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First name: Elizabeth

Last name: Refuss

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a native Georgian, and my roots go back to the early 1800s. I was raised to respect the land and to protect my state and country's resources. My parents loved Georgia's foothills and mountains, and I have taught my children to love them, too. I remember strips of barren land from logging in the Appalachians. I remember the horror of Copper Hill, Tennessee, as well as other mined areas. I heard my father and grandfather and uncles despair over favorite trout streams and fishing holes mudded with runoff from development and temporary roads cut through forests. Our national forests were created to protect our lands from the destruction. I am extremely concerned that these beautiful tracts of land in the state I love may be irreparably changed by the proposal. I am concerned that citizens are increasingly being denied a voice in what happens to the land that rightfully belongs to them and future generations. I implore you to put this proposal on hold until more impact studies can be made and more property owners can give their input. The citizens of Georgia need to have a voice when decisions are made about the lands that our government should be protecting.