Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/30/2022 12:55:03 AM

First name: Meghan Last name: Kahn Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing out of concern regarding the large area of mature trees that will be removed, particularly areas that will be clear-cut, as part of the Jellico Logging Project. Removing such a large area of trees poses risks to residents of the area. Removal of the trees increases the chances of landslides and flooding, which are both more likely in Kentucky now due to climate change producing more severe rain events. Recent studies, such as research evaluating the impact of trees of varying ages in Portland, Oregon (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412022005360) show that older trees provide greater health benefits to humans than new trees. Clear-cutting mature trees and using herbicides in natural areas also poses risks to wildlife, including migratory birds and insects. If new trees need to be introduced to the area, mature trees should be removed in smaller quantities through thinning rather than clear-cutting, in order to minimize the risks of flooding, landslides, and poor health of humans and non-human animals in the region.