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Organization:

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Comments: Assuming you have read the previous comments, many of them extremely well-researched, my repetition of those arguments would simply be redundant and a waste of your time. Therefore, I present my argument from a place of great personal stake and personal position, which I feel may have more of an affect on your potential actions. *I urge the reader to continue to the end of this letter for specific information on public actions I have taken*

To begin with, my family and I live within the bounds of this proposed project. We have done so for 23 years. We have been keenly aware of the recent Greenwood Project and its effects. Prior to that, we lived in eastern Pulaski County for 27 years, again, amidst 40 acres of forest and farm. We take stewardship of the land seriously and have raised our children to value stewardship as well. In fact, our eldest son is currently in post-graduate work in Environmental Science at Tennessee Tech and is a research assistant for waterway studies in Scotland. I'm sharing this so that you may assume a baseline understanding of not only the science behind the NFS projects, but also awareness of the great obstacles to forest maintenance the NFS faces. We have borne witness to the abandonment of projects due to lack of funding and lack of employees to carry out the entirety of certain proposals. We are surrounded on Keno Road, and on Highway 90 in McCreary County, by this reality.

It is incumbent upon you to maintain the dignity of your position by proceeding "by the book" with the Ruffed Grouse Proposal. As others have stated, this plan hasn't been revised since 2004, and must be updated scrupulously every 15 years. I urge you to take into account new data, which includes endangered, vulnerable, and threatened species, new climate change data, and the proximity of the human population in the Keno area. Surely, the recent erosion catastrophes in North Carolina must be considered as southeastern Kentucky boasts mountain terrain just as susceptible to flooding and destruction.

I vehemently oppose the timeline of this proposal and urge the NFS to update its plan, present a new plan for public comment, and provide ample time for thorough response.

In closing, I will extend the courtesy of notifying you that contacts in the Natural Resources Conservation Service have been made aware of our concerns with this proposal, as well as the Nature Conservancy Kentucky Chapter, and an investigative journalist ally with ProPublica.

Elizabeth Loiacono