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First name: KIMBERLY

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I have lived in Georgia over 16 years. During this time, I have spent countless weekends exploring the National Forests of this great state. Some of the best times my husband and I have spent have been hiking these forests, and now we are bringing up our small children (4 and 5 years old) to love them too.

We love the Chattahoochee National Forest. We have hiked countless trails in it - from parts of the AT to the Bartram trail to Blood Mountain to Panther Creek Trail to Mountaintown Creek Trail to Long Creek Falls....probably hundreds of hikes over the years. It is our chance to connect with nature, to get away from the city and breathe the fresh mountain air, hear the sounds of a free flowing stream, of the birds chattering in the branches. My husband has also done trail runs through the forest, including the Pine Mountain 19 miler and the Sky to Summit 50K.

The Chattahoochee National Forest is where our kids first learned how to pitch a tent (Black Rock Mountain State Park), where my husband and I led our wedding guests on a pre-wedding hike (Raven Cliffs Falls), and where my husband and I have spent days backpacking (Pine Mountain Trail, Benton MacKaye Trail).

I am very upset about the proposed Foothills Landscape Project in the Georgia National Forests that would allow activities that destroy potentially very large areas of the forest, all *without* public input. This is unconscionable. The people of Georgia love our forests. We should get a say in how they are used as they are OURS (the public's)! Most people don't have the knowledge about this project (shame on you for publishing this announcement right before the holidays) or the time to send a letter. I know I speak for thousands of people with this one.

Please PROTECT our National Forests, our heritage. Please do not allow logging, more roadbuilding, or herbicide application (the forests are just fine by themselves, they don't need poisons sprayed on them, and if you don't clearcut the land there is less of a chance for invasive species to take hold). And please do not cut the public out of the process. We are supposed to be involved by law because they are public lands.

Respectfully,
Kimberly DeFeo
Atlanta, GA