

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/27/2019 3:13:54 PM

First name: David

Last name: Collins

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have learned that there is a proposal for "improving conditions" of the National Forest lands in the Blackwater Watershed on the east side of Cave Run Lake. While I'm certainly in favor of positive acts/or prohibited actions which benefit our forest land, I'm not sure the actions which may occur will actually be considered a real improvement.

The possibility of 1200 acres of open ended logging with no specific locations sounds like it would be very difficult to determine what effects it might have. No specific areas to be used for road building, log loading and skid roads introduces too much uncertainty to what may happen and where. Who will decide, and when will the public have an opportunity to understand and comment. Conditional based management with no site specific effects, or environmental impact does not seem to be a great formula for "wildlife support".

The proposal has no management specifics for restoring area disturbed by the activities proposed, or restoring old sites of damage still very evident. The natural state of much of these forest are usually dominated by long lived oaks and hickories, but in disturbed areas logged, or torn up by road building, or other acts, the forest experiences changes with invasive species, junk trees, and shorter lived trees like red maples, black oak and poplars. This is not improvement in my view.

A second proposed action is in regard to improving parking and roads for increased public vehicle use. The mapped area are possibly the areas which may be logged. This may be convenient, or allow double dealing for reimbursement to contractors. While public use is important for enjoyment of the National Forest, where and how much needs to be controlled to prevent overuse and destruction to our natural properties. Opening up gated roads for increased seasonal use also seems too lax to prevent overuse.

A third proposal for "improving water quality" certainly sounds good, but like the road and parking improvements may just allow an area being disturbed to be restored at additional expense. It would be better to disallow stream crossings for logging and skid roads. Almost no specifics describing what may be done with any detail, or clarity doesn't sound like it will insure actual improvements will take place.

These are many reasons to protect our National Forests and the public should be involved. As a property owner in the Blackwater Watershed area, and a frequent user of the Daniel Boone National Forest lands, I strongly oppose the proposed "Improving Conditions in the Blackwater Watershed".