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Comments: According to the maps in your Foothills EA, Woody Creek below Woody Gap appears to be within some of your potential vegetative treatment areas. Woody Creek is a beautiful and pristine creek, which has not been disturbed in a very long time. There are pockets of old-growth within this area that should be preserved and not cut. In addition, Woody Creek is located adjacent to the Appalachian Trail and Highway 60 so any treatments in this area will likely be visible from these important public vantage points. The area is also special because it is located within a Georgia ForestWatch Mountain Treasures area known as Black Mountain. For these reasons, I would ask the Forest Service to reconsider and eliminate Woody Creek from any potential vegetative treatments associated with your Foothills Project.

An additional concern of mine has to do with the maps in the EA. While I understand the resolution of these maps has been scaled down for the EA document, I would like to see higher resolution versions with more landmarks such as roads, creek names and other topographic features made available as downloads on your Foothills web site. This is because it is very difficult if not impossible to tell where the various proposed vegetative treatment areas (such as those shown on EA maps 18, 19, and 20) are located.