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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support the Jellico vegetation management project.

I support efforts to improve the diversity of forest cover in the Daniel Boone National Forest. The Jellico Vegetation Management Project is needed to improve forest conditions for wildlife. This project is designed to create young forest habitat in the 17,000-acre project area, moving the DBNF closer to the goal set in the forest management plan. I support it.

The Jellico project area is transitioning to a mature closed canopy that already dominates over 70% of the forest. The proposed treatments will promote heterogeneity on a large scale, thus enhancing overall forest health and benefits to elk and other wildlife.

The proposed treatments will promote understory diversity and facilitate forest conditions that will improve habitat for elk and ruffed grouse. Ongoing declines in ruffed grouse over the last decade in Kentucky necessitate increased efforts to promote early seral forest conditions within the forest.

Timber harvest and intermediate vegetation treatments to set back succession within mixed-hardwood forests are critical to increase forage availability and quality for elk and white-tailed deer, especially during summer. The proposed noncommercial treatments will significantly promote regeneration and recruitment of oak species, enhancing the long-term quality of forest stand products while improving habitat for hard mast-dependent wildlife. Creating patches of timber treatments across the project area will support a mosaic of habitat conditions of varying successional stages and structural completeness, which will likely be most beneficial to elk.

The project will improve forest diversity and wildlife habitat while creating jobs. Please move forward with the jellico vegetation management project.

Kyle Brockman