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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please do not move forward with this deforestation project! It is a very valued and loved area by many locals who have lived in this area for many years. This will adversely impact those who live in this area and use this area recreationally to enjoy the beautiful forest and its hiking/relaxation spots.

In addition to this area being meaningful to so many locals in this area, the forest plan is outdated. In this area within the Daniel Boone National Forest, the Forest Plan was last revised in 2004 to include a mandate that a 5,784 acre area in the Stearns District be set aside for young forest and ruffed grouse habitat. However, Forest Plans are supposed to be revised every 15 years. Since this Forest Plan is so outdated, logging mature and old-growth forests to create early successional habitat is no longer in alignment with the National Old-Growth Amendment and requires revision with the latest science and data.

Secondly, there are limited and inadequately distributed areas prescribed for late successional and old-growth management. This project must include better distribution of these forest types to ensure species have access to them within their habitat range. The project should also include additional areas prescribed for late successional and old-growth management to ensure compliance with the National Old-Growth Amendment and strengthen protections for mature, current, and future old-growth. The Forest Service should ensure that this project does not result in the loss of potential old-growth or existing old-growth. Instead, stands within areas prescribed for logging that include potential or existing old-growth should be managed to retain a significant amount of the older overstory.

Thank you for your consideration and we hope to hear of an alternative plan in the near future.