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Comments: I am writing to strongly voice my concerns regarding the plans for widespread use of herbicides in our forest, and by "our" I mean the citizens who pay taxes and vote, that is part of the Foothills Landscape Project plan and is addressed in the Environmental Assessment.

The Vegetation Plan that supports the Foothills Environmental Assessment calls for pesticide applications on over 65,000 acres. While I have to concede that some limited applications may be necessary and understandable, for example to treat infested hemlock and ash trees, and control kudzu, the amount of proposed forest that will be hit with toxic chemicals is unacceptable. There is a rising cancer rate in this country, cancers that have never been seen before. Sufficient scientific evidence suggests that chemicals spread in our environment end up in our water, food and air supply may likely be one of the biggest contributors to this increase in cancer.

The Forest Service states that it uses "best available science" in its plans and risk assessments, but the evidence they are relying on is almost a decade old (2001)! With the pace of research, knowledge and legal judgments concerning pesticides and herbicides, even a non-scientist knows that the science of 2011 is clearly not the most current and best available science available. I obtained my PhD in 2001; I can tell you that the "cutting edge science" I performed in 2001 became completely different in 2010 and is not completely different 2020!

The Forest Service has goals to achieve, but in pursuing its goals I would expect for the sake of public health that it consider how little it really knows about the potential long-term impacts of applying herbicides over such a large area. Once the damage is done, it cannot be "undone" and will become your legacy for eternity.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns and for sake of public health, do the right thing.