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Comments: National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. Agencies also provide opportunities for public review and comment on those evaluations. I am very concerned about the fact that this Foothills Landscape Project as currently formulated will not allow the public to utilize the established NEPA process at the time site-specific locations for treatments are being established.

I am also greatly concerned about the plans for logging, road building, and the widespread use of herbicides in our forest. Research on the underground network of fungus and microbes that permeates the forest floor, discovered only 15 years ago is beginning to show the importance of mycorrhizal networks in forest survival, growth and defense. We do not know the potential damage to these networks from the types of logging and chemical application the FS plans in the 157,000 acres of Foothills Landscape. The FS has goals to achieve, but in driving ahead to achieve its goals we hope that it will consider how little it knows about the potential impacts of its actions.

With the escalation of Climate Change we cannot continue with our reckless way of handling our forests. Our forests are monumentally important in drawing down the carbon from the atmosphere. Everything possible must be done to address and reverse the suicidal direction that we are all now moving in.