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Comments: First, I would like to thank the Forest Service for committing to designate a minimum area in each watershed to be managed for old-growth trees, and to seek public engagement before taking any actions as part of the Foothills Landscape Project.

Secondly, I would like to recommend that the scope of the Project restrict commercial timber harvests to exclude Georgia's Mountain Treasures and to restrict such harvests to "fire-adapted" forest types.

Forests should be managed to respect their natural growth characteristics, which in the Southern Appalachians means that they are composed of trees of different ages that rarely live and die in synchrony. Practices such as thinning trees in mesic forests or cutting all of the trees in any area, even in two passes, are not natural and damage the long-term health of these forests and their value as wildlife habitat.

Finally, I applaud your inclusion of Alternative 3, which recognizes that some areas are unsuitable for timber production and excludes them. I urge you to choose Alternative 3.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.