Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/21/2023 5:00:00 AM

First name: Katie Last name: Whitehead

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I ask that you recognize that Alternative #1 - No Action - as a true alternative. Do not whittle away at the Forest Plan by amending 11 protective standards to make exceptions for the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

The Jefferson National Forest (JNF) protects our water quality and resources. The Forest Plan has protective standards that should not be weakened. Amending the Forest Plan to allow construction of the MVP would threaten our water, our land, our ecosystems and wildlife, our old-growth forests and scenic viewsheds, and our confidence in the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The USFS has a responsibility to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of the JNF. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement #50036 (DEIS) does not provide convincing evidence that MVP would not do significant harm. The DEIS does not justify changing the rules to accommodate MVP.

Choose Alternative #1.

Katie Whitehead

Pittsylvania County, Virginia