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Comments: Response to Us Forest service's plan to log Daniel Boone National Forest-5-23-24

I am writing to comment on your adjusted proposal for logging the Daniel Boone National Forest in the Jellico area. Your proposal has made very little change to the original November 2022 proposal. As I stated in the last comment period I object to such a massive plan(10,000 acres) over such a long time period(40year) as well as the types of logging proposed especially the clear cutting. While your plan seems to make sense to you on paper I don't think you really comprehend the actual far-reaching, devastating consequences it would have on the surrounding community as well as the forests themselves. We the people live in very close proximity to the proposed area of logging. Most of us live below those rugged mountains. This means we will be the ones suffering through mud slides, landslides, our creeks and wet branches being muddied and filled with run-off, disturbing of peace and quiet, destruction of beautiful mountain views, destruction of our roads. In addition for me personally, I grow organic vegetables to sell at farmers markets, in a field at the base of the mountains and along Jellico Creek. This field sometimes floods. The very real possibility of herbicide contamination on my crops either through drift or run off would destroy my livelihood. You spoke of numerous applications over a huge portion of the proposed logging area. I don't want my crops, my health or our water contaminated by these chemicals. I also use Jellico Creek to water my crops which would be impossible to do if it is muddy or contaminated.

It astounds me when you speak of the goal of your plan being: "habitat diversity; specifically, diversity of conditions in the form of varying forest communities, structures and ages. The proposed action is designed to generate such diversity through human disturbance in the form of vegetation manipulation." "The desired condition is a forest with a vast array of habitat conditions that support the maximum diversity of flora and fauna, while meeting the current and future needs of people." In my eyes this very plan would actually DESTROY habitat, flora, fauna, waterways, our roads, our peace and quiet and our gorgeous views of the mountains. It has also been my observation that what you guys think you need to create happens naturally on its own when MINIMALLY managed.

In my lifetime I have not seen Forest Service management techniques turn out well. I live at the base of a 265 acre forested mountain on Jellico Creek. I am surrounded by Daniel Boone National Forest. Most of my views are of DBNF. In the early 1990's you had a tract of land near Wolf Knob clear-cut. It's still not in great shape this many years later. For generations people have logged their steep, rugged mountain properties with horses or mules which is what my parents did on this property. This did minimal damage and there were no mud/land-slides or muddied waters. They also select cut only the largest timbers 14" or larger. This did not alter the canopy so much and there were no invasive species and no need for use of herbicides. The flora and fauna was very minimally disturbed. As younger trees grew logging could happen again in 30 or 40 years. It's when the Forest Service and others started clearcutting that the infestation of invasive species began.

You also presented Alternative 1 which has a greatly reduced acreage of logging-around 3,000 acres with a timeline of 4-6 years and also reduces the clearcutting to around 1,000 acres. This is a much more acceptable plan rather than the prior massive plan. I however totally object to cutting any old growth areas as these maintain a delicate eco-balance for endangered species of flowers, medicinal herbs and many other flora, fauna, reptiles and amphibians. I also want to encourage you to consider carefully the areas to be logged and how the terrain will impact the after effects mentioned above. I discourage any clearcutting as the only solution you have for invasive species is the use of toxic herbicides which is totally unacceptable for reasons outlined above. To sum it all up I do not want to lose the peace and quiet of my rural mountain home. I do not want to lose my beautiful mountain views. I do not want herbicide contamination in the land, air or water. I do not want our waterways ruined with mud and silt. I want my children, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren and onward to be able to enjoy

these gorgeous mountains. Remember the Forest Service was created to protect and preserve our National Forests. Please do that.