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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: U.S. Forest Service

From: Drew Fracher

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Harrodsburg, KY. 40330

859-366-5093

Re: Ruffed Grouse Habitat Enhancement project in the Daniel Boone National Forest along the Sheltolee Trace National Recreation Trail

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Dear Folks,

I write to object to the proposed "Ruffed Grouse Habitat Enhancement project in the Daniel Boone National Forest. There are a myriad of reasons to oppose this project, not the least of which is that you are proposing logging a total of 5000 acres of the people's forest in order to "enhance" habitat for a single species which has been on the decline in our state for several decades now due, in large part, to the rise of West Nile virus and the proliferation of predator species such as coyotes. There are MANY acres of young forest habitat in the state already; a result of many years of free wheeling logging done in the name of conservation. Let's agree that this is really a give away to logging companies and has nothing to do with habitat.

The other red flag here is your plan to combine a "categorical exclusion" with "condition based management" which will allow unfettered logging in the 5000 acres without environmental assessments or other stopgaps and checkpoints. Your proposal will allow logging totals to be assigned AFTER the measure has passed muster, essentially allowing the logging companies to do anything they want to with the land, unchecked, unfettered and allowing for no recourse on behalf of the forest. This plan is in direct opposition to the normal rules of citizen input and I protest on behalf of the eco system that will suffer as you "enhance" habitat for the grouse.

The truth of the matter is that this proposal is a cynical coverup for the oak barrel/bourbon industry here in KY. Let's call a gaslight a gaslight folks. Forgive my tone, but I am so very tired of being shut out of decisions that affect the NATIONAL FOREST that belongs to me and my fellow citizens of KY, not to the loggers and lumber industry. Sadly, this is yet another example of said shut outs and from my perspective, it ain't fair.

Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this matter. The forest is in danger, please do your real duty and protect it.

Yours very truly,

Drew Fracher