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Comments:

Good afternoon,

I'm writing in relation to the Foothills Landscape Project public comment period. I hope that the Forest Service will manage the land included in the Foothills Landscape Project in some of the following ways.

First, I hope that the plan will protect indigenous plants and get rid of invasives, which will probably require targeted approaches beyond herbicides or fires that kill both indigenous plants and invasives.

Second, I hope that as much of the forest as possible will be preserved for recreation. State and federal forests and parks are a very small part of the eastern United States, and they make up some of the very rare lands that could be preserved as is for future generations. I have concerns about heavy logging or other interventions in large parts of the forests that could change their nature.

Third, I hope that the plan will protect animal habitats. Animals have very few places where they can live undisturbed by human activity, especially in the eastern third of the United States. Roads, powerlines, highways, and many other manmade features have already fragmented their habitats. We need to leave some undisturbed wilderness for them, and publicly owned lands are the best place to start.

Fourth, I hope that the plan will expand recreational uses. Many Americans, including me, value the opportunity to spend time in undisturbed nature.

Fifth and finally, I hope that the plan will treat the forests as a bank of land to be preserved in its natural state for future generations. So little land in the eastern United States is immune to development pressures, and the state and national forests and parks are a natural starting point.

Thank you for your work and considering my comments in your planning.

Sincerely,

Peter Hylton