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Comments: Re: Jellico Vegetation Management EA

As part of the NEPA process, it's essential to highlight my opposition to the Forest Service's indiscriminate cutting of older forests driven by volume-based timber targets. Older forests are vital for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and habitat preservation.

It's concerning that the Forest Service is placing the timber volume mandate above other critical forest needs like recreation, forest health, and water quality. By prioritizing timber targets, the agency risks undermining the overall well-being of our forests and the communities that rely on them.

Linking timber targets to performance reviews of Forest Service staff further exacerbates extraction from public land, potentially incentivizing actions that prioritize short-term gains over long-term sustainability. It's crucial for decision-makers to recognize the multifaceted importance of our forests and ensure that management practices align with broader conservation goals outlined in President Biden's Executive Order aimed at preserving mature and old-growth forests.