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First name: Jill

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Jill Wrenn, and I am an outdoor educator and enthusiast. I spend a large amount of time in the Chattooga river corridor, whether it is paddling the Chattooga, hiking in the watershed, participating in clean up efforts to remove litter from the tributaries, or paddling the Chattahoochee and Tallulah rivers, which will also be impacted by this project.

I am greatly concerned about the impact this project will have on the Chattooga watershed for the following reasons: I fear that the lack of public input will lead to more logging and burning than is necessary to restore the health of the forest and create habitat, and I am strongly opposed to the use of herbicides in this ecosystem as they will negatively impact the flora and fauna this project is designed to help thrive. Additionally, these herbicides have been shown to be harmful to both humans and animals.

Furthermore, I would like to see the Forest Service prepare and present an Environmental Impact Statement that provides site-specific information about where proposed timber harvesting, burning and herbicide treatments would occur, as well as many other proposed actions including temporary road construction, trail construction and trail rerouting.

Additionally, I want the Forest Service to solicit public input for the proposed action for the 10-15 year duration of the project.

Last, I believe that this project should be revised to ensure that biodiversity and native species are preserved, particularly the stands of old growth trees. It is very important to preserve a true native forest connected across the landscape in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and to help provide migratory corridors for plants and animals to adapt to changing habitats.

Thank you for your time and consideration.