Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/11/2020 12:59:13 AM
First name: Steve
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Sir or Madam,

I oppose the foothills project. I think it is so big that it needs and environmental impact statement. The Foothills Project violates NEPA by denying public participation opportunities guaranteed by law for the duration of the project, which could be 10-15 years or more. The Map published on line sure makes it look like your planning to cut old growth forest in the Chattooga River watershed. Even age cutting in the Chattooga Watershed will result in increased silt in the creeks and river and be bad for fishing. The Chattooga River watershed in the Rabun County portion of the project area is not even located in the Foothills Landscape ecoregion, as defined in Dr. Charles H. Wharton's seminal work, The Natural Environments of Georgia.

I think recreation is important and closing established trails and campsites would be detrimental to the forest users. The Foothills Project should not use prescribed burning that far exceeds natural fire cycles (15 -20 years or more). The Foothills Project should not employ the heavy use of herbicides that many scientists believe have carcinogenic properties. I disagree with the Forest Service's in-house ecological modeling that specifically promotes crop tree management disguised as ecological restoration.

Thanks for taking the time to read my comments. I believe it is important for the forest around the Chattooga river to be managed with a view of the entire watershed. It is hard to do this with the Georgia and South Carolina forest districts being separate and having separate plans.

Steve Yook