

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/4/2022 5:38:29 PM

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Comments: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON JELICO LOGGING PROJECT

I am deeply opposed to the Forest Service's proposal for Jellico Vegetation Management Project.

With 5,000 acres of clearcutting prescribed in this project, in an area full of steep grade and loose soil, when the trees are removed, the water has nowhere to go but downhill. The threats for severe landslides, erosion, and flooding will be greatly increased under these conditions.

Please take seriously the very real landslide and flooding threats that will affect private landowners near the project area. Kentucky's recent flooding should give pause to any taxpayer-funded actions that increase the threat of flooding.

Climate change is another paramount reason to change course away from the existing plan. We need additional trees to absorb carbon, not fewer trees. Please protect these carbon sinks and adopt a paradigm shift that includes the latest science addressing the unprecedented climate emergency confronting us. Please watch this video and delve into this visionary site to see the paradigm shift in action by our neighbors in southern Illinois:

<https://youtu.be/6jsl-Ki-468>

<https://www.shawneeforestdefense.org/post/a-new-vision-creating-the-shawnee-national-park-and-climate-preserve>

My wife and I love hiking in our beautiful midwestern region's state and national forests. Many beautiful hiking trails in the midwest have been destroyed by clearcuts.

I believe public opinion and current science overwhelmingly favor protecting our forests from clearcutting. Please alter your course for the health of the planet, for recreation, for protection from flooding, and for a host of ecological reasons not mentioned here. A change in policy is needed.