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Comments: I believe clearcutting would cause an increased likelihood of flooding. The very severe flooding in the Stearns area in 1929 would not have been so severe had the area at that time not been extensively clearcut. Forest canopies serve an umbrella function, protecting the soil surface. The roots of trees and other plants collectively absorb large quantities of water from rainfalls. Undisturbed forest soils, not compacted by logging equipment, are sponge-like and can absorb much water. For these reasons, runoff from heavy rain over forested areas is much less than runoff from denuded slopes. In these times of climate change, we must expect abnormally heavy rain storms But we can guard against these heavy rains causing catastrophic flooding by avoiding clearcutting. For this reason, please adopt Alternative 1 or 2. Thank you.