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Comments: I am writing to tell USFS to select "Alternative 1 - No Action" because the Mountain Valley Pipeline is completely inconsistent with the JNF Forest Plan and would require 11 amendments and exceptions to be made for the project. This project is indisputably NOT in the public interest. What is in the public interest is protecting our vital clean water resources, watersheds, endangered and sensitive species, and climate, all of which would be irreparably harmed by the cumulative consequences from MVP.

Here in Minnesota, Enbridge pledged that it could safely construct the Line 3/93 pipeline and safeguard the hundreds of waterways and wetlands it would cross, just like MVP. It was permitted, and it failed miserably. Aquifer breaches, frac-outs, drilling fluid spills and more are still ongoing more than a year after construction was completed, and more damage continues to be discovered. We must stop gambling on assurances from pipeline developers, and finally take the protection of our waters, lands, and climate seriously. How many times does the same story have to play out before permitting agencies will stop doing the same thing and somehow expecting different results?

Allowing the Forest Service to break 11 of its own rules to accommodate MVP sets a dangerous precedent for similar rule-breaking on national forests across the country. These exceptions run counter to the Forest Service's mandate to "sustain healthy, diverse and productive forests and grasslands for present and future generations." And granting the Mountain Valley Pipeline permission to cross the Jefferson National Forest does not comply with the 2012 USFS Planning Rule's mandate "to maintain or restore the ecological integrity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and watersheds in the plan area."

Federal courts have repeatedly found that USFS has not properly reviewed the application for the MVP and vacated permits due to the agency's faulty analysis of MVP's impacts on the surrounding environment and local communities, and nothing has changed this time - changing the rules for corporate profit is not acceptable.

This pipeline cannot be built without permanent, irreversible damage to water resources, ecosystems, and the climate, in perpetuity. That much is clear from the information submitted by MVP itself, and reinforces the ongoing setbacks, denials, and reversals that have been dealt this project as it fails repeatedly to meet its obligations and requirements. USFS must continue to take the EPA's "substantial concerns" outlined in 2021 into account, and since MVP has still not addressed how it can safely and properly complete construction, and continues to misidentify natural resources and the potential impacts on them, the project still cannot be permitted to advance.

We cannot allow this deeply flawed fracked gas project to destroy miles of the pristine Jefferson National Forest. MVP is over-budget, past deadline, dismissive of frontline communities, and extremely dangerous to our environment. The MVP was a bad idea when this project first arrived on the USFS desk, and it always will be.

Select Alternative (1) "No Action" and reject any changes to the Forest Plan.

Thank you.

Tess Dornfeld
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