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Comments: I recreate in this forest regularly and do not support this project. Resource extraction has already had a heavy toll on the forest. Nearly 2,700 acres were logged in the 1980s and 1990s. In 2011 the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service leased over 3,800 acres for oil and gas development. And legacy impacts from coal mining, along with significant problems with invasive plant species, add to the challenges of protecting and restoring this unique area.

My concerns:

- Landslides: this area has steep slopes, unstable soil, and endangered species living in streams, just like the Redbird district where others have documented numerous landslides due to the Forest Service's logging.
- Old growth: the area the Forest Service is looking to potentially log includes nearly 270 acres of forest that could qualify as secondary old-growth (over 120 years old). None of this older forest is protected in the area's "Designated Old Growth" area despite meeting tree size and age requirements. Old growth forests should not be logged; there are too few and they have tremendous recreational and ecological value.
- Recreational opportunity: Jellico contains over 19,000 acres of the Daniel Boone National Forest without a single hiking trail. With the popularity of hiking skyrocketing, there is great opportunity to provide access in Jellico. Logging will be an opportunity cost to recreational value.
- Invasive species: the Forest Service admits there are a lot of invasive plants on forest logging roads. Some areas of these mountains that were previously logged are full of invasive tree of heaven. Further opening the tree canopy with logging will only worsen the growth of these species, costing the public more money when herbicides are used to try to remove them.

Sincerely,

Sarah Mincey, PhD

Environmental Scientist