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Comments: Regarding the Jellico Vegetation Management EA, please consider the following:

This project is far too long in scope to be managed well. A forty year logging schedule is ecologically irresponsible as well as undemocratic for generations to come who will not have a say in how their forests are managed. This area is an ecological treasure and deserves to be treated as such.

Much of the Cumberland Plateau has been pillaged for minerals and timber, and the result is ugliness, ecological degradation, invasion of exotic species, and exhausted communities. Please do not continue this trend, especially in the name of job creation.

Older forests filter water, provide habitat, and serve as seed banks for the regeneration of surrounding landscape. To reduce the valuation of places like this to board feet is a drastically and dangerously shortsighted way to make decisions.

Land degraded by logging as proposed in this plan poses a threat to all: it is designing for the proliferation of invasive species and the concomitant risks of diseases such as Lyme, bartonella, rocky mountain spotted fever, and mosquito borne viruses; it is designing for landslides; it is designing for ugliness and less recreational value; it is designing for contaminated streams; it is designing for less bird and bat habitat.

Please design for what we all want: beauty, democratic land management, wildlife, recreation and a legacy of land care.