

# Town Meeting

# Jellico Mountains Logging

Merry Jeffries Community Center  
Williamsburg, Kentucky

May 9, 2024  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

GET THIS PRESENTATION AT:

[jmlogging.com/may9](https://jmlogging.com/may9)

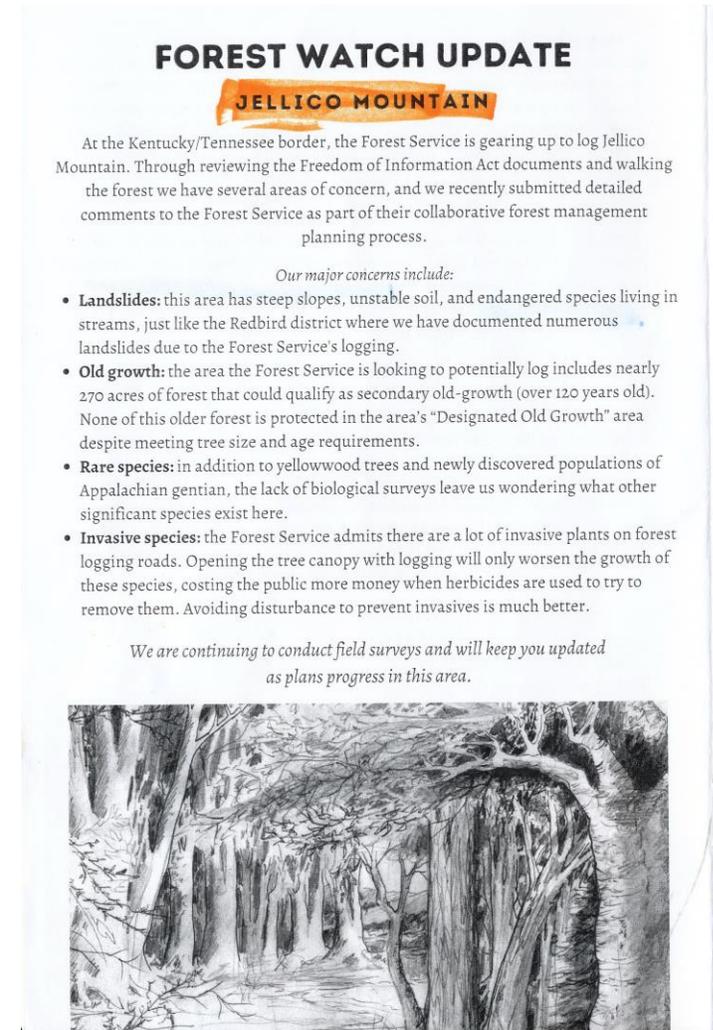
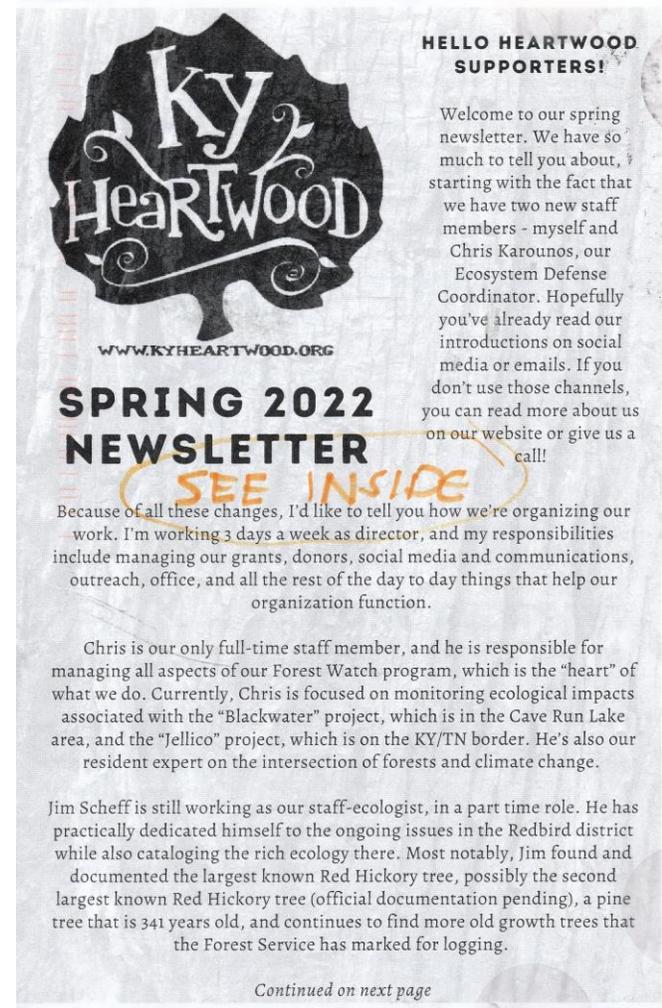
[www.facebook.com/groups/jmlogging](https://www.facebook.com/groups/jmlogging)

# Agenda

- 6:00 – Community Blessing
  - Gigi Lay – Community Member
- **6:00 to 6:10 – Welcome and Why We Are Here**
  - **Theresa Martin – Community Member**
- 6:10 to 6:20 – Jellico Mountains Logging Project Summary
  - Timm Martin – Community Member
- 6:20 to 6:30 – Kentucky Heartwood
  - Lauren Kallmeyer – Director
- 6:30 to 7:30 – Public Comments and Suggestions
  - 2 Minutes Per Community Member Who Wants to Speak
  - Ally Lynch – Community Member Timekeeper

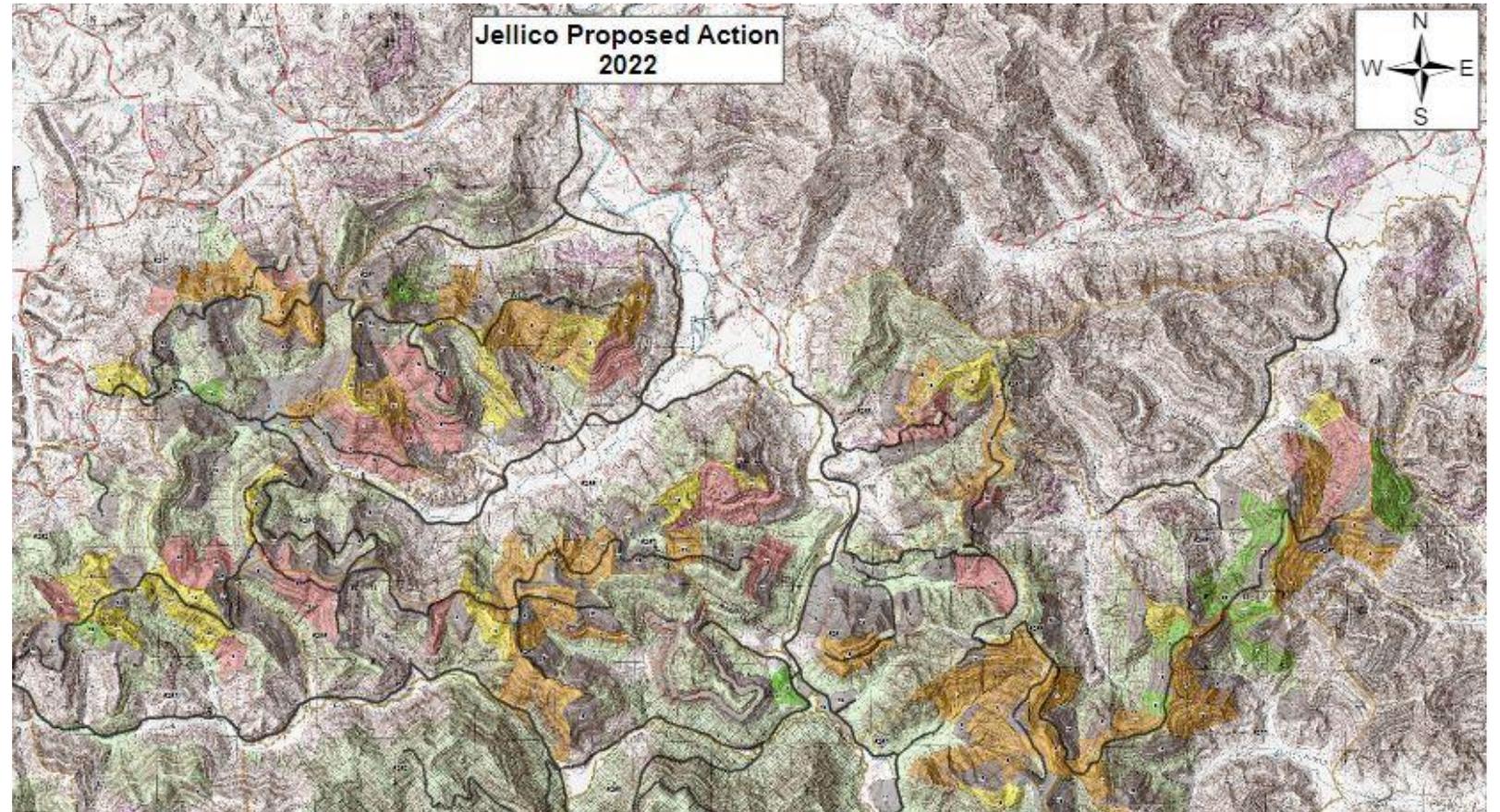
# Started with a Newsletter

- We found out about the Jellico Mountains logging project from a Kentucky Heartwood newsletter in May 2022
- None of our neighbors had heard about this 40-year, 10,000-acre project in their backyard



# October 2022 – Original Proposal

- 40 years to 2064
- About 10,000 acres of logging
- About 5,000 acres 3 types of clearcut



# November 2022 – Town Meeting – 100 people



# December 2022

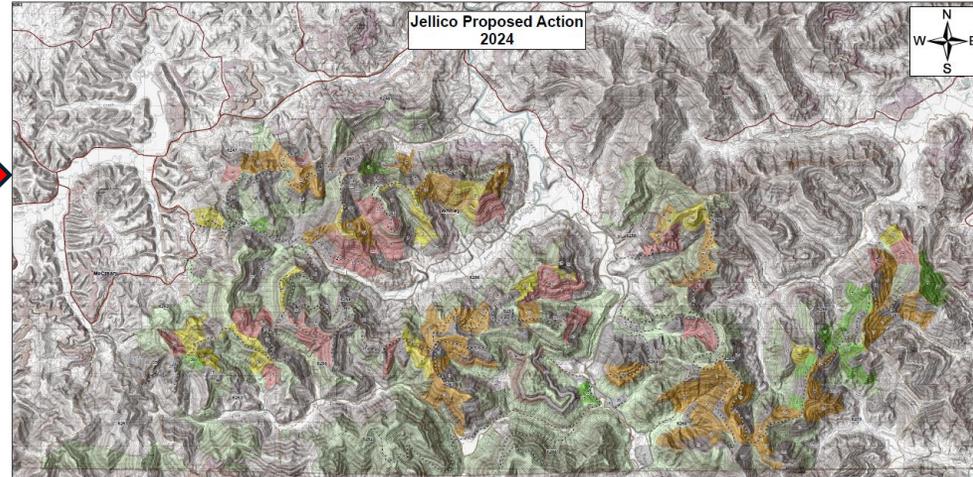
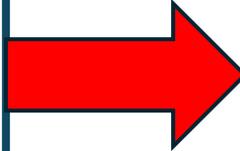
## 324 Official Comments

# April 2024 – 3 Options

## Proposed Action

(Similar to 2022)

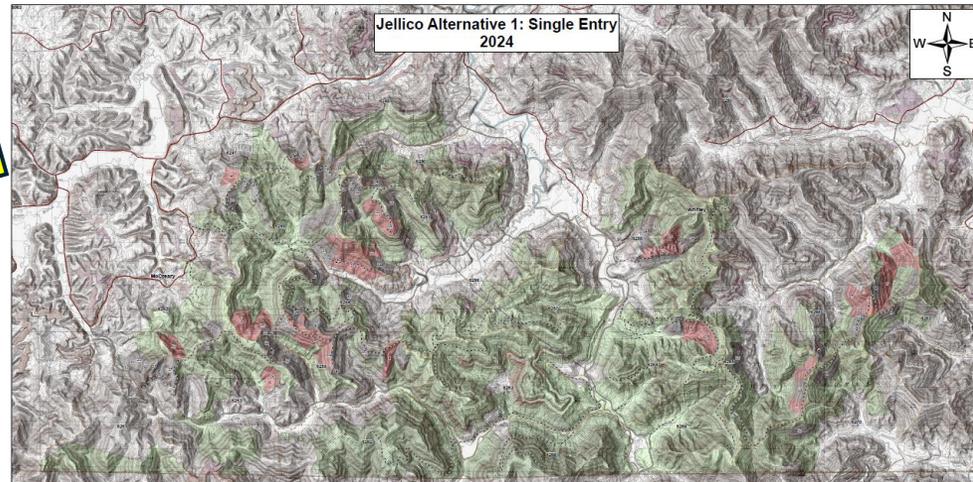
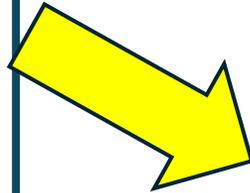
~10,000 acres total logging  
~5,000 acres 3 types clearcut  
40 year project



## Alternative 1

(Listened to Us)

~3,000 acres total logging  
Removed 2 types of clearcut  
4-6 year project



## Alternative 2

Do nothing  
No logging

# April 2024 – Comments Answered

- Forest Service responded to many of our comments
- Look for this PDF in their project docs:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63037>

 Draft EA\_30 Day Comment Period

 EA References

 [USDA2023b\\_CommentResponseJ](#)

7	Supper	Karen		Email	Where does the money go from the sale of all these trees???	Generally, for traditional Forest Service timber sales, the money is collected by the Forest Service then redistributed in compliance with the Knutson-Vandenberg Act (KV) and generally used for service work within the timber sale area boundary. For Forest Service stewardship timber sales the money is put into the stewardship agreement to complete other planned activities, primarily service work. Under both avenues, the majority of the money returns to the Ranger District to pay for activities that would otherwise be paid for directly from appropriated dollars. In short, the money from timber sales goes primarily towards silvicultural service work thereby saving taxpayer money for other activities. For more information, view National Forest statement of receipts for KV amounts for non-commercial work and Secure Rural Schools payments for the estimated distribution of money ( <a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools/payments">https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/secure-rural-schools/payments</a> ). Per FSM2400 Chapter 2430 Commercial Timber Sale: 2431.4 - Bidding the Forest Service must 1. Ensure open and fair competition; 2. Ensure that the Federal Government receives not less than fair market value for the public resource; 3. Take into consideration the economic stability of communities whose economic well-being depends upon National Forest System timber; and 4. Remain consistent with the objectives of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 and other Federal statutes.
8	Warner	Lori and Russ		Email	I am also VERY concerned by the use of herbicides. All the runoff containing the chemicals will end up in our pond and stream on our property. There is also the concern of it contamination to our well.	The preliminary scoping comment period is intended to gather comments before an Environmental Analysis has been conducted. Potential impacts from herbicides will be part of this analysis.
9	Hatland	Connie		Email	I do have a couple of questions like coal mining years ago they left the country side bald [a.] I am wondering if the forestry service intends on re-planting native trees and shrubs where they are going to log? [b.] I also would like to know is the purpose of the logging is it strictly financial and if so who is getting the money? [c.] Also how safe will the ground be in the future, with the amount of rain and mudslides?	No tree planting is proposed; natural regeneration is proposed. Timber harvest is proposed to accomplish goals and objectives specified in the Forest Plan. See the Scoping Letter - Purpose and Need, pages 1-4, for more information. Regarding the general flow of money regarding Forest Service timber sales, see response to comment 7, above. The preliminary scoping comment period is intended to gather comments before an Environmental Analysis has been conducted. Potential impacts to soils (the ground) and water from the proposed activities will be part of this analysis.
10	Harrelson	Dr. Alan		Email	Finally, the motivation and impetus behind this proposed project remains unclear. [a.] Why is it necessary? [b.] Where is the money for the timber supposed to go? [c.] Is there something detrimentally wrong with the Jellico mountain forests that requires this massive undertaking? If so, what is it?	a. The purpose and need for the project is discussed in the preliminary scoping letter on page 1 ( <a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63037">https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63037</a> ). b. See response to comment 7, above. c. Please refer to a.; the purpose and need discuss the impetus for proposing the Jellico project.
11	Martin	Theresa		Email	I want to know if in creating this plan, the USFS took into account a full ecosystem management approach, which would have included the 50,000 acres of land surrounding this 20,000 acres of the Stearns Ranger District of the Daniel Boone National forest. The plan documents say this Jellico Mountain area "is transitioning to mature forest." The bar charts on page 3 and 4 of the plan letter says that the primary reason for this plan is to create a "more young, even-aged forest." If this plan took into account the private land SURROUNDING the national forest, it would show that most of the surrounding private land has been logged and is already "young forests." Much of the private land is also already pasture.	The proposed action is applicable to lands with Forest Service ownership only. Activities and conditions on private lands are not predictable, not regulated by the Forest Service, and are beyond the scope of this project.

USDA2023b\_CommentResponseJellico.pdf

**New Comment Period  
Open Until May 24**

# Agenda

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# **Jellico Mountains Logging Project Summary**

Timm Martin  
Community Member  
timm@jellicomountains.com

# Disclaimer

- To the best of our knowledge, the following information is correct, but we cannot guarantee its accuracy.
- Please let us know if you find any errors.
- We provide these summaries to give you the big picture, but we encourage you to dive into the details on topics that concern you.
- As always, please consult the U.S. Forest Service website for the latest official information on the Jellico Mountains project:

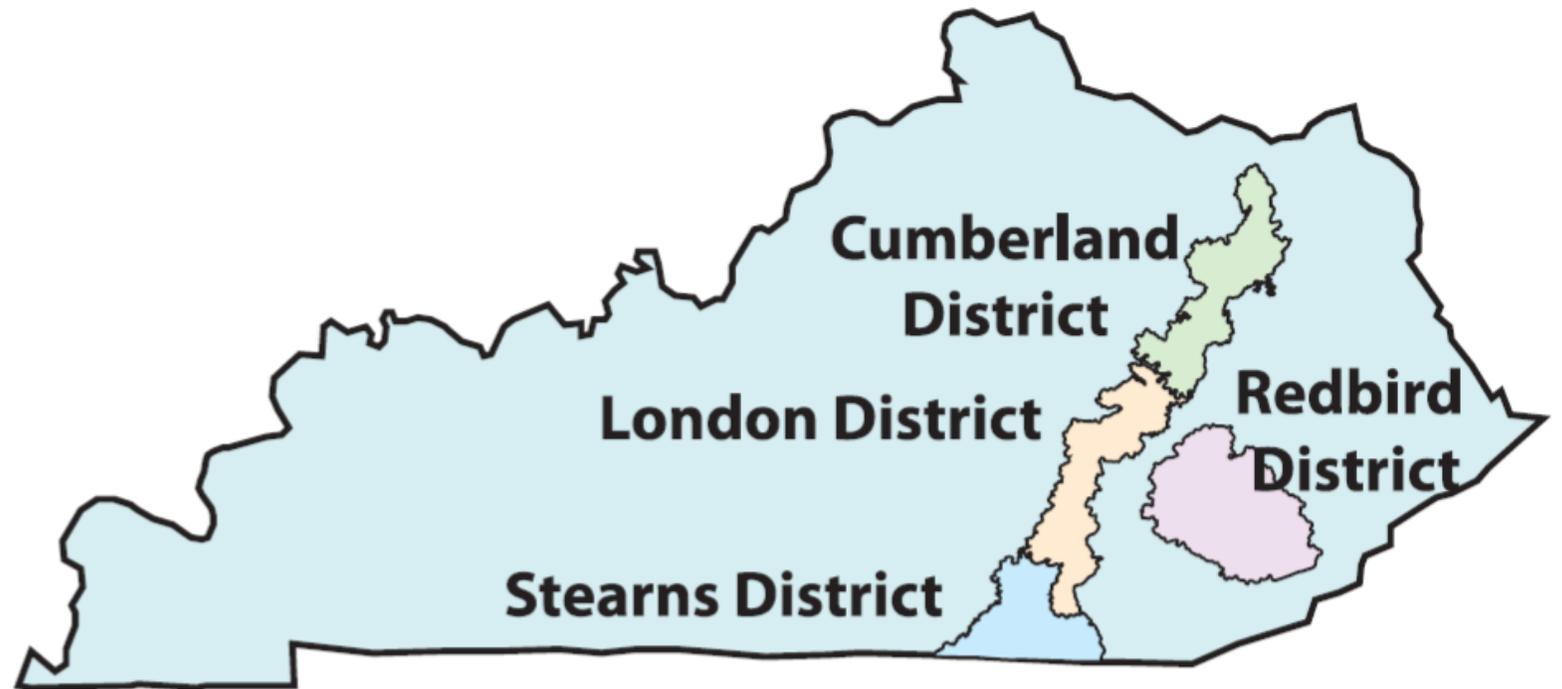
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63037>

# Daniel Boone National Forest

- 708,000 acres of national forest land
- 600 miles of hiking trails
- 4 districts
- Managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS)



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# Stearns District

- 171,000 acres of national forest
- 120 miles of hiking trails
- 4 Kentucky counties



# Forest Service – Stearns District

- Tim Reed
  - Stearns District Ranger
  - Decision-maker on this project
- John Hull
  - Silviculturist (forest manager)
  - Jellico Mountains Project Leader
- Good people doing their jobs
  - Smart, professional, and caring for the forests they manage
  - Please treat all U.S. Forest Service employees with courtesy and respect
- They meet with us every time we ask
  - Provided two project maps for our town halls
- Politely declined our invitation to speak here tonight
  - Encouraged concerned citizens to file an official comment by May 24

# Jellico Mountains

- 19,185 acres of national forest  
ALL IN KENTUCKY
- 0 miles of official hiking trails and less than 1 acre of recreation
- Not to be confused with the city of Jellico, Tennessee
- Bounded on the north by KY-92, south by the KY-TN state line, west by US-27, and east by I-75



# Jellico Mountains from the road



Driving south on I-75, over the hill at Exit 15, the Jellico Mountains suddenly appear



Jellico Mountains loom large at Exit 11



The Jellico Mountains rise over 600 feet above the Walmart shopping center



...and all along KY-92 from Williamsburg to Pine Knot

# Jellico Mountains from the ground



The Jellico Mountains have the highest relief in all the Daniel Boone National Forest: 1,200 feet from creek to peak with steep slopes



Jellico Mountains contain 20,000 acres of national forest, one-quarter to be clearcut, including Little Wolf Peak, left.



Lots of wildlife, including black bears, deer, and giant American Bullfrogs



Endangered species like the Cumberland Darter fish



Affected neighborhoods in red

# Project Area

Buck's Branch

Ryan's Creek

Jellico Creek

Jackson Creek

Little Wolf Creek

Mulberry Hollow

Emby Moses

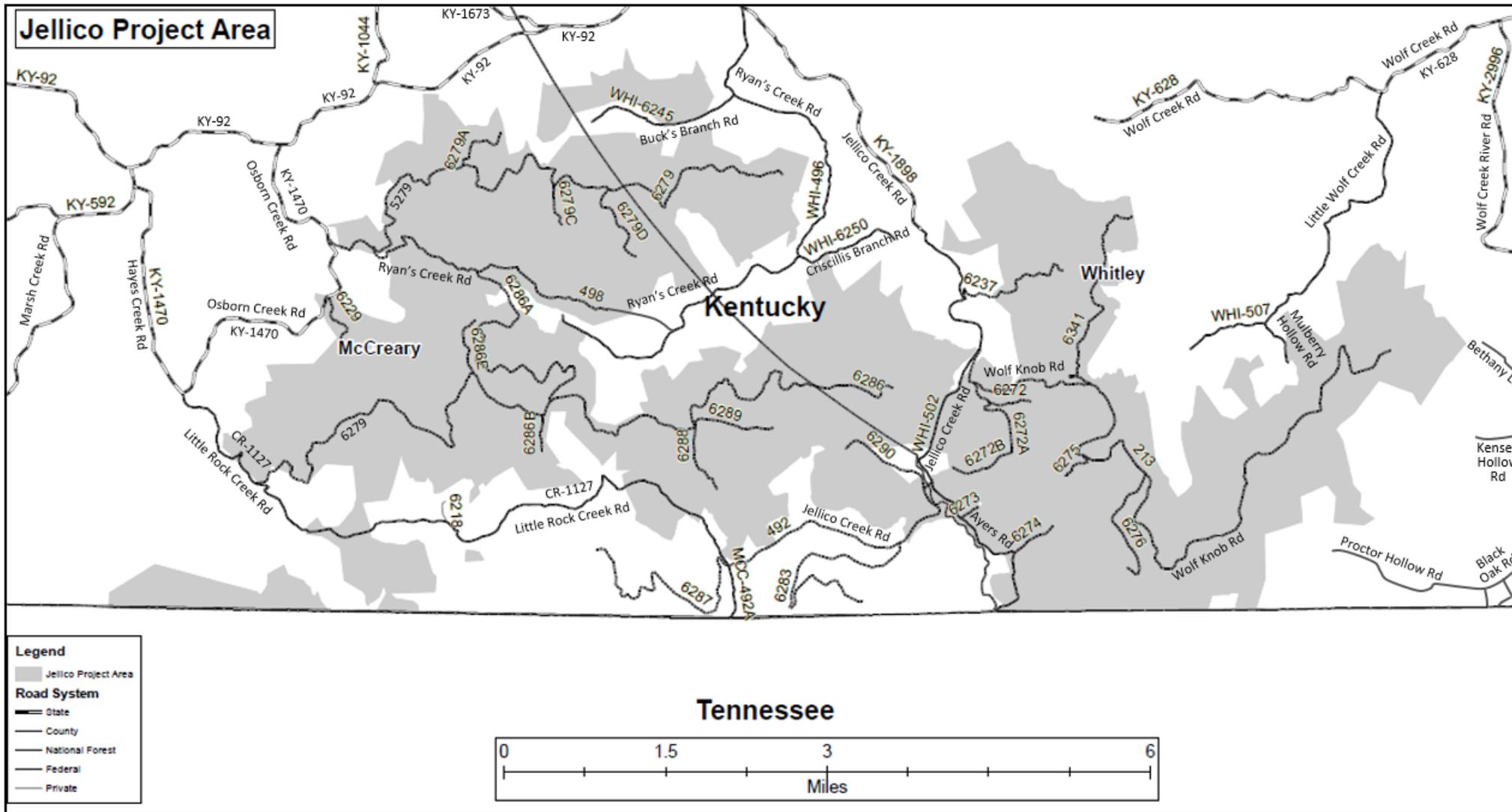
Osborn Creek

Little Rock Creek

Wolf Creek River

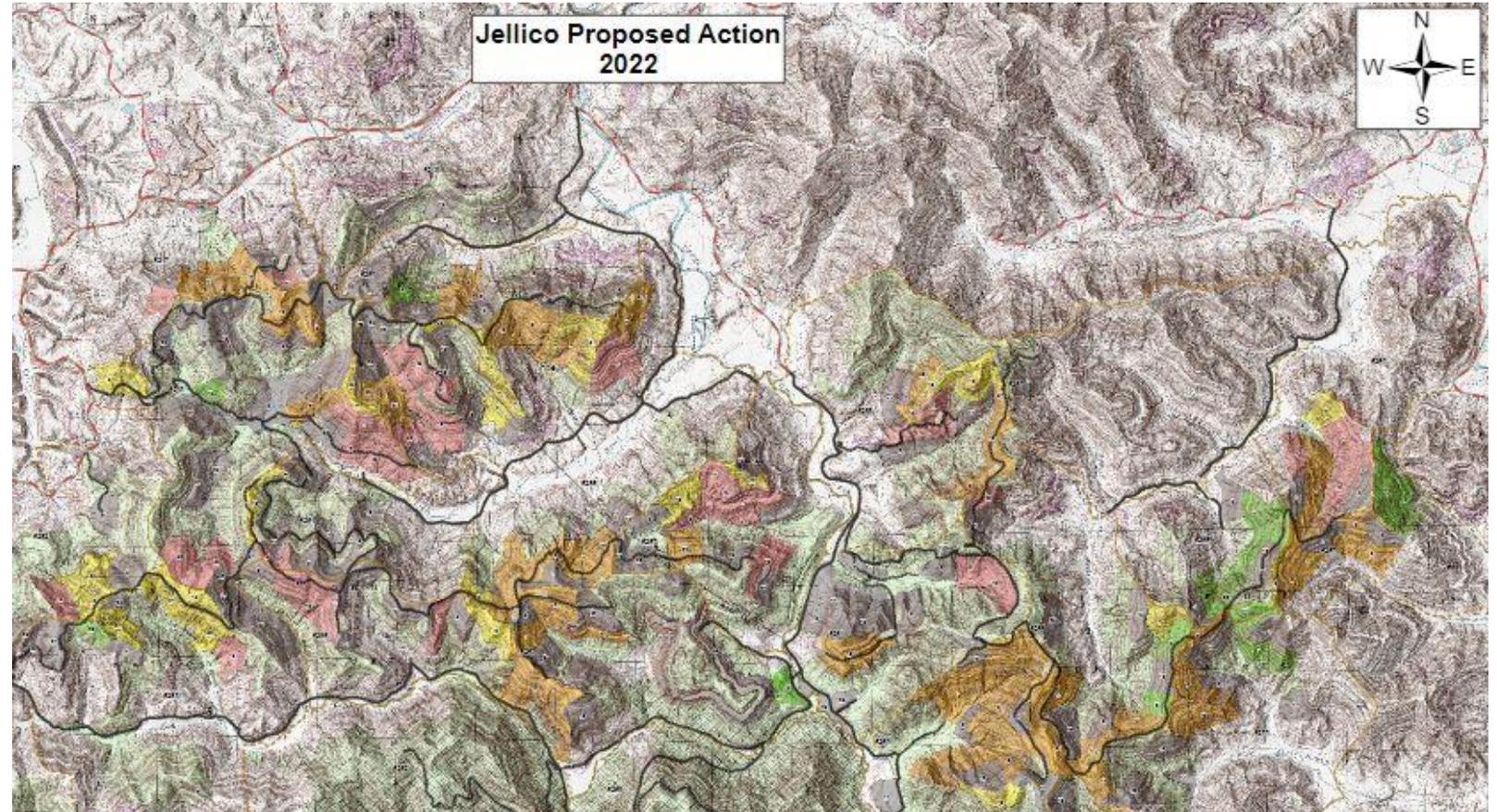
Kensee Hollow

Black Oak



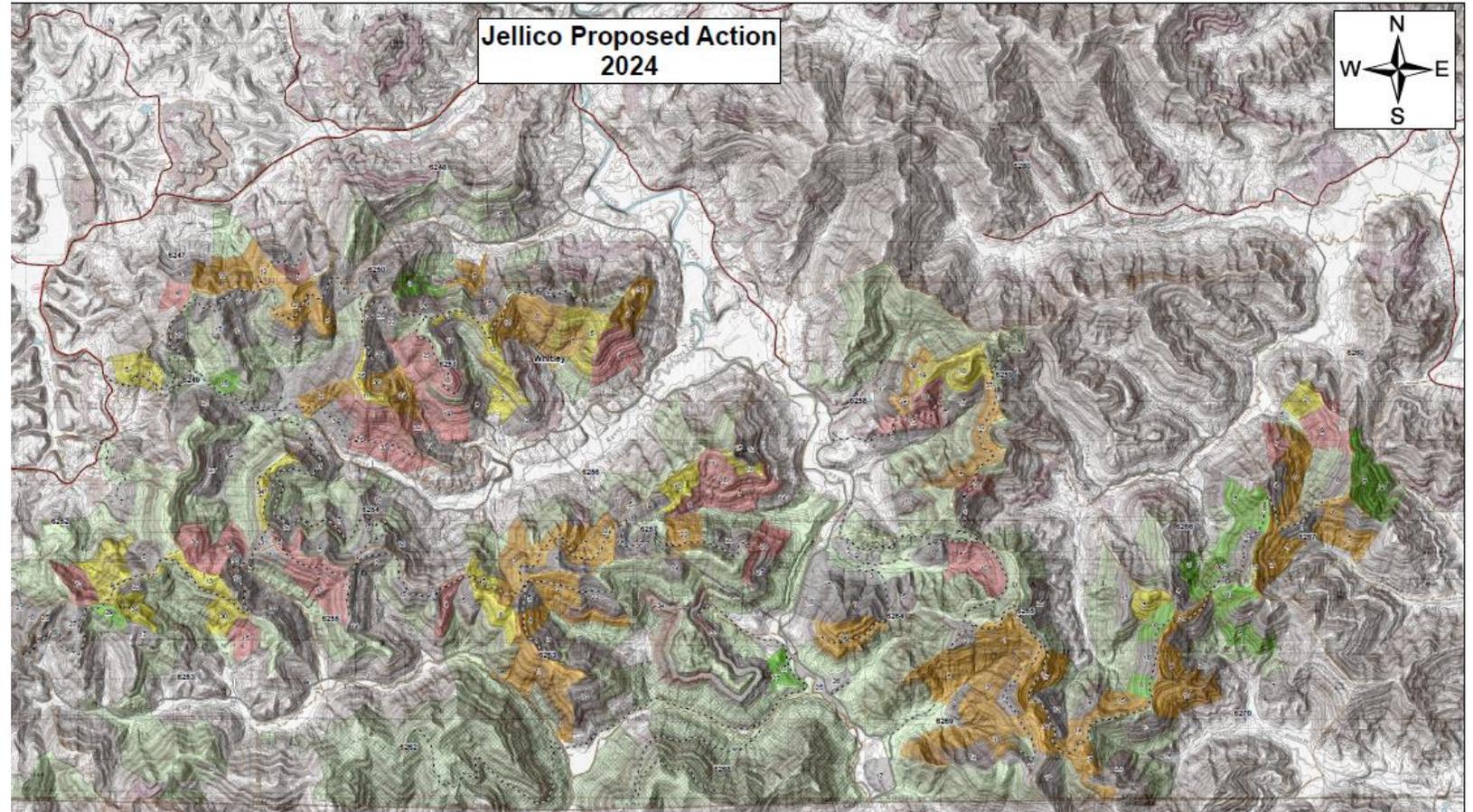
# Initial Proposed Action – October 2022

- 40 years to 2064
- 9,798 total acres
- 51.1% (half) of national forest in Jellico Mountains
- 936 acres clearcut
- 4,825 acres of effective clearcut
- 25.1% (quarter) of national forest



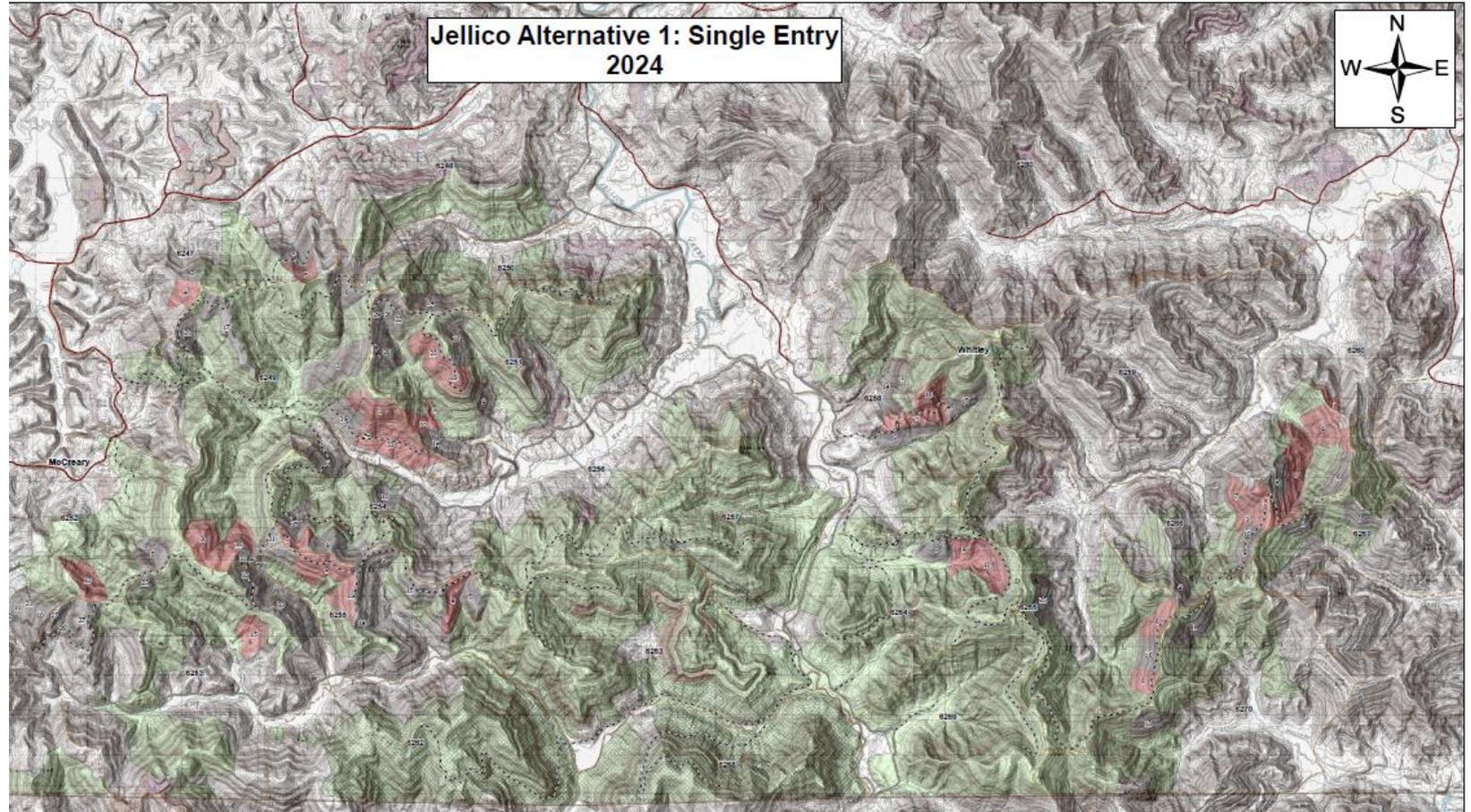
# New Proposed Action – April 2024

- Minor changes
- Removed from plan 177 acres old growth
- 40 years to 2064
- 9,537 total acres
- 49.7% of national forest in Jellico Mountains
- 931 acres clearcut
- 5,170 acres of effective clearcut
- 26.9% of national forest



# Alternative 1 – Takes into account citizens' concerns

- Big changes, addresses some citizen concerns
- Eliminates 2 more-aggressive forms of clearcut
- Removed 250-year-old trees from planned logging
- 4-6 years to 2030
- 2,937 total acres
- 15.3% of national forest in Jellico Mountains
- 0 acres clearcut
- 1,124 acres of effective clearcut
- 5.9% of national forest



# Alternative 2 – Do Nothing Option

- 0 acres logged or treated

# Comparing Alternatives

	Original Proposed Action	New Proposed Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
<b>Years</b>	40	40	4-6	0
<b>Acres</b>	9,798	9,537 (↓261 / 2.7%)	2,937 (↓6,861 / 70%)	0 (↓9,798 / 100%)
<b>Acres/Year</b>	245	238 (↓7 / 2.9%)	490* (↑245 / 100%)	0 (↓245 / 100%)
<b>Clearcut Acres</b>	936	931 (↓5 / 0.5%)	0 (↓936 / 100%)	0 (↓936 / 100%)
<b>Effective Clearcut Acres</b>	4,825	5,170 (↑345 / 7.2%)	1,124 (↓3,701 / 76.7%)	0 (↓4,825 / 100%)

\*Logging rate (acres/year) appears double in Alternative 1 over the Proposed Action. The Forest Service informed us Alternative 1 rate is about what the Proposed Action rate would be in its first 6 years of 40.

# USFS Project Justification

- Jellico Mountains area is transitioning to mature forest (81+ years)
- Approximately 72% of the project area is mature forest (closed canopy with an understory and/or midstory layer)
- “While desired structures, species compositions, and age classes occur in a mature forest, the biodiversity provided by young (0-30 years old) and mid-aged (31-80 years old) forest is being lost”
- “To counteract this loss and increase project area biodiversity by providing a mix of habitat for flora and fauna”
- To meet the forest management goals defined in the 2004 Daniel Boone National Forest Plan

# Current Tree Ages



Draft Environmental Assessment for Jellico Vegetation Management Project

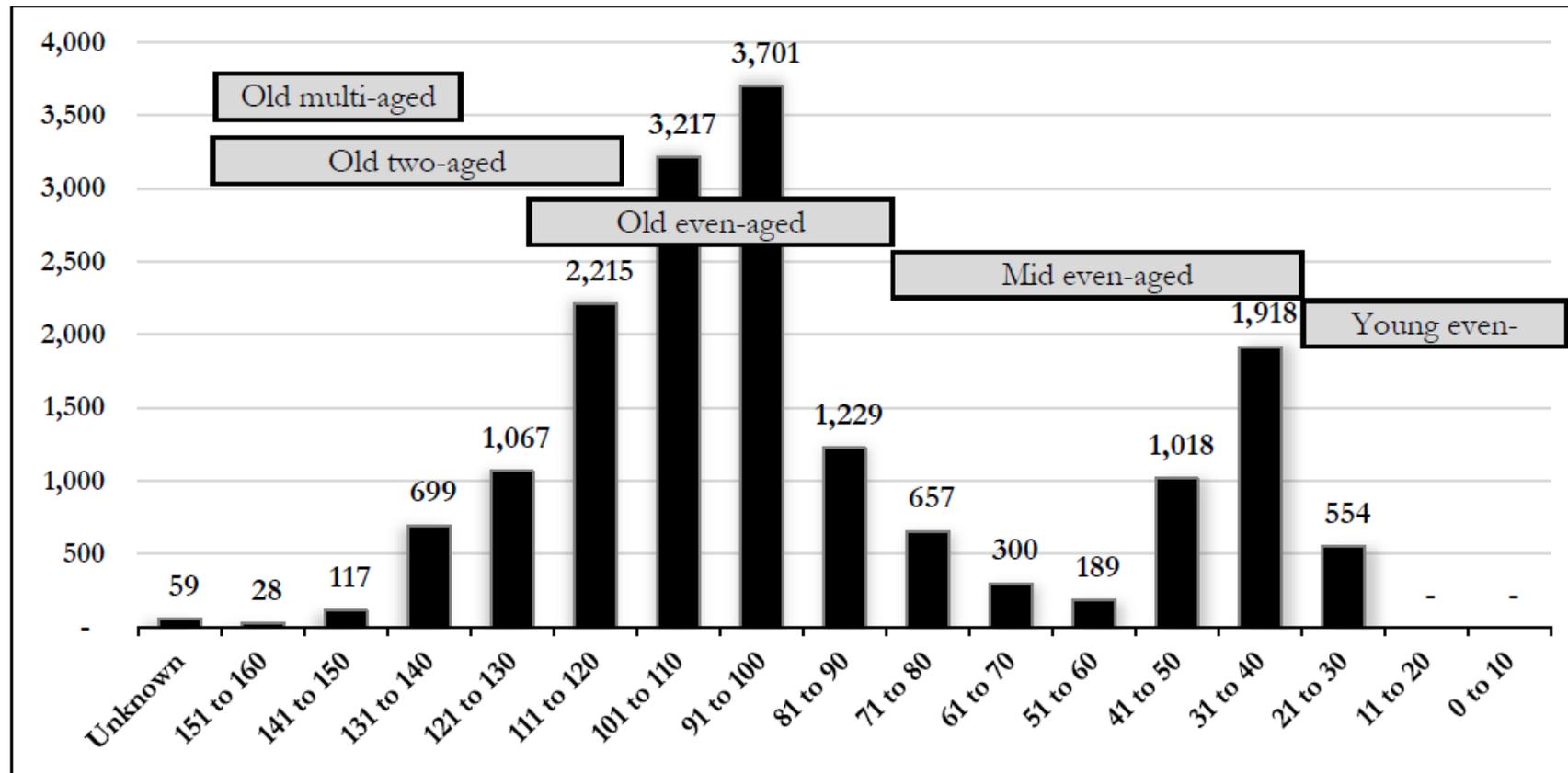


Figure 1: Existing Structures and Acres by 10-year Age Classes in the Jellico Project Area

# Treatments

- **Clearcut\*** – Yellow on maps – Remove all trees and regenerate the stand.
- **Two Aged Shelterwood\*** – Pink – Similar to clearcut, remove 85-90% of trees, leaving 10-15% of large (14"+ diameter at chest height) overstory trees of desired species evenly distributed across the stand. In 15-30 years, remove invasive species and control grape vine.
- **Deferment Harvest\*** – Orange – Remove 60-80% of trees, leaving desired species distributed across the stand. In 10-15 years, remove trees that were retained after the first harvest.
- **Commercial Thinning** – Grey – Remove approximately 40-60% of trees and retain 40-60% in the form of dominant and codominant overstory trees of desired species.

\*Effective clearcut

# Clearcut

- Much of the Jellico Mountains project area has steep slopes, unstable soil, and significant landslide risks
- Clearcut areas require constant maintenance to prevent invasive species such as autumn olive, tree of heaven, deadly water hemlock, kudzu, and knotweed
- Effective clearcutting includes outright clearcut, two-aged shelterwood, and deferment harvest



# Project Length – 6 years is better than 40

- A 40-year project to log the forest is too long
- Most Forest Service projects last 10 years or less
- This project is based on a 2004 Forest Plan
- Which means when this project is wrapping up in the 2060s, their work will be based on a 60-year-old plan
- The Forest Service could propose additional logging when Alternative 1 ends in 2030, but the new project would have to go through the entire NEPA process again (hopefully using an updated Forest Plan, and we all get to participate again)

# Issues (alphabetical order)

- Carbon Sequestration
- Clearcutting
- Compacted Soils
- Endangered Species
- Erosion
- Flooding
- Grapevines
- Herbicide Use
- Invasive Species
- Landslides
- Local Labor
- Mature Trees
- Mechanized Harvesting
- Municipal Water (Williamsburg)
- Noise
- Notifications
- Oak Trees
- Old Growth Trees
- Pollution
- Private Property Encroachment
- Project Costs
- Project Length
- Project Profit Distribution
- Public Participation
- Recreation
- Red Maple
- Road Building
- Road Impact
- Runoff
- Sediment in Creeks
- Steep Slopes
- Viewshed
- Water Quality
- 30x30 Initiative

(Apologies for any issues we missed)

# Timeline

- October 2022 – Scoping period in NEPA process, public gets to comment
- November 2022 – Town meeting, 100 attendees
- December 2022 – Over 300 official comments submitted to Forest Service
- April 2024 – Environmental Assessment (EA) period, public gets to comment
- May 9 – Town meeting in Whitley County
- May 14 – Town meeting in McCreary County
- **May 24 – Comment period ends**
- July 2024 (estimated) – Objection period
- October 2024 (est.) – Decision
- December 2024 (est.) – Logging begins

# Comment Period Ends Friday, May 24

- Your past comments are the reason the Forest Service created Alternative 1.
- If we don't all 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. Hand write comments on form, mail to address listed on form
3. Call 606-376-5323 or stop by Stearns Ranger District office

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Thank you for your interest  
in this important issue

# Resources

- USFS Official Project Page  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63037>
- Jellico Mountains Logging Information  
<https://jmlogging.com>
- Jellico Mountains Logging Facebook Group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/jmlogging>
- Kentucky Heartwood  
<https://www.kyheartwood.org/jellico.html>
- Recreation Alternative (JMRA)  
<https://jm-ra.com>