

JELICO VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT COMMENT FORM

Instructions:

Comments are due December 5, 2022

Communications from the public regarding this project, including commenters' names and contact information, will become part of the public record. Comments, including anonymous comments, will be accepted at any time. However, comments posted after the close of a designated comment period may not be able to be given full consideration. Anonymous comments and comments submitted after the close of the final designated comment period will not provide the commenter standing for administrative review. Comments, or in some cases other expressions of interest, along with respondent's contact information, submitted during the comment period may be necessary to establish a respondent's eligibility to participate in an administrative review for this proposed action. Interested members of the public should review the proposal's information to determine the applicable administrative review process and the eligibility requirements for that process.

Comments can be submitted as follows:

- Using this form
- Electronically by email to: SM.FS.r8dbstecom@usda.gov
- On the project website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63037>
- Mail or in person to: Stearns Ranger District, 3320 Highway 27 N, Whitley City, KY 42653.
- Facsimile to 606-376-3734.
- Call 606-376-5323 and receptionist will connect you with someone who will document your comments.

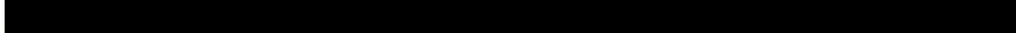
Please provide the following information as part of your comments:

1. Name, address, phone number, email address, and organization (if applicable);
2. Title of the Project: Jellico Vegetation Management Project;
3. Specific facts and relevant rationale you feel should be considered, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision; Comments in response to this proposal should focus on 1) the proposal; 2) issues or impacts from the proposal; and 3) possible alternatives for addressing issues associated with the proposal that would still meet the specific needs identified;
4. Signature or other verification of identity upon request.

To comment using this form please provide the following information (anonymous comments will also be accepted):

NAME: LEWIS W. CORNELIUS MD

ADDRESS: 

EMAIL: 

ORGANIZATION (if applicable): _____

COMMENTS (continue on back, as needed):

Erosion: There are numerous land slides already in the proposed logging area from timbering and strip mining in the past. Clear cut logging will only ~~exacerbate~~ these areas and will ~~add more areas~~ add more areas exacerbate undoubtedly (see back)

Landscape: The new MS 92 west road will allow Tourism to come to McCreary County. Tourists will come to see old growth forests and fall foliage. Big South Fork NRA could be a great tourist draw.

Flooding: The top soil will wash down areas of clearcut logging depositing mud and silt in the streams. Heavy rains will allow for more flooding, such as that experienced in eastern Kentucky.

Logging Roads: We can't ride an ATV in Boone National Forest. Yet you are proposing numerous logging roads in the areas to be logged. Anecdotally I have never seen clear cut logging have a normal regeneration of the flora in this area.

Poisoning: Who gets to play God in determining what plants live and what plants die. The wild grapes are the rootstock for vineyards worldwide. We have 5 species of native magnolia trees. We have mountain camellia (*Stewartia ovata*) that only grows in a 100 mile radius of Knoxville TN. Poison ivy berries are a staple for Pileated woodpeckers. White oak is a major source of food for deer, squirrels, Turkey, grouse and other species. Mulberry trees are a food source in the middle of summer for birds, ~~squirrels~~ squirrels, racoons and other animals. *Calyculthas ferrilis* only grows in Whitley and McCreary counties. Blacksided Dace - a rare minnow that lives in Jellico Creek and its tributaries. This fish will only breed in clear streams. The silt settling on the stream bottom will spell doom for this species.