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Comments: The Foothills Project requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The Foothills Project draft Environmental Assessment violates provisions of the NEPA by not providing the public with site-specific information about where proposed timber harvesting, burning, and herbicide treatments would occur, as well as many other proposed actions such as temporary road construction, trail construction, and trail rerouting. The Foothills Project violates NEPA by denying public participation opportunities GUARANTEED BY LAW for the duration of the project, which may last 15 years or more. I disagree with the Foothills Project's forestry practices, which are based on treatments to produce crop trees at the expense of native biological diversity. Much of this project proposes to convert diverse, native forest with multiple layers of dominant and co-dominant trees, shrubs and herbaceous Appalachian understory to a forest of even-age, crop trees dominated by just a few commercial tree species. The Foothills Project should not use prescribed burning that far exceeds natural fire cycles (15-20 years or more). This project should definitely not use herbicides that many scientists believe have carcinogenic properties. I disagree with the Forest Service's in-house ecological modeling that specifically promotes crop tree management disguised as ecological restoration.

It is clear that the Forest Service is prioritizing profit above the health and well being of the Chattahoochee National Forest and all citizens that live and recreate therein. The Chattooga River and its watershed is a delicate ecosystem that requires all of us to care for it. We cannot expect the earth to rebound from further destruction, as our planet is clearly crying out for help. All projects that will cause detrimental and long-term impacts must be open to public comments. The Foothills Project is simply too large and too destructive and must be reevaluated.