Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2020 1:43:23 PM First name: Marilyn Last name: Stapleton Organization:

Title:

Comments: Without qualifications to provide any expert evaluation of The Foothills Project, my comments, nevertheless, are important because it affects public forests that remain the most important natural resource in the Eastern United States. While a master plan is always appropriate for any undertaking, this one, in my opinion, took a long time for analyses by experienced foresters, while also omitting budgeting costs and timely goals. Planning ahead requires estimating future funding available and prioritizing according to greatest need as to what can be done with those finances. Otherwise, a plan is just a nice plan, but not a path to implement and accomplish the greatest good with the resources available. What did I miss? Where and when does the plan start in 2020? Which section needs immediate attention? Did we lose 2 years creating a master plan, and need 2 more years, to schedule projects, or wait for funding? The Forest Service needs to be clear about its attentions as to where and when they implement this general plan. The public needs to be notified for comment specifically as to what is actually about to be done where and when. Then, the Forest Service must evaluate what's been accomplished so adjustments may be made to increase the overall effectiveness of the master plan. For these reasons I have been disappointed in The Foothills Project. As a tax-paying citizens, I think we all should expect accountability in the Forest Service for preserving the Chattahoochee National Forest.