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First name: Corlia
Last name: Logsdon
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I strongly object to Jellico Vegetation Management Project. The Daniel Boone National Forest is a fragile ecosystem as well as a national treasure. The proposed destruction would level 9,500 acres of forest in the Jellico Mountains in McCreary and Whitley counties, along the Kentucky-Tennessee border. These harvests would include large-scale clear-cuts over multiple decades, one of the most significant logging proposals in the forest's history. Such a significant destruction would likely lead to increased flooding and impact the climate in this fragile ecosystem. It would also eliminate important CO2 mitigation.

According to the Forest Service's Environmental Assessment, the project would include clearcutting, two-aged shelterwood harvests, deferment harvests, and thinning, including on steep slopes in headwater areas. Kentucky Heartwood points to independent geological analyses and landslide inventories showing the Jellico Mountains contain unstable terrain and a history of slope failures, concerns the group says are not sufficiently addressed in the agency's review.
Clearcutting in headwaters and steep terrain directly affects local communities, especially those already vulnerable to flooding and infrastructure damage. "The project area is highly prone to landslides," the organization explains. "These forests play a critical role in stabilizing soils and protecting the communities below from erosion, landslides, and flooding."

Please do not destroy this forest area when so many will be negatively affected by this action.