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First name: Frank

Last name: Chappell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a member of the military and a veteran, chaplain, father of three, and PA resident who has utilized the beauty of Allegheny National Forest for my own spiritual retreat, I strongly oppose the clear-cutting project up for proposal in the ANF.

Over the years, I have brought groups of adjudicated youth in placement to the ANF to camp. It has always been a place of respite and connection to the land and its resources. I believe that the current-and future projects like this-are a detriment to the environmental stability of the region and PA as a whole.

According to the Allegheny National Forest Survey of 2024, visitors and residents reported a love for hiking, camping, wildlife viewing, picnicking, and shopping. ALL of these activities will be interrupted by the current project and will serve to drive away visitors, impacting the future of the local economy for years, potentially. In addition, the environmental degradation and use of herbicides will also harm wildlife, young children, elderly visitors, and residents by both direct exposure and seeping into the local water supply. We cannot afford to endanger our environment and those we love simply for the "quick buck" that clear-cutting would provide.

I implore you to reconsider this project. We also need to assess the environmental impact on the ANF as a vital watershed to the region for a longer period of time and a thorough examination has not been conducted. There are economic, environmental, and health reasons why this project is not in the best interest of the residents and visitors of the Commonwealth. I urge you to stop this needless destruction to the environment and plan for a better use of our natural resources that are dwindling under the thumb of greed. We are called to be good stewards of the environment and each other. This project moves us away from those goals.