Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/3/2022 2:35:30 AM
First name: Lisa
Last name: Munniksma
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I've chosen to make Kentucky my home for the past 20 years, largely because of the natural resources that we have here. I've lived in six states and traveled around the world, hiking every opportunity I've had along the way. The Daniel Boone National Forest remains my favorite place to hike. My reasons for writing against the proposed Jellico Management Project are selfish: I want to see this treasure for outdoor recreation, mental health and physical health remain.

More vital than my own interest in exploring more of Kentucky's natural world is my concern for the health of the land and the communities that rely on it. Periods of drought followed by episodes of intense rainfall interspersed with long stretches of too much rain and other climate uncertainties make the health of the soil, erosion resistance, and water absorption capacity more important than ever.

These comments don't even take into account the value of the native plant populations, critical habitat for endangered birds and wildlife, greater watershed health and the health of the aquifers, the use of chemical herbicides required in clear-cut maintenance, and the general carbon capture and sequestration that large tracts of intact forest offer.

A responsible forest-management plan, rather than a nearly 5,000-acre clear cut, can balance these issues.