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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Jellico Vegetation Management EA

I would like to object to the Proposed Action Plan and the Alternative I Action Plan that have been proposed for the Jellico Mountain in the DBNF. Whether it is 10,000 acres of trees that are culled in 40 years, or it is 3,000 acres culled in 4-6 years, this amount of tree harvesting will likely lead to soil erosion, mudslides, and habitat loss. Soil erosion will lead to sediment delivery to nearby water sources and affect the water quality in the area. Habitat loss will affect the birds and animals that have been identified in the region by the Kentucky Heartwood group, some of which may be endemic to the area or endangered. I believe that the forest is worth preserving and that an alternate plan that focuses on the removal of exotics, and possibly the creation of hiking trails, and maybe campgrounds using local loggers would be a better way to preserve both the natural beauty of the forest and the birds and animals that live there. If either the Action Plan or Alternative I is selected, I would suggest that for each tree that is harvested, that three trees be planted. It has taken years for the forest to develop. It would be a tragedy to cut 3000 or 10000 acres without trying to replenish the plant life. This acreage of trees provides a reduction in Carbon levels. Additionally, herbicides should not be used, as they will lead to a big problem with erosion. Also, it sounds like the forest is being prepared to be used as a timber source. We don't want our forests destroyed.