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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Members of the Forest Service planning team:

First, I want to thank all of those who have been involved in the Foothills Landscape Project. I can only imagine how much work has gone into this effort so far, and it means a great deal that so many people care about our forests and want to see them and their surrounding communities thrive.

I am writing now, however, to ask the Forest Service to "press pause" on the current project. I would respectfully ask that you not conduct your environmental analysis or attempt to satisfy public participation requirements without FIRST making your decisions about where various actions, particularly logging, will occur. I heard on the radio that waiting until those decisions can be made will not be easy -- in large part because this is such a large plan that will take many years to implement and finalize. But for those of us who live in the middle or very close to those 157,000 affected acres, these decisions will be life-altering. We deserve to understand and know more, now, before everything is finalized and approved permanently.

My husband and I moved from Atlanta to Dahlonega for the sole reason that we love the forests. Today, we live in a secluded corner of Lumpkin County, surrounded by national forest on three sides. Our ability to have a meaningful say in the future of our home could be on the line. And more than our own home, the future of all living systems on these lands is at stake.

Thank you for being willing to hit the 'pause' button on these plans so that more decisions can be made up front, allowing public input while it still matters.

Respectfully,

Stacia Pelletier