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Comments:

I am concerned that under the Vegetation Plan that supports the Foothills Environmental Assessment calls for herbicide applications to over 65,000 acres. Limited application to infested Hemlock and Ash and fuel reduction is beneficial, but under the Foothills Plan the amount of forest to be treated is alarming. The Forest Service acts under EPA guidelines, however, the fact that a chemical has not been banned does not mean it is safe for our forests. So much is still not known about the effects of these chemicals on ecosystems. For example, the significant chronic risk of the widely used herbicide Atrazine on wildlife and terrestrial plant species was finally recognized and reported by the EPA in 2016. Minimizing use of herbicides seems prudent. I appreciate the chance to comment and value the work of the Forest Service. I hope the public input continues under NEPA guidelines as it has in the past.