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Comments: First, I want to thank the Forest Service for committing t use a two-step analysis for this project with the first step involving the consideration of potential effects broadly before coming back to conduct site-specific review and public engagement before taking any on-the-ground actions. This will prevent the possibility of actions being taken anywhere within the landscape for decades without further public notice or input.
Also, thanks for committing to designate areas to manage for old-growth, following your internal guidance requiring a minimum area in each watershed to be managed for old-growth attributes, essentially leaving it alone.

Please exclude restrict commercial timber harvests to "fire adapted" forest types, which cover 77% of the Foothills Landscape and include the areas where most people agree active management is most needed.

Please 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, including a second harvest. This will damage forest structure and wildlife habitat value.

Please do not thin (cut half of the trees) in mesic (moist) forests. 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. The Service's policy of managing as if all the trees in a stand should be the same age and treating trees as old at 80 years will wipe out entire stands of trees.

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

Thank you.
A Georgia resident