

January 10, 2020

Dear Supervisor Jewett,

I understand that public lands belong to the people and the Forest Service manages these lands for us. Also, that there is a process in place where we share in how that is done. It is curious that now the Forest Service plans to disallow public input on a project that proposes to affect more than 1/5 of the entire Chattahoochee National Forest over the next decades.

There has been much time, effort and research put into the documentation outlining this project. The preliminary results, as published, call for widespread timber harvest, excessive use of herbicides, hundreds of miles of additional roads and fire breaks among the impacts. The scope, as it stands, will be disastrous to the forest whose well-being should be our first concern. There are problems to be solved but there is more than one way.

Please be open to the voices of the people who want our forests to thrive with the inherent, brilliant resilience and diversity our creator intended. Please do not eliminate the opportunity for the public to comment in the future on this project. We should work together for the best results.