

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/6/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Lopi

Last name: LaRoe

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello. Thank you for your efforts to listen to what the community is calling for. After reading many of the comments left by other concerned members of our community, it is clear to me what the majority is calling for: To protect the forests.

We are the stewards of the land and the National Forests are our responsibility to protect. I live in Rutland City and I cherish the wild lands around Chittenden. Especially meaningful for me is when I have a chance to encounter old growth trees and I am always greeted with a mixture of remorse and gratitude when I see them. Remorse for those which are no longer standing and gratitude that someone had the foresight to spare the elders the ax way back when. We now are faced with being those people tasked with the serious responsibility to protect these trees for the future inhabitants of these lands. That is why it's important to protect the 80+ year old trees but also the younger ones so that they can reach great ages for our future generations.

I have read some of other people's letters and am grateful to those who have a deeper knowledge of watersheds and carbon sequestering than I. We need to listen deeply to the trees themselves.

They are our elders and our ancestors now. We can rationalize the preservation with science but we can also do so by asserting a natural heritage and the rights inherent in each tree to live out it's full life without human interventions.

I noticed when the new proposal went out that the first to comment, the most eager seemed to be the ones who stand to gain the most financially from the so called "harvest". I will say again, our National heritage, our National Forests are not for your personal gain, sirs. Please find another means to support your wonderful families. If it means sustainable agroforestry on private lands, so be it. These National Forests are not your bankroll.

Did the new proposal change that much, truly? I am asking, please put a pause on these plans. They are out of date as some have mentioned. They are based on a 20 year old plan. So much has been learned since then and there is more to be learned. What is the rush to liquidate these trees?

I am whole heartedly on the side of preservation. I am wholeheartedly on the side of keeping roadless areas roadless and keeping wild areas wild.

I grew up in the Adirondacks and remember as a kid the saying "Forever Wild"

let's preserve these forests for our kid's kids and further on to 7 generations. They will be so grateful we did.

Chose Alternative A, NO ACTION.

thank you for listening.