

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2024 12:05:55 AM

First name: Ted

Last name: Kunkel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My comment concerns the EIS for Hoosier National Forest in Indiana. As a Hoosier and nature lover, I am concerned about making sure the USDA and Forest Service do what is necessary to *protect* the HNF, not simply 'manage' it. Specifically, the old growth forest in HNF represents true wilderness, the only place of its kind in our state. It cannot simply be restocked or somehow remade; once it's gone it is gone. This means that logging in old growth forest - like that in the HNF - is irresponsibly short-sighted. Likewise, prescribed burns in the HNF should be eliminated. There is no scientific basis for burns; indeed Indiana is one of the least at-risk areas in the nation for forest fires. In short, the Forest Service should stop viewing HNF as a resource to extract and more as a wilderness to protect. Thank you.