Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/30/2019 5:33:04 PM
First name: Betty
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Organization:
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Comments: I have been a long-time volunteer, supporter and trail rider on the CONF.

We have been told by the CONF supervisor that the CONF focus will be on recreation. However, based on the current info being provided, that does not seem to be the case.

You cannot timber and burn on and around the trail systems, and expect people to recreate in the destruction that is left. We have such beautiful trails in the Chattahoochee Forest - some of the best trails in the Southeast, and people come from all over to enjoy them. To do as you are proposing, will simply ruin what all who recreate in these areas love.

The trails at Dry Creek have already been timbered to the point that there is no beauty left. There is nothing to look at, and the loggers have destroyed the trails to the point that we couldn't find them if we wanted to ride them.

The Talladega National Forest has already been timbered and burned. There is nothing but devastation to look at. Again, why would folks looking to recreate want to go there?

Jake & Bull Mtn offer premier trails. The USFS and volunteers have spent thousands of (volunteer) hours, and likely hundreds of thousands of dollars, creating and maintaining the trail system that currently exists. Why would you wish to destroy that? Again, no one will want to recreate in the destruction.

Many trail riders (horse and mountain bikes) and hikers enjoy this forest and trail system. These folks come from not just Georgia, but surrounding states and some from much further away. Georgia will lose the tax dollars that these groups spend when recreating in these areas and these dollars will be spent in other states that continue to provide great options for recreation.

I am 100% opposed to the USFS proposal allowing decades of unlimited control on the CONF. Never should decades of control be given up, but instead, each and every large project should be reviewed and discussed prior to approval so that a determination can be made that takes into account, the best management of the forest AND for all parties who use the forest for recreation.

The USFS has been given the task of managing the land. However, these forests belong to us - the citizens. Our tax dollars support the forests and their management. We, the citizens, should have input when major decisions are being made regarding the land as it's use.

To recap ... I do not agree with what you are proposing.
I ask that you revise your plan and do not destroy the best trails in Georgia.