Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/8/2020 8:59:24 PM
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Comments: As the Program Director of a mental health clubhouse that utilizes our public forests and trails as a major component in our program, I am, professionally and personally, profoundly distressed, regarding the proposed sell-off of such a vast swath of these lands. Our clubhouse uses outdoor recreation, nature walks, and hikes as tools for grounding our members within the beauty of their home, which fosters a true and positive connection to "place" and nature. In turn, this time spent in nature, away from the detrimental distractions of modern life and devices, helps us to settle troubled, young minds, and the peace that this brings transcends the moment and permeates all areas of our members' lives and relationships. Further, these activities, which occur almost exclusively in our National Forests, are invaluable in our efforts to aid our young members in building the self-confidence needed to face the struggles that their various diagnoses inevitably present.

Our program has been located in Rabun County since 2012 and has success stories beyond listing. The thought that some of the areas that we hold dear for the work that we do with these largely forgotten children could become victim to the devastation of clear-cutting and other unnecessary exploitation is truly tragic. The fact that it is even being considered is, frankly, unconscionable.