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First name: Lee

Last name: Johnson

Organization: Hiking and Kayaking groups who use these public lands

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forestry Service,

As someone who frequently uses the public lands and having grown up in northeast Georgia, I am greatly alarmed at this bid to permanently silence to any input by the public for decades to come. This move seems to want to cover up some sort of clandestine and sinister plan to do something horrible to the Chattahoochee national forest lands, like massive logging and contracts to lumber companies to come in and do whatever they want to vast swaths of pristine forest.

As our population grows and cities like Atlanta continue to grow larger and larger, it is very imperative we continue to set aside public forest land and areas of nature for the benefit and sanity of all of us. Please keep the avenues of communication between those who uses these areas of nature and your government agencies open. I think any large scale harvesting of timber should have public input. At the beginning of the 20th century the entire area was clear-cut with no care or concern about environmental impact or any damage done to wildlife, rivers, or locals who lived in those areas. Please do not repeat the same mistakes again. If profits are all the Forestry Service cares about, then implement more daily use fees so that the money goes to maintaining the nature we have been gifted. It saddens me that this bid to end all public commentary is being implemented so suddenly with very minimal details or reasons why.

Please communicate with the public to understand what is being done and what someone of us can do to help preserve our precious natural resources before they are loved and used so much they will be gone from existence like so much other nature in lieu of never ending "progress."

Sincerely,

Lee Johnson

Native of northeast of Georgia