

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/5/2020 4:45:38 PM

First name: Helen

Last name: Meadors

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Jewett:

I have many concerns about the Foothills Project.

Sedimentation from road building is a side effect that is permanent. I live on a FS road that was constructed in the 1930s and the sedimentation from that road is ongoing. There are so many problems with roads which we already have that it seems to me to construct more roads is folly.

Another issue is that the project as currently proposed will not allow the NEPA process that site-specific locations are being established. The FS can benefit from public input, e.g. identifying special areas for rare plants and old growth.

We have always been told the the FS values public participation. It seems to me that the folks who actually hike, fish, hunt, and camp in the National Forests are well qualified to weigh in on proposed projects. We MUST know where the sites are. We can help the experts.

Herbicide use has been shown to cause health problems. They persist for years in the soil. 65,000 acres? Where?

Logging? We are told that over 50,000 acres are to be logged. The public has indicated that its wish is for the Chattahooche National Forest to be used for recreation, i.e. hunting, fishing, hiking and camping. Logging must be done VERY carefully.

Most importantly of all is the consideration that the National Forest are precious, rare spaces that need protection. We need protected forests, free of chemicals and sedimentation, for the health of our waters. As Atlanta and other cities grow, there will be a huge need for places of solitude and quiet. You are GUARDIANS of these rare areas. Your legacy should be that of protection and enhancement, not of disturbance and destruction. PLEASE be aware of all the insects, animals, aquatic creatures, streams and trees that are at the mercy of human beings.

Sincerely yours,

Helen Meadors