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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a Kentuckian, I strongly oppose the logging project in the Jellico Mountains. It is absurd to even think about logging a National forest. The forest is for everyone and by cutting it down over a span of 40 years, no future generation will be able to experience it. It is quite concerning that the Forest Service is valuing timber targets over the health and well-being of the people of Kentucky. This old growth forest provides biodiversity, habitat preservation and recreation for the people of Kentucky. Clear-cutting and other logging practices have no place in this old growth forest and by allowing this to happen would be against the Executive Order to fight climate change set by President Biden. This project does not take the risk of landslides into account. These mountains are steep and I urge the Forest Service to conduct a thorough analysis of landslide risk that Kentucky Heartwood has raised. Not only would this project negatively impact the people of Kentucky, it would also severely impact animals that call this forest home. The cerulean warbler has made this forest its home and by destroying these mountains, one would destroy this bird's survival. These birds need to be protected, as well as numerous species of bats. I urge the Forest Service to protect endangered and threatened bats, such as the Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) and the Northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis), both of which are endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Tricolored bat (Perimyotis subflavus), lives in this area and is proposed for listing under the ESA. We need to protect their habitat to ensure we help their survival. This forest is so biologically diverse and is a true gem to Kentucky and to this country. By threatening it with logging, one is destroying something so important to all living creatures. We are all part of this world and we need to start taking better care of it. Let's start by reconsidering this irresponsible logging project of the Jellico Mountains and preserve this forest instead for us and future generations.