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Comments:

I have reviewed the list of proposed projects for National Forest in Georgia.

For the most part these appear to be very specific and meet the criteria as "deferred maintenance and infrastructure projects" to receive priority for Great American Outdoors Act funding the fiscal year 2022, as stated in the invitation for public comment.

However, one listing in particular stands out as very broad in scope and does not fall within the fiscal year 2022 funding schedule. The listing that I refer to is:

0803 Major Maintenance on Roads on the Chattahoochee NF

Over a five-year period, this proposal would address access issues prior to project implementation within the Foothills landscape ultimately affecting 46 watersheds. Multiple collaborative projects with partners have been identified within this landscape.

This project description is nebulous, far ranging and likely very costly. I have expressed concerns in the past about the USFS CONF's Foothills landscape project. Included in my concerns was concern for the lack of specificity in project descriptions with regard to where within the Foothills FS actions are expected to take place. Now once again with "0803 Major Maintenance on Roads on the Chattahoochee NF", it appears that we are invited to comment on an aspect of the Foothills landscape project. And in this case it is about major designation of public funds (Great American Outdoors Act) for roads access work within many thousands of USFS acres. In my opinion, this item should not be included in the listing. The Foothills landscape project is expected to have its own budget and monies for road building. Also, road building expenses will fall within timber contracts that will be part of the Foothills landscape project.

Monies from the Great American Outdoors Act are better designated and spent on maintenance for higher elevation Forest roads where steep slopes and high rainfall regularly pose challenges to keep these roads passable and to prevent erosion that causes safety and environmental risks. Many of the roads that present these kinds of challenges are located in NE Georgia where I live. It makes sense to me that the FS look at these needs and designate monies where they are truly needed and where the Great American Outdoors Act was intended.

Thank you for considering my comments.