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First name: Mary Beth

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Mr. Thornton-

I strongly object to the plan to move forward on the Houston South Project! You recently released the Final Supplemental EA

and Final Decision Notice and FONSI. Your action is surprising in light of the current lawsuit - the FS has not provided new

and specific data showing the lack of a negative impact on the important regional water source, Lake Monroe.

Your decision does not address the concerns that scientists and the general public are raising! The logging and prescribed

burns will have a negative impact on the mature trees and their ability to take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere! We

are in a CLIMATE EMERGENCY and need to protect the few remaining trees that we have in the HNF.

Prescribed burns are not necessary to improve forest health and the sustainability of the oak-hickory ecosystem! There is

scientific evidence that oak and hickory were not the dominant species in the HNF and the FS attempt to make them

the dominant species is actually harming the forest. In reality, a variety of tree species, including beech and maple are

needed for a healthy forest!

Burning the forest floor does the opposite of protecting wildlife - several varieties of reptiles and amphibians suffer and die

during these burns.

In addition, the Houston South Project is within the boundaries of the Benjamin Harrison National Recreation Area and

Wilderness and S. 2990 has been introduced in Congress by Senator Braun. This area is destined to be protected for

future generations and is needed for recreation, biodiversity and also economic benefit for the area!

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Gibbons