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Comments: I oppose the Jellico Vegetation Management EA proposed logging project. The project area includes a substantial portion of the designated critical habitat for many Federally Endangered Species including, warblers, darter, dace, & several types of protected bats which rely on the old growth forests.

Forest wide Objective 1.1.B in the Forest Plan directs the Forest Service to "Create and maintain at least one approximately 7,400-acre area of cerulean warbler habitat in the Licking River Management Area, Upper Kentucky River Management Area, and the Jellico Mountains of the Cumberland River Management Area." out also specifies how contiguous that must be & the intended logging will not comply. In addition, the cerulean warblers need the grapevine which the DNFS is planning to use herbicides on.

In addition, such logging increases risk of landslides in a very landslide-prone area which impacts streams & aquatic life. The Jellico project area represent a critical headwaters area that directly affects many families and landowners in the immediate vicinity - and many more downstream. Concerns include endangering the Cumberland darter (*Etheostoma susanae*) as well as habitat for the federally threatened blackside dace (*Chrosomus cumberlandensis*). As their names imply, they are found only in high quality streams of Cumberland plateau.

Plus clearing old growth will further the quick spread of invasive species. The Forest Service has already proven from massive logging in the 80s & 90s that they fail to manage it wisely and fail to control invasive species that spread more quickly upon such massive logging. The FS needs to commit to a concerted effort to treat and control tree of heaven which also increases the invasive spotted lanternfly. This includes all areas, regardless of planned timber harvest or other management.

In addition, there are other environmental concerns & even recreational concerns. However, It is clear that the DBNF is operating under an accelerated timber program with harvest volume quotas tied directly to job performance reviews which skews the ability of the agency to formulate, analyze, and modify any timber harvest proposal for the Jellico project area in a manner that responds to community or environmental concerns.

There are far too many risks to federally endangered species to proceed with this proposed plan to log the Jellico area. And quite clearly a financial conflict of interest by the decision makers. Please do not do it! Protect the old growth forest!