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Comments: To whom it may concern, regarding the Foothills Project:

One thing that makes our part of the world very special is our biodiversity. Our rich soils evolve because of decaying woody material and a rich, moist environment. With so much logging and herbicide use, the soils will be damaged and native plant diversity be adversely impacted. In recent years, the use of more and more machinery in the timber harvest projects has visibly created increasing disruption of soil, and with added fire and chemicals the land has little opportunity to recover much less thrive. Please show us some viable alternatives to achieve the stated goals. Please show us a track record of results achieved in similar recent projects.

Additionally, creating disturbance over 150,000+ acres of forestlands and causing such a great deal of disturbance in these project areas will certainly create a formidable invitation to non-native invasive species (NNIS) which love disturbed areas. This will cause additional need to treat these areas into the future increasing the already heavy use of herbicides which are cumulatively hazardous to the health of the soil, water, wildlife and humans using these lands. Not only will the disturbance in these areas bring a huge increase in NNIS, but so will the warming effects of these projects and the degradation of the soils.

As to the land sales proposed here, if I understood you at one of the informational meetings, Ms Jewett, you said that the FS may sell these lands because they are not accessible. As that may be the case, one might argue that it is of great value to have some isolated parcels where there is significantly desirable view shed, such as on Charlie Mountain, or a healthy buffer from our landfill, such as at Boggs Mountain area. For these reasons, I oppose the sales of these lands.