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Comments: This blanket approval for a mammoth project-approximately 95 times bigger than the average Forest Service timber project in the Southern Appalachian Mountains-would go on for decades, and runs counter to how our national forests should be managed. National forest users-including hikers, bikers, hunters, wildlife watchers, and scenic drivers-won't know which areas are on the chopping block until the opportunities for public involvement required by federal law have long passed.

Critically, the Forest Service does not know the locations of areas it will log, burn, build roads, or change recreation access but proposes to figure that out later, after public participation opportunities have passed. The most the agency is disclosing is that it plans to pursue the following activities somewhere in the 157,000-acre project area:

- 60,000+ acres of commercial timber harvest

- 50,000 acres of prescribed burning

- Constructing 360 miles of new bulldozer paths to facilitate prescribed burning

- Herbicide application across as much as 74,500 acres

- Grinding vegetation to wood chips using industrial machinery on up to 83,000 acres

- Building an undisclosed amount of "new temporary" roads

- Rerouting up to 111 miles of trail

- Decommissioning trails and dispersed camping areas.

Public lands are owned and shared by all of us. The public should be made aware of all activities involving the management of their lands and should be given a meaningful opportunity to share concerns about specific actions. That requires knowing where actions will occur on the ground, not a blanket approval for actions not yet specified.