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Comments: The US Forest Service proposes adding genetically engineered trees to its history of clearcut logging, spraying of toxic herbicides, roadbuilding and other mismanagement of our public lands. All these practices are harmful to the forests of our nation.

The specific mention of the GE American chestnut by the Forest Service as a reason to open public lands to GE trees shows a fundamental lack of understanding of the threats it poses. The Darling 54/58 GE American chestnut, proposed for USDA deregulation, was defective. If such trees were released into forests, they would likely contaminate many of the millions of remaining wild American chestnuts with this defect, dooming their recovery. This is a concrete example of the unpredictable risks of GE trees,

Restoration of the American chestnut is being accomplished in spite of the attempts to genetically engineer it. Blight resistant 100% wild American chestnuts are already being grown and distributed. GE trees pose unprecedented, irreversible and unnecessary threats to forests, the Forest Service must ban them from public forests.