

January 10, 2020

RE: Foothills Landscape Project #52509 Chattahoochee National Forest

Dear Supervisor Jewett,

The size, scope, experimental quality, overarching manipulation and disruption of existing stable, if varied, ecosystems the Foothills Landscape Project proposes to cover should not be beyond the reach of those it is purportedly designed to serve, the forest and all its parts and the people.

Tackling the varied conditions, from bog restoration to fire suppression, nearly all are cloaked in timber harvest. Removing and replacing existing stands of trees with seedlings that will somehow improve forest conditions is preposterous. The scope of herbicide application proposed is counter-productive and damaging to the natural resilience inherent in a diverse forest.

A healthy forest, and I do not mean one that is necessarily pristine, I mean one that is stable, perhaps transitioning but where the waters, animals and plants down to the microscopic mycorrhizae are functioning in harmony, does not need this gross "management" to thrive.

This decades long project proposal with so many impacts on such a large scale coupled with silencing the public, you undoubtedly risk silencing much more. Closing the doors on the public's ability to participate in the Foothills Landscape Project, covering more than 1/5 of the entire Chattahoochee forest, is irresponsible.

Please do not shut us out. This action alone speaks volumes either for or against the public whose lands you manage and the forest that stands or falls at your hand.

With hope and gratitude,

One voice from the forest

*Our legacy is not only how we have lived our life but how we have cared for the earth.*