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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sir or Madam:

I have reviewed your notice of intent [hereinafter notice] in the above captioned project. I enthusiastically endorse this publication, but I also respectfully propose the following recommendations.

1. The current notice concludes that harvesting of timber is not a significant contributor to old growth and mature forest degradation. However, in a relatively recent Sierra Club of Illinois meeting with a federal agency, a constituent observed that there is significant illegal timber harvesting by private companies within a national forest located in Illinois.

Unfortunately, I suspect that this activity occurs in other federally managed national forests. I propose that (i) a strictly enforced prohibition against harvesting timber should be more prioritized within your draft environment statement and (ii) that enforcement personnel be increased with more game wardens, and thereafter officially reported and sanctioned. This will require the appropriate funding for effective enforcement. However, this approach would also be proactive if these wardens observe commencement of this illegal activity, and thereby prevent removal of a significant amount of timber. Electronic surveillance to proactively prevent the actual commencement of illegal cutting, and thereby saving trees, would also be a cost-effective option.

2. The adverse effect of oil and gas leases within national forests and grasslands should also be included. The Forest Service is currently proposing a moratorium on new oil and gas leases in the Rocky Mountain region. This moratorium on new oil and gas leases should be part of the amendment across all geographical locations of federal forests and grasslands. I recommend that your agency include legitimate studies on how this fracking activity harms trees in your draft environmental impact statement.

On this particular point, very recently I became aware that the Bureau of Land Management is in the final phase of finalizing its very deficient environmental impact statement. This statement addressed the creating of a proposed road to cut through Gates of the Arctic in Alaska to connect to a mining complex. I have submitted a comment that strongly condemns this project for a variety of compelling environmental reasons. Because Mr Biden's executive order includes the Bureau of Land Management within its scope, I strongly urge Mr. Biden's office to look into this matter. Unfortunately, I did not become aware of this project until a few days ago.

This project directly contravenes Mr Biden's order and should be halted at all costs, and even if Ms. Haaland must intervene. I hope that your agency brings this very harmful project to Mr. Biden's and Ms. Haaland's attention in the immediate future: The State of Alaska, along with its pork barrel private investors, is steamrolling this project through Mr. Biden's federal process.

3. Urban sprawl has adversely affected and despoiled a significant number of our national parks. I have personally visited numerous national parks in the recent past, and observed our parks tightly enclosed by residential and commercial development. Perhaps your agency could identify studies addressing the effect of this ugly development upon tree growth, so your agency could add this consideration to the draft environment impact statement.

Could you kindly send me all the updates on this very important project? In addition to practicing law I also hold two degrees in biology, so I understand and appreciate the science supporting your mission.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adrienne B. Naumann, Esq.