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First name: DINA

Last name: FRANCH

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I was born and raised in Georgia. My father took us kids hiking in the national forests and state parks. Every time I go hiking, I appreciate the vision and leadership of the elected officials and public servants who had the forethought to create the national forest system - an example of how we can manage forests for resource extraction, water and air quality protection, and recreation. I now bring the next generation hiking. The forests are the only places where we can see what Georgia may have been like hundreds of years ago.

In the past, when considering resource extraction and other forest management plans, the Forest Service has done a wonderful job providing the public with detailed site-specific proposals. The Forest Service's current proposal for the Foothills Landscape Project fails to provide site-specific details. We the public need to know where the proposed work is located in order to analyze the impacts to hiking trails.

In addition, I am concerned with the amount of logging in the proposal. It looks like over half the tress canopy will be removed - this amount of logging at one time would leave the forest looking like a suburban park. Not only would the beauty be ruined, the loss of canopy would permit more run-off and erosion.

In addition to my concern about the amount of logging, I am concerned about the proposal's focus on logging such a high percentage of the older trees. Taking out 8,300 acres of the mid-age and older age oak and pine (reports state this is 85% of the canopy) would decimate the feel of the forest and turn the forest into a tree farm, not a multi-purpose, multi-use resource.

My final concern is with the proposed widespread use of herbicides. I understand that certain problems call for herbicides (especially to deal with the infested hemlocks), but to spread herbicides over 65,000 acres without the Forest Service first doing an independent assessment of the safely to fish, birds, and plants is an omission that the Forest Service must correct.

I understand the importance of "fuel" reduction. And, I understand that there are many ways to reduce "fuel," with pros and cons for each method. A science-based, forward thinking plan should include a matrix with several combinations of the different methods and a careful analysis of the costs and benefits of each combination.

I respectfully ask that the Forest Service to:

1. Provide site-specific details of the proposed activities
- 2.Reduce the amount of logging
- 3.Reduce the number of mid-age and older age oak and pine
- 4.Conduct and independent assessment of the use of herbicides
- 5.Present various fuel reduction plans and provide a cost/benefit analysis for each plan.

Thank you for you time and consideration. I know that as a community, we can uphold the values and vision which led to the creation of the National Forest system.