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Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose the Jellico Vegetation Management Project as it is currently proposed. True old-growth forests are rare in our region. They have existed for thousands of years, and will take thousands of years to grow back again to their current state.

Two-aged shelterwood and other strategies in the vegetation management plan will increase erosion. We know that Kentucky's climate is experiencing more frequent and heavier storms. In the "Prepare Louisville" climate change report, it's stated that Kentucky will experience large, forceful storms 2-3x more frequently, causing what are known as "100-year floods" every 20-30 years. Maintaining our old-growth vegetation helps Kentucky's beautiful natural landscapes survive these flooding events, whereas this vegetation management plan would cause further erosion and even landslides.

Kentucky's forests are a critical carbon sink, a natural form of "carbon capture" that we cannot afford to lose. These rare natural assets need to be properly valued and kept intact.