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Comments:

I would like to thank the US Forest Service for their effort with the Foothills Landscape Project. As a user I hunt, fish, hike, picnic and generally use this portion of the National Forest for a variety of recreational activities. I would describe myself as a staunch Conservationist. Conservation means WISE USE! It benefits very little of our ecosystem to stand back and do nothing to manage these forest area. We must remember that indeed we are also a part of this ecosystem and as such we will be using it. What is important is that we do so carefully and wisely in an effort to benefit as many species and objectives as possible. This requires a diverse management plan that includes timber harvesting, prescribe fire, wildlife openings, recreational facilities for a variety of users, i.e. hunter access, bike trails, horse trails, hiking trails, camp grounds, and the list goes on. I applaud the Forest Service for looking for a plan that meets many different needs. These forests area indeed the public property of us the tax payer. With that being the case I am strongly in favor of a plan that allows us, the public, many possible ways to use the forest. And as a resource, it is imperative that the timber is managed and utilized. It is a colossal waste to allow millions of board feet of timber to mature, die then fall over and rot! We have millions of acres of public property already designated as Wilderness or in National Parks. As a society I'd say we have gone beyond the call to "preserve" forest areas. Let's use some common sense and wisely USE the rest of our public land holdings.