Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/5/2022 7:17:24 PM
First name: Carl
Last name: Weaver
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Regarding the Jellico Vegetation Management Project to clear cut 5,000 acres of a 10,000 acre project is excessive to land, habitat and people living in these affected areas.

I was present for the Jellico Mountain 10,000 Acre Logging Town Meeting, held on Thursday, November 17th. It was a very strong turnout. The discussions shared by those in attendance were passionate, reasonable and supportive of a fair and just solution to satisfy concerns of residents as the USFS. It was unanimous from community members at the town hall as well as their comments submitted to this page, that clear cutting should not be used in any way in this proposed project.

Concerns of clearcutting include:

Destroys the forrest ecosystem,
Increase the risk of soil erosion,
Removes carbon sinks,
Spoils the scenery,
Provokes slides

The community also strongly opposes the use of herbicides to remove certain foliage and other growth deemed problematic by the USFS.

Concerns include:

Runoff from treated areas impacting algae, aquatic organisms, and fish, Mists from herbicide sprays can drift for miles, in high winds, damaging nearby crops,
Improper/careless cleaning of equipment can contaminate soil, ground and surface water and desirable vegetation,
Off site application can occur if boundaries are not clearly marked and applicators are not aware of their location.

It is my hope that the USFS will not use clearcutting in the proposed logging project. The use of herbicides should not be used a liberally as suggested by the USFS in clearing ares of concern. I also strongly suggest the the USFS make efforts to use local loggers in any of this work in Whitley and McCreary Counties. Many of these loggers that have worked these lands for decades spoke to these concerns, at the town hall, endorsing the use of selective cutting proposed the area. Too much of our history in Appalachia involves outsiders taking the wealth from our communities with no regard to the condition they leave the land. Locals will log responsibly, giving the care to the land and their neighbors have always deserved.

Carl Weaver