

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/5/2022 9:02:39 PM

First name: Sarah

Last name: Barney

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I do not support the Jellico Vegetation Management Project. The Daniel Boone National Forest is my home. Here, I am an active community member, a small business owner and a frequent user of this forest. A few reasons that I do not support this project... (1) I studied natural resource management as an undergraduate and a graduate student and the justification of this project is not based in a modern understanding of resource conservation and ecology. The US has and continues to lose old growth forest, a rare and ecologically important habitat type, while secondary and more disturbed regrowth is very common. There is no data to support cutting Jellico in order to create and conserve more disturbed forest types and open habitats. The real justification for this project is clearly to bring income to the contracted logging companies, which is in no way in alignment with the mission of the forest service, which is to protect and conserve forests for THE PEOPLE. (2) I lost my home in a catastrophic flood in Eastern Kentucky in 2021. As climate change continues, we expect to see more of these intense rain events. The topography of this region already allows the potential for dangerous flash flooding, but adding in more clear cut land on top of the already cleared mine lands is a recipe for landslide and flooding disasters. (3) Eastern KY has been historically extracted from over and over again, leaving the people who live here with little to show for it. Logging at this scale is just another version of the same thing. The people of this land will not let this continue to happen. We deserve better. We deserve access to this forest and the ecological, recreational, etc benefits that it provides to us.

In conclusion, I do not support the theft that is this proposed project. As a fellow land steward and natural resource scientist, I am ashamed that the folks who put this together could call themselves the same. The people, animals, plants and land of Eastern Kentucky deserve better than this NEEDLESS destruction.