

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
1	Out only additional comment would be to suggest upon completion, stream flows and water temperature be monitored on a regular basis during the summer months in Stonecoal Branch and Slab Camp Creek W9whish has already undergone a restoration) for 2-3 years to determine the feasibility of resuming an annual Brown Trout Stocking.	
1	Please do not commercially log or substantially thin trees in the proposed Braver Creek Project Area.	
1	This area is incredibly special. Please preserve our so that my children and grandchildren can enjoy it in its most natural state for generations to come	
1	We understand the KY Dept of Fish & Wildlife Resources controls where Trout are stocked in KY, but we are sure if the Forest Service monitored these streams and presented data proving Trout could live year-round in them, the State would at least consider the stocking proposal, given the amount of work put into improving these two streams.	
1	I feel that logging off this kind destroys our forests' greatest assets: beauty, calm, and ecological diversity.	
1	I would prefer my tax money be spent to restore our public land to a beautiful and ecologically significant diverse Appalachian forest.	
1	Our Chapter fully supports the proposal. We understand the negative impact on Eastern Kentucky streams that occurred due to modifying riparian channels in the early 1900's (often to assist agricultural practices) and are in full agreement when the Forest Service restores these streams to a more natural flow.	
2	The roads left by these jobs have left masive scars and disrupted sensitive plant habitat.	Potential issue. Develop alternatives that reduce or minimized road construction. Analyze effects. Focus on financial and effects to other resources.
2	There should be a storong emphasis on low impact logging practices, and preferance for draft animal-based harvesting methods.	The areas identified for commercial harvest will be harvested using ground-based skidding techniques. Typically, this means that commercial sized material will be moved to the site where it will be loaded on trucks for transport using tracked or wheeled machines. Draft animals may also be used for this but are rarely required due to their limited payload usually requiring more skid trail construction and longer use of trails which results in a higher risk of sediment production due to more and longer term exposure of soil in the harvest site. The amount of exposed soil is limited to less than 10% of the harvest area. The material harvested from the site is manufactured into a diversity of products. It is estimated 90% of the material from this sale will be manufactured into material that is above pallet grade lumber.
2	This is the only way to balnced logging and the health of our ecosystem. Please do not allow our public lands to be ruined.	
2	Will the lands at Beaver Creek be looged in the same maner as Big Perry	The areas identified for commercial harvest will be harvested using ground-based skidding techniques. Typically, this means that commercial sized material will be moved to the site where it will be loaded on trucks for transport using tracked or wheeled machines. Draft animals may also be used for this but are rarely required due to their limited payload usually requiring more skid trail construction and longer use of trails which results in a higher risk of sediment production due to more and longer term exposure of soil in the harvest site. The amount of exposed soil is limited to less than 10% of the harvest area. The material harvested from the site is manufactured into a diversity of products. It is estimated 90% of the material from this sale will be manufactured into material that is above pallet grade lumber.
3	A week ago I was informed of your intentions to access the National Forest through our property to do some logging. We have not been informed by anyone from the forestry department nor have we been contacted through mail. I would like to have been at the meeting to give a voice to my objections.	
3	1) Our family and friends go back into the national forest all the time, to clear-cut the forest as proposed would completely change the beauty, the hunting, and the desirability of being there.	
3	1) Our family and friends go back into the national forest all the time, to clear-cut the forest as proposed would completely change the beauty, the hunting, and the desirability of being there.	The analysis for the project will include consideration of effects to recreational use and scenery.

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
3	2) The easement road going through our property and back to the park, is in a state that will not handle the traffic or the weight of the equipment going in and out. Who repairs this?	<p>Text of message sent in response to their email to the Forest Service: Thank you for taking the time to send your comments to us related to this project. We attempted to determine who now owned the land adjacent to the property involved in this project by visiting the PVA office in Frenchburg. We found about fifteen landowners we thought were adjacent. Apparently, we did not get yours. I am sorry of that. It would have been nice to have had a chance to speak with you at the meeting. I have mailed a copy of the letter we sent out prior to the meeting along with copies of some handouts that we available there. Please review them and submit any comments you may have when you get the chance. I will attempt to answer your direct questions in the following message. 1) Our family and friends go back into the national forest all the time, to clear-cut the forest as proposed would completely change the beauty, the hunting, and the desirability of being there. The activities proposed on the land adjacent to your property include a two-aged shelterwood treatment designed to allow the re-growth or a young forest that will leave approximately 30% of the overstory canopy in place and a commercial thinning treatment that is designed to enhance to vigor of the existing forest which will leave approximately 70% of the overstory canopy in place. 2) The easement road going through our property and back to the park, is in a state that will not handle the traffic or the weight of the equipment going in and out. Who repairs this? The easement deed acquired in 1985 that crosses your property defines maintenance to be proportional to use. This means that the Forest Service through the purchaser of the timber will be responsible for the bringing the road up to the standard to allow for hauling, maintaining the road, protection of infrastructure (including utilities), and putting it to bed following use for the period that it is used for the project. In detail that means the road will be brushed, graded, surfaced with stone, and drained to the standard defined in our handbooks prior to use and will be maintained at that level throughout the life of the project. 3) The road in front of our cabin is wet and marshy all summer long. Who repairs the damage to it ? If the road in front of the cabin is part of the easement, see my previous answer. 4) Our water line is under the road that leads into our property. Who is responsible for damages to it ? If the waterline is along the portion of the road within the easement, see my previous answer. 5) What about trees that are mistakenly cut on our property. How is that handled. When marking commercial sales the Forest Service will maintain the property line adjacent to the proposed activities prior to the marking of the timber to be cut. This generally eliminates the potential for cutting of trees on private property. Should trees be cut by mistake or by negligent action by the purchaser of the timber sale, the contract contains provisions for compensation to the owner of the trees including liquidated damages. I have this provides some answers to your concerns. I would like to meet with you if possible at the property to discuss what is planned an look at your concerns in detail, so please feel free to contact me the next time you plan on visiting the cabin and I will try and visit with you if it fits into your plans.</p>

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
3	3) The road in front of our cabin is wet and marshy all summer long. Who repairs the damage to it ? 4) Our water line is under the road that leads into our property. Who is responsible for damages to it ?	<p>Text of message sent in response to their email to the Forest Service: Thank you for taking the time to send your comments to us related to this project. We attempted to determine who now owned the land adjacent to the property involved in this project by visiting the PVA office in Frenchburg. We found about fifteen landowners we thought were adjacent. Apparently, we did not get yours. I am sorry of that. It would have been nice to have had a chance to speak with you at the meeting. I have mailed a copy of the letter we sent out prior to the meeting along with copies of some handouts that we available there. Please review them and submit any comments you may have when you get the chance. I will attempt to answer your direct questions in the following message. 1) Our family and friends go back into the national forest all the time, to clear-cut the forest as proposed would completely change the beauty, the hunting, and the desirability of being there. The activities proposed on the land adjacent to your property include a two-aged shelterwood treatment designed to allow the re-growth or a young forest that will leave approximately 30% of the overstory canopy in place and a commercial thinning treatment that is designed to enhance to vigor of the existing forest which will leave approximately 70% of the overstory canopy in place. 2) The easement road going through our property and back to the park, is in a state that will not handle the traffic or the weight of the equipment going in and out. Who repairs this? The easement deed acquired in 1985 that crosses your property defines maintenance to be proportional to use. This means that the Forest Service through the purchaser of the timber will be responsible for the bringing the road up to the standard to allow for hauling, maintaining the road, protection of infrastructure (including utilities), and putting it to bed following use for the period that it is used for the project. In detail that means the road will be brushed, graded, surfaced with stone, and drained to the standard defined in our handbooks prior to use and will be maintained at that level throughout the life of the project. 3) The road in front of our cabin is wet and marshy all summer long. Who repairs the damage to it ? If the road in front of the cabin is part of the easement, see my previous answer. 4) Our water line is under the road that leads into our property. Who is responsible for damages to it ? If the waterline is along the portion of the road within the easement, see my previous answer. 5) What about trees that are mistakenly cut on our property. How is that handled. When marking commercial sales the Forest Service will maintain the property line adjacent to the proposed activities prior to the marking of the timber to be cut. This generally eliminates the potential for cutting of trees on private property. Should trees be cut by mistake or by negligent action by the purchaser of the timber sale, the contract contains provisions for compensation to the owner of the trees including liquidated damages. I have this provides some answers to your concerns. I would like to meet with you if possible at the property to discuss what is planned an look at your concerns in detail, so please feel free to contact me the next time you plan on visiting the cabin and I will try and visit with you if it fits into your plans.</p>

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
3	5) What about trees that are mistakenly cut on our property. How is that handled.	<p>Text of message sent in response to their email to the Forest Service: Thank you for taking the time to send your comments to us related to this project. We attempted to determine who now owned the land adjacent to the property involved in this project by visiting the PVA office in Frenchburg. We found about fifteen landowners we thought were adjacent. Apparently, we did not get yours. I am sorry of that. It would have been nice to have had a chance to speak with you at the meeting. I have mailed a copy of the letter we sent out prior to the meeting along with copies of some handouts that we available there. Please review them and submit any comments you may have when you get the chance. I will attempt to answer your direct questions in the following message. 1) Our family and friends go back into the national forest all the time, to clear-cut the forest as proposed would completely change the beauty, the hunting, and the desirability of being there. The activities proposed on the land adjacent to your property include a two-aged shelterwood treatment designed to allow the re-growth or a young forest that will leave approximately 30% of the overstory canopy in place and a commercial thinning treatment that is designed to enhance to vigor of the existing forest which will leave approximately 70% of the overstory canopy in place. 2) The easement road going through our property and back to the park, is in a state that will not handle the traffic or the weight of the equipment going in and out. Who repairs this? The easement deed acquired in 1985 that crosses your property defines maintenance to be proportional to use. This means that the Forest Service through the purchaser of the timber will be responsible for the bringing the road up to the standard to allow for hauling, maintaining the road, protection of infrastructure (including utilities), and putting it to bed following use for the period that it is used for the project. In detail that means the road will be brushed, graded, surfaced with stone, and drained to the standard defined in our handbooks prior to use and will be maintained at that level throughout the life of the project. 3) The road in front of our cabin is wet and marshy all summer long. Who repairs the damage to it ? If the road in front of the cabin is part of the easement, see my previous answer. 4) Our water line is under the road that leads into our property. Who is responsible for damages to it ? If the waterline is along the portion of the road within the easement, see my previous answer. 5) What about trees that are mistakenly cut on our property. How is that handled. When marking commercial sales the Forest Service will maintain the property line adjacent to the proposed activities prior to the marking of the timber to be cut. This generally eliminates the potential for cutting of trees on private property. Should trees be cut by mistake or by negligent action by the purchaser of the timber sale, the contract contains provisions for compensation to the owner of the trees including liquidated damages. I have this provides some answers to your concerns. I would like to meet with you if possible at the property to discuss what is planned an look at your concerns in detail, so please feel free to contact me the next time you plan on visiting the cabin and I will try and visit with you if it fits into your plans.</p>
4	I think the harvest is a good idea and necessary to the health of the forest.	<p>The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.</p>
4	I would like to see the landings and maybe the roads put on a mowing schedule to maintain them as openings.	<p>Potential issue. Develop alternatives that reduce or minimized road construction. Analyze effects. Focus on financial and effects to other resources.</p>
4	Kill the red maple with herbicide (I would add black gum to the kill list)	
5	From everything I've read this makes neither financial or environmental sense.	
5	The Daniel Boone National Forest is such a treasured part of KY; logging large sections of it -- particularly in areas where people enjoy the forest so much -- seems short-sighted.	

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
5	The proposed area to be logged is one of our families favorite spots to visit, hike, (and in the surrounding area) camp.	
6	1) Comments on amount of district harvested since 1980, approx. 25%.	A review of the forest vegetation database (current at the end of 2015), provided the following information concerning forests where the overstory age is less than 35 years: Cumberland District 25,607 acres of National Forest System land (NFS) have an overstory age less than 35 years. This represents 14% of the NFS land. Events that have contributed to this amount. They include: Converted old fields: 622 acres (0.34% of NFS) Created by a windstorm in 1995: 1,224 acres (0.71% of NFS) Created by ice storm in 2003: 5,748 acres (3.15% of NFS) Created by commercial timber harvest since 1980: 18,013 acres (9.86% of NFS) Old Morehead District outside of most of 2003 ice storm affected area: 6,910 acres of National Forest System land (NFS) have an overstory age less than 35 years. This represents 11% of the NFS land. Events that have contributed to this amount. They include: Converted old fields: 272 acres (0.45% of NFS) Created by a prescribed burning: 80 acres (0.13% of NFS) Created by commercial timber harvest since 1980: 6,558 acres (10.76% of NFS) The analysis specific to this project will include a similar analysis of the creation of forests with an overstory age young than 35 years.
6	1) Interested in know if tree cutting will be allowed during cerulean warbler nesting season.	
6	2) Old clearcuts look terrible on adjacent stands next to proposed treatments. Multi-stem maple everywhere 3) Should instead invest in cleaning up those areas.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
6	4) Comments on poor quality of harvests and the fact that we want to do more.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
6	5) Comments on the plethora of invasives and that we are going to spread more.	
6	6) We are out of TAP (roads) compliance, how can we build new roads.	Potential issue. Develop alternatives that reduce or minimized road construction. Analyze effects. Focus on financial and effects to other resources.
6	7) Comments on recreation and how we cannot fund rec projects yet we can do timber.	
6	8) Lastly, or timber is being sold for 50% less than market value.	The analysis related to this project will include an accounting of appropriate costs and revenues associated with the implementation of this project.
6	Wants to know what kind of herbicides we are using.	Treat as an issue and analyze effects.
6	Would like to see more pole size age classes represented. Spread out distribution of age classes more.	The analysis will include consideration of effects to the distribution of various aged and sized forests.
7	I understand that logging can be a good thing. I am not blind or uneducated. But I also understand the adverse effects outweigh the good, generally speaking. I imagine logging could be "done right", although I am yet to see it.	
7	We are blessed to live in a forested area. Our forests are the key to our success, yet we constantly wish to destroy them. We tend to take for granted what we have, because we are so accustomed to being surrounded by such plentiful forests. Not everywhere has these forests. We live in a very special place.	

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
7	People come from all over the world to explore our forests and climb our mountains.	The analysis for the project will include consideration of effects to recreational use and scenery.
7	There is no progress in destruction. Everywhere I turn, I see our land getting mangled. Mountains blasted to bits, forests leveled, water contaminated. When will the destruction end? When the hills stand naked? When we have no mountains left?	
7	These forests have already endured so much, and some are ready to force another blow on these fragile environments. Logging poses a major threat on the ecosystem, and the creatures that call this land home.	If logging is conducted with no consideration for environmental concerns it could pose a threat to ecosystems, as could almost any action if not evaluated and implemented conscientiously. However, the categorical statement that 'logging poses a major threat on the ecosystem' is not substantiated by science. Clear cutting has been shown to have significant negative impacts on many species. However, clear cutting is not being proposed as part of this project. Silvicultural treatment have been show to benefit some species. Depending on how it is applied and the exact ecosystem, silviculture, including commercial harvest, has been shown in some cases and for some species to increase species richness, abundance, and diversity. When implementing a commercial sale, such as in Beaver Creek, Forest Plan Standards, Endangered Species Act and Regional Forester Species of Concern considerations are accounted for, and best management practices and project mitigations are outlined to minimize negative impacts to species while capitalizing on potential benefits for other species, as well as to meet our multi-use mandate.
7	Do they want to come to see a clear cut forest? NO.	
7	When you log a forest out, you are extinguishing future recreation and exploration	
7	"Temporary roads" are absolutely NOT temporary, they alter the land, as well as disturb the root systems of trees that may be spared from the operation.	Potential issue. Develop alternatives that reduce or minimized road construction. Analyze effects. Focus on financial and effects to other resources.
7	I oppose commercial timber harvest in the Beaver Creek area.	
7	In previous logging endeavors, the forest was never built back to what it was, but instead seeded with red maple and tulip poplar, as our valuable hardwoods were hauled out by the truckloads.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
7	Invasive species are a MAJOR threat, and in 9 out of 10 logged forests I've seen, invasive species are present, it's seemingly unavoidable. These plants are usually fast spreading, and take up the valuable room that native plants once held.	
7	Logging also opens a door for invasive species that have no business in our wonderful forests.	
7	Raping our forests and mountains has never been the answer to our economic problems, and it never will be. Tourism is the key, and as I said before, no one wants to come see a clear cut forest. Every forest that is flattened, is shaving our future away. I stand for the trees, and a better future for the people of Appalachia. A future where we don't have to leave our land in the greedy hands of corporations. It is essential that we preserve our forests!	
8	Despite the benefits you may see from this plan, the lasting negative affects it will have are many. Aside from the physical strain it will place on the forest's natural habitat, it will also affect the peace and comfort many of us derive from the oneness we have with Mother Nature. As human creatures of Mother Nature, we owe it her and ourselves to preserve and protect the natural world we have been born into. For many the Daniel Boone National forest is not just a place to hike or hunt or camp, it's a place to seek solitude and offers contemplation, well being , rejuvenation and growth for our spirituality. By logging the forest you will be directly disrupting not only Mother Nature, but the natural "church" we have been blessed to be a part of.	The analysis will include consideration of effects to forest health and also effects to the social uses of the area.

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
8	In a world where economic advancements are key to a societies growth, I think there needs to be some consideration to the recently proposed plan for the commercial logging of Cave Run Lake in Bath and Menifee Counties.	
8	The Daniel Boone Forest is not a place where we should be logging for more but rather a place where we should be restoring and regenerating the damages that have already been done from the previous logging exhibitions.	
8	There's a reason this place was dropped in 2008. Was it money, lack of engineers ?	The project was put on hold due to other projects on the district having tighter time schedules for completion. These project included the Cave Run Non-motorized Trails Initiative, Slabcamp/Stonecoal Stream Restoration, and the Sand Lick landscape restoration project. At the time, it was felt that this project could be delayed and still be of benefit. Lack of engineers was not an issue.
9	Instead, I would propose that the Forest Service's limited funds and resources be spent to truly restore the tracts of forest in the district previously degraded by the exact type of harvest being proposed.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
9	As a citizen, wildlands photographer, amateur botanist, and frequent recreational user of public lands in Kentucky, I would like to see the Forest Service manage the Boone with the goals of increasing native biodiversity, preserving old-growth, and protecting water quality.	
9	However, I see no proven benefit of this type of management from any perspective, whether economic or ecological.	
9	I would like to draw attention to the effects of previous shelterwood cuts in the area. Where mature and healthy multi-species hardwood stands once stood, we now see mostly red maple and tulip poplar stump sprouts. It should be clear by now that shelterwood cuts are not a path to oak regeneration	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
9	It is important to note that I remain opposed to all commercial timber harvests on public land, based on the regional need for large tracts of our globally significant, species rich forest to be manged for purely ecological goals.	
9	My concern is that the proposed project will result in the reduction in the quality of species composition, the proliferation of invasive species, and the waste of my tax dollars on the planning and implementation of a project that sacrifices short term gains for the overall health of our public lands.	The analysis will include consideration of effects to species composition, invasive species, financial outlays and overall forest health.
10	Past history clearly demonstrates that logging is not in the best interests of the ecology of Boone Forest.	
10	This forest belongs to all of us and must be protected for the enjoyment of future generations and must not be destroyed by logging for the shortsighted profit of a few.	
10	And the regenerated forest will have competition from fast growing weed trees and other noxious species, plus the inevitable weak suckering off the remaining tree stumps.	

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
10	removing the existing trees it will allow the introduction of invasive species and eliminate habitat for the existing flora and fauna	Habitat concerns are evaluated as part of the BAE process. Although some individual habitat will be permanently lost emphasis is given to ensuring that no specific habitat type is entirely lost from the landscape, and that the loss of that individual habitat will not jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species. The area has been evaluated for T&E presence and habitat and any impacts to listed species will be accounted for through the Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation with USFWS. Any potential impacts to Regional Forester's Sensitive Species are also analyzed for. Disturbance will increase the potential for invasive species and therefore will be addressed through project design features to mitigate these impacts.
10	The construction of logging roads will irreparably harm the soil through compaction	The following soil productivity indicators will be analyzed by the DBNF Forest Soil Scientist for effects that could arise from the actions described in the Beaver Creek Project: erosion potential, compaction potential, organic matter retention, and changes to the soil decomposer community. The DBNF Forest Plan contains an objective that charges us to maintain soil productivity on at least 85% of each project area following land activities. A more stringent standard applies to harvest areas: no more than 10% of the area should be in landings, skid roads, or exposed soil. Given that any alternative listed in this project calls for less than two miles of newly constructed road, it is unlikely that this activity will be an issue. Activities of this magnitude usually do not result in long-term detrimental effects to soil productivity on the DBNF.
11		
12	When areas are "reforested" they never look the same - the older growth is beautiful, and clearing the canopy allows more invasive species to take hold.	Opening the canopy coupled with soil disturbance can promote invasive species if they are not properly manage for during implementation. However, opening the canopy also can benefit a number of native species, including several plant species on the Regional Foresters Sensitive species list, and species listed under the Endangered Species Act such as running buffalo clover. Some animal species, including important pollinators such as bees and some listed bat species, also utilize more open canopy habitat, just at other species benefit from closed canopy. It is important to ensure both habitat types persist on the landscape. It is also important to remember that almost no eastern forests are 'natural' or 'pristine'. Almost all have been altered and often what we have grown accustomed to seeing is not what was present 100 years ago, which was different than what was there 200 years ago, etc.
13	As a taxpayer, it's incomprehensible to think that USFS would engage in a commercial harvesting project at a financial loss.	The analysis related to this project will include an accounting of appropriate costs and revenues associated with the implementation of this project.
13	In my opinion, the public sees the USFS as stewards of our national forests, not as an agency that conducts large scale harvesting operations of questionable financial and environmental benefit.	
13	Our national forests should be cherished and protected, not pillaged. Please end this proposal now.	
13	As I read of plans associated with the Beaver Creek Watershed, nothing about the project scope is in the public interest. This critically important point alone should be enough for USFS to stop this and similar harvesting projects. It's wrong for the forest, and it's wrong for the public.	
13	Instead, please use limited USFS financial/staff resources to nurture the forest, particularly old growth areas.	
13	Please restore previously cleared areas.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
13	Protect from the expansion of invasive species, don't create more opportunities for environmental decline of the forest.	

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
13	Rather than bulldozing through existing untouched forest and terrain to create logging roads, USFS should maintain existing roads to support recreational use.	Potential issue. Develop alternatives that reduce or minimized road construction. Analyze effects. Focus on financial and effects to other resources.
14	At a time when funding for both Federal and State forest management is limited, we would like to see more focus on restoring previous stands where significant logging has already occurred, rather than perpetuating large-scale commercial logging operations that place further strain on the Forest Service maintenance budget.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
14	First, we question the basic premise of the project, in that the stated purpose is for "stand improvement and stand establishment	
14	In addition, the impacts from the infrastructure necessary to perform these logging operations such as permanent and temporary roads and skid roads promote the proliferation of invasive species.	
14	We disagree with the purpose and need of this project and prefer a "no action" alternative.	
14	We have concerns with the scale of the commercial harvest, which consists of a significant impact between the combination of shelterwood regeneration harvest and commercial thinning harvest.	The analysis will contain consideration of effects which will allow for the decision to make a determination of the significance of the project.
14	Such a significant impact and scale, we believe, is of an impact that does not promote healthy contiguous forests. Maintaining mature trees over such a large area, in our opinion, is a more viable method of "stand improvement."	
14	We understand these tracts in the proposed project are near existing tracts where similar operations have occurred; therefore we are concerned about fragmentation and opportunity for introducing more invasive species.	It is correct to state that consideration must be given to how recently nearby tracts have been harvested and whether or not additional harvesting in adjacent tracts impacts overall habitat availability across the landscape. This will be considered in the Beaver Creek project to minimize impacts to wildlife. Invasive species are a concern, particularly with equipment coming in and disturbance occurring. Mitigation to address NNIS concerns will be incorporated in the project design.
15	As a resident of this beautiful area it is a shame to see that my home is being exploited and damaging the local communities. I have done work in several Eastern Kentucky counties addressing instances where companies that gather natural resources by logging and mining do little to no restoration to the area with no consequence. Please do not allow this company to log this beautiful national forest.	Selection of trees to be harvested: Trees to be harvested will be selected and measured by Forest Service employees, not the purchaser of the sale. For this project, the trees to be left following harvest will be selected first. Criteria for retention will vary with objectives of the proposed treatment. They include: Two-aged shelterwood- Objective is to allow enough sunlight to reach the forest floor to allow existing smaller trees to grow or allow new ones to be established. Trees to be left in the areas will be selected in this way: The first trees that will be identified for retention are those that provide unique habitat for wildlife. These include dead trees, trees with cavities, and trees with platy bark. The second set of trees to be left will be those with the potential to live and grow for the next several decades. Commercial thinning- Objective is to create growing space for the crowns of trees that are currently in the upper canopy of the forest. This additional space will maintain and potentially increase the vigor of the remaining trees and will result in better resistance/recovery from events like ice/windstorms, improved seed production, and establishment of seedlings on the forest floor for species like oaks and hickories. Trees to be left in the areas will be selected in this way: The first trees that will be identified for retention are those that provide unique habitat for wildlife. These include dead trees, trees with cavities, and trees with platy bark. The second set of trees to be left will be those with the potential to live, grow, and maintain or improve in quality for the next several decades. Types of requirements within the contract to ensure that the area is restored Purchasers of the commercial sale are required to do the following: Maintain Forest Service roads used for the sale before, during, and after the activities in the sale. All areas with soil exposed by the activities in the project will be stabilized using seed, mulch, and water diversion where appropriate during the life of the sale. Purchaser is required to maintain a performance bond throughout the life of the project and for an appropriate amount of time after the contract to ensure that restoration activities are effective. The purchaser will be required to pay a penalty should they damage trees to be retained in the areas.

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
15	As addressed in the link http://www.kyheartwood.org/commercial-timber-harvest-in-beaver-creek.html the limited funds of the forest service should be funding the reclamation of previous logging projects.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
15	but damage the economic impact that DBNF has on the surrounding communities.	The analysis for the project will consideration of the effects on the local economy.
15	Eastern Kentucky faces it's far share of economic hardships and this would certainly damage not only one of the most unique landscapes in the country,	Potential issue. The analysis will include consideration of financial and other impacts.
15	The Daniel Boone National Forest needs to be protected from commercial logging.	
15	While logging provides jobs to some, it will not supply jobs to the residents of the area who this will effect the most.	The analysis for the project will consideration of the effects on the local economy.
16	I understand you say the forest needs thinning out for trees to build a canopy for diversity of wildlife. I have concerns about how this is happening one how are you going to not harm the tree you want to keep small diameter or large diameter depending on the canopy you want to create. Does the forest not already have a low and high canopy naturally? Reducing the crowding of trees the strong will survive nature has been doing this a long time why mess with it and how would you prevent the regrowth of the trees cut as you have not done before-proof has been seen in the Forest Service work before stumps that have been cut and left to bush out with growth.	Analyze as an issue. Use FVS and data from previous harvests to estimate the response of the areas following harvest.
16	The possible use of herbicide is a major concern herbicides have been linked to kidney failure and cancers and you want to place this in a area where people go to heal. Wildlife walk freely and eat off the ground and drink the water in which these herbicides seep into. People swim and eat fish out of Cave Run lake which these chemicals can flow in very easily.	Treat as an issue and analyze effects.
16	Anyone can tell where logging has occurred in the last 30-50 years in the Daniel Boone as it looks like disrespect was taken and the mess left. The Forest Service was asked to clean up these areas and "pick up their mess" the mess was mostly left and this was called success by the Forest Service but not in the eyes of the public.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
16	Providing forest products on a sustainable basis to the local economy how, if I may ask, the money that goes into the man hours, equipment, hauling trees and hopefully rebuilding the damage out weighs the cost of any timber money that the Forest Service would get in return.	The analysis related to this project will include an accounting of appropriate costs and revenues associated with the implementation of this project.

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
16	The money spent to destroy the Daniel Boone should be use in other-ways to improve what we have left since we have lost 25,000 acres 45-50yrs due to logging at a loss of profit.	<p>A review of the forest vegetation database (current at the end of 2015), provided the following information concerning forests where the overstory age is less than 35 years: Cumberland District 25,607 acres of National Forest System land (NFS) have an overstory age less than 35 years. This represents 14% of the NFS land. Events that have contributed to this amount. They include: Converted old fields: 622 acres (0.34% of NFS) Created by a windstorm in 1995: 1,224 acres (0.71% of NFS) Created by ice storm in 2003: 5,748 acres (3.15% of NFS) Created by commercial timber harvest since 1980: 18,013 acres (9.86% of NFS) Old Morehead District outside of most of 2003 ice storm affected area: 6,910 acres of National Forest System land (NFS) have an overstory age less than 35 years. This represents 11% of the NFS land. Events that have contributed to this amount. They include: Converted old fields: 272 acres (0.45% of NFS) Created by a prescribed burning: 80 acres (0.13% of NFS) Created by commercial timber harvest since 1980: 6,558 acres (10.76% of NFS) The analysis specific to this project will include a similar analysis of the creation of forests with an overstory age young than 35 years.</p>
16	These spots are usually just clear cut and left open for invasive plants to take over.	
17	Two weeks ago I was disheartened to hear that there was a proposal to log the Beaver Creek area off of Tom Stamper road. To this time, myself and family were unaware of such an initiative. Two years ago my family purchased the property at the end of Tom Stamper road. The address is 1880 Tom Stamper Road. The easement to access the top of the Beaver Creek water shed is through our property. I have several concerns that I would like captured during the comments period of this project.	Thank you for taking the time to send your comments to us related to this project. We attempted to determine who now owned the land adjacent to the property involved in this project by visiting the PVA office in Frenchburg. We found about fifteen landowners we thought were adjacent. Apparently, we did not get yours. I am sorry of that. It would have been nice to have had a chance to speak with you at the meeting. I have mailed a copy of the letter we sent out prior to the meeting along with copies of some handouts that we available there. Please review them and submit any comments you may have when you get the chance.
17	My son is specifically fond of frogs and deer. We hike the woods nearly every chance we can. I have to tear him out of the woods sometimes and nearly each time he is covered head to toe in mud and muck.	<p>Deer specifically benefit from an increase in edge habitat, which is created when there is a transition zone between two habitat types. Creating openings in the canopy, such as with a 2 age shelterwood treatment, helps create some this habitat. Deer and many other wildlife feed on the plants and forbs that come up in these canopy gaps, while still having the benefit cover in the nearby woodland. These can provide habitat with reduced predation risk as opposed to larger wildlife openings that, while beneficial in many ways, can increase exposure. Grouse, quail, and turkey also tend to benefit from silvicultural treatments such as thinning and 2 age shelterwood cuts. Riparian corridors are protected features based on the DBNF Forest Plan, which helps minimize impacts to aquatic species but preventing skid roads and trails within the buffer. Ponds should not be negatively impacted by this project. Some species , such as wood frogs, which have a short life cycle and often breed and lay eggs in temporary water sources such as puddles in order to avoid predation that often occurs in more permanent water, sometimes experience an increase in available habitat after a sale. Salamanders can benefit from projects such as this one, which will create downed woody debris (decaying brush and logs), an important habitat for many species.</p>

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
17	The project itself will impact the direct usage of our property and the national forest. We spend the summers camping near the easement and sleeping in our cabin in between the surveyed "narrows."	<p>Text of message sent in response to their email to the Forest Service: Thank you for taking the time to send your comments to us related to this project. We attempted to determine who now owned the land adjacent to the property involved in this project by visiting the PVA office in Frenchburg. We found about fifteen landowners we thought were adjacent. Apparently, we did not get yours. I am sorry of that. It would have been nice to have had a chance to speak with you at the meeting. I have mailed a copy of the letter we sent out prior to the meeting along with copies of some handouts that we available there. Please review them and submit any comments you may have when you get the chance. I will attempt to answer your direct questions in the following message. 1) Our family and friends go back into the national forest all the time, to clear-cut the forest as proposed would completely change the beauty, the hunting, and the desirability of being there. The activities proposed on the land adjacent to your property include a two-aged shelterwood treatment designed to allow the re-growth or a young forest that will leave approximately 30% of the overstory canopy in place and a commercial thinning treatment that is designed to enhance to vigor of the existing forest which will leave approximately 70% of the overstory canopy in place. 2) The easement road going through our property and back to the park, is in a state that will not handle the traffic or the weight of the equipment going in and out. Who repairs this? The easement deed acquired in 1985 that crosses your property defines maintenance to be proportional to use. This means that the Forest Service through the purchaser of the timber will be responsible for the bringing the road up to the standard to allow for hauling, maintaining the road, protection of infrastructure (including utilities), and putting it to bed following use for the period that it is used for the project. In detail that means the road will be brushed, graded, surfaced with stone, and drained to the standard defined in our handbooks prior to use and will be maintained at that level throughout the life of the project. 3) The road in front of our cabin is wet and marshy all summer long. Who repairs the damage to it ? If the road in front of the cabin is part of the easement, see my previous answer. 4) Our water line is under the road that leads into our property. Who is responsible for damages to it ? If the waterline is along the portion of the road within the easement, see my previous answer. 5) What about trees that are mistakenly cut on our property. How is that handled. When marking commercial sales the Forest Service will maintain the property line adjacent to the proposed activities prior to the marking of the timber to be cut. This generally eliminates the potential for cutting of trees on private property. Should trees be cut by mistake or by negligent action by the purchaser of the timber sale, the contract contains provisions for compensation to the owner of the trees including liquidated damages. I have this provides some answers to your concerns. I would like to meet with you if possible at the property to discuss what is planned an look at your concerns in detail, so please feel free to contact me the next time you plan on visiting the cabin and I will try and visit with you if it fits into your plans.</p>
17	This project is changing my favorite place. Where we take a break from work. Where we spend time with friends and family. This is an area that is hunted, photographed, hiked, and cherished. It seems inappropriate to change an area intended for recreation and enjoyment. While the forest service intention states forest improvement, I only see changes that will impact usage for years to come.	Potential issue. The analysis will contain consideration of the impacts of the activities on the uses of the areas.
17	In the fall this is the center piece of family's deer camp. We hike through the winters within the national forest, enjoy the spring flowers, escape the summer heat, and are blessed by the fall colors. Last fall we actually used this specific area for family pictures.	The analysis for the project will include consideration of effects to recreational use and scenery.
18	I am opposed to all aspects of the proposed project (logging, thinning, herbicide application and road building etc).	
19	It would be a tragedy. Isn't there enough clear cut land.	

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
20	I am birdwatcher and frequently bird near the areas that are proposed to be logged. As you know, birds populations have been seriously hit by degradation of forest habitat and the proposed logging will definitely not help in this regard. Forest fragmentation and invasive species not only affect birds but the overall health of the ecosystem.	Invasive species are a concern during disturbance event. Mitigation measures will certainly be included in order address invasive species in the area, both before and after the harvest. Open canopy oak forests have been largely replaced on the landscape by closed canopy forests comprised of shade tolerant species such as maple. A diversity of habitat, both open and closed canopy, will provide the greatest benefit for the greatest number of species. The American woodcock, blue winged warbler, and ruffed grouse are all bird species that have been shown to benefit from silvicultural treatments. The indigo bunting and common yellowthroat use regenerating canopy gaps for nesting. For canopy bird species, studies have shown nesting success to be comparable in shelterwood and unharvested reference stands.
20	In this day and age, it is particularly troublesome that the Forest Service will go out of its way to propose a money-losing and destructive project of this kind.	The analysis related to this project will include an accounting of appropriate costs and revenues associated with the implementation of this project.
20	The proposal to build roads, both permanent and "temporary," are particularly troubling, given that, by now, everybody understands that roads are highly destructive to the ecosystem, expensive to maintain, and a welcome sign to invasive species and unwanted activities like destructive OHV use.	
20	This project will cost the taxpayer money and will degrade habitat.	The Forest Plan, Endangered Species Act, and Best Management Practices all help ensure that timber management is done sustainably and without causing long term negative impacts to wildlife.
21	As a avid adventurer and resident, I enjoy the use of these public lands for my own recreation. Having to navigate within an area devastated by logging is demoralizing and in no way enjoyable, for myself and the species that call it home.	
21	In the past, when logging has occurred it has resulted in the removal of native species, including eastern hardwoods. During the regeneration of these trees, the fast-growing poplars and red maples take over and don't allow the slow-growers (oaks, hickories, and pines) to re-establish. The forest is never the same.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
21	One of the objectives of this proposal is to 'diversify habitat to benefit various species of wildlife'. As an ecologist, I am not sure how this aligns with the proposal. Destroying current habitat will only push animal species out. Mammals, birds, insects all depend on trees for food and shelter. Pushing species out can cause issues wherever they seek refuge. Areas can become over populated and this can be devastating to these ecosystems as well, not just the ones affected by logging.	Current habitat will be altered but that will not result in any specific habitat type being lost across the landscape. Maintaining a diversity of habitat across the Forest will ensure the greatest species diversity and this project will provide habitat for some species, while others will benefit from habitat types found elsewhere. Deer, turkey, grouse, rabbits, several species of song birds, bees and other pollinators, several small mammal species including voles, and some bat species have been show to benefit from silvicultural treatments and the habitat they create. The primary benefit to wildlife will be ensuring multiple habitat types are represented across the landscape.
21	The building of logging roads is destructive to the soil and the organisms that inhabit it. Logging and the roads built to extract the wood create more erosion and in return, damage streams and waterways. This has a detrimental effect on water quality and the organisms that depend on the water.	The following soil productivity indicators will be analyzed by the DBNF Forest Soil Scientist for effects that could arise from the actions described in the Beaver Creek Project: erosion potential, compaction potential, organic matter retention, and changes to the soil decomposer community. The DBNF Forest Plan contains an objective that charges us to maintain soil productivity on at least 85% of each project area following land activities. A more stringent standard applies to harvest areas: no more than 10% of the area should be in landings, skid roads, or exposed soil. Given that any alternative listed in this project calls for less than two miles of newly constructed road, it is unlikely that this activity will be an issue. Activities of this magnitude usually do not result in long-term detrimental effects to soil productivity on the DBNF.
22	Kentucky needs to maintain its forests--not destroy	
22	Thank you for your consideration. I live in Lexington, KY, and go to the Cave Run Lake area frequently and just love the woods.	
22	Past logging in the National Forest has brought about terrible results with invasive species practically taking over in some places.	

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
23	Since 1980, the Forest Service has logged about 25,000 acres, or a full one-quarter of the national forest lands that make up the northern end of the Daniel Boone National Forest from Cave Run Lake to the forests just north of Morehead.	A review of the forest vegetation database (current at the end of 2015), provided the following information concerning forests where the overstory age is less than 35 years: Cumberland District 25,607 acres of National Forest System land (NFS) have an overstory age less than 35 years. This represents 14% of the NFS land. Events that have contributed to this amount. They include: Converted old fields: 622 acres (0.34% of NFS) Created by a windstorm in 1995: 1,224 acres (0.71% of NFS) Created by ice storm in 2003: 5,748 acres (3.15% of NFS) Created by commercial timber harvest since 1980: 18,013 acres (9.86% of NFS) Old Morehead District outside of most of 2003 ice storm affected area: 6,910 acres of National Forest System land (NFS) have an overstory age less than 35 years. This represents 11% of the NFS land. Events that have contributed to this amount. They include: Converted old fields: 272 acres (0.45% of NFS) Created by a prescribed burning: 80 acres (0.13% of NFS) Created by commercial timber harvest since 1980: 6,558 acres (10.76% of NFS) The analysis specific to this project will include a similar analysis of the creation of forests with an overstory age young than 35 years.
23	Around 30 acres of forest will be cleared or disturbed to establish log landings and skid trails. While the Forest Service has proposed a potential beneficial plant to plant soft mast in log landings (including native plums, persimmon, dogwood, and native hawthorns), issues relating to invasive species establishment and soil compaction still need to be addressed.	The following soil productivity indicators will be analyzed by the DBNF Forest Soil Scientist for effects that could arise from the actions described in the Beaver Creek Project: erosion potential, compaction potential, organic matter retention, and changes to the soil decomposer community. The DBNF Forest Plan contains an objective that charges us to maintain soil productivity on at least 85% of each project area following land activities. A more stringent standard applies to harvest areas: no more than 10% of the area should be in landings, skid roads, or exposed soil. Given that any alternative listed in this project calls for less than two miles of newly constructed road, it is unlikely that this activity will be an issue. Activities of this magnitude usually do not result in long-term detrimental effects to soil productivity on the DBNF.
23	Despite having insufficient funds to maintain existing roads, the Forest Service plans to construct 0.9 miles of new, permanent system road in unroaded forest just to harvest timber. Another mile of "temporary" roads will be built to pull timber out of the forest. Anything but temporary, these logging roads are bulldozed into hillsides and leave their mark for decades or longer. Similar "temporary" roads from recent harvests in the Cumberland District have damaged remaining trees (including old-growth) and are carpeted in invasive species	
23	Invasive species are a huge problem, and have been identified by the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service as "one of the four critical threats to our Nation's ecosystems." Some of the proposed harvest units are bordered by infestations of extremely problematic invasive species like multiflora rose, lespedeza, miscanthus grass, and others. Logging creates ideal conditions for spreading these invasives into forest interiors. Despite being recognized as a significant forest health issue by the Forest Service, colonization of invasive species into forest interiors is often ignored when approving timber sales.	
23	Losing money on all of these sales	The analysis related to this project will include an accounting of appropriate costs and revenues associated with the implementation of this project.
23	the Forest Service has converted thousands of acres of mature oaks, hickories, and pines to seas of malformed, unhealthy, and stump-sprouted red maple and tulip poplar. Rather than working to restore these failed regeneration harvests,	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
23	The Forest Service should be using limited funds to restore degraded clearcut and shelterwood harvests from previous logging projects, instead of planning new timber sales.?	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
23	We offer these comments as regular visitors to the Daniel Boone National Forest. We use the Daniel Boone National Forest for a wide range of pursuits and activities including educational, recreational and therapeutic.	The analysis for the project will include considerations of effects to recreational use of the area.
24	Her main concerned are related to the use of the roads by log trucks associated with the project. She wanted to make sure that the roads would be maintained during their use and also if damage occurred how it would be repaired. I described at little about purchaser road maintenance, the quantity of traffic usually associated with these projects, and also a little about our payments to counties in lieu of taxes.	The analysis for the project will include: A description of the construction, re-construction, and maintenance needed to implement the project that will be born by the purchaser of the commercial timber. An estimate of the value of the road work to be performed by the purchaser. A description of the closeout work that will be done related to roads following the completion of the project. Other access needs in the project area. The activities proposed will take place on roads that are part of the maintenance backlog on the Forest. The project will actually meet some of these needs without needing to spend road maintenance funds. Potential substantive issue: The proposed construction, re-construction, and maintenance needs related to this project have the possibility to increase the unmet needs already existing on the Forest.
25	The Beaver Creek Watershed is a prime recreational area and wildlife area of the Daniel Boone National Forest.	The DBNF Cumberland Ranger District represents a wide range of important wildlife habitat across the District. There are no known wildlife communities unique to the Beaver Creek Watershed, but managing it for the greatest species diversity will provide the greatest benefit to wildlife overall. The phrase 'prime wildlife area' is a general statement and difficult to respond to given its subjective nature.
25	Timber harvesting is NOT done in a manner to leave sustainable ground cover in this hilly terrain.	The following soil productivity and slope stability indicators will be analyzed by the DBNF Forest Soil Scientist for effects that could arise from the actions described in the Beaver Creek Project: geologic formations, seeps, land use history, erosion potential, compaction potential, organic matter (litter layer) retention, and changes to the soil decomposer community. The DBNF Forest Plan includes a soil productivity standard that applies to harvest areas: no more than 10% of the area should be in landings, skid roads, or exposed soil. Working within this standard, harvesting activities usually do not result in soil erosion or land stability issues on the DBNF. Residual slash and the maintenance of the litter layer on 90% of the harvest area has shown to be sufficient in arresting erosion that may occur and maintaining landform stability.
27	From what I understand, for all the new roads, increased spread of invasive species in the cuts, compaction and erosion, disruption and destruction of the lives of the creatures and plants that live in the forest	The following soil productivity indicators will be analyzed by the DBNF Forest Soil Scientist for effects that could arise from the actions described in the Beaver Creek Project: erosion potential, compaction potential, organic matter retention, and changes to the soil decomposer community. The DBNF Forest Plan contains an objective that charges us to maintain soil productivity on at least 85% of each project area following land activities. A more stringent standard applies to harvest areas: no more than 10% of the area should be in landings, skid roads, or exposed soil. Given that any alternative listed in this project calls for less than two miles of newly constructed road, it is unlikely that this activity will be an issue. Activities of this magnitude usually do not result in long-term detrimental effects to soil productivity on the DBNF.
27	I love to be in the forest, live in Clark County but come and visit the forest with my kids when I am able.	The analysis for the project will include considerations of effects to recreational use of the area.
27	the Forest Service also lost money on most of the timber harvests done in the Daniel Boone forest since the 1980s.	The analysis related to this project will include an accounting of appropriate costs and revenues associated with the implementation of this project.
28		
29	Let this region heal from decades of extraction and invest in the communities and the land; refrain from taking what takes years to replenish. Lead my example in showing the residents of this county that extraction isn't the only way.	

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
29	Not to mention the damage to the watershed and loss of wildlife habitat !	For this project erosion and stream sedimentation will be used to evaluate the difference between alternatives. Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of soil movement will be considered. The cumulative effects analysis will include past, present and future changes for the entire watershed regardless of whether they occur on Forest Service or private lands. Historically, activities of this magnitude have not resulted in a significant change in hydrologic resources or soil productivity.
29	We have something rare and valuable here, and it is meant to be cherished, not cut down and poorly reconstructed, never to return to its original spender.	
30	Here, where the government has set aside land to protect it from tragedy of the commons, we have another situation where the forest is going to be cut down despite the protection.	
30	The 4 years of research of the area has taught me new appreciation of the forests and has given me many good memories of doing field work in healthy forests. I have also seen the after effects of the same kind of forest cutting and it has saddened me to much extent.	
30	The DBNF is a unique home to thousands of species of vascular plants, mosses, and lichens, as well as fungi, insects, mammals, birds, and fish. As a senior in the Biology area of concentration at Morehead State University and learning about the unique properties of the ecosystems around here, knowing that there is proposed non-sustainable cutting of the forest here is disheartening.	There is much evidence that sustainable timber harvest can occur.
30	The proposed management of the are would cause the area, to be frank, to perish under invasives and improper management (that properly would help raise the forest to be healthy again).	
31	a biologist I know that logging also has a negative effect on wildlife and natural processes	No old growth will be removed as part of this project. Eastern forests have been heavily impacted and many studies have shown that silvicultural treatments can be used to address some of the concerns created as a result of past use (such as overcrowding, stand replacement resulting in a shift to species less desirable for producing mast to support wildlife, etc.). Thinning can provide an increase in vigor and allow trees to grow larger faster, more quickly reaching a size where they can create closed canopy habitat. 2 age shelterwood cuts, a second silvicultural prescription being used in this project, can create temporary openings in the canopy, which can provide a different type of habitat to support certain species, while allowing the understory trees to grow up and in the future create a different type of canopy habitat. While logging, if done unsustainably, can have negative effects on wildlife and natural processes, many studies have also show benefits to some species, particularly small mammals, including increases in diversity, abundance, and richness.
31	As an avid hiker and nature enthusiast logging greatly affects my ability to enjoy our natural areas.	The analysis will include consideration of effects to hiking.
31	We must retain as much old-growth forest as possible.	
32	I am opposed to all aspects of the proposed project (logging, thinning, herbicide application and road building etc).	
33	KFIA feels this project needs to move forward and supports the active management of the Daniel Boone National Forest to meet multiple management goals in the area.	
33	The Association and our over 550 members are in full support of the project and feel the thinning and harvest will improve the forested area for wildlife and improve productivity from the site.	
33	The harvesting will also support the local economy by providing both logging and sawmill jobs in the area.	
34	If you want to look to the future, which I ask you to do, don't remove the best genetics from our forests. Harvesting timber in a sustainable manner and preserving the best trees for future generations will pay off in the big picture.	
34	I realize that logging provides much-needed funds to the Forest Service in a relatively short span of time.	The analysis related to this project will include an accounting of appropriate costs and revenues associated with the implementation of this project.

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
34	<p>I also know where this leaves our forests: left with the least desirable trees and their genetics. From a biological view, these logging jobs take the best genes in our forest out of the competition for centuries and possibly forever, and the inferior genes- the crooked trees, the ones susceptible to disease and infestation, the ones that aren't worth logging, are the trees whose seeds will continue to fall and sprout and grow up in to more inferior trees.</p>	<p>Selection of trees to be harvested: Trees to be harvested will be selected and measured by Forest Service employees, not the purchaser of the sale. For this project, the trees to be left following harvest will be selected first. Criteria for retention will vary with objectives of the proposed treatment. They include: Two- aged shelterwood- Objective is to allow enough sunlight to reach the forest floor to allow existing smaller trees to grow or allow new ones to be established. Trees to be left in the areas will be selected in this way: The first trees that will be identified for retention are those that provide unique habitat for wildlife. These include dead trees, trees with cavities, and trees with platy bark. The second set of trees to be left will be those with the potential to live and grow for the next several decades. Commercial thinning- Objective is to create growing space for the crowns of trees that are currently in the upper canopy of the forest. This additional space will maintain and potentially increase the vigor of the remaining trees and will result in better resistance/recovery from events like ice/windstorms, improved seed production, and establishment of seedlings on the forest floor for species like oaks and hickories. Trees to be left in the areas will be selected in this way: The first trees that will be identified for retention are those that provide unique habitat for wildlife. These include dead trees, trees with cavities, and trees with platy bark. The second set of trees to be left will be those with the potential to live, grow, and maintain or improve in quality for the next several decades. Types of requirements within the contract to ensure that the area is restored Purchasers of the commercial sale are required to do the following: Maintain Forest Service roads used for the sale before, during, and after the activities in the sale. All areas with soil exposed by the activities in the project will be stabilized using seed, mulch, and water diversion where appropriate during the life of the sale. Purchaser is required to maintain a performance bond throughout the life of the project and for an appropriate amount of time after the contract to ensure that restoration activities are effective. The purchaser will be required to pay a penalty should they damage trees to be retained in the areas.</p>
34	<p>I know that loggers take the tallest, straightest trees of the best species in order to make the most money from a harvesting operation.</p>	<p>Selection of trees to be harvested: Trees to be harvested will be selected and measured by Forest Service employees, not the purchaser of the sale. For this project, the trees to be left following harvest will be selected first. Criteria for retention will vary with objectives of the proposed treatment. They include: Two- aged shelterwood- Objective is to allow enough sunlight to reach the forest floor to allow existing smaller trees to grow or allow new ones to be established. Trees to be left in the areas will be selected in this way: The first trees that will be identified for retention are those that provide unique habitat for wildlife. These include dead trees, trees with cavities, and trees with platy bark. The second set of trees to be left will be those with the potential to live and grow for the next several decades. Commercial thinning- Objective is to create growing space for the crowns of trees that are currently in the upper canopy of the forest. This additional space will maintain and potentially increase the vigor of the remaining trees and will result in better resistance/recovery from events like ice/windstorms, improved seed production, and establishment of seedlings on the forest floor for species like oaks and hickories. Trees to be left in the areas will be selected in this way: The first trees that will be identified for retention are those that provide unique habitat for wildlife. These include dead trees, trees with cavities, and trees with platy bark. The second set of trees to be left will be those with the potential to live, grow, and maintain or improve in quality for the next several decades. Types of requirements within the contract to ensure that the area is restored Purchasers of the commercial sale are required to do the following: Maintain Forest Service roads used for the sale before, during, and after the activities in the sale. All areas with soil exposed by the activities in the project will be stabilized using seed, mulch, and water diversion where appropriate during the life of the sale. Purchaser is required to maintain a performance bond throughout the life of the project and for an appropriate amount of time after the contract to ensure that restoration activities are effective. The purchaser will be required to pay a penalty should they damage trees to be retained in the areas.</p>
34	<p>Logging operation after logging operation, our forests become less and less desirable (and profitable) for humans, less hospitable to native animals, and more welcoming to invasive species that already are thriving and in abundance at previously harvested sites.</p>	
35	<p>Please protect our forest and do not log here for more roads.</p>	

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
36	I want to submit my comments and feelings with regards to the forest service project. My husband and I have been coming to Menifee county for over 16 years to camp, hike, and enjoy the outdoors. Less than two years ago my father in law purchased property at the end of Tom Stamper Road. It was the start of a long awaited family dream. My in-laws were engaged in red river gorge. We spent vacation time in Daniel Boone National Forest and the Cave Run Lake Area. This piece of property was something my in-laws wanted to retire on and a place that our children, nieces and nephews could enjoy the outdoors.	
36	It will change in activity as the peacefulness will be disturbed with a several month project.	
36	The older sections of the forest past the second "narrows" was a favorite for us as a family to hike. This project will directly change our use of the national forest. It is clearing the specific areas we enjoy almost every weekend. These are areas that our neighbors hike and hunt for morel's. This is the area that neighbors, family and friends hike and hunt. It will leave this area changed with renewal period beyond our lifetime.	These are understandable concerns and an important part of this project is to include considerations for wildlife, particularly Threatened and Endangered species. When a natural disturbance even comes through an area, such as a tornado or and ice storm, it has a very 'messy' look that people often find unappealing. However, this disturbance helps create small mammal habitat, supporting species on up the food chain, and allows sunlight to reach the forest floor which can contribute to important plant species diversity. Likewise, timber harvest often is 'messy' looking in the initial stages but can be done responsibly to both support a local economic and resource need while still supporting habitat for wildlife. Best management practices, the Forest Plan, and the Endangered Species Act will all help provide a framework to ensure this project is sustainable.
37	Along Carter Branch and the lower-slope section of Stands 1095-30 and 1095-26 is a large, tangled, and well-established mess of multiflora rose and Japanese honeysuckle. A powerline right-of-way cuts through Stand 1095-26 (which is proposed for a shelterwood regeneration harvest) and clearly has multiflora rose established in it. It appears as if invasive lespedeza is established through the area as well, and we suspect a high population of numerous other invasive plant species will become apparent once the growing season begins. There is simply no way to harvest these stands, particularly stand 1095-26 with a regeneration harvest, without directly causing a severe infestation of multiple invasive plants in these stands. We refer here to our broad concerns regarding invasive species raised in Section 5. Invasive Species.	
37	As discussed below in Section 8. Site Specific Concerns: Kendrick Ridge, invasive plant species are known to be in the project area adjacent to proposed harvest units. And, as demonstrated above in Section 4. Temporary Roads, the Forest Service on the Cumberland District has failed to adequately control for invasive species in logging operations and directly caused infestations in forest interiors.	
37	As we note in the site-specific sections below, some of the proposed harvest units are directly adjacent to failed clearcut and shelterwood regeneration harvests. The Forest Service has to demonstrate clearly how it is that implementing a shelterwood harvest will be effective, when adjacent regeneration harvests from 20-30 years ago resulted in converting upland oak and oak-pine forests to stump-sprouted red maples and tulip poplar. Duplicating previous management prescriptions in essentially the same location while expecting different results does not make sense.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
37	Contrary to what is being proposed on the Cumberland District, we have seen projects in recent years on the Redbird and Stearns Districts (Group One Redbird and Upper Rock Creek, respectively) tailored to eliminate or reduce new road construction by removing proposed harvest units that require new road construction. It has been explicitly conveyed to us that such decisions have been made because the DBNF cannot handle the existing road network, with new roads only adding to the burden. This is a responsible, pragmatic approach that we hope the Cumberland District will similarly adopt.	Potential issue. Develop alternatives that reduce or minimized road construction. Analyze effects. Focus on financial and effects to other resources.

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
37	<p>Finally, you present a tree density map that suggests that nearly all national forest lands in the vicinity of the project area are overly dense and will therefore be subject tree mortality, and you appear to imply that much more of the landscape needs to be harvested to address forest health concerns. This is a clear case of wrongfully applying the assumptions of agronomic forestry to an ecological management system. Timber health and forest health are not the same, though these considerations can overlap. Several of the stands we have observed in the project area are clearly within the stem exclusion phase of their development, which often extends, in our region, to forests of 70 to 90 years in age (often the ~6" to 8" red maples in the midstory of many stands are in the same age class as the overstory oaks, and not truly indicative of demographic transition). This stage of forest stand development is naturally associated with moderate to high levels of density-related tree mortality in what is sometimes referred to as "self-thinning." Furthermore, these dead and declining trees are an important and vital part of the forest ecosystem. While traditional forestry holds dear to the assumption that cavity tree, snag, and coarse woody debris formation are a loss to be avoided, this perspective is essentially economic and, in many cases, contrary to ecological considerations.</p>	<p>The response will be organized to the concerns listed by the commenter: The Forest Plan Objective: Objective 2.1.A. does not direct the use of the stocking charts developed Samuel F. Gingrich. The objective establishes a stocking level of less than 80% stocking as a level for to help meet the parent goal (2.1) of increasing the amount of forested land where growth exceeds loss and is more resistant to catastrophic loss. The stocking chart developed by Gingrich is presented in the plan as a visual example of many such charts available for use depending upon the forest community to be considered for activity. The goal does not direct that all forested lands be managed this way. It only establishes that the amount of forested land with less than 80% stocking be increased forest-wide. Latitude is left during implementation of the Plan for selection of where and how much of the Forest this condition will be applied. Specific to this project it was determined it was appropriate to reduce stocking on 133 acres to below the 80% stocking level. Stand Density Index as developed by L. H. Rieneke in 1933 was used to determine the current and desired density in the areas to be treated. Work completed by Roger Williams in 2003 was used to relate Stand Density Index to percent stocking. Use of stocking charts for applications other than original design: The charts developed by Gingrich were initially developed to quantify densities that would result in the maximum yield of products from upland forests. However even in the paper that shared the results of this effort in 1963, Gingrich himself identified multiple uses of these charts both for field and research use. There are many examples of the use of these charts for assessing treatments to improve forest health. For example, Kurt W. Gottschalk adapted these charts to help assess and provide direction to prepare forests for defoliation from the non-native gypsy moth in 1993. Age of forests used to develop the charts: The commenter is concerned that the age of the forests considered by Gingrich in development of the charts is significantly different than those of the forests being proposed for activity in this project. Gingrich used two sources of data for developing the charts. One was Table 37 in G. Luther Schnur's 1937 normal yield tables which were developed from trees with ages from 10 to 99 years. He also used a set of region-wide permanent plots that were part of a density study. The forest age of these plots ranged from 25 to 75 years. The forests with activities planned as part of this project range in age from 78 to 108 years. For the areas proposed for thinning the areas range in age from 78 to 96. The application of these charts to guide management exclude the development of old growth stands: The reduction in stocking encouraged in the Forest Plan is aimed at increasing stand vigor which should improve the chances that treated areas reach older ages without experiencing catastrophic decline events like those described and studied by Seven Oak in 1986.</p>
37	<p>In this project, the Forest Service is proposing 0.9 miles of new system road construction to access lands for no other reason than removing timber. The proposed new system road goes into an area for which there is no other need for access. While road construction may be carried out by the timber contractor, these costs nevertheless must come out of the bid for the timber, increasing the cost deficit of the project.</p>	<p>The analysis for the project will include: A description of the construction, re-construction, and maintenance needed to implement the project that will be born by the purchaser of the commercial timber. An estimate of the value of the road work to be performed by the purchaser. A description of the closeout work that will be done related to roads following the completion of the project. Other access needs in the project area. The activities proposed will take place on roads that are part of the maintenance backlog on the Forest. The project will actually meet some of these needs without needing to spend road maintenance funds. Potential substantive issue: The proposed construction, re-construction, and maintenance needs related to this project have the possibility to increase the unmet needs already existing on the Forest.</p>

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
37	<p>Invasive species are recognized as a serious problem on national forest lands, and the USDA Forest Service has established an Invasive Species Program. The website for the Invasive Species Program states: The goal of the USDA Forest Service invasive species program is to reduce, minimize, or eliminate the potential for introduction, establishment, spread, and impact of invasive species across all landscapes and ownerships. The Chief of the USDA Forest Service has identified invasive species as one of the four critical threats to our Nation's ecosystems. Executive Order 13112, dated February 3, 1999, specifically directs federal agencies to address invasive species concerns. Section 2 states: Sec. 2. Federal Agency Duties. (a) Each Federal agency whose actions may affect the status of invasive species shall, to the extent practicable and permitted by law, (1) identify such actions; (2) subject to the availability of appropriations, and within Administration budgetary limits, use relevant programs and authorities to: (i) prevent the introduction of invasive species; (ii) detect and respond rapidly to and control populations of such species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner; Logging is well known to induce the spread and establishment of noxious invasive plant species into forest interiors. There is an abundance of research and professional observations to this effect, and it is well known by the Forest Service and DBNF. The combination of canopy and soil disturbance associated with logging creates ideal conditions for many of the most troublesome invasive species to become newly established and create infestations where none were previously located. The DBNF has failed in recent project analyses to take a "hard look" at the effects of logging on the spread of invasive species. The Forest Service must appropriately analyze the effects of the proposed action with relation to invasive species.</p>	
37	<p>It has come to our attention that the Forest Service has failed to adequately notify adjacent and affected landowners of the project. The January 26, 2016 Project Update states that a number of "changes indicate a need to re-visit this project internally and externally to see if there are additional opportunities or environmental effects that can be addressed now." One of the specific changes listed is "Changes in adjacent landowners." During a field visit to the Kendrick Ridge site, we met with a relatively new landowner, Michael Albanese. The Albanese property is adjacent to the proposed harvest area, and the Forest Service and contractors must utilize the easement through the property, crossing immediately in front of and through their developed cabin area to bring in heavy equipment for logging operations and road reconstruction, as well has for hauling out logs. The impacts to their property and use of their property will be substantial. However, the Albanese family was not contacted by the Forest Service to notify them that there was an active proposal that would directly impact their land. We have suggested to Mr. Albanese that he communicate with you directly, and hope that he has taken opportunity to do so. However, we suspect that the Forest Service has similarly failed to contact other land owners that may be affected. This is doubly a failure in that the Forest Service recognized in the January 26, 2016 Project Update that "Changes in adjacent landowners" is one of the new issues to consider.</p>	<p>As part of the re-scoping effort, team members visited the local PVA office and collected the names and addresses of approximately 20 individuals who appeared to own property adjacent and/or near the projects activities.</p>

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
37	<p>Kentucky Heartwood has previously expressed very detailed criticism of the Forest Service's reliance on the Gingrich stocking models as a proxy for forest health, especially with regards to the de facto exclusion of old-growth development through its application. The scoping document cites Forest Plan Prescription Area 1.K, Objective 2.1A in relation to thinning below the 80% stocking level. We realize that the project here is referencing and being consistent with the Forest Plan, but nevertheless think that the limitations and assumptions, both implicit and explicit, in the model need to be discussed in the context of forest management on the DBNF and this project. Because of the lengthy nature of the discussion, we are attaching to these comments the comments that we submitted on the Spring Creek Vegetation Management Project in the Redbird District (Spring Creek EA comments, September 3, 2014, Section 2. Old-Growth and Forest Development), and our predecisional objection for that project (Section III, page 7) which provides a response to the Final EA.</p>	<p>The response will be organized to the concerns listed by the commenter: The Forest Plan Objective: Objective 2.1.A. does not direct the use of the stocking charts developed Samuel F. Gingrich. The objective establishes a stocking level of less than 80% stocking as a level for to help meet the parent goal (2.1) of increasing the amount of forested land where growth exceeds loss and is more resistant to catastrophic loss. The stocking chart developed by Gingrich is presented in the plan as a visual example of many such charts available for use depending upon the forest community to be considered for activity. The goal does not direct that all forested lands be managed this way. It only establishes that the amount of forested land with less than 80% stocking be increased forest-wide. Latitude is left during implementation of the Plan for selection of where and how much of the Forest this condition will be applied. Specific to this project it was determined it was appropriate to reduce stocking on 133 acres to below the 80% stocking level. Stand Density Index as developed by L. H. Rieneke in 1933 was used to determine the current and desired density in the areas to be treated. Work completed by Roger Williams in 2003 was used to relate Stand Density Index to percent stocking. Use of stocking charts for applications other than original design: The charts developed by Gingrich were initially developed to quantify densities that would result in the maximum yield of products from upland forests. However even in the paper that shared the results of this effort in 1963, Gingrich himself identified multiple uses of these charts both for field and research use. There are many examples of the use of these charts for assessing treatments to improve forest health. For example, Kurt W. Gottschalk adapted these charts to help assess and provide direction to prepare forests for defoliation from the non-native gypsy moth in 1993. Age of forests used to develop the charts: The commenter is concerned that the age of the forests considered by Gingrich in development of the charts is significantly different than those of the forests being proposed for activity in this project. Gingrich used two sources of data for developing the charts. One was Table 37 in G. Luther Schnur's 1937 normal yield tables which were developed from trees with ages from 10 to 99 years. He also used a set of region-wide permanent plots that were part of a density study. The forest age of these plots ranged from 25 to 75 years. The forests with activities planned as part of this project range in age from 78 to 108 years. For the areas proposed for thinning the areas range in age from 78 to 96. The application of these charts to guide management exclude the development of old growth stands: The reduction in stocking encouraged in the Forest Plan is aimed at increasing stand vigor which should improve the chances that treated areas reach older ages without experiencing catastrophic decline events like those described and studied by Seven Oak in 1986.</p>
37	<p>Our analysis of DBNF GIS data suggests that about 20,000 acres of the DBNF from the vicinity of the project area to the northern end of the DBNF were harvested between 1980 and 2003, with another 4,000 to 5,000 acres harvested since 2003 as part of the 2003 Ice Storm Recovery Project. Our observations from the project area and other areas across the DBNF harvested with regeneration methods (both clearcut and shelterwood) during this time show that the vast majority of harvested upland oak-hickory and oak-pine stands have been effectively converted to stands dominated by malformed, multi-stem, stump-sprouted maples and tulip poplar with very little oak regeneration. As we understand it, the Cumberland District has some of these lands approved for crop-tree release or other timber stand improvement treatments, but currently has plans to treat less than 10% of those lands harvested since 1980. This leaves a substantial and significant portion of the District and project area in an impaired and degraded condition with a vastly reduced capacity for producing hard mast that will likely continue for decades or centuries without appropriate management.</p>	<p>A review of the forest vegetation database (current at the end of 2015), provided the following information concerning forests where the overstory age is less than 35 years: Cumberland District 25,607 acres of National Forest System land (NFS) have an overstory age less than 35 years. This represents 14% of the NFS land. Events that have contributed to this amount. They include: Converted old fields: 622 acres (0.34% of NFS) Created by a windstorm in 1995: 1,224 acres (0.71% of NFS) Created by ice storm in 2003: 5,748 acres (3.15% of NFS) Created by commercial timber harvest since 1980: 18,013 acres (9.86% of NFS) Old Morehead District outside of most of 2003 ice storm affected area: 6,910 acres of National Forest System land (NFS) have an overstory age less than 35 years. This represents 11% of the NFS land. Events that have contributed to this amount. They include: Converted old fields: 272 acres (0.45% of NFS) Created by a prescribed burning: 80 acres (0.13% of NFS) Created by commercial timber harvest since 1980: 6,558 acres (10.76% of NFS) The analysis specific to this project will include a similar analysis of the creation of forests with an overstory age young than 35 years.</p>
37	<p>Temporary roads are often treated in Forest Service analyses as if they have no real or lasting impacts on the environment. However, these newly constructed roads do have impacts and are not "temporary" in any reasonable sense of the word. Below are pictures of "temporary roads" in the 2003 Ice Storm Recovery Project area which were bulldozed into the hillside. As with untold miles of other such "temporary" earth moving, these road grades will be part of the landscape for generations. In the instances below, the roads are infested with non-native invasive plants, with Japanese stiltgrass, <i>Microstegium vimineum</i>, on the left and what appears to be Orchard grass, <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>, on the right. The infestation of <i>Microstegium</i> extended well into the forest</p>	

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
37	<p>The DBNF has affirmed that forests in this condition are not desirable, and has allocated funds to manage and rehabilitate a small minority of these stands. For example, the February 6, 2012 scoping letter for the London Pre-Commercial Thinning Project states: "Desired species include white oak, chestnut oak, Northern red oak, Southern red oak, black oak, shortleaf pine, hickory, yellow poplar, and other species. Trees with good form are those trees with full live crowns, straight single stems, and healthy appearing crowns with no signs of harmful insects or diseases." The scoping letter for the London Pre-Commercial Thinning project states that the project meets Forest Plan Goals 2 and 2.1, and Objective 2.1.A., which states "Within each stand, the relationship of basal area, number of trees, and average tree diameter is below the 80 percent stocking level." Notably, meeting the same Objective 2.1.A is cited in the Beaver Creek project for the purpose and need of the commercial thinning prescription. Clearly, this purpose and need can be met through much-needed restoration of degraded young stands in the project area.</p>	<p>The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.</p>
37	<p>The lower slope of Stand 1095-26 appears to be a young to mid-age stand of primarily white (though possibly chinquapin) oak. The DBNF GIS database states that the stand was originated in 1908, but the lower portion of this stand is clearly younger and likely within the underrepresented 51-70 year age classes represented in the graph titled Distribution of average overstory ages by decade for stands in the Beaver Creek Project Area provided by the Forest Service during the February 18th public meeting in Frenchburg. While we have not cored any trees to confirm canopy age, the Forest Service does need to take a more detailed look at this portion of the stand. We have frequently found that the delineation of stands on the DBNF fails to capture multiple age classes, though usually our observations center on the failure to recognize old-growth inclusions. The upper portion of Stand 1095-26, excluding the powerline ROW, is a nice, mature oak forest with a Kalmia understory. A regeneration harvest on this site will almost certainly convert it to a red maple stand with numerous invasive plant species in the understory. The Forest Service has to demonstrate how such a conversion would be a beneficial, effective management action enhancing diversity and forest health. We contend that it would be otherwise.</p>	<p>Analyze as an issue. Use FVS and data from previous harvests to estimate the response of the areas following harvest.</p>
37	<p>The newly proposed harvests surround and are contiguous with the stands harvested in 1995, and, if implemented, will result in about 260 acres of the 280 acres above the cliffline having been harvested in just over 20 years. All but 65 acres of the forest harvested (past and proposed) will be through regeneration cuts. Considering the objective failures of the Forest Service to successfully regenerate oak at this site, the predictable results will be a wide swath of forest conversion and a long-term loss of most hard mast capacity. The full impacts of the planned harvests, past harvests, and actual current conditions of regenerating stands needs to be disclosed and analyzed. By most objective standards, the Forest Service is simply ruining the forest at this site in terms of future recreational, wildlife, and timber potential. Furthermore, the Forest Service appears to be violation of the Forest Plan with the proposed harvest at this site. Forestwide Standard DB-VEG-22 clearly states: "The maximum size of a temporary opening created by even-aged or two-aged regeneration treatments is 40 acres." The Desired Future Condition for Forest Plan Prescription Area 1.K states: "Temporary forest openings are created by the removal and/or death of single trees, groups of trees (up to ¼ acre), and/or stands of trees (up to 40 acres)." Stand 1116-40 is proposed for a shelterwood regeneration harvest of 51.9 acres, according to the GIS file commercial_timber_harvest_areas_actual_tree_cutting, as provided by the Forest Service. This 51.9 acres exceeds the maximum forest opening allowed by the Forest Plan. Stand 1116-46 includes an additional 34.2 acres of shelterwood harvest and is contiguous with Stand 1116-40, for a total opening of 86.1 acres - more than twice what is allowed in the Forest Plan. Approving the harvest as described would clearly contradict the Forest Plan and violate the National Forest Management Act. We also noted during our visit that the 1995 harvests approved by the Forest Service included tree cutting directly on the bank of an ephemeral stream above a rock ledge. Additionally, we found invasive Miscanthus grass on an old logging road in the project area, and suspect that other invasive plant species are in the seedbed and dormant along the corridor.</p>	<p>Success of previous commercially harvested areas: See Response #26 for information related to this subject. Specific to the site referenced in the comment. Three areas along this ridge system were commercially harvested as part of the Kendrick Ridge Timber Sale. All harvests and associated reforestation activities were completed in 1995. They are known as areas 1116-38, 1116-39, and 1116-43. 1116-38 and 1116-39 were pine or hardwood/pine forests prior to harvest. 1116-43 was an oak-hickory forest prior to harvest. All three sites were visited in response to this comment. All are occupied by an adequate amount of desirable species and includes ample amounts of oaks, hickories, and other species. None would be considered a failure in regard to reforestation quantity or quality. The harvest in 1995 probably did allow harvest closer to ephemeral streams than is currently allowed. That project was planned under the provisions of the 1982 Forest Plan and BMPs current at that time. Those are not the same as those in effect currently. Opening size including previously harvested areas: In standard DB-VEG-23 the Forest Plan states, 'An even-aged or two-aged regeneration area will no longer be considered an opening when the certified re-established stand has reached an age of five years. The previously harvest areas are no longer considered openings. In reference to the harvest of 1116-40, the area of actual tree cutting will only be 40 acres as identified in Table 1 in the Project Update mailed with the meeting announcement. The area on the maps and provided as GIS data is the prescription area in the plan that is in the Habitat Diversity Emphasis Area. It was provided as a reference mainly to show where activity has the potential to occur. Action to take: The analysis for this project will include the following in response to this comment: Detailed maps of actual harvest areas, not just prescription areas. Estimates of species diversity following harvest. Potentially modify proposal to include activities to limit spread of populations of NNIPS. Potential substantive issue: Activities related to road construction may allow existing populations of NNIPS to expand to new areas.</p>

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
37	<p>The Purpose and Need with relation to the proposed shelterwood harvests states that there is a need to provide for "areas (that) would enhance habitat for species such as Eastern towhee and yellow-breasted chat," (Prescription Area 1.K, Goal 1.7) and to "Maintain 5 to 6 percent within each 5th level watershed in the 0-10 age class" (Prescription Area 1.K, Objective 1.A). Both of these stated needs could be met through appropriate management to restore the failed regeneration harvests in the project area. And as we note above, Objective 2.1.A, which is cited for the purpose and need of the commercial thinning prescription, is the same Objective cited in the London Pre-commercial Thinning Project. While the Forest Service would not be meeting Prescription Area 1.K, Goal 8 to "Provide renewable products on a sustainable basis when such provision is compatible with Desired Future Conditions," such management could meet a wide range of other Forest Plan Goals and Objectives by restoring degraded forests, 5 providing for early successional habitat, and preserving mature forests in a manner that is more consistent with broad public sentiment and recreational use of the forest.</p>	
37	<p>There is ongoing confusion and a paucity of data regarding the true financial costs of timber sales on the DBNF. Several national analyses have shown that the U.S. Forest Service loses a substantial amount of money planning and implementing commercial timber sales on our national forest lands. In recent years, the Forest Service has admitted as such, and moved to assertions that, while timber sales lose money, the sale of timber is merely a tool for necessary ecosystem management with the money recouped helping to offset the costs. Despite these admissions, the scoping notice estimates gross revenue from implementing the project at \$434,375 and costs of \$102,860, with a net revenue of \$331,515. While we understand that you have models and programs that you use to estimate financial costs and revenue from projects, the numbers presented to the public in the scoping document cannot be true. This project offers a good opportunity for the Forest Service and the public to better understand the cost of timber sales on the DBNF. While we recognize that the Forest Service sees this project as ecosystem management, and not a timber sale, it is nevertheless a fairly standard commercial timber sale. The project name even makes it clear: Commercial Harvest in the Beaver Creek Watershed. The project has little in the way of associated actions, such as midstory thinning, precommercial thinning, prescribed fire, openlands maintenance, etc. Everything in the project is designed to service the commercial harvest of timber. As such, this project offers an excellent opportunity to understand and disclose the actual costs of timber sales on the DBNF. We request that the Forest Service provide a comprehensive accounting of all costs associated with this project. These costs include, but are not limited to: ? Project planning and NEPA analysis ? Timber evaluations ? Wildlife surveys ? Archeological surveys ? Public meetings ? Endangered species analysis and consultation (including USFWS costs) ? Timber sale administration ? Any and all personnel costs associated with the project, including internal meetings, field work, correspondence, etc. The public deserves to know the full financial costs associated with this project, and an informed decision cannot be made with the substantially misleading revenue figures provided in the scoping document. Only when the full, inclusive costs of this project are disclosed will the public and Forest Service be able to have a meaningful dialogue about this and other projects. It is imperative that actual, realized costs not be "swept under the rug" and removed from cost-benefit considerations. We understand that ecosystem management and proper analyses for projects are expensive. But with limited taxpayer funds available for managing our national forests, it is critical that the agency and the public be able to look at the numbers, and to focus resources on the most necessary, efficient, and effective management activities.</p>	<p>The analysis related to this project will include an accounting of appropriate costs and revenues associated with the implementation of this project.</p>

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
37	<p>We have several objections the proposed management in the stands in this section of the project area. The proposal for this site includes 22.5 acres of shelterwood regeneration harvests and 97.3 acres of commercial thinning for a total of 119.8 acres of proposed logging. To service this logging the Forest Service proposes the construction of 0.9 miles of new system road and 0.7 miles of "temporary road." Approximately 26 acres of adjacent and included stands were harvested in 1986 using what appear to be clearcut methods. As with the Kendrick Ridge site, these old clearcuts are erroneously labeled in the DBNF GIS database as "Yellow poplar-white oak-northern red oak," and are in terrible condition dominated by multi-stem stump-sprouted maples, tulip poplar, and grape vine. The southern portion of this area is a narrow swath of public land surrounded by private land with some residential development, with all of the national forest land bound by private land proposed for harvest. A 17 acre section of private land immediately west of the proposed harvest area, and accessed by the new county road constructed along Carter Branch Road, has been cleared for some unknown purpose. The Forest Service road entering the project area is Carter Branch Road, which is a National Forest System Road. This road is highly degraded, and collapsing into Carter Branch. While we appreciate that the Forest Service is interested in fixing or rerouting this road as part of the timber project, it nevertheless illustrates the Forest Service's inability to maintain the existing road system. This road has clearly been eroding and causing water quality issues for some time. If the Forest Service had resources to maintain the existing road system, then why has this road been allowed to deteriorate and fall into the stream? As we point out in Section 2. New System Roads, the Forest Service needs to eliminate unnecessary roads, not construct more and add them to the system as proposed.</p>	<p>At the time of the initial proposal of this project the road in Carter Branch was the primary access for all the lands, public and private, in the drainage. The road was also totally located on private lands and used by the Forest Service using a road easement deed. At that time the road could be driven with passenger vehicles up to the boundary of NFS land. Maintenance of this easement road is based upon use of the road. The Forest Service maintains the road when it is used for public projects and the private landowners maintain it in the interim. The last Forest Service project to make use of the road was in the mid-1990s. The construction of the new road has resulted in softening of the road surface due to lack of maintenance, use, changes in water flow due to the new road. The proposed project seeks to bring the road up to standard and then put the road in storage following use for the proposed project through the commercial sale project.</p>
37	<p>We have visited the western half of Stand 1095-23, though not yet gone as far as Stand 1095-22. What we have seen is some lovely, quiet, and isolated forest hollows with mature forest leading to Cave Run Lake. There is no compelling reason whatsoever to build a new, dead-end system road in to this area with no other public or necessary administrative uses.</p>	<p>Potential issue. Develop alternatives that reduce or minimized road construction. Analyze effects. Focus on financial and effects to other resources.</p>
37	<p>"Manage vegetation in a way that mimics disturbance patterns from the past." We must point out here that when significant natural disturbance did indeed happen on the Cumberland District in 2003, the DBNF opted to use it as an excuse to lose money and cause immense controversy by selling timber on more than 4,000 acres. The impacts of ice storms are inherently natural, and part of the normal suite of developmental processes associated with native forests in our region. Now, in this project, we are seeing new logging proposed to induce disturbance based on the assertion that sufficient natural disturbance lacking. Obviously, these issues are extremely complex in their ecological and social dimensions. Nevertheless, the Forest Service appears here to be falling back on the old approach of looking for any excuse to sell timber.</p>	<p>The objective to mimic past disturbance patterns in the Forest Plan encourages project planning that not only creates a similar pattern of forest conditions across the landscape, but also maintain or enhances the forest ability to respond to disturbances in a way similar to past responses. Therefore, projects may be proposed that address either the pattern or the response. The proposed two-ages shelterwood is designed to respond to a lack of pattern in the form of younger forest. The proposed thinning is designed to respond to a concern related to response. The tree density of the areas proposed for thinning is higher than historic levels due to a number of issues and those areas ability to respond to disturbance is expects to be significantly different that the past if left at current density. The analysis for this project will use growth models to estimate that response. Commercial timber harvest is the tool used to accomplish these types of projects with the least impact to the taxpayer and maybe with generation of some level of revenue.</p>
37	<p>And yet when alternatives are provided that can meet the Purpose and Need of a project while limiting or eliminating commercial timber harvests and the predictable, associated impacts, these alternatives are either ignored or treated unfairly.</p>	
37	<p>And yet, as we demonstrate below, the heavy reliance on regeneration harvests induces overstocking and, in many cases, the conversion of essentially healthy upland oak stands to exceedingly dense stands stump-sprouted maples and tulip poplars. You are proposing to create the very problem KENTUCKY HEARTWOOD Protecting the Beauty and Wellbeing of Kentucky's Native Forests 2 you assert to be addressing.</p>	<p>The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.</p>

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
37	<p>Despite the fact that the public overwhelmingly opposes commercial timber sales on our public lands, scarce funds continue to be allocated to unnecessarily providing sawtimber to local mills at a loss of taxpayer funds. Public forests account for just 10% of forestland in Kentucky, and there is no need for the public to continue subsidizing the sale of federal timber.</p>	<p>The analysis related to this project will include an accounting of appropriate costs and revenues associated with the implementation of this project.</p>
37	<p>Further, the Forest Service and tax payers will be on the hook for unneeded road maintenance for decades. While we do not have good data yet on road expenditures and maintenance needs, it is worth pointing out here that the latest Monitoring and Evaluation Report (2013) shows a 4 million dollar maintenance backlog for recreational sites and a 3 million dollar backlog for building maintenance. Increasing road legacy costs while being unable to meet current forest maintenance needs is not responsible.</p>	<p>The analysis for the project will include: A description of the construction, re-construction, and maintenance needed to implement the project that will be born by the purchaser of the commercial timber. An estimate of the value of the road work to be performed by the purchaser. A description of the closeout work that will be done related to roads following the completion of the project. Other access needs in the project area. The activities proposed will take place on roads that are part of the maintenance backlog on the Forest. The project will actually meet some of these needs without needing to spend road maintenance funds. Potential substantive issue: The proposed construction, re-construction, and maintenance needs related to this project have the possibility to increase the unmet needs already existing on the Forest.</p>
37	<p>Furthermore, the DBNF budget for recreation has plummeted, all the while recreational use is skyrocketing. The Forest Plan estimated that recreational spending would be three times that of the timber program, and yet spending on the two programs was essentially equal in the last year for which we have seen reporting (FY 2013).</p>	
37	<p>We also documented in the same general area a temporary road that had bulldozed through the roots of an old-growth tulip poplar to reach and harvest another old-growth tulip poplar. The Forest Service proposes to build 1.0 miles of temporary road in the Beaver Creek project. The Forest Service estimates up to an additional 40 acres of skid trails and log landings, which have similar impacts as temporary roads. The impacts of these surface disturbances are integral to how the Forest Service implements timber sales on the Daniel Boone, but completely avoidable if the Forest Service chooses to allocate resources to much needed and alternative management activities. We also note here, with regards to skid trails and log landings, that Forestwide Standard DB-VEG-26 states that: "No more than 10 percent of a harvest area should be in landings, skid roads, or exposed soil." And yet the project estimates 13% of the project area will be used for these purposes in clear violation of the Forest Plan.</p>	<p>The project update identifies that there are 303 acres proposed for commercial activity. It also identifies that 30 acres of exposed soil is expected from the harvest activities.</p>
38	<p>I do not believe that the types of commercial logging that have occurred in the Daniel Boone National Forest over the past 30 years have been beneficial to wildlife, regeneration of desirable species, the long-term health of the forest or recreational activities.</p>	<p>The analysis for the project will include considerations of effects to recreational use of the area.</p>
38	<p>Near the rocky outcropping on top of the ridge this site also contained acreage that appeared to have been logged about 30 years ago. This area is now densely overgrown in poplars and cherry trees. No regeneration of oaks occurred. In other hiking I have done in the Daniel Boone National Forest in Rowan County such as on Clack Mountain Road and Big Perry areas, I have observed many other past logging sites that are such overgrown thickets that they are virtually impassable for humans. Few oaks were regenerating at these locations. I understand that around 25,000 acres has been commercially logged in the northern part of the Daniel Boone National Forest in the past 30 years. The Forest Service has said that this logging was done for a number of reasons to improve forest health. I think that exactly the opposite has resulted. I feel there should be a moratorium on new commercial logging in this part of the DBNF until remediation has been done to promote the regrowth of desirable species of trees.</p>	<p>A review of the forest vegetation database (current at the end of 2015), provided the following information concerning forests where the overstory age is less than 35 years: Cumberland District 25,607 acres of National Forest System land (NFS) have an overstory age less than 35 years. This represents 14% of the NFS land. Events that have contributed to this amount. They include: Converted old fields: 622 acres (0.34% of NFS) Created by a windstorm in 1995: 1,224 acres (0.71% of NFS) Created by ice storm in 2003: 5,748 acres (3.15% of NFS) Created by commercial timber harvest since 1980: 18,013 acres (9.86% of NFS) Old Morehead District outside of most of 2003 ice storm affected area: 6,910 acres of National Forest System land (NFS) have an overstory age less than 35 years. This represents 11% of the NFS land. Events that have contributed to this amount. They include: Converted old fields: 272 acres (0.45% of NFS) Created by a prescribed burning: 80 acres (0.13% of NFS) Created by commercial timber harvest since 1980: 6,558 acres (10.76% of NFS) The analysis specific to this project will include a similar analysis of the creation of forests with an overstory age young than 35 years.</p>

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
38	Natural events such as ice storms and windstorms will create the forest conditions to support native species. If commercial logging is done it should be single tree/uneven aged forest management. There are examples of the successful long-term use of these techniques in the Pioneer Forest in Missouri and on the Menominee People lands in Wisconsin. The Forest Service should begin to utilize this technique by employing it in the Daniel Boone National Forest.	It is not certain that application of single-tree selection and other forms of uneven-aged management such as that practiced on Menominee Lands and at Pioneer Forest would successfully maintain the oak-hickory component of the forests in the project watershed. The reasons include: On Menominee Lands uneven-aged techniques are used to manage forests that are dominated by trees that are tolerant to shading, such as sugar maple and other northern hardwood species. The forests on their lands that are comprised of oak and hickory trees are managed using even-aged or two-aged techniques. On Pioneer Forest, the site quality is much lower than what is typical in the project area. Maintenance of oak and hickory dominance on lower quality sites is easier to accomplish. Additionally, the time between commercial activities on a given piece of ground, on either Menominee Lands or Pioneer Forest, managed using uneven-aged techniques averages about 20-years between commercial harvests. The interval between commercial harvests in specific sites managed using two-aged techniques on the Daniel Boone is much longer, typically 50 to 70 years.
38	The sides of the hills were very steep leading me to believe that removing trees will create a threat of hillside slippage.	The following soil productivity and slope stability indicators will be analyzed by the DBNF Forest Soil Scientist for effects that could arise from the actions described in the Beaver Creek Project: geologic formations, seeps, land use history, erosion potential, compaction potential, organic matter (litter layer) retention, and changes to the soil decomposer community. The DBNF Forest Plan includes a soil productivity standard that applies to harvest areas: no more than 10% of the area should be in landings, skid roads, or exposed soil. Working within this standard, harvesting activities usually do not result in soil erosion or land stability issues on the DBNF. Residual slash and the maintenance of the litter layer on 90% of the harvest area has shown to be sufficient in arresting erosion that may occur and maintaining landform stability.
38	the terrain is very rough with rock outcroppings, boulders and undulating earth. This will require a large amount of soil disturbance to build a temporary road. In consideration of the risks to water quality and forest health from slippage, and siltation from tree removal on steep banks and road making I am opposed to logging in this area.	Consider as an issue. Develop an alternative that minimizes road construction
39	I am an owner of property that abuts the Daniel Boone National Forest. Please do not clear cut the forest as it will greatly impact the value of our property and the aesthetic value of our experience from our property	

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
39	I am an owner of property that abuts the Daniel Boone National Forest. Please do not clear cut the forest as it will greatly impact the value of our property and the aesthetic value of our experience from our property	<p>Text of message sent in response to their email to the Forest Service: Thank you for taking the time to send your comments to us related to this project. We attempted to determine who now owned the land adjacent to the property involved in this project by visiting the PVA office in Frenchburg. We found about fifteen landowners we thought were adjacent. Apparently, we did not get yours. I am sorry of that. It would have been nice to have had a chance to speak with you at the meeting. I have mailed a copy of the letter we sent out prior to the meeting along with copies of some handouts that we available there. Please review them and submit any comments you may have when you get the chance. I will attempt to answer your direct questions in the following message. 1) Our family and friends go back into the national forest all the time, to clear-cut the forest as proposed would completely change the beauty, the hunting, and the desirability of being there. The activities proposed on the land adjacent to your property include a two-aged shelterwood treatment designed to allow the re-growth or a young forest that will leave approximately 30% of the overstory canopy in place and a commercial thinning treatment that is designed to enhance to vigor of the existing forest which will leave approximately 70% of the overstory canopy in place. 2) The easement road going through our property and back to the park, is in a state that will not handle the traffic or the weight of the equipment going in and out. Who repairs this? The easement deed acquired in 1985 that crosses your property defines maintenance to be proportional to use. This means that the Forest Service through the purchaser of the timber will be responsible for the bringing the road up to the standard to allow for hauling, maintaining the road, protection of infrastructure (including utilities), and putting it to bed following use for the period that it is used for the project. In detail that means the road will be brushed, graded, surfaced with stone, and drained to the standard defined in our handbooks prior to use and will be maintained at that level throughout the life of the project. 3) The road in front of our cabin is wet and marshy all summer long. Who repairs the damage to it ? If the road in front of the cabin is part of the easement, see my previous answer. 4) Our water line is under the road that leads into our property. Who is responsible for damages to it ? If the waterline is along the portion of the road within the easement, see my previous answer. 5) What about trees that are mistakenly cut on our property. How is that handled. When marking commercial sales the Forest Service will maintain the property line adjacent to the proposed activities prior to the marking of the timber to be cut. This generally eliminates the potential for cutting of trees on private property. Should trees be cut by mistake or by negligent action by the purchaser of the timber sale, the contract contains provisions for compensation to the owner of the trees including liquidated damages. I have this provides some answers to your concerns. I would like to meet with you if possible at the property to discuss what is planned an look at your concerns in detail, so please feel free to contact me the next time you plan on visiting the cabin and I will try and visit with you if it fits into your plans.</p>

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
39	I also think you intend to use an easement road on our property and I think this easement will suffer greatly. The road will need to be upgraded and maintained. As a property owner I have not been contacted about this. Our property is at 1880 Tom Stamper Rd. Menifee County.	<p>Text of message sent in response to their email to the Forest Service: Thank you for taking the time to send your comments to us related to this project. We attempted to determine who now owned the land adjacent to the property involved in this project by visiting the PVA office in Frenchburg. We found about fifteen landowners we thought were adjacent. Apparently, we did not get yours. I am sorry of that. It would have been nice to have had a chance to speak with you at the meeting. I have mailed a copy of the letter we sent out prior to the meeting along with copies of some handouts that we available there. Please review them and submit any comments you may have when you get the chance. I will attempt to answer your direct questions in the following message. 1) Our family and friends go back into the national forest all the time, to clear-cut the forest as proposed would completely change the beauty, the hunting, and the desirability of being there. The activities proposed on the land adjacent to your property include a two-aged shelterwood treatment designed to allow the re-growth or a young forest that will leave approximately 30% of the overstory canopy in place and a commercial thinning treatment that is designed to enhance to vigor of the existing forest which will leave approximately 70% of the overstory canopy in place. 2) The easement road going through our property and back to the park, is in a state that will not handle the traffic or the weight of the equipment going in and out. Who repairs this? The easement deed acquired in 1985 that crosses your property defines maintenance to be proportional to use. This means that the Forest Service through the purchaser of the timber will be responsible for the bringing the road up to the standard to allow for hauling, maintaining the road, protection of infrastructure (including utilities), and putting it to bed following use for the period that it is used for the project. In detail that means the road will be brushed, graded, surfaced with stone, and drained to the standard defined in our handbooks prior to use and will be maintained at that level throughout the life of the project. 3) The road in front of our cabin is wet and marshy all summer long. Who repairs the damage to it ? If the road in front of the cabin is part of the easement, see my previous answer. 4) Our water line is under the road that leads into our property. Who is responsible for damages to it ? If the waterline is along the portion of the road within the easement, see my previous answer. 5) What about trees that are mistakenly cut on our property. How is that handled. When marking commercial sales the Forest Service will maintain the property line adjacent to the proposed activities prior to the marking of the timber to be cut. This generally eliminates the potential for cutting of trees on private property. Should trees be cut by mistake or by negligent action by the purchaser of the timber sale, the contract contains provisions for compensation to the owner of the trees including liquidated damages. I have this provides some answers to your concerns. I would like to meet with you if possible at the property to discuss what is planned an look at your concerns in detail, so please feel free to contact me the next time you plan on visiting the cabin and I will try and visit with you if it fits into your plans.</p>
40	Budget reductions for the Forest Service call into question the wisdom of spending dwindling funds, pursuing this destruction adventure.	
40	Much of the logging done in immature forest ends up as wood products such as pallets and other shipping activities which seems a terrible waste of a potentially exceptional plant reaching great heights, providing shelter and opportunity to stimulate positive human activities, instead of negative ones.	<p>The areas identified for commercial harvest will be harvested using ground-based skidding techniques. Typically, this means that commercial sized material will be moved to the site where it will be loaded on trucks for transport using tracked or wheeled machines. Draft animals may also be used for this but are rarely required due to their limited payload usually requiring more skid trail construction and longer use of trails which results in a higher risk of sediment production due to more and longer term exposure of soil in the harvest site. The amount of exposed soil is limited to less than 10% of the harvest area. The material harvested from the site is manufactured into a diversity of products. It is estimated 90% of the material from this sale will be manufactured into material that is above pallet grade lumber.</p>
40	Past timber harvests in the Daniel Boone National Forest have usually lead to ugly heavily damaged areas, creating openings for invasive plants to outcompete native plants, and causing erosion and unnatural wetlands.	
40	The public desires to experience nature, and our national forests are one of the best places for this to happen. Hiking trails and camp sites are where we should be spending Forest Service funds, maintaining what we have, and expanding gradually to balance the public use and protection from the public use where it is harmful.	The analysis for the project will include considerations of effects to recreational use of the area.
40	Building roads and staging areas for hauling trees, surveying for mass destruction of our forest, should be replaced with activities protecting our beautiful forest.	

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
40	I believe it would be far better to allow hardwood trees the opportunity to reach maturity without harvest. These trees could live to be hundreds of years old, and provide a wonderful area for wildlife, hiking, and camping. The areas which have been ignored until the trees are large, create examples of glorious woodlands, showing humans they should look to nature for solutions, and not try to improve by acts of destruction	
41	As hikers, we like good trails, but not trails used to remove trees. Kentucky's beautiful forests are an amazing resource that all of Kentucky's families appreciate, as well as tourists who visit our state.	Trails are by their nature cleared of trees, that's why we have clearing limits for trail design.
41	The cutting and removal of commercial-sized trees will reduce the visual beauty of the area. (Further information from you would help me to refine this statement, for example is your concern with creation of trails to remove the material, piles of tree tops left on the forest floor, reduction of canopy cover, all of the above, or other factors.)	Potential issue. The analysis will include an assessment of the impacts of the activities on visual quality.
41	The opening of the canopy caused by the commercial harvest will allow invasive species to become established.	
41	When areas are "reforested" they never look the same - the older growth is beautiful, and clearing the canopy allows more invasive species to take hold.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
42	<p>End of the road property, cliff lines, mixed forest, cleared fields, great neighbors. This property checked off all of the important boxes, including one of the biggest: frontage and access to national forest land. The first time we hiked back the property road and got into the public forest, it was almost magical. Although the woods on our property are beautiful, it did not compare to the deep woods we experienced there for the first time. We could not stop talking about it on the drive home, making plans for all the future hikes we would go on with our young families. You see, there is something special about this area of Kentucky. Something that wouldn't be the same should this logging project go as planned.</p>	<p>Text of message sent in response to their email to the Forest Service: Thank you for taking the time to send your comments to us related to this project. We attempted to determine who now owned the land adjacent to the property involved in this project by visiting the PVA office in Frenchburg. We found about fifteen landowners we thought were adjacent. Apparently, we did not get yours. I am sorry of that. It would have been nice to have had a chance to speak with you at the meeting. I have mailed a copy of the letter we sent out prior to the meeting along with copies of some handouts that we available there. Please review them and submit any comments you may have when you get the chance. I will attempt to answer your direct questions in the following message. 1) Our family and friends go back into the national forest all the time, to clear-cut the forest as proposed would completely change the beauty, the hunting, and the desirability of being there. The activities proposed on the land adjacent to your property include a two-aged shelterwood treatment designed to allow the re-growth or a young forest that will leave approximately 30% of the overstory canopy in place and a commercial thinning treatment that is designed to enhance to vigor of the existing forest which will leave approximately 70% of the overstory canopy in place. 2) The easement road going through our property and back to the park, is in a state that will not handle the traffic or the weight of the equipment going in and out. Who repairs this? The easement deed acquired in 1985 that crosses your property defines maintenance to be proportional to use. This means that the Forest Service through the purchaser of the timber will be responsible for the bringing the road up to the standard to allow for hauling, maintaining the road, protection of infrastructure (including utilities), and putting it to bed following use for the period that it is used for the project. In detail that means the road will be brushed, graded, surfaced with stone, and drained to the standard defined in our handbooks prior to use and will be maintained at that level throughout the life of the project. 3) The road in front of our cabin is wet and marshy all summer long. Who repairs the damage to it ? If the road in front of the cabin is part of the easement, see my previous answer. 4) Our water line is under the road that leads into our property. Who is responsible for damages to it ? If the waterline is along the portion of the road within the easement, see my previous answer. 5) What about trees that are mistakenly cut on our property. How is that handled. When marking commercial sales the Forest Service will maintain the property line adjacent to the proposed activities prior to the marking of the timber to be cut. This generally eliminates the potential for cutting of trees on private property. Should trees be cut by mistake or by negligent action by the purchaser of the timber sale, the contract contains provisions for compensation to the owner of the trees including liquidated damages. I have this provides some answers to your concerns. I would like to meet with you if possible at the property to discuss what is planned an look at your concerns in detail, so please feel free to contact me the next time you plan on visiting the cabin and I will try and visit with you if it fits into your plans.</p>
42	<p>have read all the details I can about the project and although I am not an expert on forestry or logging, I know what this means to the forest itself. I have hunted and hiked all over the state but nothing is like deep, mature woods. The atmosphere and sense of wonder that exist in these places cannot be assigned a value. My son and nephew will grow up loving the property. However, my wish is that they be allowed to experience that area of national forest the way my brother in law, father in law and mother in law did for the first time 18 months ago. Pristine, untouched and the inspiration of excitement, dreams and future plans. For I am sure that theirs will be far more rich and imaginative than our adult reactions. It is for them that my family purchased the property and for them that I make the following request:</p>	
43	<p>Also, if Forest Service funds are already in short supply, why must new roads be built just to harvest the timber? New roads being built in areas where there are no roads can't be termed "temporary" roads. Once you plow up the land to build a road , you create new damage to areas that should not be damaged in the first place. The roads are not temporary and their creation add more damage to sensitive areas.</p>	<p>Potential issue. Develop alternatives that reduce or minimized road construction. Analyze effects. Focus on financial and effects to other resources.</p>

Letter #	Comment Text	Response Text
43	I would strongly suggest that the Forest Service use existing funds for restoration projects for areas that have been degraded by clear cuts and shelter wood harvests.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
43	The state of Kentucky in general is being over developed and we are losing more and more land to unnecessary development in places that no longer have any forest. I strongly oppose new logging in the very areas that should be strongly protected and preserved for future generations. Our natural world is declining at an alarming rate. It's a shame to see bad logging practices continue in the Daniel Boone National Forest in the 21st century.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
43	It's unnecessary to remove any of the trees on the proposed 170 acres targeted for the project in areas that are already severely degraded and fractured.	The Cumberland District has a long history of tending area following commercial harvest. The district has completed 22,344 acres of this type of activity since 1963. The districts most recent tending project began in 2004 and involved tending trees on 5,370 acres in areas harvested between 1964 and 1989. In response to concerns, inventory data collected in the 272 areas that were involved in the 2004 project were analyzed for diversity of species and amount of oak and hickory species present in the areas. The results are: 146 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 37 species of trees are present These were compared to the areas proposed for two-aged shelterwood harvest. The results are: 54 trees per acre are oak or hickory species 18 species of trees are present Based upon this analysis, previously harvested areas appear to contain adequate numbers of oak and hickory species to mature to forest similar to their pre-harvest condition. The analysis for this project should include analysis that estimates the species composition following harvest.
43	The plan for the proposed commercial thinning on the other 130 acres is also unnecessary and unwarranted. This project will not invigorate and promote the health of the existing forest and will in the long run, actually promote its decay and state of decline.	