Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/12/2021 10:31:25 PM
First name: Louise
Last name: Leviton
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Forest Service,
I am writing to express concern for the Proposed Foothills Landscape Project. This area is truly a gem and an irreplaceable treasure for now and for the future. In particular please using selective tree harvesting techniques which would restore a necessary and diverse native broad leaf forest. This would contain multiple layers of dominant and co-dominant trees, shrubs, herbaceous under stories and ground covers. Absolutely do not use repeated herbicides in your tree cutting process. The use of fire/burning treatments to cultivate even-age stands of crop trees of pines and oaks-at the expense of restoring native biological diversity is not the best or proper treatment.

Where your project will stand out as an examples to others and future projects is the absolute preservation of all existing old growth stands in the project area, including at least 630 acres of existing old growth trees in the unique Chattooga watershed portion of project area. Additionally cultivating and restoring potential connected old growth stands should be paramount in your plans for wildlife and plant life.

Please don't use a prescribed burning regime that far exceeds natural fire cycles in the Chattooga River watershed, which is a temperate rain forest. Natural fire cycles in the Chattooga watershed are 15 to 20 years, or more. You all have the chance to restore a true native forest connected across the landscape which could help mitigate the effects of climate change, and to help provide migratory corridors for plants and animals to adapt to changing habitats.
I hope your decisions will include not logging, burning and constructing roads in potential wilderness areas, Mountain Treasures areas, inventoried roadless areas, or in areas deemed "unsuitable for timber production."

Thank you for your time in this most important plan.