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Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the forest management of the Foothills Landscape Project. There is so much to be said for the great importance of wilderness areas. These are areas of beauty, inspiration, recreation and provide clean water and fresh air. I believe that a human hand in actively managing these areas could have serious consequences with long term effects. I hope that the US Forest Service proceeds carefully and with consideration of the people who need and enjoy these woodlands.

In regards to the future management of the Chattahoochee-Oconee national forest, I would strongly suggest that herbicides not be used in the management of these unique wilderness areas. It would be prudent to protect the diversity of these areas by limiting the amount of human interference and levels of destruction and toxic elements that may be used in this initiative. Herbicides are detrimental to the ecology and natural biomes that ensure the health of the forest. Herbicides, broad spectrum or not, are dangerous, toxic, destructive, and have no place in a wilderness area. The toxins applied to rid the forest of invasive plants affect the whole ecosystem. From the bio-organisms at the base to the understory plant life and up into the canopy-these will all suffer the detrimental effects of the use of herbicides even if they are plant specific. This will ultimately destroy the natural ecosystem and balance that naturally exists. Eradication of invasive species must have a different approach to protect these priceless forests.

As far as logging the Chattahoochee-Oconee national forest for high value wood products, I believe this notion will bring massive destruction to these unique and undeveloped areas. There is great diversity in these national forest areas and actively managing them for profit will be disastrous for these irreplaceable woodlands. The logging roads alone will destroy large swaths of the forest while removing vital canopy. This would not provide a positive outcome for the management of the forest's wildlife and normal flora.

The national forests are treasures to be admired and protected. We are very fortunate to still have some woodland remaining and methods of managing them for future need to be supportive of the wild areas.