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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to the USFS Jellico Vegetation Management Project. The original proposal was, in short, bizarre and unimaginable. I was raised on the money from logging. My stepfather was a logger and his family had a logging business. So, obviously, I understand how important logging is. My husband and I also depended on this to feed our own family because this was his source of income in the earlier years of our marriage. I understand that this project would not even bring jobs to our area loggers because it is already stated that a commercial company could get the job. While I understand the importance of logging, I also understand there is such a thing as responsible logging. Our forest is overrun by autumn olive trees, tree of heaven and kudzu vine. All of which were "planted" to "regrow" what was taken. This was NOT responsible logging! Now our family farm has been taken over by these invasive species. I may not have been on the job, but by living in this area almost my entire life; it's obvious that these invasive species are the results of irresponsible post logging restoration (if you can even call it that.) There are species of birds that thrive in old-growth, hardwood forests. One being the cerulean warblers. Studies are ongoing and there is proof that these birds will not only migrate to, but will thrive in old growth forests. The conservation status is already "population decreasing" and we want to be their home. President Biden did make an executive order to conserve mature and old-growth forests on federal land.

Although the alternative 1 is a better option than the original proposal, it is still not an option for our forest. We do not want the herbicides in our water. Many households in our area still use wells as a water source. We have a pair of bald eagles that are in this area also. And we would love to see more of them. My daughter is 16 and this farm will be hers some day. If this logging project takes place she may not get to reap the benefits that it had for her.