



GEORGIA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

January 10, 2020

Ms. Betty Jewett
United States Forest Service
1755 Cleveland Hwy
Gainesville, GA 30501

Dear Ms. Jewett,

Georgia Wildlife Federation (GWF) is Georgia's oldest member-supported statewide conservation organization, established in 1936. GWF provides leadership, services and advocacy on behalf of conservation issues across Georgia. GWF is a proponent for the professional, science-based management of our wildlife and natural resources. GWF submits this letter to the United States Forest Service (USFS) in response to the open comment period for Foothills Landscape Project #52509.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the Foothills Landscape Project. GWF understands the complexity of managing forests on the landscape level while trying to balance the desires of a wide variety of recreational users and restore biological integrity. After reviewing the Environmental Assessment (EA) and discussing the project with many of our academic, non-profit, and agency partners in conservation, we are commenting in support of the overall goal of the project and the recommendations proposed in Alternative 2.

We are confident the proposed actions in Alternative 2 will yield the intended benefits of restored biological diversity, increased resilience to disturbance, restored connectivity, and improved soil and water quality. Our review of the EA left us satisfied that none of the proposed actions will have significant negative impacts, with any short-term impacts being outweighed by the long-term benefits.

GWF appreciates USFS's continued commitment to incorporating comment from partners and the general public.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Worley".

Mike Worley
President and CEO
Georgia Wildlife Federation