Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/22/2017 12:26:25 AM
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Comments: I am in the process of relocating to a farm north of Toccoa, GA at the edge of the national forest. I love hiking and exploring the forest near my new home. I attended several informative Foothills meeting in the past year. So I was disappointed to read that the current plan potentially logs 90,000 acres of forest and doesn't specify which areas. Please make the areas of potential logging know and please reduce the 63% of the area for potential logging. I applaud the proposed action to set aside and protect 5,050 acres of old growth. (I dream of a future where we set aside and protect as much land as we log.)
Regarding management of the forest herbicide application maybe a quick solution to control "less desirable" species, but toxic chemicals on 63,700 acres is very likely to have many more negative impacts than positive. It is especially bad for an organic farmer like me at the edge of the forest. The options of using fire as nature has done for centuries and mechanical treatment should be highlighted.
I heard discussions at the foothills meetings about endangered species and control of non-native species. On my organic farm in Toccoa wild hogs are a constant problem. I hope that the Forest Service uses the Foothills initiative to prioritize and develop detailed plans for controlling invasive species, such as hogs, across the landscape.