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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

This is a comment on the proposed Foothills Landscape Project. I am a Rabun County resident. I retired in Rabun County 3 years ago from Chicago, IL. I moved here because of the beautiful mountains and landscape. I have attended the meetings by the Forest Service and I am very upset by the way this has all been handled, and by the lack of consideration by the FS for the interests of the public. The FS representative said this has been known to the public for 4 years. It may have been known in the forest service industry, but I can guarantee the normal person who goes about their day to day activity, does not know what's going on within the USFS world. Why would we? We thought you would have our best interest in mind. Clearly, that's not the case.

Everyone who lives here appreciates the beauty of Rabun County. I believe the Foothills Project violates provisions of the National Environment Policy Act by not providing the public with site specific information about where proposed timber harvesting, burning and herbicide treatments would occur, as well as many other proposed actions, such as, temporary road construction, trail construction and trail rerouting.

This project violates the NEPA by denying public participation opportunities guaranteed by law for the duration of the project, which could be 10-15 years or more.

I have worked in the chemical industry. I know firsthand the damage herbicides can do to humans, plants and animals. I've had several of my coworkers die of cancer. Was it because of the chemicals we handled day after day? I don't know for sure, but probably. I don't want to see these carcinogenic herbicides put into the forest. I believe years from now we'll look back and realize the harm they did to wildlife and the environment.

Please leave the forest be, they can handle themselves, and please listen to the people of Rabun County.

Thank you.