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Comments: I am very concerned about the fact that this Foothills Landscape Project as currently formulated will not allow the public to utilize the established NEPA process at the time site-specific locations for treatments are being established. The ecosystems of the Southern Appalachians are incredibly complex. Cutting trees in some areas can be relatively harmless but cutting trees in the wrong places can have devastating effects. Please fix the Foothills! Do not closeout the NEPA process before the public can know specifically where you plan to do the projects you want to do.

For example, there is a massive amount of logging described within the Foothills Landscape Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and associated documentation, including the Vegetation Plan.

The Forest Service plans to log vast amounts of oak and pine forest as part of the Foothills Landscape Project. I've read that over 50,000 acres are to be logged, taking out half the tree cover in order to open up the canopy! The extent of thinning threatens to leave these forest areas looking like an unkempt urban park-not the North Georgia forest we know and value. If the proposed approach is allowed to take place, we and our children who visit the Foothills will be wandering among the stumps before very long. This is not something I want to see or a legacy we should leave!

An additional 8,300 acres of mid-age and late age (100 years old) oak and pine are proposed in the EA to be logged (85 to 90% canopy removal) in order to let the very young trees thrive better and create a young forest habitat. This sounds very much like the FS is approaching Forest management like a farmer-to get even aged stands, perhaps for harvesting. Our National Forests in Georgia are not tree farms, nor should they be! Thank you for reading my comments.