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First name: Nancy

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Jewett,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Foothills Landscape Project on the Chattahoochee National Forest. My husband and I are avid hikers and campers, so the management of the National Forests is an area of importance and concern. There are several aspects of this project that deeply worry me.

First, I am troubled by the lack of information about exactly where and when you will be cutting trees, reworking trails, and burning areas. I am concerned that the Forest Service does not plan to include the public in site-specific decisions before implementing cutting, herbicide application, and road work close to trails in the Foothills Landscape. Do not close out the NEPA process before the public can comment on specific locations and activities! It is important to keep the long standing practice of allowing public comment about when and where management and disturbances to our forests occur.

Second, I've read that the Forest Service plans to log vast amounts of oak and pine forest (over 50,000 acres) as part of the Foothills Landscape Project. The extent of thinning threatens the North Georgia forest we cherish. I understand that some thinning is needed, but we must preserve the integrity of the forest.

Finally, I am horrified to read of the proposed pesticide applications on over 65,000 acres. As with logging, some limited applications may be necessary, but the application of pesticides described in the Foothills plan is not justified under the current proposal, especially given the growing scientific evidence of pesticide and herbicide effects on people and wildlife.

Thank you again for considering my comments.