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Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Jellico Vegetation Management Project #63037.

As a frequent recreational user of hiking trails, waterways, and fishing spots in the Daniel Boone national Forest, I am writing to express my opposition to this project. More than enough evidence has been collected to demonstrate the extreme negative impacts of similar projects in similar areas throughout the Boone, especially in the Redbird District. I urge you to avoid those mistakes here.

The project, as proposed, will negatively impact water quality, populations of threatened and endangered plant and animal species, and the recreational opportunities that are so important to local people that choose to live close to the Boone. Furthermore, the United States Forest Service has repeatedly proven itself to be either unable or unwilling to identify secondary old-growth and create appropriate management prescriptions for this rare and globally important forest type. Those of us that value Kentucky's forested public lands expect management that promotes and expands biodiversity, especially in mixed mesopyhtic forest type areas. Instead, we consistently witness destruction in the form of ill-conceived, disingenuously named management projects. The landslides caused by recent logging in the Boone on lands of similar slope and aspect represent a failure of USFS forest to manage public lands for either the good of the public or the biotic community. These projects cannot accurately be described as management in any context.

I urge you to use the large number of comments opposing the project to form an alternative plan that incorporates citizen input from those who care most deeply about this land.