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Comments: Dear Mr. Hunter,

I first would like to commend the Forest Service for the serious, thoughtful and substantive response to the public comments provided in late 2019/early 2020 (noting that I contributed comments). Although still a bit unwieldy, the revised EA provides a more clear sense of how the local implementation of FLP activities will incorporate an ongoing engagement of the general public in the decision making process. All that being said, I do have several comments that I wish to make at this time for your consideration:

- 1) As noted on page B63 of the revised EA, the success of the FLP (from both USFS and public relations perspectives) is critically dependent upon the successful implementation of an effective collaborative working group. The importance of this element cannot be overstated!!
- 2) From both practical and public relations perspectives, it will make a lot of sense to begin the FLP with a focus on less controversial activities. This will allow for (a) the collaborative working group to establish an effective working relationship (prior to tackling more controversial issues), (b) the development of public trust and (c) the more ready movement to "boots on the ground" (actual remedial activities).
- 3) I strongly concur with the Georgia ForestWatch perspective regarding the management of mesic forest regions. There appears to be little scientific justification for thinning these areas. In fact, one could argue that the local watersheds actually benefit from a dense mesic forest canopy.
- 4) I will personally advocate for Alternative 3.

Sincerely, -Rob Black