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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Treating the community of the Jellico Mountains like their opinions do not matter is deeply concerning to me. The local community where this project is occurring has begged time and time again for this project to be reconsidered. The families and generational communities of this area have been IGNORED by this agency and I am so incredibly disappointed. Aside from the 40 year length of the project, which anyone with two brain cells can tell you that projects spanning this time frame does very little to adjust to the needs of the actual environment. The lack of compassion for the people that live here is so disheartening. I understand that y'all that work for the agency are just doing their jobs...I do not expect anything less...but what I cannot comprehend is the full disregard for the concerns that the people who live in this area that have verbally brought attention to the issues that could change their lives forever. The FS agency of staff DOES NOT LIVE HERE. How could you possibly give a hell for the fall out what this community will face when you clearcut their mountains? I know the FS is just doing their jobs...and y'all are bound by some freaky-ass rules that genuinely do not apply anymore. (I mean, be so forreal....y'all are working off a 20 year forest plan that was due for revision ages ago...we have better science. It is time y'all use it instead of hiding behind timber targets.)

Aside from being disgusted with the agency, I am so incredibly disappointed in the Stearns District leadership. I was lucky enough to attend the timber salvage meeting in London for the tornado damage last year in 2024. I learned so much. But what I really learned is that THIS AGENCY knows that this project is garbage. I know this to be true because the district ranger, Kyle Edmunds, gave very clear response to the tornado damage. He said to me "well...this is the most ethical way to make early successional habitat." Which proves to me that this agency and the entire FS team KNOWS what they are proposing with the project is wrong.

Disregarding the community input for this project and the clear need for Alternative 1 is abhorrent. I am so disgusted and embarrassed for this agency. I think the worst part is that y'all know this project is bad news....yet instead of speaking up or standing up to your superiors, we are watching the disintegration of old growth and mature forests be turned into seral habitat for no reason. Lest y'all forget the extensive clearcutting by the University of the Cumberland's that surrounds the proposed stands of this project. The reality is that one day.....y'all will have to answer for these decisions. I hope that you can sleep at night knowing what you have taken from this community. The people that live at the bottom of these clearcuts will never forget...and they will NEVER forgive you.