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First name: Lans

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Lans Lay, I've been a resident of Jellico Creek Kentucky since 1970. I've watched as the beautiful mountains of our area was devastated by strip mining and later clearcutting. Though logging has been a constant practice, it was always carried out the using selective cutting, prior to the Federal Governments involvement in the early Eighties. Selective cutting gave the areas logged, the opportunity for young to mature and reseed the area. It also restricted soil erosion, from the elements, to a lesser scale. In my opinion, Selective Cutting is the only ethical way to log mountainous terrain.

My experience with: Clearcutting was carried out in Southeastern Kentucky and Tennessee during the Mid 80,s through the 1990's. Logging companies, selected by the Federal Forestry Department, came into the area, logged large blocks of timber, cutting all timber (no matter size), using that too small for board feet lumber as pulpwood. These areas suffered excessive erosion, and much of the 9-10 year-old regrowth canopy, grew off of stumps, only to fall/break during hard winds and erosion. Also, the large oaks and beach, that provided mast for the wild came, never returned in the regrowth. They were overtaken by faster growth trees such as Poplar, Pine, and Maple. The game animals used the clear cuts the first 3-4 years but after that they disappeared from the areas.

I've spoken with Federal Biologist that state clearcutting is the best way to log mountains. Allowing the dominant tree species to regrow the fastest. They suggest it's used often in the Midwest. The Midwest is home to more Evergreen (Douglas Fur, Pine, Spruce, etc.). This explains the dominant species theory, used by the Federal Forestry Department. Kentucky and Tennessee enjoy a wide array of oak, beech, walnut, and other mast producing trees.

In closing, as earlier stated, this area of Tennessee and Kentucky have been scared extensively by coal mining. This area is one of low socioeconomic standing, with many businesses and individuals depending on tourism and tourist passing through. We take pride in the beautiful trees during Spring, Summer, and Fall. The colors and growth beyond words. We love the area and want to preserve its' beauty, for our children and all that will take time to look. I'm a 63 year old native of the area, that will never see the clear cuts of the 80's-90's restored to the grander once known. Maybe my children will in their latter years. Any clearcut carried out in the near future will once again steal the grander, of the mountains to the extent that my grandchildren will never view their beauty again in their lifetimes. Why do the people living in an area, not have more say as to how its resources are to be used by the (their) government?