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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Foothills Landscape Project on the Chattahoochee National Forest. I have been visiting the Foothills area on a regular basis for over 30 years and am a property owner in this national forest.

I have several concerns about the general scope, public input and specifics of this project.

1) The project is too large to be approved as one effort. This should be configured as multiple smaller projects that are thoroughly defined in approach, treatment type, area and timing of activities. Each of these smaller projects should be proposed and offered for public comment separately.

2) The project as described is quite large and extremely short on specifics. It is difficult for the general public to offer advice and comments for such a large and geographically expansive effort. Should this project move forward within the parameters set forth at this time, it is essential that meaningful opportunities for continued public input be made available on a frequent basis as treatments and other activities are more clearly defined. Meetings on a once per year basis are not adequate.

3) The project time period is not defined, but appears to be far too long. A time limit of less than 5 years should be established after which the results should be thoroughly measured and commented on.

4) Buffers around trails and recreation areas are not adequate as proposed. A 25' buffer on each side of a trail is not adequate to mitigate visual or environmental impacts. A buffer of 150' around a campsite is also not adequate. Depending on the treatment for the area, a campsite could be rendered undesirable for many years with such a small buffer. At an absolute minimum, all buffers should be doubled.

5) The project envisions a massive use of chemicals to be utilized for treatments throughout the project area. Although there is no specific information about exactly where these chemicals would be used, it is clear that the areas to be sprayed are extensive. This would result in severe unintended damage to desirable vegetation, insects, wildlife and aquatic habitat. The use of herbicides over such large areas for an unspecified period of time should not be permitted.

In summary, I ask that this project be withdrawn and replaced with a series of smaller, carefully defined projects, that the public can consider in a more meaningful way. I remain very appreciative of much of the work done by the Forest Service in spite of my disappointment with this project.