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Comments:

Dear Supervisor Jewett,

I am writing in reference to the Foothills Landscape Project. This project, I have read, spans 157,625 acres, more than a fifth of the entire Chattahoochee National Forest, and calls for the building of new roads, as well as up to 63,000 acres of herbicide application and up to 55,000 acres of commercial timber harvests. I have also read that the Forest Service is not providing specific site information about the planned project before the public comment period closes.

There is no reason for such a lack of transparency, particularly for such a massive project. The public should get to know whether and how the planned logging, land clearing for roads, and herbicide application will affect the waterways we all depend on, the habitats and specific corridors used by animal populations, stands of irreplaceable mature forest, or our favorite hiking trails and views. Land owners should get to find out whether the Forest Service is planning to spray herbicides near their land. Why is the Forest Service not providing specific information about the locations of intended components of the project before commenting closes, and why isn't the comment period staying open long enough for the Forest Service to provide this information?

Some of the wildest places left in north Georgia are in the Foothills, including Big Shoals, Five Falls, Thrifts Ferry, Springer Mountain, and Grassy Mountain. Many people are calling these places "Georgia's Mountain Treasures." Roads have already disrupted so much what once were wild places in this state, and we don't need to disrupt these Mountain Treasures or any other fragile, irreplaceable places in the Foothills. Please do not apply herbicides in the roadless area, either; doing so would be an unnecessary intervention that cannot be undone, and cannot be "taken back" after contaminating our soil and water.