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Comments: Regarding the Jellico Vegetation Management Project, I am extremely opposed to this proposal for several reasons. It risks ultimately harming the economy and people in the area in a time when many of the people in the area are already struggling. The use of clearcutting on half of the 10,000 acres is poor forest management. It completely changes the ecosystem including the destruction of its topsoil. It is devastating to plant biodiversity and results in a horrible eyesore. Clearcutting results in the destruction of habitat for countless species. I am a caver who has done bat field work and research in the region, and the specific proposal is in a karst region which attracts several species of bats who spend part of the year in caves but also part of the year sheltering in the forest. The clearcutting and other potentially poor deforestation of this area would be devastating to several bat species, some of which are already struggling or on the Endangered Species List. Bats are extremely important to our area farmers due to the amount of crop-eating pests they consume. The destruction of the forest would result in the decimation of countless bats. Without as many bats in that area, more crop damage would result from pests and many of our farmers in and around the bats' former grazing territory could be affected. Clearcutting that much of the forest also leads to horrible runoff problems as the trees and topsoil which formerly soaked up an extreme amount of water would no longer exist. Haphazard channels and ruts develop and scar the environment. This eyesore destroys the very reason people have come to the area - to see beautiful nature. This would result in a blow to tourism dollars. The destruction of that much forest could also result in more flooding. The proposal also mentions noxious weed treatment and other management. Numerous studies have shown the harmful properties of herbicides, from the way some herbicides mimic female hormones in some species of fish and amphibians to the increase in Parkinson's and certain cancers. For these and many other reasons, this proposal should not happen, and any future proposals related to this project should involve input from local citizens.