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Comments: How can we best manage a forest in "caring for the land and serving people"? Is it to control all inputs and extraction in detail? Is it in predicting an outcome weighed against a necessary evil for financial gain?

This is of course about financial gain. New revised directives issued for lumber, especially hardwoods are essential to the birthing of projects such as this Jellico Vegetation Management. This wouldn't be a discussion otherwise. We, the people, extort hubris when looking on nature and its inherent chaos. We simply do not know.

The question becomes the why. Is it cheap coal in this region in order to fire your kilns to quickly commodify these lumber, especially hardwoods? You are the harbingers of landslides, exploitation, destruction, imbalance, hubris, and downfall. For monetary gain you beckon this chaos.

I have seen countless holes glacially ripped into our forests by tree of heaven, kudzu, autumn olive, and other human-adjacent species unexpectedly sown across forested landscapes. The costs of repairing these exercises in hubris greatly outweigh any gain from the wood products extracted.

These steep slopes aren't suited for and haven't seen this type of activity. Hubris to believe otherwise. I am sure you can accomplish your commoditification, but your estimation of its cost is accurate, you say, without arrogance? We've seen scientists proven unable to predict very simple biological experiments, much less a mountain forest, much less nature.

In 100 years when our ancestors look on Jellico will they feel the economic boon of the lumber you extracted? Will they wonder as we do, what this natural world would have been if left undisturbed? If only we had a National Forest system designed to protect and preserve lands for perpetuity, leaving them unharmed and untouched aside from our lightest observation. If only we could instead of considering a proposal to extract old growth we could redesignate this land as old growth that we all know it is. We all know the reasons the above will never happen. We all know the why. And today you are its harbingers.

Please reconsider