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Comments: Forest clearcutting and timber volume mandates are irresponsible, potentially damaging, and definitely counter to ecological conservation and species preservation efforts. It is well understood that forests require some management, but clearcutting is not the answer.

In the same vein, committing to a 40-year plan represents an irresponsible overreach by the forest service, and neglects the unpredictable consequences of climate change on local weather and ecology. Rather than a large-scale plan serving the interests of commercial timber, we need a near-term, targeted approach that addresses specific objectives.

I would encourage the forest service to reconsider its plan, to redraft a plan with a more limited scope and shorter timeline, and which addresses specific forest management concerns, rather than decimating one of Kentucky's ecological treasures by surrendering it via timber volume mandates to an industry unconcerned with the beauty and ecological diversity of our state.