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First name: Theresa
Last name: Martin
Organization:
Title:
Comments: DEVASTATED AND DISMAYED

I am filing this Notice of Objection pursuant to Title 36 CFR Part 218, in regards to the Jellico Vegetation Management Project in the Stearns Ranger District of the Daniel Boon National Forest, where the responsible office is Kyle Edmonds, District Ranger.

COMPLETE DISREGARD OF THE COMMUNITY
I am angry beyond words at your complete disregard for the 900 public comments submitted by the OWNERS of our national forests that were against logging and clearcutting the Jellico Mountains for the next 40 years. These forests are OWNED by the PEOPLE of the United States of America and you are the caretakers of this land for us. How you could blatantly forget this and disregard your duty to us, to future generations, and to the forests themselves is beyond comprehension.

We have worked with you in good faith for 4 years where together, we crafted Alternative 1 which is a compromise solution where everyone wins, which you put on the table in the Environmental Assessment period issued in May of 2024. Alternative 1 calls for a 4-to-6-year time frame, 3,000 acres of logging and zero clearcutting. Instead, your "draft decision" is the original plan to log for 40 years on 10,000 acres of which 5,000 of that is effectively clear cut.

Not only is your "draft decision" the original plan and not Alternative 1, but in your decision, you gave this community NOTHING. I mean nothing. You did not pull off the logging list the location of the newly discovered State Champion Northern Red Oak (Compartment 6251, Stand 25). You did not pull off the logging list the 252-year-old trees above Emby Moses (Compartment 6267, Stand 2 and Stand 4). You gave us NOTHING. You listened to not a single word of what we said. In 900 comments, apparently, there was NOTHING you found of value.

Everyone told me "The government is going to do what the government is going to do." I told them they were wrong because I believed YOU, Kyle Edmonds and Tim Reed. I believed you when you said you were willing to work with us. I believed you were working with us in good faith and that you cared about this forest and that you cared about us.

I object entirely to your "draft decision" to quite literally destroy the Jellico Mountains for the next 40 years. I object to your plan to extract the natural resources of this mountain and leave all the costs on the shoulders of this community in the form of flooding, landslides, invasive species, endangered species damage, herbicide spraying, sediment in the water, noise, and truck pollution. I object to you shutting out the children of today who will have no say in what happens to THEIR mountains until they are in their 50's.

How can you in any realm of reality rationalize this decision? I don't know how you can sleep at night. I did my part. I did everything I could, and I did it well and in good faith. You have failed me and every citizen of the United States of America if you make this decision to clear cut these mountains for the next 40 years.

Theresa J. Martin
Resident of Whitely County
Citizen of the United States of America

Devastated Human Facing the Reality That Our Government Doesn't Care About Any of Us