

Date submitted (Eastern Standard Time): 11/30/2020 1:01:31 PM

First name: William

Last name: Gimson

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Funds for major maintenance on roads on the Chattahoochee NF should go where public access is needed the most and funding is least available, NOT where funding will already be available in conjunction with the Foothills Landscape Project.

This distinction is important for two reasons:

Location. Access roads within the Foothills Landscape are less likely to need major repairs compared to the higher elevations with steeper slopes and higher rainfall.

Need. When timber projects are approved, the cost of access roads are built into site specific planning and timber contracts. There are many problem roads better suited for this type of funding OUTSIDE of future project areas that have caused environmental damage for years.

Also we need to maintain a more consistent prescribed fire regime, for the benefit of wildlife habitat.

Protect few remaining groves of old growth.

Reintroduce the Cougar/Mountain Lion to control wild hog infestations.

Plant Blight-Resistant strains of Chesnut in the National Forest.

Place speed bumps along 2-lane highways in environmentally sensitive areas, like the road that runs through Sosebee Cove.

Protect Mountain Bog ecosystems.

Drop beavers into the National Forest to increase early successional wetland habitat.