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First name: Dian

Last name: Shelley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live in this area and although I'm not a life time resident, my husband has family members that are and as such we have lots of knowledge from them about this area and the effects that logging and coal mining has had on the landscape. I believe anyone that has experienced evasive land altering projects on their property should be considered experts, because they've lived with the results. We ourselves have dealt with the effects fracking has caused on our property because we were unable to stop the project due to non ownership of mineral rights.

I believe in projects that further the progress of a community for the betterment of the residents that reside in that community which is why I can not support either the Proposed Action or Alternative 1. I see no benefit to the community and especially those that will be directly impacted.

What happens when the tree root systems and understory vegetation are destroyed? It damages the land's ability to absorb water and retain it's soil, and we know that Jellico Mountain is extremely steep. This will most likely cause soil erosion and without rich topsoil the ground is depleted of the nutrients that worms, fungi, and bacteria need to foster a healthy new forest. Which leads me to my next point...herbicides! The use of herbicides can never be used in the same sentence with "healthy". The effects of chemicals alone would be devastating to wildlife and plant life. I could go on about the reversal of carbon sinks...

In closing I would like to ask why now and why Jellico? I pray it is not for the beautiful White Oaks used for the purposes to make Bourbon barrels! I believe that as one of the millions of owners of the National Parks that my voice matters. My vote is for Alternative 2, nothing to be done...no logging!