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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

RE: Foothills Landscape Project

I have been a trail volunteer in the Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest for 15 years through the Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association, Back Country Horsemen of America and SORBA.

It is very hard to comment on this Environmental Assessment presented because it is written in such a way that the FS is "always right". I totally agree in trying not to pollute streams with trail crossings. However not being able to KNOW which stream crossings are affected is a problem for me. Please provide your specific crossings of concern.

The aspect of not being able to comment in a public review process for this forest for the next 20 years is a problem for me. I am a member of the public. Telling me what I can and cannot do on PUBLIC LAND seems like a dictatorship and not a democracy. Let's try to work TOGETHER.

The amount of logging presented in the EA is a problem. I agree that in the western states they have had horrendous, disastrous wildfires. Whatever starts in the west, comes east. However, the western states do not have the annual rainfall of the eastern states. By clearing forests either through logging timber, prescribed burns or herbicide use is a problem. The stream and creek water temperature will rise producing a DEVASTING impact on aquatic life which we are trying to PROTECT not DESTROY! The number of total acreages of timber is nearly SIXTY NINE percent of MY total forest. I prefer to ride in the shade, not broiling sun. I do not have skin cancer now, but that is a concern.

The 30-day comment period started in December and ran through the holidays when MILLIONS of Americans have family, traveling to functions on their minds and not really studying over 300 page document with all the appendices and tables. Not to mention flu season.

We need SITE SPECIFIC DETAILS such as longitude and latitude coordinates of where/when and what is planned. The forest service has worked on this plan for a year and a half with meetings and paperwork. Surely some details have been worked out.