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Organization:

Title:

Comments: December 21, 2017

Betty Jewett, Forest Supervisor

ATTN: Angie L. Bell

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

1755 Cleveland Highway

Gainesville, GA 30501

Re: Foothills Landscape Project

Emailed to: FoothillsLandscape@fs.fed.us

The National Forest in NE Georgia my real home, as my house in Hiawassee GA is adjacent and I spend 2-3 days a week in our woods hiking. For several years I volunteered with the Mountain High Hikers to maintain trails in the Western North Carolina and North Ga areas spending hundreds of hours. I have also volunteered in other National Forests and came to know several dedicated FS employees. I appreciate the job you folks do. Your work to control the fires in our area last year was most professional and appreciated. I was able to meet several of your quality personnel from across our country.

No doubt a great deal of work has gone into the Foothills Landscape Project, but I have concerns in two areas. First the use of herbicides for utility right of ways. And second the huge amount of timbering and lack of specificity on locations of the cutting.

Logging

Potential plans to log over 60% of the area seems excessive, but even more troubling is the lack of specificity as to actual locations. How could we possibly comment on potential management impact without knowing which stands are to be harvested? Thus I believe more work is needed in this part of the plan.

Use of Herbicides

The use of modern chemicals in our forest will probably be unavoidable for cost savings, political and other reasons. There are a couple points I would like to make. Over my 76 years I have observed us humans taking the "easy way out" and making decisions for the short term that have very negative long term consequences. The list is long and I will not bore you with it, but many are waking up world-wide to unavoidable dangers to our environment, food and water. Pertinent here, for example, according to the World Health Organization, glyphosate is a likely carcinogen. So please go an extra step and devise a strict plan to minimize the use of herbicides. Please minimize danger to the workers, surrounding environment and watershed.

I love our forest and I am sure you folks do too. Thank you again for all your work in our forest and on this project.

Sincerely,

Jay Noe