Thinking Like a Landscape

Providing for a shared vision to address complex conservation challenges on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests
Thinking like a landscape.

The right work in the right places for the right reasons
Thinking like a landscape

Conservation challenges are complex

- Not isolated, not just local
- Impact multiple resources
- Reduced funding
Why Landscape Scale?

Landscape-scale conservation encourages a more holistic approach that is:

- Strategic
- Science-driven
- Collaborative
- Adaptive
- Understandable
Why Landscape Scale?

This approach accentuates:
- Community health and wellness
- Sustainable clean and abundant water
- Restored and resilient forests that can adapt and thrive in changing climates
- Fire adapted landscapes while working with communities to plan and protect themselves from catastrophic wildfire
- Awakened and strengthened connection to the land
Why landscape scale?

Key Considerations:
- Communities w/ Limited Distribution
- Ecological Restoration
- Soil and Water
- Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants
- Fire Suppression
- Access Needs & Resource Pressures
Map showing combined scores for Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.
The Landscapes

Southern Blue Ridge Mountains
### Landscape Total FS Acres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape</th>
<th>Total FS Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cohutta</td>
<td>69,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escarpment</td>
<td>48,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foothills</td>
<td>143,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Mountains</td>
<td>244,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Piedmont</td>
<td>116,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridge and Valley</td>
<td>64,702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toccoa River</td>
<td>136,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Piedmont</td>
<td>43,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>867,666</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Foothills Landscape

- 143,419 acres
- stretches across the Chattahoochee National Forest
- marks the area where the mountains are visibly reduced to foothills
- Shortleaf pine and Pitch pine forests and woodlands are the dominant forest types
- hardwoods account for about a quarter of the landscape
- nearly 200 miles of hiking, biking, horse and OHV trails
- dozens of recreation sites
- includes a portion of the Cohutta WMA
Why Foothills Landscape?

- Characteristics
- Sharing
- Capacity
- Efficiency
- People
- Potential
How is this different?

• Scale
• Collaboration
• Time
Where do we start?

- Spread the Word
- Prepare with Knowledge
- Increase Understanding
- Design Community Conversations
- Use your Voice
Where do we start?

Join us on the journey