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First name: Aleks

Last name: Kosowicz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Mary Shelley must be rolling in her grave.

The very idea of adding genetically engineered trees to a history of clearcut logging, spraying of toxic herbicides, roadbuilding and other mismanagement of our public lands is not just insult to injury, it poses a threat to the entirety of our already compromised ecosystems.

The very mention of the GE American chestnut by the Forest Service as a reason to open public lands to GE trees demonstrates both a callous disregard for forest health or a fundamental lack of understanding of the threats it poses. We know the Darling 54/58 GE American chestnut, proposed for USDA deregulation, was a dismal failure. The GE trees were defective, and, if released into forests, they would likely contaminate many of the millions of remaining wild American chestnuts with this defect, dooming their recovery.

Even a longtime proponent of this GE American chestnut, the American Chestnut Foundation, has strongly denounced the D54/58 GE chestnut stating that its genetic defect makes it unsuitable for restoration purposes, and opposes its deregulation by the USDA. We cannot risk the catastrophic ramifications of unleashing these creations into the wild.

Please add me to the growing list of those who oppose this proposed misguided experiment, and thank you for all you can do to safeguard our precious biodiversity by putting it back on the shelf where it belongs.