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First name: Martin

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose the proposed Jellico project.

We reside on a riverside within the DBNF, north of this particular project. We have seen first-hand by foot and canoe the effects of similar USFS "projects" nearby, which typically include ecologically devastating high-graded, steep-slope, mechanized extraction of logs.

This kind of approach to timber harvest is ecocidal to our sensitive hilly woodlands, not to mention inappropriate long-term management for timber, much less the medicinal plants and mycelia. It compresses and landslides ancient forest soils and leaves too few trees to keep them from washing downstream. The disturbed soils can no longer absorb and slow the living water in flood times and redistribute in drought. They cannot harbor the same complexity of life until they have healed, and without the canopy trees the land bushes up, keeping out human and deer. On a small scale and lower slopes, such clearings are workable, but this is not what is proposed.

Therefore, going forward with yet another such project, this one staggeringly large in scale, is most irresponsible to your shareholders, the inhabitants and lovers and users of the Forest, past present and yet-to-come.

My friend Carol Judy used to ramble the Forest by Jellico digging medicinal plants to transplant because the mountain was dry to be strip mined. I once walked with her and remember the deep connection between all segments of our great Forest AKA DBNF. We will support the impacted communities in their opposition, with Carol's spirit.

There is a better way of managing timber for long term genetic health and production that improves forest soils by encouraging native mycelia and botanicals. Furthermore it honors the great gift of the Life and Beinghood of the Forest and its many inhabitants, including us. Which causes people to further enjoy the Forest, which is the Whole Point. If interested in this better way, feel free to reach out.

Do not carry out the Jellico project as planned. Thank you for reading.