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Comments: I have been an active visitor to the Chattahoochee NF for over 50 years for hiking, camping, boating and wildlife observation. The Forest is a great resource and has afforded me and my family many days of relaxation and recreation. We are blessed to have this great resource in North Georgia!

I would like to express my concerns and objections regarding the proposed Foothills Landscape project.

1> A project of this scope must have a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement.

2>The action covers a period of 15 or more years and as proposed there will be no legally required public input after the initial decision. This is a direct violation of NEPA which guarantees me a right to participation.

3> It also violates NEPA by not providing any site specific information about specifically where and what treatments will occur.

4> I am personally very concerned about old growth tracts. The proposed appears to disregard their importance for a healthy forest and places its focus on pine and oak crops trees at the expense of a bio-diverse forest.

5>The Forest Service asserts these proposals are science driven. The 630 acres of existing old growth in the Chattooga Watershed must be preserved and allowed to develop naturally. Forest Service research documented the importance of protecting these areas in a 1995 study of the Chattooga River Watershed.

6>In addition, the work of renowned scientist Dr Charles H. Wharton in his book The Natural Environments of Georgia does not include Chattooga River Watershed in Rabun County as part of the Foothill Landscape. So, based on his work these were incorrectly included in the project. They should be removed from the project and preserved.

I believe the Foothills Landscape projects should be withdrawn in its current form. It should be replaced by a plan that is supported by a full Environmental Impact statement and a process that allows traditional public comment periods on site specific treatments as they are proposed over the many years of the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns about the Foothills Project.