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First name: Staci
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Title:
Comments: I was born and raised in Williamsburg, KY. My family and I currently live in the Jellico Creek area, and I was raised up around the Little Wolf Creek area, so these mountains and forests have always been a part of my life, they are a part of who I am. I am very much against the idea of this project happening and it breaks my heart at the thought of it actually coming to pass. Every day when I drive across the mountain to come to town, I take in the breathtaking beauty of these amazing mountains. In this hectic world, I can sit on the porch and look at the mountains and they comfort my spirit.

Listed below are reasons why I am against clearcutting.

*Destroys the forest ecosystem.
*Increases the risk of soil erosion.
*Removes carbon sinks.
*Spoils the scenery.
*Provokes slides.
Clear-Cutting: Pros And Cons Of The Typical Forestry Practice (eos.com)

Another concern is regarding the herbicides that will be used.
*Mists from herbicide sprays on hot days can drift for miles in high winds and result in damage to nearby crops.
*Runoff from treated areas may impact algae, aquatic organisms, and fish.
*Careless cleaning of equipment can contaminate soil, ground and surface water, and desirable vegetation.
*Off-site application can occur if boundaries are not clearly marked and applicators are not aware of their location.
Forest Herbicide Safety: Environmental Concerns and Proper Handling | Mississippi State University Extension Service (msstate.edu)

I know there are specialists who are overseeing this project but there is not a 100% guarantee that something will not go wrong. My children play in Jellico Creek every summer. We fish in that creek. We also have well water and again there is no one who can give a 100% guarantee that these water sources will not be contaminated.

Another point about this project is that it will do nothing to benefit us here. We have already been told that there is no guarantee that the logging job will go to local loggers but will be put up for a bid. The money from the logged trees will not go into our community but will go into the treasury.

Someone at our community meeting was expressing that those who work in the forestry service are passionate about what they do, and I am sure that they are, however, it is their job. We are passionate about this situation because it is our home. I do not mean to be disrespectful in any way, but this project will have lasting affects my family and our home.

Thank you for your time.

Staci L. Moses