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Comments:

Dear Supervisor Jewett, Thank you for your participation in the Public Forum held in Clayton on Jan. 8. The dialogue between you, Nicole and Jess and the Q and A sessions were very informative...so instructive to hear different opinions/perspective responding to each other. I am very appreciative of your presence/presentation in "hostile land" and I think you did a great job.

I have attended 3 public meetings regarding the Foothills Landscape Project and have read/studied the handouts from the Dec 4th meeting. I support and commend the Project Vision, Purpose and Need as stated on the back of the glossy 8 page FLP Summary.

BUT the devil is in the details.

I strongly oppose the use of herbicides because they kill plants and wait I think the forest is composed of plants. It is folly to think that this poison can be limited to one small area and overall it diminishes the life force of the forest. We both know that the ramifications for plant and human health are just beginning to be realized. Controlled burns at 10 year intervals seem reasonable providing that the roads and infrastructure are built in a way that will not contribute to erosion, silting and degradation of the landscape.

Some limited, selective logging to open the canopy and encourage oaks and other new habitats also seems reasonable just as long as the entirety of the plan including replanting and maintenance can be accomplished despite limitations in budget and manpower.

Hopefully the USFS can learn projects that did not lead to a healthier forest like Brawley Mountain and East Knotly.

Logging and controlled burns when used judiciously and conservatively can contribute to a healthy forest. But these same techniques when overused because they produce income, are relatively cheap and expedient can cause destruction and desolation of areas that take many decades to recover.

Please be careful, take it slow so you can learn as you go and be a good steward.