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Comments: Thank you for soliciting public comments regarding your forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement concerning your managing our old growth forest system. I will reserve my specific comments until I review the EIS, but I am generally writing in opposition to the US forest service's destructive plans, like allowing clearcut logging of nearly 4,000 acres of the Redbird District of the Daniel Boone National Forest in Clay and Leslie Counties, Kentucky. What possible benefit could be derived from creating such ecological disasters in our national forests?

I am 72 years old and after spending my life working to promulgating and then enforcing NEPA regulations, am bewildered that your agency still ignores the facts when developing its plans like the one mentioned above. It is a professional forestry myth that natural old growth forests must be "managed" by mankind's devastating activities. The archaic practice of clearcutting is certainly not "management", as its wanton ecosystem destructiveness is only exceeded by its lack of sustainability. Of course, paramount in this is our penchant to destroy ourselves by continuing to burn fossil fuels that heat up our planet, and if we don't stop this, everything else is moot.

The truth is that the sustainability of forests' genetic resources is best left to nature rather than our clumsy attempts at active forest management. Nature can find its own way if people stop obstructing. Old growth forests have a high degree of naturalness, unaltered by man. Burgeoning human populations have been the problem, treating the forest as a free commodity.

The world's ecosystems were formed long before man arrived and they have a proven ability to adapt, so a hands-off approach is reasonable. Climate change demands it! I would like to see these basic principles incorporated into your approach.