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Comments: I am very concerned about this project for many reasons. I am especially worried about the proposed use of pesticides. The bird population in the US is declining precipitously and pesticides (which kill insects and other creatures that provide food for birds) is a major factor in this decline. Important agencies, such as the US Forest Service, instead of relaxing protection of wild lands, need to respond to the environmental crisis that threatens our region and the earth itself. We must react to new realities with new policies. In the Foothills of Georgia, we have an expanse of undeveloped land that we need to protect to counter the effects of over-development in the Atlanta area. Sometimes interested parties try to justify activities such as logging in national forests with the notion that economic development of resources is the "birthright" of any citizen in a position to profit by such development. Now we are coming to understand that the health of the earth must be our paramount concern. Likewise, uncontrolled recreational use of publicly owned natural areas is not a birthright. It is important to get people out into nature, but only activities compatible with preserving and enhancing the flora and fauna of nature should be tolerated in the areas, like the Foothills, that are needed for climate protection. The ability to penetrate natural areas in a car and on paved roads is not the birthright of every American. The Forest Service needs to allow for public opinion and oversight while also developing science-based information on combating climate change in all its endeavors.

Please help the public understand the urgency of taking into account the dangers of carelessness with Georgia's natural lands.