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Comments: Although this Environmental Assessment is a significant improvement over the previous version, it still contains features that should be revised.

Thank you for using a programmatic Environmental Assessment with a two-step analysis. I also appreciate that the Forest Service commits to designate areas to manage for old growth.

However, please make the following changes to the E.A. before it is finalized:
Avoid gridlock by narrowing the project to focus on issues with broad support. For example, 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.
*Exclude areas more than half a mile from a road. "Temporary roads" actually last decades to centuries.
*Not cut all trees in attempts to regenerate southern yellow pine.
*Not to thin in mesic (moist) forests. Forests on moist sites naturally have dense canopies.
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.
Please choose Alternative 3, excluding areas that the Forest Service's own plan identifies as "unsuitable" for "timber production."
Thank you for your consideration.