Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/16/2021 4:00:00 AM
First name: Leah
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to voice my concern over the Foothills Landecape Project.

I implore the Forest Service to take the following actions to protect these vital resources for future generations:

* Narrow and limit the scope of the project to focus on issues with broad support. Exclude known contentious issues that will surely generate disagreements. Establish firm, agreed-upon sideboards for project actions.

* Use selective tree harvestingtechniques to restore a diverse native broad leaf forest, which has multiple layers of dominant and co-dominant trees, shrubs, herbaceous understories and ground covers.

* Don't use tree-cutting practices that call for repeated herbicides (that many scientists believe have carcinogenic properties) and burning treatments to cultivate even-age stands of crop trees of pines and oaks[mdash]at the expense of restoring native biological diversity.

* Preserve all existing old growth stands in the project area, including at least 630 acres of existing old growth trees in the Chattooga watershed portion of project area. Further, cultivate and restore potential old growth stands, connected in a mosaic of intact native forest across the landscape.

* 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.

* The FLP must adequately address restoring a true native forest connected across the landscape to mitigate the effects of climate change, and to help provide migratory corridors for plants and animals to adapt to changing habitats.

* The Forest Service should not log, burn and construct roads in potential wilderness areas, Mountain Treasuresareas, inventoried roadless areas, or in areas deemed "unsuitable for timber production."

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Kind regards,

Leah Culkar