Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/12/2021 2:22:09 PM
First name: Kathy
Last name: Stilwell
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I want to thank you for using a programmatic EA and committing to designate areas to manage old-growth.

I would like to request that you avoid gridlock by narrowing the project to focus on issues with broad support. rather than trying to manage all areas, activities, and resources at once, including many areas and activities that will be contentious.This could help you gain efficiency, do more, and gain support for a broad program of future work by excluding areas that will stir up disagreements and are widely acknowledged as being healthier than other areas. For example, the Forest Service should limit the scope of the project to:
Exclude Georgia's Mountain Treasures from commercial timber harvests

Please 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. "Temporary roads" actually last decades to centuries, and regardless of any good that logging accomplishes, access roads disrupt ground water, fragment habitat, and destroy soil.

Please do not cut all trees in attempts to regenerate southern yellow pine. In some southern yellow pine stands, the Forest Service plans to cut most of the trees then come back later and cut the rest of the trees. The second harvest is unnecessary and damages forest structure and wildlife habitat value. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND YOU READ "FINDING THE MOTHER TREE".

Please do not to thin (cut half of the trees) in mesic (moist) forests. Forests on moist sites naturally have dense canopies. There is no ecological justification.

Please 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. rather than managing 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.  AGAIN I REFER YOU TO FINDING THE MOTHER TREE.

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