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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have followed developments related to the subject project since it's inception with a combination of disbelief and dismay.

I grew up in the Roanoke Valley. I also lived in adjoining Montgomery County while a student at Virginia Tech, where I received a forestry degree in environmental conservation. I spent time in the Jefferson National Forest for formal classes and for recreation. My undergraduate study also included a cooperative education assignment with Virginia's water quality agency. I am grieved by the damage that this project has already done in Montgomery and Roanoke counties, damage that provides a glimpse to adverse impacts that await the Jefferson National Forest-land held in the public trust-if the requested permit is not denied.

I also have a masters of divinity degree focused of land stewardship. As a trained forester and minister, Aldo Leopold's land ethic appeals to me. I lift up one of his quotes here from his Sand County Almanac: " A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

I maintain that this project is wrong for my beloved Appalachia, and the special place in that landscape occupied by the Jefferson National Forest.

This pipeline project must not be permitted to cross these federal lands.