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Comments: I concur with former Sec. of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, who said, "Because a road is one of the most indelible marks man can leave on the landscape, it is our responsibility to safeguard the often irreplaceable ecological value of unroaded areas until a permanent policy can protect our last great open spaces, our water and wildlife, and the economic health of forest communities.... We are therefore calling an official time out, so we can examine the science, involve the public, and build a roads policy for the 21st century."

The USFS has neither the budget nor will, in my estimation, to keep the current, vast road system free of exotics and maintained to the standards consistent with the very agency's standards on riparian area protection. To propose the construction of ANY new roads within our public lands is an ostentatious slap in the face to forest conservation. NO NEW ROADS FOR ANY REASON.

I am vehemently opposed to any fast-tracking of NEPA -- no one knows what's in store for our forest in the face of human accelerated climate crisis. We do know that we've lost 50% of our avian species since the early 70's and we're also certain that our planet needs trees more than ANY thing, therefore keeping forest canopies should be the main objective of the USFS.

Furthermore, the USFS has a semi-successful history of collaboration with grassroots forest conservation groups like GA Forestwatch, on a case-by-case project level. However, the USFS has an ever increasingly disturbing habit of shuffling personnel around the nation to the extent that knowledge of the biology of these unique areas is diminished among agency personnel. Therefore, CONTINUE to collaborate with citizen conservationists and ecologists who KNOW the areas rather than circumvent the project-level process that is crucial to getting concerns met.

My biggest concern with this project is within the old-growth Grassy Mountail area, adjacent to our highest forest diversity biome, the Cohutta Wilderness, where it is crucial to maintain old-growth integrity, riparian protection and meet air quality considerations.

The public comment period and process on these proposals was a sick joke. Merry Christmas.