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Comments: I am STRONGLY against any change in the current Forest Plan of the Jefferson National Forest that would grant the Right of Way to the Mountain Valley Pipeline. As a lifelong resident of Virginia, I have utilized the Jefferson National Forest for many hiking in camping trips. National Forests have always been a sanctuary for me. They are also vital sanctuaries for many species that need large tracts of land, free of manmade disturbances.

The proposed pipeline is 42 inches in diameter. This is three and a half feet- the height of a tall kindergarten. It is meant to cut across 3.5 miles of the forest, impacting thousands of acres of forest. Not to mention, the proposed path of the pipeline would transect eight different watersheds in the Jefferson National Forest.

To me, it is not a question of if, but a matter of when there would be a gas leak - or worse - in the pipeline. The number of different creeks and ecosystems this could harm is innumerable. Montgomery and Giles Counties, the counties where the pipeline's path would go through the national forest, are a part of three different, larger watersheds. Their waters go to not only the New River but also the James River and the Roanoke River. These counties and swaths of the forest in question are critical sites of ecological conservation.

I urge the USDA Forest Service and the BLM to opt for "Alternative 1 - No Action," as set forth in the DSEIS. This option seems like the best choice, not only for the wildlife who live in the forest but also for the people who enjoy it. Benefits for the public (though I see very few if any) if the pipeline were to cross through forest land, do not compare to the harm that would be caused by this pipeline. I do NOT support an alteration in the Forest Plan. I do NOT support the presence of the Mountain Valley Pipeline in the Jefferson National Forest.