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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Proposed Action for the Foothills Landscape Project includes plans to potentially log up to 90,000 acres of forest (63% of the project area). The logging ranges from just taking down midstory trees to cutting everything except a few seed trees.

Although these numbers do not represent a commitment or even a specific plan from the Forest Service, they are still much higher than proposed in recent timber projects. The public needs to know not only what the Forest Service intends to do but also where they intend to do it. The Public needs that information now, not after a decision is made. On-the-ground investigations by knowledgeable public can bring important changes to many projects.

Additional points are:

* Up to 90,000 acres of forest (63% of the project area) could be logged with a variety of treatments for a variety of purposes. The area size is disturbingly large and unprecedented and I object to such a large project in my playground for hiking and camping.

* 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. Chemicals should not be permitted in our watersheds, for flora and fauna.

* Non-native invasive species are one of the biggest long-term threats to the Foothills. The Forest Service should take advantage of this opportunity to prioritize and develop detailed plans for controlling invasive species across the landscape.

* The Foothills proposal is very large and needs to be reduced. I am asking the agency not to make any final decisions until it performs site-level analysis

. and informing the public.

* I very much want to 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 and wish for more preservation of existing growth.

We citizens want input and a part in protecting our Georgia foothills. Thank you.