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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern,

Last night, I read in the news that the last male white rhinoceros had died. It saddened me to see what the world had lost due to the ignorance, greed and lack of appreciation of humankind. Because of our species, yet another species was heading into extinction. Today, I am writing in regards to another endangered species: the Indiana Bat.

I am concerned about the proposed amendment to Daniel Boone National Forest's 2004 management plan overseeing the federally endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis Sodalis*), as well as the Northern Long-Eared bat. The latter is also considered a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Specifically, I am concerned about the Forest Service's desire to loosen restrictions on timber harvesting near maternity colonies of these species, which would further endanger their limited and declining numbers.

Although the Indiana Bat has been listed as endangered since 1967, its population has continually declined, and has faced increased threats in recent years. As endangered and threatened species, these living creatures should be afforded the government's protection, even as individuals. Threatening a maternity colony is particularly damaging, as it will endanger not one member of these bat species, but several members. Additionally, it is a threat to the species' youngest members, which represent their future prospects.

Additionally, I am concerned that the Forest Service wishes to approve logging in an area that has been assigned as Critical Habitat for the Kentucky Arrow Darter, another threatened species, according to the Endangered Species Act. This area encompasses most of the dwindling species' habitat. We should be showcasing this as an asset of the state, not destroying what makes us unique.

As a national forest, Daniel Boone National Forest has been set aside as a protected plot of land for a reason. As recognized endangered and threatened species, these animals have been afforded special concern and protection for a reason. Reversing these laws on economic whims renders them pointless. Why offer protection if it is taken away without concern for the standards on which these laws were built? For instance, the numbers of the Indiana Bat have not improved. If we hold to the values that put this law in place, we must not lessen the protection until the threat to this species has declined.

This forest, these creatures- including the one that carries the state's namesake- are things that our state should be proud of, yet the overseers of these treasures wish to sacrifice them for monetary AND momentary gain, with no thought for the permanent loss that will endure. These forests attract visitors, which will no doubt be less enthused about visiting a place whose flora and fauna have been removed, or whose natural landscape has been altered. For this reason I implore you to protect these endangered and threatened species, and not allow any logging that will damage this federally protected ecosystem or its federally protected inhabitants.

Sincerely,

Cari Leigh Moore