Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2020 1:26:51 AM
First name: Melinda
Last name: Wagner
Organization: BCHNG
Title: Forest Service Liaison and Issues Chair
Comments: Please find below my suggestions and request concerning The Foothills Landscape Project. As a representative of Back Country Horsemen of North GA, I personally attended all but about three of these meetings and boots on the ground days starting in 2016. I found them to be informative and productive as well as having a good public turnout. We Back Country Horsemen have had an excellent working history with the Forest Service here in GA and look forward to working with you in the future.

I would like to note that:

1. Thirty days are not enough time to read and legitimately review the amount of information contained in this EA, due to same there may be issues that arise later.

2. Public inclusion is a major concern going forward with this project especially when it comes to making final decisions and putting boots on the ground to implement same. We would like notification of any issue concerning equestrian usage.

3. The Back Country Horsemen of GA would like to be notified of trail, access to, parking or campground closings with enough advance as to offer a viable alternative to or taking responsibility of maintaining area in question.

4. It is a huge concern that has been brought to our attention, that somewhere in this 200 plus page document that there is wording implying the public is forfeiting their input for 20 years. Please refer to my #1 above because we have not had adequate time to find this wording as of yet. If such wording is contained within, we are definitely not in favor of denying public inclusion or input.

5. We also would like information on and notification of the logging scheduled to take place. Eye appeal and trail experience should be kept in mind when logging close to trails.

Thank you in advance for reviewing my concerns and request as you move forward with The Foothills Landscape Project. If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

With kind regards, I am
Sincerely,

Melinda Wagner
BCHNG, Forest Service Liaison and Issues Chairman
706-455-2921