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First name: Bette

Last name: Holland

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments on Forest Plan

First, thank you for listening to our concerns over the past several months and making changes to your plan based on some of these concerns. There are, however, other concerns we feel should be addressed. These include:

*Do not thin (cut half of the trees) in mesic (moist) forests. Forests on moist sites naturally have dense canopies. The Forest Service has not even attempted to justify plans to thin these areas, and there is no ecological justification.

*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

Please 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.

*Exclude areas more than half a mile from a road.

Georgia's forests are our greatest asset and treasure. Please take care to make sure they remain what make Georgia so special!!!

Bette Holland, betholland1@gmail.com