Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/10/2026 2:26:16 AM
First name: Cortney
Last name: Moses
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am filing this Notice of Objection pursuant to Title 36 CFR Part 218 regarding the Jellico Vegetation Management Project in the Stearns Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The responsible official for this project is District Ranger Kyle Edmonds.

I was deeply disappointed to learn of the January 21, 2026 decision to move forward with the original plan to log approximately 10,000 acres over the next 40 years. The U.S. Forest Service's Benefits to the People report outlines the relationship between the Forest Service and the communities it serves. The report states: "National forests and grasslands provide public benefits (also known as ecosystem services) such as timber, clean air and water, forage, and energy production. National Forest System lands also provide recreation and cultural heritage opportunities that play an important role in how communities come together for physical and mental health, family, and connection to the land."
https://www.fs.usda.gov/emc/economics/documents/at-a-glance/benefits-to-people/nfs/BTP-NationalForestSystem.pdf

In my previous comments, I explained the importance these forests hold for my family's cultural heritage and our connection to the land. I also expressed concern that the original plan could have significant negative impacts on the well-being of my family and community. Moving forward with this plan appears inconsistent with the benefits of national forests outlined by the Forest Service itself, and I believe this decision fails to adequately consider the concerns previously submitted.
Over the past four years, members of the community have worked with the U.S. Forest Service in good faith to develop a compromise that serves both the forest and the people who live here. Alternative 1 reflects that compromise and has strong community support. This collaborative process helped build trust in the Forest Service among many local residents who historically have been skeptical of federal management of regional resources. Ignoring this work risks undermining that trust and damaging the relationships the Forest Service has worked to build.
My family and I remain deeply concerned about several impacts of the proposed project, including sediment runoff into Jellico Creek, increased noise pollution, the spread of invasive species-particularly tree-of-heaven, which attracts the spotted lanternfly, reduced carbon sequestration, increased logging truck traffic along Jellico Creek Road, and the potential loss of biodiversity and mature forest habitat.

Recently, my 8-year-old son told me he wanted to invent something that would make trees grow faster. When I asked him why, he said, "That way they could grow trees and not have to cut down the forest. I want the forest to still be here when I get older."
Please reconsider Alternative 1. This forest is not just a resource it is our home, our heritage, and an important part of our community's well-being.