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First name: Sarah
Last name: Snyder
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Supervisor Jewett,
Thank you for the hard work you and your team does for the people and forests of North Georgia. I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Foothills Landscape Project and hope my comments will be heard and considered. The national forests of North Georgia are a refuge for me and I have enjoyed endless hours of enjoyment through trail running, hiking, and exploring. These forests mean the world to me.
If there's anything that I feel we should all be able to agree on, is that we need clean air, clean water and the protection of our national forests. This is why the remaining roadless areas in the Foothills are so incredibly important to me. They are our absolute best chance to have clean air, clean water and healthy forests anywhere in the Foothills. The proposed Foothills Landscape Project is too vague and includes too many detrimental suggestions for me to support.
Please don't make new roads in our roadless areas. The document you provided to describe the project says roads dump more sediment into streams than any other management activity. Even "temporary" roads disrupt water flow and can turn into raw gashes that pollute our streams.
Please don't harvest trees in our roadless areas. Surely there are better places than our roadless areas to cut trees and have big machines drag them through the woods. The places that are scraped off to load the logs onto the trucks are even worse.
Please only use herbicides absolutely sparingly in our roadless area. While herbicides can be beneficial in small doses in specific circumstances, they can be extremely harmful at the levels currently proposed.
So many streams and lakes have been fouled that it's hard to find places that still have really clean water. Please be a responsible steward of our largest parcels of intact forest in North Georgia. Allow natural processes to occur. Avoid logging and road building (either permanent or temporary) at all costs.
Please utilize the great work of Georgia Forest Watch in their "Georgia Mountain Treasures" document. Their careful study of the North Georgia forests has produced incredible documentation of our last best wild areas that need the highest level of protection we can provide. They've done the hard work, now you have the chance to be the hero and finish the job by protecting these Treasures by excluding logging, road building and herbicide use.
I know the task at hand is a hard one, but please listen to the forest users and consider our opinions and consider the facts of the experts as well.
I appreciate your time and consideration.
With great appreciation,
Sarah