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Organization:

Title:

Comments: U.S. Forest Service:

I have grave concerns about the proposed Jellico Vegetation Management Project. The Daniel Boone National Forest is a very special place to me and many others; even more so, my family lives there. The amount of love and admiration of this incredible landscape is immeasurable.

This dangerous project is proposed to ultimately affect 10,000 acres of PUBLIC land. Land that belongs to ALL! And the seemingly utter disregard for the consequences considering your role in the matter is baffling.

The 3 very deceiving types of proposed forms of clearcutting are calculated distractions that will end up destroying the landscape along with causing an extreme disruption that will play a proven host to inviting a multitude of invasive species, like Tree of Heaven and Autumn Olive. These invasives have already taken over multiple sections of this forest from clearcutting that happened 30 years ago. More clearcutting is not the answer and the fact that your department is laying the groundwork for such a flagrant project just shows how much the department doesn't actually care to maintain and protect it's resources, instead it shows that once again money seems to always dictate. I am vehemently against the projects stated as: Deferment Harvest, Two-Aged Shelterwood Removal, and Clearcutting.

This region of the Daniel Boone is full of very steep slopes and coal seams. And when these areas are clearcut and exposed, they are prone to erosion, landslides, and unprecedented flooding. Erosion and sediment flow into waterways and put federally endangered species at risk, like the Kentucky Arrow Darter, an aquatic fish only found in this area of the world. The flooding that has wreaked havoc across eastern Kentucky in the last few years and most recently this summer, is a direct result from excessive clearcutting, oil extraction, and mining. We do not need any more fouled water in Kentucky. Stop the madness and find your money elsewhere.

I encourage the Forest Service to deeply consider how this logging project will affect old growth and the carbon sequestered there. With the current climate crisis, old growth forests are one of the greatest assets we have to combat climate change. This forest is worth more **STANDING**. Rural Kentucky has been exploited for its natural resources for decades. This wild, public land should be protected instead of destroyed for profit.

Thank you,
Brin Hamblin