Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/5/2022 7:51:56 PM
First name: Carrie
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Hello.

I'm concerned that the proposed Jellico Vegetation Management Project will have serious negative consequences to people living in the area - as well as the irreversible environmental damage it will cause.

From documented landslide and flooding risks, I'm am scared for those who live in this area if this project is implemented.

Mature forest helps soak up water. Catastrophic flooding occurred in the Jellicos as recently as July 30th, 2022. If the mountains are made bare with clear-cuts, more water will find its way into the valleys where people live worsening flash flooding.
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I value the old growth forest in Kentucky for the current and future health of people and our planet.

The proposed logging includes hundreds of acres of forest that could qualify as old-growth (over 120 years old). None of this older forest is protected in the area's "Designated Old Growth" area despite meeting tree size and age requirements according to the Forest Service's own guidance on old growth. According to work done in the area by expert dendrochronologist, Justin Maxwell, tree ages of one stand were found to be even older than the Forest Service estimated, with trees over 200 years old.

Logging mature and old growth forest stands not only creates problems for local community members, but also has negative consequences for the whole nation and even the world. This is because logging releases greenhouse gasses. The Forest Service needs to use the most recent science which shows that logging releases large amounts of greenhouse gasses when considering the environmental impact of this project.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Lifelong Kentuckian,
Carrie VanWinkle