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Comments: I object to the Jellico Vegetation Management Project as currently proposed for many reasons.

(1) The primary reason is the 40 year timeline. Many foresters will be retired before this timeline ends. Who can predict what the conditions will be like in 40 years. This just seems like a ruse to get a basically open ended, endless plan to log. A 5 year plan is realistic, so scale it back.

(2) I am a car camper in the majestic Jellico region. As widely dispersed as this logging plan is, it will affect my forest experience and the viewshed, as well as affecting the health of streams with sedimentation runoff. So this will also affect my stream experience.

(3) This logging plan will discourage me and other campers from camping in this region. You may not be aware, but the state government is trying mightily and spending lots of money to encourage tourism, and this magnificent forest can be a tourism magnet. Build trails for hikers and mountain bikers, and scale back the logging it discourages tourism.

(4) According to Dr Suzanne Simard (Professor, University of British Columbia), old trees aid young trees with nutrition and fluids, much as the old in a family aid and train the younger members. Trees that are nearing the old growth category (ie 90-119 years) should be allowed to continue to grow to reach maturity and assist young trees, as well as preserving current old growth. With climate change trees are under greater duress, and we need to be aiding their growth, not making it more difficult for them to survive. That also includes not compressing the soil around the tree roots, this leads to negative health impacts for the remaining trees.

(5) Invasive trees and bushes arrive with the loggers and logging equipment. There are no invasives without these folks bringing the invasives in. The herbicides/poisons used to control invasives are unnecessary if there is no logging because logging brings in the invasives. And I do not want to be exposed to these herbicides, it is unhealthy, gets into streams, and generally ruins my outdoor healthy forest experience.

(6) I am concerned for the local community being subject to slides and flooding. These impacts are due to the clearcut forest no longer holding the steep slopes, and no longer absorbing rainwater, which allows rapid runoff of water, especially in heavy rain events, which are becoming more common due to climate change.

(7) And lastly, CLIMATE CHANGE. CLIMATE CHANGE--we need to keep the trees we have alive and absorbing CO2. Forget about everything else, if we cut down all these trees we are so screwed. And we may be anyway.

(8) Thank you for considering, and hopefully incorporating, my comments.