

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2020 8:15:18 PM

First name: George

Last name: Owen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Personnel,

As one who has worked for literally 50 years with the Forest Service as a volunteer primarily through the three dominant hiking trail clubs on the Chattahoochee NF, I am very concerned about the proposed outcome of the Foothills Project. I'll be brief:

My overall concern is about lack of site specific information on timbering, control burns, herbicide usage, trail changes, etc. This very much reads to me like an attempt to undermine, "get around" NEPA, and as one who has worked with NEPA guidelines for many years, I am unalterably opposed to certain efforts currently being projected to shortcut the NEPA process on INDIVIDUAL projects!

If it is correct that decisions will be made broadly with a once-a-year ranger, then I find this very insufficient for really good decision-making.

Thus, as I understand the summations from both GA ForestWatch and the Sierra Club (GA chapter), I am therefore opposed to what I understand is the new direction of less and shorter public input for CONF projects. Overall, I see this as another effort to shortcut reviews on environment projects to our overall detriment by the current federal administration, national forests, and other entities.

George Owen

Co-Founder, Benton MacKaye Trail Assoc.

Former both Maintenance Dir. & Construction Dir. of GATC & BMTA, who has laid out over 100 miles of trails on the Chatta. Nat. For.