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Comments: I am a concerned government employee of a state Attorney General and I want to preface this by stating I am not anti-logging. I understand that selective logging and other treatments - when done in a balanced way in the right places with follow-up care - can improve forest health, reduce fire danger, and remove invasive species. I also understand that you are stewards to our national forests and charged with a responsibility to ensure and manage balances between hunting, preservation, ecosystems, and activities like logging. However, I am concerned with the size and scope of this project, its impact on old-growth forests and wildlife, clear cutting, and the potential for erosion, landslides, flooding, water quality, noise, traffic, endangered species, increased invasive species introduction, and loss of biodiversity in our community. This proposed plan is excessive and unbalanced and I hope you sincerely take this into consideration prior to making any final decisions. This plan is far too focused on lumber extraction. Out of 20,000 total acres in this area of the Stearns District of the Daniel Boone National Forest, 10,000 acres (1/2) will be impacted by some form of treatment. Regarding those 10,000 acres, this plan proposes that 5,347 acres be clear cut using 3 different harvest methods: clear cut, 2 aged shelterwood and deferment harvest. This proposed plan's unbalanced excessiveness must be greatly limited prior to the start of this project or else it risks setting more precedent which could ultimately result in human harm, harm to the environment, and tarnish your personal legacy by manipulatively corrupting your organization's stewardship of all of our national forests. Please consider altering this project by significantly limiting the clear cut logging.

While I can completely understand that this seems like a great way to create more income and cash flow, I beg that you please truly consider whether this excessive and unbalanced plan is completely ethical. Please remember, the mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. This proposed plan will not sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of this portion of our nation's forests to meet the needs of future generations. Beyond the threat clear cutting causes on the human population via mudslides (potentially for many generations to come), it also threatens the balance and safety of the surrounding wildlife ecosystems.

Regarding potential harm to American families in the forms of future mudslides, anytime large amounts of vegetation are removed from an area the delicate root systems eventually die off which leaves the soil vulnerable to over saturation. A study done by Richard Meehan was conducted in 1991 and a few of his conclusions were as followed: "The frequency of mass erosion [landslides, debris flows, earthflows, etc] is strongly linked to the type and intensity of land treatment in the basin. Although most mass movements are associated with roads and their drainage systems, many originate on open slopes after logging has raised soil water tables and decreased root strength." [Meehan, 1991 page 194] He also stated that: "The increase in mass movement due to clear cutting varies widely, ranging from 2-4 times in Oregon and Washington...to 31 times in the Queen Charlotte Islands... An increase of 6.6 times...is probably closer to the norm." [Meehan, 1991, page 194]. This means that all this clear cutting could potentially create hazards for travelers for generations to come. Do you really want to be remembered as the individuals who initiated this plan if it turns out that mudslides kill a family in an area which was clear cut? Limiting the clear cutting in the project would help ensure your legacy, hard work, and dedication is recognized as balanced, fair, and in the best efforts of the safety of everyone enjoying our national forests for many generations to come.

Also, please consider, at a minimum, minimizing or slowing the plan down to alleviate devastating impact this plan will have on the local wildlife. According to Heritage, Newfoundland & Labrador's article, "Forest Industries and the Environment,"

"It [logging] can increase the harmful impact of wind and rain on local ecosystems; destroy the valuable wildlife habitat used by ... animals; and cause soil to become dry and overheated, which may in turn increase the risk of fire or interfere with seedling growth. Logging operations can also alter the chemical and physical makeup of

nearby bodies of water and affect the health of fish and other aquatic species."

Also, according to "Standfortrees.org," "It [logging] causes habitat destruction, increased risk of predation, reduced food availability, and much more. As a result, some animals lose their homes, others lose food sources - and finally, many lose their lives. In fact, deforestation is one of the main causes of extinction."

Thank you for your consideration. Please alter, modify, minimize, or completely stop this Jellico mountain project for everyone's safety, the preservation of the wildlife and surrounding ecosystem, and even your own legacy.