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Comments: I am very grateful and appreciate the Forest Service's ideas of restoring the forest in The Foothills Landscape Project from human activity and protecting the water sources that run through. Also that you are seemingly open to public comments. What I have a problem with is being able to trust the Forest Service for the next 20 years to continue to have the same feelings that you have in 2019.
It is extremely difficult believing the words that the Forest Service speak and to trust their intentions, since I have witnessed broken promises and ideas changing because of budget cuts and/or new Rangers that may come and go, or greedy leaders elected to office that do not appreciate the forests as they should.
One example I can thing of immediately is one where Georgia Transmission Corporation in 2001 wanted to put in high tension transmission lines to add to the grid. That power line was given approval by the U.S. Forest Service and the artery that was chosen by the power company crossed 22 undiscovered pristine trout streams and used a 92 foot waterfall as the center line for the towers. They allowed the power station to be placed 50 feet from one of the most beautiful trout streams in Rabun County. That to me was unfathomable witnessing the forest service turning their heads while the power company disrupted so many miles of untouched forest and streams when there were other avenues that could have been chosen. To make matters worse when construction started for the power station the engineers discovered the soil was not the right composition to hold the weight of the station. The next step was to find a mindless landowner that would sell them 485 large dump trucks full of his soil in exchange for the sandy, silty soil that surrounded the creek. So they clearcut over 7 acres of his land and proceeded with their plan of building the power station by the creek. The property of the man that sold his soil was uphill from me, and for 18 years I have had to clear the soil that washes, still to this day, out of all my storm drains or my house floods. I am on a first name basis with the County Marshall now since i have had to call him so many times for years. He finally asked me to join him because he was going to make a lawsuit against the property owner. The final conclusion: the man was fined a 'whopping" $1700.00 and the case was closed for him. But certainly not for me! I've spent my life cleaning the drains, and if there is a surprise storm, and my husband and I have not cleaned the drains, we are out in the storm with lightning all around us using 25 foot poles ramming them down each drain to push the dirt on through. The EPD has been here trying to clean up a state stream that runs beside our property. Eventually the runoff and silt contaminated our pristine, pure and clear spring which supplied us with our drinking water and water for our home. After spending countless dollars on the purchase of water filters to try and trap the mud in our water pipes, sometimes putting a new filter in everyday, we were forced to have a deep well drilled for our water supply. It has been a complete disaster, and the Forest Service never did a thing to mitigate the situation. All that took place because the Forest Service made money to allow the power line to go through. We discussed our situation with the Forest Supervisor in Gainesville at the time. His response was "Look the Forest Service is underfunded so we do what we have to do to make up the deficient funds." So I have lost faith in the fact that their job is to protect the forests, the waterways, and all the creatures that live within the National Forests. As a result I have spent the last 18 years living with the worry, depression, hard labor, and expense as a direct result of the decision of the Forest Service and I don't intend or want to live the next 20 years going through the same emotional hardships because of another bad decision.
Also in this day and time with the planet suffering from from so many changes in the weather, and so many trees, suffering from drought raising their roots to a more shallow position trying to drink from rains, they topple over when the torrential rains occur because of a shallow root system. Also there are so many assaults on trees these days from the Dept. of Transportation, private logging operations, vast developments, golf courses, hospitals, parking lots, etc. that it is time to just let the National Forests be. If you take away the motorized recreational vehicles
and let there be nothing but foot traffic in the National Forests I believe the forests will heal themselves.
Also, if there needs to be removal of invasive species of plants and shrubs, I am 100% against chemical herbicides and insecticides. It has just been discovered the chemical insecticide "imidacloprid" suppresses the appetites of birds, depriving them of the fats they need to migrate. A report was just released, that there are

nearly 3 billion fewer birds today in North America than there were in 1970. More than 1 in 4 has disappeared. Everything should be controlled by hand methods. For instance, if privet has never been cut it can easily be pulled out of the ground, and then it's gone forever. If it is cut it will multiply and is impossible to pull out of the ground. It wold be wonderful if the Forest Service just hired more labor to hand clear invasive plants.
To conclude, other consideration that I don't think are in the forethought when a decision is made about our U.S. Forests, are the implications on a Global arena. Take into consideration the Rainforest burning, illegal and legal logging in Brazil, the massive Train Rails Belt line Project, Pres. Xi began as soon as he was elected in China (which will clear cut hundreds of thousands of acres of trees for construction and open the wilderness areas for even more illegal logging), our Administration moving to exempt Alaska's Tongass National Forest from the road-building rules and opening the door to logging 165,000 acres of old-growth forest, BLM's plan to raze 30,000 acres of pinion pines and Utah junipers within the Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monument, the thousands of acres that are cleared of precious hardwoods to make room for palm oil plantations and many other situations we don't even hear or read about worldwide from 3rd world countries that need money and resort to logging. A very little unknown fact, is that when the trees in a forest become too stressed from the scale being tipped for their livelihood, they have a special ability to commit suicide, and I have actually witnessed many, many trees seemingly healthy, just up and die.This precious planet is all we have, and there are no winners, only losers when we tip the scale too far. We are all connected by the wonderful, beautiful trees that supply us with oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, provide shade, filter water, save energy by cooling our homes and automobiles, provide habitats for birds and animals and provide a source of great beauty for us all.