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Comments:

There are so many issues regarding this project, I fear I will miss something important.

There is so much science that shows harvesting trees by methods such as removal of trees at the borders of forests affects trees left standing inside. Clear cutting has its own well-documented sets of problems that affect other areas of the ecosystem like waters for humans and other life forms.

The importance of using timbers in a good way for the people of these United States is another factor. Just what is a good way? Selective cutting would seem to be a good way. But it is not as fast as clear-cutting. Yet clear cutting results in erosion and other bad consequences.

Then there is the matter of fairly pricing what is harvested. And how will the pricing of those things affect the American people in a good way?

The length of time it will take for trees planted today to achieve the same level of maturity is another consideration.

What are the effects of whatever we do today in the immediate and long term?

It has been said the forests are the lungs of the planet and we the people of these United States and people of the world breathe the air processed by these forests. Will the United States set an appropriate example for the rest of the world in terms of making resources such as this and other forests around the world sustainable so that future generations of people will have them to enjoy and the livelihoods of countless other fauna and flora can be sustained?

Today, the effects of our nation's actions and those of our fellow people throughout the world have far-reaching effects on all of us and the many life forms present on the planet.

Short term profits do not offer sustainability and constitute robbery from our future generations and offer all manner of health problems for people living close to or distant from these forests.

To the extent companies and their workers in the timber industry are affected by decisions we make, should they be displaced from jobs and income, measures must be taken to protect them and their families and livelihoods in the form of supports and education and retraining so that they can maintain their self worth and integrity as members of our society.

There are many more considerations to be made in this and your job must not be taken lightly.

Thank you for this opportunity to share thoughts on this matter.