

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/23/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Jen

Last name: Oberlin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: A 40-year logging proposal is absurd. Making legally binding, site-specific decisions 40 years in advance is grossly irresponsible, especially considering the entire Daniel Boone National Forest Management Plan is supposed to be revised every 10 to 15 years. Imagine if we were currently logging in 2024 based on a logging project that was approved in 1987, based on a Forest Management Plan that was implemented in 1967? This is bad management! The Draft EA downplays the extent to which tree of heaven is rampant in the Jellicos, with large infestations (from places that the Forest Service logged in the 1990s) that risk getting worse with logging. To make matters worse, tree of heaven can cause populations of spotted lanternfly to increase, impacting neighboring native species as well as agriculturally important trees. The Forest Service is proposing regeneration cuts (heavy logging like clearcuts and shelterwood) is especially concerning given the important role mature and old forests play in mitigating climate change (as indicated in Biden's Executive Order to conserve mature and old-growth forests).