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Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my concerns about the massive amount of logging that is described within the Foothills Landscape Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and associated documentation, including the Vegetation Plan.

The Forest Service plans to log vast amounts of oak and pine forest as part of the Foothills Landscape Project. For example, I've read that over 50,000 acres are to be logged, taking out half the tree cover in order to open up the canopy. The extent of thinning threatens to leave these forest areas looking like messy, unkempt urban parknot the North Georgia forest we know and value. If the proposed approach is allowed to take place, we and our children who visit the Foothills will be wandering among the stumps before very long. This is not something I want to see or a legacy we should leave.

An additional 8,300 acres of mid-age and late age (100 years old) oak and pine are proposed in the EA to be logged (85 to 90% canopy removal) in order to let the very young trees thrive better and create a young forest habitat. This sounds very much like the FS is approaching Forest management like a farmer-to get even aged stands, perhaps for harvesting. This was a mistake 50 years ago and would be a mistake today. Thank you for reading my comments.