Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/16/2024 11:33:30 PM
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Comments: This (US Forest Service - Telephone Woods) proposed project is a disaster waiting to happen. The increase of runoff from more intense and frequent rainstorms - is undeniable (hydrologic computations). The decrease of infiltration of rain with loss of land cover, the rate and speed of runoff impacting streams will contribute to increased flooding damages downstream, reduce ground water storage as well as directly contribute to negative ecological impacts on streams. Increased sediments from sheet and rill erosion and channel erosion is just part of the negative results leading to decline in water quality. This very act of clearcutting in a time of climate change, is totally reprehensible and is in direct opposition to the President's national and Vermonters' goals of land conservation.

This plan, if executed, will have countless negative impacts on communities as well as loss of old growth forests. The results will be diminished carbon sequestration with irresponsible contributions to global warming as the latest research clearly demonstrates - old growth forests are most effective and efficient at carbon storage. The entire project is based upon short term gains for the few (lumber companies) with no consideration for long term negative impacts to local communities. Among these impacts are increased flooding, decline in water quality, loss of recreation, negative impacts to small business (fishing guides, sporting shops, hiking guides, tourism, loss of travel and commerce due to degradation of the resource, and other direct and indirect impacts to small businesses). Other environmental impacts on ecological systems that are currently hanging on by a thread in times of increased air and water temperatures like brook trout, Vermont's state fish, and other creatures in streams and lakes are at severe risk. A myriad of water quality detriments will be among other outcomes like causing downstream communities increased costs for safe public drinking water.

There is no mention of the amount of fossil fuels used in all of these activities contributing to atmospheric carbon like the use of chainsaws, trucks, skidders, chippers, pickups, with gasoline and fuel oil exhausts. There are no requirements to utilize any form of renewable energy and powering those tools with green sourced energy - another irresponsibility on the part of the Forest Service in this "plan". This very activity will only add more carbon into the atmosphere immediately - none of this slow release argument by slowly decaying bacteria from wood. This carbon from the machines of a fossil fuel driven industry will be discharged directly into our air.

This planned project is just another example of mankind's negative impacts on the environment by an agency that should know better. This is another reason why these lands in Vermont should be removed from control by the (US Forest Service) who obviously do not consider all environmental considerations in their supposed cost-benefit analysis run by the very industry it's supposed to protect public interests from. After all, this is public lands in the public domain. Despite the "whitewashing" in FS plans of how beautiful this project will be and how all concerns are addressed, I've seen these clearcuts before and amazingly enough all the "improvements" never seem to happen because of last minute "budget cuts." In Vermont I have witnessed illegal campsites in these forests that the Forest Service does nothing about. Everything from diapers to beer cans, junk and tires. The FS probably lacks the resources needed to properly manage the resource they are expected to maintain, however, we still have roads washed out by storms (like Hurricane Irene) that the FS still hasn't repaired! So why now should anyone have confidence in their "plan?" even if it was remotely sane.

If this project moves forward, the very people responsible for this decision need to be held accountable for this action that they will commit to the detriment of the public good and to future generations of Vermonters and Americans. Why is the FS still in charge of this precious and extremely limited resource? Clearly the science and history shows what this degradation of the environment will mean. The only difference between us and the dinosaurs is some of us see it coming! It's time to stop this trend. Clearcuts of old growth forests in Vermont need to be stopped now.