

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2023 5:00:00 AM

First name: Richard

Last name: Gelderman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The US First Service should not allow the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) to cross the Appalachian Trail on Peters Mountain in the Jefferson National Forest. I live on a West Virginia farm where Peters Mountain is my horizon to the east and south. When I, or my children, host guests to our home, the most common excursion is a hike on Peters Mountain. If we provide a choice to our guests, they most often focus on a hike to the world famous Appalachian Trail where it crests Peters Mountain at Symms Gap. They all have heard of, and respect, the Appalachian Trail. They want to be able to tell others that they hiked on the AT, and trust that it must provide the best scenic vistas. The Forest Service owes it to us and our guests to preserve this faith. The wide ugly corridor that MVP establishes around the pipeline's path is unacceptable, and undermines the scenic integrity objectives established for the Jefferson National Forest. These barren scars stretch across otherwise glorious views of the rolling hills in our rural paradise. From multiple viewpoints, the MVP is already degrading the experience of hiking the Appalachian Trail. The plan shared by the MVP to bore under the Appalachia Trail fails to include alternatives if the attempt to dig this tunnel under the crest of Peters Mountain is not successful. Such alternate plans must be part of the Environmental Assessment. The public deserves the right to review and comment on the draft plan before they commence disruption near the Appalachian Trail. The MVP's sad history of violations speaks volumes, and the Forest Service should not take action on their appeal based on a misplaced trust that MVP will do the right thing on its own accord. Richard Gelderman Union, West Virginia 24983