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Comments: Please protect the North Georgia Mountains!

We are blessed to live in a region with unique, ancient flora and fauna. The resurgence in recreation has brought jobs to our area and supported our local community. The Appalachian culture is still alive today. All of this is owed to our forests and waterways-the best and most integral part of our area, our people, and our future.

Our forests have seen hard times with storms, droughts, invasive species, and pests that need attention but not 15-20 years of unrestricted logging, pesticide use (including glyphosate which is a known carcinogen), and more. As an outdoor recreation student I learned the importance of finding a balance within conservation with logging shareholders, using prescribed burns to clear underbrush to prevent fires and allow for new growth, the occasional need for chemicals to control invasive species, and the need for time; however, the keyword is balance. I encourage you to roll back the years on the proposed Foothills Landmark Project so the community that resides there can see the progress and benefits the forest service and partners can provide rather than making them feel like the land they live amongst, recreate in, and that holds their history and culture is being taken from them. This is a proud community; help us restore our forest in a way we can be proud of.