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First name: Lisa
Last name: Hughes
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Supervisor Jewett,

Several of the wildest places left in North Georgia lie in the Foothills. These Georgia Mountain Treasures are special areas, and I would like to see them protected and valued in the Foothills Landscape Project.

I could talk about how they are refuges for wildlife. Or I could talk about how if you want to see the cleanest water we have left, they are the places to go. I could even talk about how they connect to protected areas in other landscapes, and how that connectivity is getting more important as the changing climate forces plants and animals to move.

What I want to talk about, though, is what they mean to me. I want places where I can explore. Places where I can find myself. Places that have a little mystery left. When I run into a road, all the magic disappears. It doesn't matter if the road is paved, gravel, or a "temporary" road. Some brier-filled patch of woods where half the trees were cut a few years ago isn't any better.

The Foothills are a place of adventure, peace, and beauty, but there are only a few places left where it hasn't been cut into bite-sized pieces. Less than a quarter-of-one-percent of the Foothills is Wilderness. None of the Foothills is designated remote backcountry. These Mountain Treasures are unique, and they should be protected.

I am not saying never set foot in them. Cutting some little maple trees that are going to rot in two years is no big deal. Fire is part of nature. I am just saying don't put any kind of roads into these areas, and don't chop down a bunch of the tall trees.

These places mean something to me. Please let them be.

Sincerely, Lisa Z. Hughes