

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/11/2021 1:13:27 AM

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Comments: Avoid gridlock by narrowing the project to focus on issues with broad support. The project currently tries to manage all areas, activities, and resources at once, including many areas and activities that will be contentious., The Forest Service should limit the scope of the project to:

Exclude Georgia's Mountain Treasures from commercial timber harvests

Restrict commercial timber harvests to "fire adapted" forest types. Those forest types cover 77% of the Foothills Landscape and include the areas where most people agree active management is most needed.

Not cut all trees in attempts to regenerate southern yellow pine.

Manage forests the way they really work: Southern Appalachian forests naturally contain trees of many different ages, species that typically live over 200 years, and young trees growing in response to the death of one or a few trees. In contrast the Forest Service manages as if all the trees in a stand should be the same age, trees are old at 80 years, and that disturbances typically wipe out entire stands of trees.

Choose Alternative 3. Alternative 3 excludes areas that the Forest Service's own plan identifies as "unsuitable" for "timber production.