

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/24/2024 4:00:00 AM
First name: Katherine
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Re: Jellico Vegetation Management EA

As a citizen of the United States and a resident of Kentucky, I respectfully request that you accept Alternative Plan 1 for the management of this area. I understand that vegetation needs to be managed. Clear-cutting large amounts of forest is not management. It leaves the land open to significant erosion. Erosion can lead to flooding, and southeastern Kentucky is still recovering from recent floods.

I've been listening to "A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America" by Bill Bryson. He says that when European settlers were first moving into the forests, they thought it was an inexhaustible resource. Those old trees and the dense forest they saw are now gone. The trees proposed to be cut down in the Jellico area were just getting started when these explorers were going through. Old forest is not easily replaceable. It is a tangible connection to another time.

Bryson also educated me about the chestnut trees being destroyed by a fungus. It reminded me of the destruction of the emerald ash borer. Something natural can be introduced that destroys the much of the forest, yet even it usually takes out one species at a time. Fire takes out more, but should the forest service be comparable to a wildfire?

Alternative Plan 1 allows the forest service to harvest trees, but still leaves a lot of forest to be enjoyed and to reduce the risk of harm to the land and people.

-Katherine