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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am devastated and outraged to hear about the proposed Foothills Landscape Project. I am opposed to every aspect of the Project. Georgia's Chattahoochee National Forest should be preserved and protected from all harm, especially from herbicide use, burning, and logging.

Tourism is a major part of the region's small and struggling economy, and forest preservation is crucial to maintaining and expanding that sustainable industry. Vacation rentals depend heavily on views of un-burned un-logged forest, and these rentals support other tourism-centered business activities that also rely on protected surrounding forest area. These include apple picking; farm tours; arts/crafts/music festivals; horse riding; tubing/kayaking; gold panning; shopping at local outfitting, antique, arts/crafts, and gift stores; and eating at local restaurants.

Herbicide is carcinogenic poison, and its use directly harms people and animals along with un-targeted plants. Some of these plants are rare and beautiful, and most have not been scientifically studied to find potential new medicines or other beneficial uses. If the plants are destroyed forever, we will never know their secrets. Herbicide is impossible to manually remove from the environment; it can contaminate drinking water and persist there or in soil for many years.

Keeping the Forest healthy contributes to higher air quality that benefits both people and animals. Poor air quality is especially a problem for people who suffer from asthma or COPD. A healthy forest also works to reduce carbon in the air, so it helps to reduce catastrophic global warming caused by excess atmospheric carbon.

The US government has no inherent moral authority to destroy the Forest since it is on land that was stolen from the Cherokee people. Destruction of their sacred land would be a continuation and reaffirmation of the past atrocities committed against them.

I was raised in the Chattahoochee Forest area, and I choose to live in the area as an adult because it is beautiful and special. I enjoy hiking throughout the entire Chattahoochee Forest region and photographing the natural scenery - sunsets and cloudscapes peeking through the trees, fall leaves, talking creeks, mosses on sparkling rocks, and bizarre insects. I consider the Chattahoochee Forest a treasure for myself and for the future, and I am deeply saddened by the thought that my government would use my tax money to poison it, to burn it, to cut it down and destroy it and to do so without consideration of my input and the input of other local stakeholders. I demand that the Project be abandoned immediately.