Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Foothills Landscape Project Environmental Assessment. I was born and grew up in McCaysville, GA and have been a resident of Georgia for my long life, except for time away in military service. The foothills are an area I have enjoyed over the decades for hiking and appreciation of the natural beauty.

I am very concerned about the proposed logging, use of herbicides, and harm to special places in the foothills. The logging of 8,300 acres of 100 year old oak and pine trees to let the small trees grow is very disturbing. This is a practice like tree farming that will destroy the forest as we know it. Maybe or maybe not will it grow back in 100 years. With changing climate, retention of mature natural forests is absolutely necessary. I want future generations to enjoy the forest and have opportunity as I have had.

Large scale herbicide use in the forest is very disturbing. We see the appearance of roadside spraying of vegetation along the highways of Georgia, ugly! The scope proposed for the foothills would be disastrous, with great disruption to the natural ecosystem. These natural ecosystems have produced the forests with large trees. An altered forest of “temporary roads” for logging and extensive herbicide use may never regrow the 100 year old trees. We do not want tree farms in the national forest.

I would like to know that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the foothills, but am very concerned that the landscape project as described will destroy that opportunity. Please allow for public comments as the project continues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,