Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/17/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Gregory Last name: Zahradnik Organization: Title: Comments: STOP CUTTING! Immediately stop cutting old-growth in the Daniel Boone National Forest. Any management in old-growth forests, including prescribed fire and understory management, should be the minimum necessary to support existing and future old-growth structure and function as appropriate for the community type. Eliminate exceptions in the plan that allow forest managers discretion to convert old-growth to young forests, or to otherwise degrade or diminish forests' old-growth condition. Recognize the importance of old-growth across all forest types, including disturbance-mediated forest communities like upland and fire-adapted oak forests and woodlands. Ensure that the inventory and identification of old-growth is scientifically sound. Make the process of identifying old-growth forests transparent, consistent, and open to public input. Involve researchers, ecologists, and other outside experts in the identification and inventory process. Require that mature forests be managed for future old-growth in a manner that ensures a variety of patch sizes, wide distribution, and good connectivity across the Daniel Boone National Forest, improving on the deficiencies in the current Forest Plan.

Develop a plan for a network of future old-growth forests through an open, participatory, and scientifically sound process.