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Comments:

Dear Reader,

My first exposure to the proposed amendment to the Forest Plan came in a blog post about the effects the proposed changes would have on endangered and threatened bats in Daniel Boone National Forest. Current logging restrictions are in part influenced by concern for the bats' ability to raise their young to the age where they can fly. Especially since bats tend to have few offspring (only one or two per year). As an avid bat fan, I am deeply concerned about the effects that the proposed amendment will have on the bats in the forest.

Bats are incredibly useful animals. They consume copious amounts of bugs each night; one bat can eat from 3,000 to 7,000 mosquitos in one night. Summer nights in Boone are so gorgeous because bats help keep the bugs away. This is not only helpful for the average Joe who hates mosquito bites, but for farmers as well. Bats can act as natural insect control, meaning less spent on insecticide and greater likelihood of a successful harvest.

Clearly, bats are fantastic for the communities they help! But the spread of disease is decimating bat populations at frightening rates, threatening to wipe out our helpful friends. Bats are already highly vulnerable from disease. Let's not add to their list of troubles. Any changes to the Forest Plan should be significantly informed by concern for bat populations in Daniel Boone National Forest. Help us care for the community by caring for the bats.

Sincerely,

Meredith