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Comments: Today I am expressing a concern of mine and many who value the few wild places still found in Kentucky. I am speaking of the Forest Service Plan to allow timber harvesting in the Jellico Region of the Daniel Boone National Forest. This plan commits this area to harvesting over a 40 year period. This time span completely ignores a mandate to periodically review the entire Daniel Boone National Forest Management Plan every 10 to 15 years. No one can predict the health or needs of DBNF 40 years in advance. This is just bad management and an irresponsible decision.

I am also concerned about bird, bat and fish species that will be affected. The draft Environmental Assessment downplays the effect that removing so many trees will have on neighboring native species as well as agriculturally important trees. It has been documented that when trees are cut in this manner, invasive species come in and destroy the native landscape. No one has closely monitored or sought to mitigate these invasives in previously cut sections. The timber company wants the trees and then wants to move on. Kentucky citizens are left with a degraded landscape that will never be the same. I repeat: Never!

I am distraught that the Forest Service uses timber quotas as a criterion for staff performance. How overly simplistic can one be? Cut the trees and lots of them so our staff can be rewarded. Where is the balance between timber profits and the health of the forest? Where is the obligation to manage in a thoughtful and environmentally conscious manner?

I implore you to consider Alternative 1 while protecting the old growth areas within the Jellico region.