Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/28/2024 6:13:57 PM First name: CHARLES Last name: MCDOWELL Organization: Title:

Comments: I have been an avid hiker and camper most of my life. There is no greater thrill than to hike through a section of forest mostly untouched. There are so very few of these places left. With the continued stress placed on forests by climate change, invasive species, exotic diseases, mining, logging, et al, wouldn't be prudent to save whatever we can? I have been watching what is happening in West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky with the mining industry decimating large swaths of land that is visible from satellite imagery. This land will never be the same again. It is disgusting what we are doing to our forests. I beg our government to set aside more and more tracts of land for future generations before it's too late!