Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/13/2021 8:03:49 PM First name: Rachel Last name: Elkins Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live in Georgia and am commenting on the Foothills Landscape Project that will affect the Forests of the Chattahoochee National Forest. Thank you for addressing and agreeing to protect old-growth forests and for asking for public input for future actions. My experience with forests comes from many years of visiting and living in forest environments. I know that leaving as many trees as possible and avoiding clear-cutting is the best management. I personally don't want any commercial cutting of timber on forests owned by the people of the U.S. I would like the forest service to exclude Georgia's Mountain Treasures from commercial timber harvests. As trees can be of different ages and some can live over 200 years, you should not treat trees in a stand as the same age and agree to harvest them based on that belief. To regenerate the southern yellow pine, I think the best practice is not to cut all trees in an attempt to regenerate the trees. After the first cut, the second is unnecessary because it damages forest structure and wildlife habitat. I would not want the service to thin(cut half of the trees) in mesic(moist)forests. Again, let's leave as many trees as possible. The wildlife and the very health of the forest are dependent on the moist forest. Exclude areas more than half a mile from a road from harvests. Restrict timber harvests to "fire-adapted" forest types. Cutting trees should be restricted to pest eradication and fire prevention. The best practice is to leave it mostly alone and let the old trees die and the new ones grow.