Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/6/2022 1:26:24 AM
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Title:
Comments: To the Administration of the National Forest Service:

I strongly object to the Jellico Vegetation Project (#63037), which calls for logging 10,000 acres of forest and clear-cutting a large percentage of the identified land. I object to clear-cutting in general because it destroys old-growth forests, and replanted forests never achieve the same baseline of health in the future. In the case of this project, I have the following objections:
1. It will increase landslide risks in an area already prone to this problem. Residences in the area are in position to be affected by the landslides. Trees anchor soil, and the project will destroy an enormous system of roots that provide stabilization.
2. It will escalate soil erosion, contributing to the loss of valuable nutrients.
3. Trees in this area have been shown to meet Old Growth criteria, despite being classified as such. Old growth forests are not replaceable in several lifetimes.
4. The influx of invasive species following clear-cutting will likely generate the extensive use of pesticides. We have already polluted our land and water with pesticides and pesticide run-off, and we should not be adding more pollutants to an already taxed system. In addition, pesticides harm insects, birds, and other living creatures in the eco-system. Experience has shown that these small creatures often contribute to human well-being in ways that we do not yet understand.
5. Multiple species living in the area will be at risk with this aggressive approach to tree removal.
6. The proceeds from the logging will not be sufficient to offset the damage done to the forest, the land, and the people who reside in the area.
7. The loss of a forest is a loss for all of us. Cutting these trees will result in elimination of a resource, as well as the loss of carbon capture capacity and the release of a huge quantity of GHG emissions. Surely the Forest Service is aware that we are courting disaster with our global temperature increases rapidly threatening to surpass 1.5 degrees centigrade. We should be doing everything in our power at this time to avoid any further increases in GHG emissions whatsoever.

Please consider these points and cancel the Jellico Vegetation Management Plan.

Respectfully,

Judith Humble
Concerned Citizen