From Strongly Bound SOM Pools After Clear Cutting in a Northern Hardwood Forest. Soil Science, April 2016 DOI: 10.1097/SS.000000000000147

This excerpt is from the fs.usda.gov page: " The Forest Service stewards an impressive portfolio of landscapes across 193 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands in the public trust. The agency's top priority is to maintain and improve the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of current and future generations. Forest management focuses on managing vegetation, restoring ecosystems, reducing hazards, and maintaining forest health."

Please take a moment to remember what the role of being a steward is and maintain the diversity of our forests.

Thank you.