Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/5/2022 7:08:27 PM
First name: Chris
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear USFS,
I am opposed to the proposal to log Jellico Mountain. Mature forests are essential to providing flood control, wildlife habitat, clean water, carbon sequestration, beauty, recreational opportunities, and future old growth. Large tracts of intact forests like Jellico Mountain stabilize the climate and are a critical solution in coping with the climate crisis.

Recent climate disasters like the flooding in eastern Kentucky should prompt your agency to reorient your priorities to manage forests for their ecosystem services instead of their extraction value. After all, President Biden has recognized the importance of safeguarding mature forests in his recent executive order.

I urge you to dispense with the old school approach to forestry that this proposal embodies and to embrace a more modern and relevant management approach. The public is adamantly against logging Jellico Mountain. Logging and road building will destabilize the area, jeopardize water quality and sensitive species, result in widespread infestations of invasive species, trigger slope failures, disrupt intact forests, and release carbon into the atmosphere all while costing taxpayers money and angering the public.

Drop the proposal to log Jellico and invest in trail building and ecological rehabilitation grounded in science.
Sincerely,
Chris Schimmoeller