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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Superintendent Jewett,

The Chattahoochee National Forest is a national treasure, and decisions made to change its current state should not be taken lightly. For over 30 years my husband and I have enjoyed hiking, photographing native flowers and butterflies, canoeing rivers, looking at waterfalls, and talking to people from different parts of the world who have come to hike the famous Appalachian Trail.

The Forest is an integrated system. A change in one feature affects other members of the system. The following proposed changes in the Foothills Landscape Project are particularly disturbing:

1. By withholding the specific location of the individual projects you will be unable to gain public involvement by individuals and groups who have the most knowledge and interest in preserving a healthy environment.
2. By applying pesticides to large areas you will kill native wildflowers and pollinators that are an important part of the environment. Pesticide drift can also cause damage to home gardens nearby and affect the health of people who are exposed.
3. By cutting large stands of oaks and pines you will remove homes and cover for wildlife, pollute streams and rivers, and remove giants that convert carbon dioxide to oxygen, permitting us to breathe more easily here than in urban areas.
4. By cutting new roads with large machinery and hauling away trees that are "in the way" you will interrupt recreational activities, leave ugly gashes in the landscape, and discourage tourism, a major source of income for local residents.

We urge you to tread softly as you consider changing a system that is now working for people, animals, plant life, and the air that we breathe. Please step back and rethink the Foothills Landscape Project, using the expertise and involvement of scientists and local residents who really know the importance of this national treasure.