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Organization:
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Comments: I wholeheartedly oppose this plan. Going from 50 to 150 feet wide is unacceptably huge. The current power corridor is almost unnoticeable in the view shed and does not really interfere with the scenic beauty of the area. This would impact the Mountains to Sea National Scenic Trail and Blue Ridge Parkway. This corridor widening would dramatically alter the experiences of hikers and mountain bikers on the Avery Creek, Club Gap, Buckwheat and Black Mountain Trails-both from irresponsible heavy machinery during the project and from a completely changed corridor when it's done. Right now Duke has done a wonderful job maintaining power from my perspective. We had more blackouts in Atlanta where half the lines are buried and we had a fraction of the winter weather. I'm addition, if we keep getting more rain events like we did with TS Fred, we need every tree and bush we can keep to hold the soil and soak up that rain. I think Duke needs to keep their corridor tight and narrow and get out there to prune limbs back as needed. I realize there's a desire to just go bulldoze the corridor and not touch it for 30 years, but this is a shared resource, not private land. A private company like Duke needs to do the bare minimum to disturb our beautiful shared forest. As a mountain biker, I hear the forest service complain about a trail that is widened by 12" being unsustainable and a threat to our water sources. I am unnerved by the possibility of a minimally protected, 150-foot corridor and the impacts of soil disturbance and erosion. I would welcome further discussion on this topic. Feel free to contact me.