Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/19/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Phyllis Last name: Fitzgerald Organization: Title: Comments: STOP CUTTING!

"Immediately stop cutting old-growth in the Daniel Boone National Forest."

## **Old-Growth Management**

"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**

"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."

### Importance of Old-Growth

"Recognize the importance of old-growth across all forest types, including disturbance-mediated forest communities like upland and

fire-adapted oak forests and woodlands."

### Identification and Inventory

"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."

#### Steward Mature Growth

"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."

# Old-Growth Network

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