December 15, 2017

Betty Jewett, Forest Supervisor, ATTN: Angie L. Bell

 Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

 1755 Cleveland Highway

 Gainesville, GA 30501

Subject: Foothills Landscape Project

Ms. Jewett:

I am writing you to express my concern about the proposed action regarding the Foothills Landscape Project as follows:

* The proposed logging is much higher than in recent timber projects.
* The proposed action changes the public’s opportunity to respond as guaranteed under NEPA.
* The exact acreage for treatment is unclear as the locations and potential overlap of treatments have not been clearly identified.
* Herbicide application is proposed on up to 63,700 acres for control of "less desirable" native vegetation. Mechanical treatments and fire should be used to control these species where practical
* The Forest Service should take advantage of this opportunity to prioritize and develop detailed plans for controlling invasive species across the landscape.

I support the agency's proposed actions to set aside 5,050 acres of old growth, and to improve soil and water quality through better maintenance and closure of roads that are sediment sources. My preference is to allow Nature to manage the land, and man’s only intrusion should be to stop invasive species of plants, insects and animals.

The Agency should not make any final decisions until it performs site-level analysis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alan Barnes

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