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Title:

Comments: Comment to Whomever is Ready to Listen Intently to Their Heart and be a Part of a Climate Crisis Solution - Not a Detractor

Who I am:

Name: Bob Atchinson

Age: 75

State: N'Dakinaa - unceded Abenaki land in Plainfield, Vermont

What you used to do: Worked for the VT Agency of Transportation as an Associate Engineer/Project Coordinator

What I do now: Retired, and gainfully employed as: Climate Activist/Warrior, Town Energy Coordinator, and Regional Planning Commission - Transportation Advisory Committee vice chair.

Our Civilization Is Running Out of Time!

"We are on a highway to climate hell, with our foot still on the accelerator," said Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the UN, as he addressed the COP27 climate change summit. "We are in the fight of our lives, and we are losing. Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing, global temperatures keep rising, and our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible," he added.

"What we do in the next 3 to 4 years, I believe, will determine the future of humanity." - quote from Professor Sir David King, former U.K. Government Chief Scientist, February 2021. Now that two years have passed since the time of his statement, we are down to 1-2 years to get ourselves out of this mess.

We are in a Climate Emergency - we, the people know it, and you, the Forest Service, an entity of our national government, also know it. We, as a collective team of citizens owe it to our coming generations, your grandchildren and mine, to free our civilization from this climate crisis. But first, we have to admit that it exists, and then we have to use every day of our lives to creatively effect change.

So, it is with grave dismay that I read the "treatment" plan for Telephone Gap. It is sad, indeed, that it is rooted in the archaic 2006 management plan, which may have made some sense in its time, but is drastically out of sensible alignment with these days of climate crisis. The Telephone Gap plan also flies in the face of President Biden's executive order to protect our nation's public forests, as natural sequesters of carbon. One might wonder if the USFS is disconnected with the USDA and their Chief Executive.

All science today indicates that forests are better left standing, as they can sequester more carbon than was previously imagined, and in particular the old growth and mature trees are the most effective at doing this. The "treatment" plan that I have read from the USFS is shamefully lacking in any acknowledgement of this climate science. It has taken USFS months to publish this document, and now, unfortunately, the time has been withered away and the plan is not even close to being appropriate for today's crisis. I do not know who might have lobbied you, as authors, to deny climate science and proceed with business as usual, but we, the people will not stand for this miscarriage of good will and lack of care for our civilization and our Planet.

It is, therefore, time for you, USFS, as the planners and authors, to go back to your desks and put together a real plan that you and your grandchildren will be proud of. We the People will be watching and waiting for you, as partners in the climate battle, to do the research, do the right thing, and get it right this time.

Sincerely,

Bob Atchinson