

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/8/2020 5:23:52 PM

First name: Dietrich

Last name: Hoecht

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The comment letter written by Marie Dunkle prompts me to expand on her asking about effectiveness reviews for the foothills project.

With such a diverse, hugely vast in scope and effects lasting for half a century and more, there appears to be inadequate learning assessment and periodic reviews.

Any such undertaking of this ambitious project must have milestone reviews, checklists, cost accounting, cost-to-complete (if that were ever to be gleaned). We have met the project manager, and she appears to be fully competent and engaged, as appropriate. However, she should have dedicated specialists to concentrate on and be responsible for the effectiveness of their own scientific and management regime. There is simply not enough time, and the task is much too tedious for one person alone to be doing all that must be appropriately addressed. Such specific concentration should cover public use in all its forms, the wildlife, botany, hydrology, timber resource liaison, etc. Simply resorting to the existing personnel without relieving them from their presently assigned tasks is clearly not adequate. Consulting resources from outside the Forest Service could well be sought, especially for having an independent assessment during the review process.

Under the rubric of experiments set-aside projects should be conducted. I could imagine, for example, taking 'turf' cuttings out of an existing bog and emplacing them on a seepage zone to see how this approach might work to create new boggy environments. Further, there could be side-by-side testing of new plantings with and without application of mycelia to root and topsoil. Such endeavor would be enlightening and could reshape plans for the entire foothills project.

The Forest Service should also make an assessment of how this whole project will have changed our forests in all respects, fifty years in the future. That consideration should cover, for example, the need for drinking water, the local demographic developments, the changing wants for recreation, hunting, etc. in view of the expected population increase of the Atlanta metropolitan and surrounding area.

Dietrich Hoecht P.E.
Clayton, GA