Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/25/2023 8:56:03 PM First name: Erin Last name: Golsen Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my concern and dismay over current plans to log mature trees in the Daniel Boone National Forest. All you have to do is turn on the news to see the devastating impact of climate change on our world: deadly heat waves, drought, flooding, fires and unpredictable extreme weather. We should be planting more trees, extending the forest, not cutting down mature trees. That is just madness. If you want to create young forest for additional habitat, let's identify additional land that could be added to the forest and plant those new trees there. I live in Lexington now, but I am from eastern Kentucky and the Daniel Boone National Forest is a legacy for my children and grand-children. Please do not destroy it. It is literally impossible to replace a mature forest-no money in the world can bring it back once it's been cut down, and the value it has for our world as an essential carbon sink is equally priceless. I recently had the good fortune to visit Ireland, a beautiful green place that reminded me of Kentucky-except there are virtually no trees. When I asked the tour guide, I was told the British had cut them all down to make ships. Please do not sell out Kentucky's heritage. You are not a colonizing power meant to exploit the natural resources of the land you oversee. You are Kentuckians too. Be the stewards we need in this moment of crisis.