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Comments: I am submitting a comment on this project to express my concern about the proposed project. As a plant ecologist I understand that the Forest Service develops plans with the intent of managing habitat for multiple species and timber harvest. In the particular instance the target species is one that is listed as have the status of "Least Concern" by the American Bird Conservancy. Partners in Flight estimates the global population at approximately 18 million, and The North American Breeding Bird Survey indicates that populations have held steady between 1966 and 2019. Though populations may be decreasing in some areas this should not be interpreted as an indication that there are not healthy populations within its geographic range. Furthermore, the plan used as the basis for this management project is outdated.

I urge the Forest Service to reconsider this project until the Forest Plan can be updated, the Kentucky Nature Preserves team can further assess the area for important rare plant species, and the areas that should be set aside as potential old growth.