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First name: John Last name: Baugus Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been an avid user of Chattahoochee national forest for the past four years, either hunting, hiking or fishing at least once a week. As a hunter, it is very disappointing to see that the deer population is nearly non existent on much of the National Forest. I am a big proponent of using timber harvesting and controlled burning on the National Forest as a way of improving habitat for many species including deer. From my observations, unless there is substantial timber harvest and burning there is no hope for deer numbers to bounce back to healthy herd numbers where they were 20 - 30 years ago. The additional browse and fawning cover resulting from cutting and burning would increase fawn recruitment in the face of heavy predation by both bear and coyote. The logging roads created by bulldozers for timber harvest and controlled burns would also increase access for hunters and non hunters alike. Please enact this plan for the benefit of wildlife as well as end users.