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Comments: I am writing to oppose the US Forest Service proposal to add genetically engineered trees to US forests, when this untested technology poses a real threat to forest health.

The Forest Service mentions the GE chestnut, as if it is unaware that the research into the GE chestnut has been a total failure. If released into forests, they would likely contaminate many of the millions of remaining wild American chestnuts with its genetic defect, dooming their recovery. Even the American Chestnut Foundation has denounced the D54/58 GE chestnut and opposes its deregulation by the USDA.

Meanwhile, restoration of the American chestnut is being accomplished without genetic engineering. Blight resistant 100% wild American chestnuts are already being grown and distributed.

GE trees pose an irreversible threat to forests and must be banned from public forests.

Sincerely,

Alexis Lathem, concerned citizen