Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/29/2023 3:58:39 PM First name: Rob Last name: Lamar Organization: Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this forest health project. The Potomac Appalachian Trail (PATC) supports the Forest Service efforts to control spongy moth infestations with aerial spraying of either Bacillus thuringiensis or Nucleopolyhedrosis virus. We note, however, that spray activity is being planned for the April through mid-May time frame. This is a busy hiking time. The health and safety of hikers is a important consideration for both the PATC and the USFS. We request that the USFS take the necessary actions to minimize hiker exposure to this aerial spraying via temporary closures of any trails within the treatment zones, signage, etc.