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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a Kentuckian by origin, going back to the late 1700s in Menifee County. Since the 1970s, I've enjoyed hiking, studying plants, birdwatching, camping, kayaking, protesting the dam, supporting Wild and Scenic Designation, and going to Wildflower and Herpetology weekends for many years in the beautiful and unique Red River Gorge.

I am very concerned about the general erosion in the Red River Gorge through overuse. When I went back about ten years ago, the devastation by the hemlock wooly adelgid and too much use was remarkable. It was a different place.

Now I see a proposal to change the boundaries of the wild and scenic designation around the Red River. The exact dimensions and areas are not clear, as the new map does not match the old map. The plan itself appears to decrease protections for the wild and Scenic Corridor. Is this true? Hard to tell the plan and intention from the material I have read thus far. I usually get worried when plans aren't clear for the public to review and comment upon.

Having travelled around the world, and currently working in New Zealand, I appreciate what a unique place the Red River Gorge is. There is simply nowhere else like it. It needs to be fiercely protected over the next decades and centuries from the various schemes that come through to "develop" the area, usually with a financial benefit to some people involved. In New Zealand, the North Island has very little native forest. The same is true in the British Isles, Ireland, and Scotland. We simply have to protect it.

With climate change a reality, large tracts of biologically diverse flora and fauna are needed to save all of us.

Please clarify your plan, and if it is to provide less protection to the scenic corridor, or to put up some cabins by a friendly developer, I say no.