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Comments: I have attended 2 mtgs on the Foothills Project and read several of the documents. Each time I have come away more concerned than ever that this project with the potential sale of land in Rabun County, GA and the spraying of various herbacides (SIC) will not be in the best interest of the citizens of Rabun County and could negatively impact the economy of our county which tourism is a large part.

In the most recent mtg, Betty the Forest Service official said that there is a letter in the file from the Rabun County Commissioners approving the sale of forest land in Rabun County. However, there has been no public discussion with the citizens of Rabun County and the County Commissioners on this topic. What wasn't disclosed is how old is the letter. Is it from 9 years ago or is it more recent? If it is from 9 years ago did anyone from the Forest Service check with the current county commissioners to see if this was still the intent. There were 5 County Commissioners at the most recent mtg and none of them acknowledged that they support the sale of land in Rabun County.

I think the majority of people who work for the US Forest Service really love the forest and want what is best. However, the impression I got from Betty is that this project is a go no matter what the people think. I wish I felt that we could trust the leadership of this project but they have not demonstrated that they are really committed to working with the community, regardless of the lip service they pay.

Since the current administration is talking about not having to do environmental impact studies, and the Forest Services has indicated that they would like to eliminate public feedback on projects how can we trust that your intentions are truly in the best interests of the citizens of Rabun County?

We should be able to trust our government to be working in the best interests of its citizens but unfortunately we see to frequently where that is not the case. For example, the Forest Service letting a mining company write the proposal being able to mine on protected land.

I think the Forest Service wants to sell the land to earn money and to make business owners happy.

The impact to our local economy and environment is too important to trust this to government officials who have consistently shown that they are unable to complete projects. Most of time projects are left incomplete and the local citizens and governments are left to clean up the mess or leave things in shambles. The ongoing federal government's unwillingness to fund projects correctly (or are they not given the true costs of a project) leave me dismayed that we would take that chance in our beautiful county.

I have no confidence that you will be able to protect our water supply which is already fragile.

When we have a president who says the forests can be managed by raking and says climate change is not destroying the earth why would we think you would be allowed to do what is best for us?   Thanks but no thanks!

It would help if the US Forest Service leadership ie Betty in our area was more an advocate for the people and the forest than a project methodology. I keep thinking she has been instructed to get it done on time and under budget. How did that work for Boeing which also was able to basically direct the FAA?

You need to have leadership that is engaged with the community and who does not talk down to the audience. Betty said she told her staff not to come to the last meeting because they live in the community and she thought the questions would be critical of some of their work. Remember we pay their salaries through our tax dollars

and if there are some tough questions they are professionals and should be able to answer them. Believe it or not we still live in a democratic society and people are allowed to ask questions.

If this project is approved please get leadership people who engage with the community rather that act like dealing with the public is awful.