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Title: Vigneron (Vineyard Manager and Wine Maker)
Comments: I am extremely concerned about the proposed USFS Foothills Landscape Project for the follwoing reasons:
1. I am very familiar with herbicides, as they are a constant topic of conversation at our vineyard management meetings with Georgia grape growers. I have been trying to phase out the use of herbicides, as have so many other vineyard managers, as it has come to our awareness and has been proven by the most recent scientific resesarch that herbicides also kill butterflies (97% of monarch butterfly population killed off in California due to herbicides), bees, and lots of small plants and insects that create a harmonious and sustainable ecosystem. Specific herbicides are now known to be carcinogenic, to pollute waters, and to kill off healthy fish popluations as well. I was SHOCKED to hear that there is proposed plan for extensive herbicide application in the national forest itself. What a risk! And for what purpose? Furthermore, Round Up, which is a proposed herbicide, has been banned in ALL of Europe, due to scientific findings about its dangers to humans/living organisms.
2. The purpose given to us at the meeting in Clayton last night (1/7/20) for the proposed sale of vast swaths of national forest land was that "these areas are too inaccessible." This reason was given to us by a forest service representative. First of all, isn't the point of national forest land that it is preserved, hopefully roadless, and not easily accessible? Also, it is my understanding that all portions of land up for sale are accessible by public roads. I thought national forest land was meant to be protected for the public good.
3. The science for maintaining healthy forests upon which this proposal is based dates back to 2011. An unbelievable amount of new research about maintaining harmony and balance in terms of forest health, biodiversity, etc. has been brought to our attention in the last 9 years! I don't believe commercial logging has ever been a remedy for maintaining a healthy forest!