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Comments: As a member of the Vermont Pesticides and Poison Action Network, I am opposed to the use of any herbicides, but especially glyphosate, in the forest ecosystem. Since one of the patents on glyphosate is for its antibiotic properties, the dangers in exposing the soil microbes and, therefore, all plants-not just target plants-dependent on this soil microbiome, puts the entire ecosystem in grave danger of both short term and long term consequences.

"Non-target organisms are globally exposed to herbicides. While many herbicides - for example, glyphosate - were initially considered safe, increasing evidence demonstrates that they have profound effects on ecosystem functions via altered microbial communities."

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36243622/>

As a climate activist, the cutting and/or burning of trees emits carbon dioxide. In addition, the carbon sequestration by all of the burned trees ends abruptly. Trees will grow back, but in order to re-sequester the lost emitted carbon and sequester carbon that could have been sequestered anew is a negative impact on our atmospheric carbon reduction. The Forest Service needs to estimate carbon emissions from the project and evaluate changes to hydrology and future carbon accumulation. This needs to be considered before this project is given the go-ahead.

Furthermore, I believe that this evaluation would force the Forest Service to revise the way they choose to "restore" natural communities in the National Forest. If fire-adapted natural communities belong in the project area, natural processes should be able to maintain them. The Forest Service should analyze ways to let natural, lightning-caused fires burn safely.