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Title:

Comments: As a KY citizen, I know one of our state's most precious resources is our natural areas. They preserve our state's natural and cultural heritage and drive commerce through recreation. Keeping our natural areas intact is also our best protector against climate change, which we in KY are already feeling the effects of and will only continue to get worse. For this reason I am very opposed to the Jellico project proposal to sacrifice our forests for commercial interests. It is unconscionable to destroy this irreplaceable natural resource that filters our water, stabilizes our soil, shelters our rich biodiversity, and sequesters carbon from our heating atmosphere. It is incredibly myopic to cut down old-growth forests for short-term profit. The Forest Service's duty is to ecological health and the citizens who utilize our natural areas, not to profit-driven corporations. Logging will open up the area to damage from invasive species and landslides, which are already growing threats to our forests. It will also eliminate the potential for recreational opportunities in the Daniel Boone forest and set back our forests by hundreds of years. I urge the Forest Service to reconsider logging in the Jellico area in favor of preserving our precious mature forests.