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Comments: Re: Jellico Vegetation Management Project #63037

After reading a very lopsided and alarmist column in the local newspaper, I feel compelled to share my thoughts on this project.

1. These areas have already been clear-cut several times over and the forest has returned naturally. I think that it's short sighted to fail to manage the forest by harvesting this timber.

2. Wildlife thrives in New-growth forest. That's a plain and simple fact that one only has to spend some time in the woods to verify.

3. When this land was entrusted to the Forest Service, you took on the responsibility to manage it wisely. Wisdom dictates that you follow established and proven management practices without being swayed by the many voices of the uninformed.

4. Logging is now regulated by erosion aware regulations and the short term negative impacts that happened 100 years ago have been mitigated.

5. The setting aside of these tracts of land has brought many tangible and intangible benefits but it also created economic deserts that have hindered generations that live nearby. You have an opportunity to help the economy and the wildlife in a real and tangible way.