

TOWN MEETING – May 9, 2024

US Forest Service Jellico Mountains Logging

Jellico Mountain Logging Alternatives

1. **Proposed Action:** Almost 10,000 acres logged over the next 40 years (until 2064). Of the 10,000 acres, 5,000 acres are a type of clearcut.
 - a. 931 acres outright clearcut
 - b. 1,805 acres two-aged shelterwood “similar to a clearcut,” removing 85-90% of trees, leaving 10-15% of larger trees per acre
 - c. 2,434 acres deferment harvest, two stage clearcut with the second cut removing remaining trees.
 - d. 4,367 commercial thinning, which is like selective logging.
2. **Alternative 1:** About 3,000 acres logged over the next 4-6 years (until 2030). Two of the 3 clearcut methods have been removed.
 - a. 1,122 acres two-aged shelterwood also called “similar to a clearcut,” removing 85-90% of trees, leaving 10-15% of larger trees per acre
 - b. 1,811 acres commercial thinning, which is like selective logging.
3. **Alternative 2:** No Action, nothing is logged.

YOUR PAST COMMENTS are THE reason the Forest Service created Alternative 1.

The US Forest Service **listened to us** and **used our past comments to create Alternative 1.**

We are in a new comment period that is **OPEN UNTIL ***FRIDAY MAY 24*****

If we **ALL** don't comment again, the Forest Service will likely pick the “Proposed Action.”

Ways to Submit Comments

1. On the US Forest Service website: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=63037>
2. Write comments on form, mail to Tim Reed, District Manager, 3320 Hwy 27 North, Whitley City, KY 42653
3. Call 606-376-5323 or stop by Stearns Ranger District, 3320 Hwy 27 North, Whitley City, KY 42653

Tips for Submitting Comments

1. **Be as Specific as You Can.** Say where about you live and how logging will directly affect you and your family. Comment on erosion, flooding, stream water quality, herbicide use, invasive species, landslides, noise from trucks, impact on roads, etc. If you want logging, say how you will benefit from loggers visiting your business or how you hope to be one of the loggers who will get the work. Explain how this benefits you and your family.
2. **Advocate for One of the Options.** If you have a preference, say which alternative you prefer (Proposed Action, Alternative 1, or Alternative 2, see above for descriptions) and why you prefer that one.
3. **Ask For Changes.** Describe changes you want to the alternative you prefer, such as less two-aged shelterwood or fewer acres logged per year. Ask them not to log a certain tract of land because it's too steep and near your home. Ask for reduced use of herbicides on specific areas. Ask for what you want and explain why.
4. **Provide Suggestions:** Be helpful, offer new ideas or different ways of doing things.
5. **Be respectful.**
6. **Say it in your own words.** Your viewpoint and your voice matters. This is your community, and the National Forest is yours as much as it's anyone else's.

Specific comments are more effective.

Useful Example #1

“Overall, the Proposed Action is no better and is basically the same as your November 2022 original proposal. For the same reasons I already submitted, I do not support the Proposed Action. I would like to see Alternative 1 with improvements. Do not double the rate of logging per year as you have proposed. Designate more stands as old growth for future generations.”

Then, explain in your own words as specifically as you can why you think this. Say where you live, how your family, business, and community will be affected. If there is a specific tract of land planned to be logged, and you know it’s steep, say that. All feedback is helpful.

Useful Example #2

“Overall, the Proposed Action is no better and is basically the same as your November 2022 original proposal. For the same reasons I already submitted, I do not support the Proposed Action. Also, I do not support Alternative 1. While I appreciate that you removed 2 of the 3 forms of clearcutting, you are proposing to log at double the rate versus the Proposed Action. Therefore, I support Alternative 2, which is that you log nothing.”

Then, explain in your own words as specifically as you can why you think this. Say where you live, how your family, business, and community will be affected. If there is a specific tract of land planned to be logged, and you know it’s steep, say that. All feedback is helpful.

Not Useful

“I do not support this project at all.”

“I vote for Alternative 1.”

“Clearcutting is ugly.”

“I do not like the government, and I want you to go away.”

To Object In Future Project Phases

To be able to object in future project phases, be sure your comments are **specific** and include your name and address. You can submit comments anonymously, but you must include your name and address to be able to object in future project phases.

*****FRIDAY, MAY 24 is the deadline for submitting comments*****

Resources

Submit Comments on the US Forest Service Website

<https://www.cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=63037>

Logging Information Website

<https://www.jmlogging.com>

Community Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/jmlogging>

Kentucky Heartwood

www.kyheartwood.org