

Foothills Landscape Community Collaboration

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests



[Map Home](#) [Mapped Comments ▾](#)

Thinking Like a Landscape: Our landscapes are more than trees and streams. They provide a sense of place for people – reflecting our histories and defining our futures. This fall, through a series of community conversations along with this online forum we are reaching out to partners, stakeholders and community members to realize a shared vision to address complex conservation challenges across the [Foothills Landscape](#).

Project Purpose: The purpose of this project is to create, restore and maintain ecosystems that are more resilient to natural disturbances. Specifically, the Forest Service is seeking to enhance and provide quality habitat for rare and declining species, as well as desired game and non-game species; to reduce hazardous fuel loading across the landscape to diminish damaging wildfires; to improve soil and water quality; to provide sustainable recreation and access opportunities; and to awaken and strengthen a connection to these lands for all people.

We Need YOU: We need your knowledge and insights right from the start in order to plan the right work in the right places for the right reasons. Share what you know about the Foothills Landscape with others through this collaboration. Comment on what you care about and tell your community why, and use the map to show us all where. Describe what you want and need from this landscape...and also what you can and do give. Learn from the knowledge that others share here. And consider the many diverse perspectives revealed to all of us through this collaboration.

Learn More: The 143,419 acres that make up the [Foothills Landscape](#) stretch across the Chattahoochee National Forest and mark the area where the mountains are visibly reduced to foothills. It includes portions of Dawson, Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Murray, Rabun and White Counties. There's much, much more to learn at <http://tinyurl.com/FoothillsLandscapeCollaborate>.

Join the Conversation: Add your thoughts, ideas and

Mapped Comments



[Sharing a Sense of Place](#)

▢ 26 Comments



[Providing Sustainable Recreation Opportunities](#)

▢ 115 Comments



[Managing Healthy Forests, Fish and Wildlife Habitats](#)

▢ 94 Comments



[Caring for Unique Habitats](#)

▢ 19 Comments



[Protecting Communities from Wildfire](#)

▢ 11 Comments



[General Comment](#)

▢ 53 Comments

knowledge to the map or see what your neighbors have said by clicking the comments log to the right or the map below. For easier viewing and navigation on the map, click on "[Fullscreen](#)."

The map below includes basic information about the Foothills Landscape on the Chattahoochee National Forest, including recreation areas, roads, trails and management prescriptions. You can learn more about each by clicking directly on the icon or path, and you can also turn these map details on and off as needed by checking the boxes in the map legend. The area within the purple boundary is the Foothills Landscape. The darkest green areas within that are National Forest lands. If you'd like more in-depth information and detailed maps to inform your comments, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/FoothillsLandscapeCollaborate>. At that website you can also find out how to attend a Community Conversation near you and [subscribe to email updates](#).

Add Your Voice by December 1: Responses made by December 1, 2016, will provide a valuable snapshot for us all to build upon in this initial planning phase. We'll continue to collaborate as we work together to develop a proposed project over the coming year, and this is a place to start.

Comment Policy and Privacy Policy: Please review our [comment policy](#). During this phase of collaboration you have the opportunity to help us identify problems and shape proposed actions before a formal proposal is made. The [NEPA](#) process begins once a proposal to take action has been developed and a Scoping Notice is issued. The conversations during this collaboration phase won't have standing as formal NEPA comments. Formal comment periods will be offered during the NEPA process – expected to begin Fall 2017.

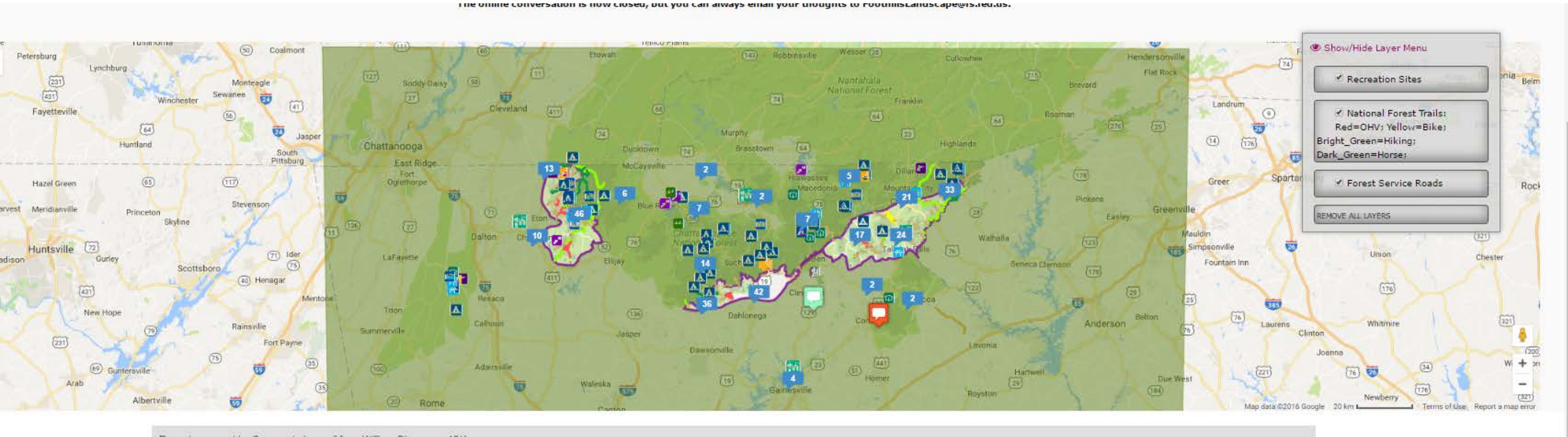
We will collect no personal information about you when you visit our website, including this and other social media sites, unless you choose to provide that information to us. Read our [privacy policy](#).

 **SHARE**

Tweet

 **Fullscreen**

The online conversation is now closed, but you can always email your thoughts to FoothillsLandscape@fs.fed.us.



Screenshot from online comment portal from 2016.12.08



General Comment

Put general comments here that do not relate to a specific place

John Doe

2 months 3 weeks ago

1



I would like to know what are you proposing in this area It is near creeks and I am concern about sediments

Response from Anonymous

They will certainly follow any laws regarding riparian buffer zones.

Response from Teresa Fives

help strengthen our request for the connector trail. This trail would provide many more choices in our plans for a ride on our horses. Teresa Fives

Jack Conter

2 months, 1 week ago

5



My only comment is to compliment you on taking the time and making the effort to solicit input from everyone This process should serve as a template for all government agencies Congratulations on a job well done

Response from Sue Harmon

While this idea sounds and seems like a good one, I wonder how much actual involvement of the general public can be expected. I suspect that those who are generating income from our public lands will participate, because their livelihoods depend upon continuing to have more and more access to the resources of our forests. The casual recreational user or the public's interests at large, aside from these economic concerns, may not be heard so clearly. Some of us have learned to be wary of forest management practices that often allow private companies to make a profit from our forests, while degrading and depleting forest integrity, and this is allowed at a time when the world's forests are disappearing.

Response from Anonymous

I think a lot of common people that stand to make no financial gain from the Forest Service will participate. In particularly hunters. I am tired of the hands off management we have seen in the past from the forest service due to a group of people that have potentially never set foot on the Chattahoochee national forest more than 20 feet from their car. We have seen far too much "habitat preservation" in our national forests. If people want Old growth type forests or untouched forest, go to the smokies or the Cohutta Wilderness area. However, our National Forests are under he multiple use and sustainable yields act. I'm tired of hunters not being considered in that on the same level as hikers, tourists, and preservationists. The truth of the matter is that logging and prescribed fire are a healthy part of our ecosystems and have been since the beginning of time. In an era where hands off management and preservation are desired by these few, but quite loud, groups of people, we can no longer have true forest ecosystems the way they were hundreds of years ago. Fire was a huge part in the natural process of the North Georgia Mountains. However, we do so much to prevent and stop forest fires these days, that if we do not have prescribed fire, we would never have fire in our forests. No matter who you are or what you believe, fire is a vital part of a healthy ecosystem and habitat for wildlife. Also, logging is no different. Old trees dying and falling do not reduce the canopy enough to allow new growth on the forest floor. This just doesn't happen at a rapid enough rate, especially in today's forests younger growth forests.

All of that just to say, what some may perceive as private companies degrading our forests, is actually just the Forest Service giving Government dollars back into our country for habitat restoration, while allowing private companies to assist in the restoration or improvement of habitat for our wildlife and forests.

Response from Anonymous

I agree with the previous post. The natural succession patterns of the forest are not happening under the current management philosophy. Naturally, hundreds of thousands of acres do not grow for centuries without catastrophic disturbances. Fire is a natural disturbance that clears undergrowth, affects nutrient cycling, and kills trees. The management of the Chattahoochee National Forest should replicate natural disturbances by using prescribed burning and timber harvesting. I am a hunter and would like higher wildlife populations in the mountains. To accomplish this, I want to see an increase in timber harvest and prescribed burning across the entire Chattahoochee National Forest. It would not only increase wildlife populations, but it is actually better for the environment and would be a much more stewardly approach to management.

Response from Jim P.

I agree completely with Sue Harmon. Reading the comments on this site there sure seems to be a pro-timber slant to many of the anonymous comments. The 2 responses to the comment by Sue Harmon do not appear to be hunters and instead are more likely someone who stands to make a buck off of cutting down trees. I wish that those people would understand that the reduction in canopy in the sprawling Atlanta metro area makes protecting our national forests that are close to Atlanta that much more important.

Response from Jim P.

I agree completely with Sue Harmon. Reading the comments on this site there sure seems to be a pro-timber slant to many of the anonymous comments. The 2 responses to the comment by Sue Harmon do not appear to be hunters and instead are more likely someone who stands to make a buck off of cutting down trees. I wish that those people would understand that the reduction in canopy in the sprawling Atlanta metro area makes protecting our national forests that are close to Atlanta that much more important.

Response from Jim P.

I agree completely with Sue Harmon. Reading the comments on this site there sure seems to be a pro-timber slant to many of the anonymous comments. The 2 responses to the comment by Sue Harmon do not appear to be hunters and instead are more likely someone who stands to make a buck off of cutting down trees. I wish that those people would understand that the reduction in canopy in the sprawling Atlanta metro area makes protecting our national forests that are close to Atlanta that much more important.

Response from Robin Hitner

I like the solitude of hiking trails. I value old-growth forests. I want to protect the few large roadless areas with the hope that they will be eventually be designated as wilderness areas.

Response from Janet W.

One of the comments above points out an even better reason why we need to let our forests grow old again! "Old trees dying and falling do not reduce the canopy enough to allow new growth on the forest floor. This just doesn't happen at a rapid enough rate, especially in today's forests younger growth forests." You can't just keep cutting down the forests and expect them to work "naturally". Of course if you want the profit from cutting down the trees, you have to keep going back in to open areas for that undergrowth. Why not let the growth get old enough to do this on it's own. I would think that knowing how often lightening is striking in the area would give you a good idea as to how often there were naturally occurring fires. I think we all agree that these are beneficial in center areas at certain times but it is not appropriate at all times in all places. The animals seemed to be living just fine in these woods before they were all clear cut so many years ago. I don't believe anyone has given the forest the chance to grow old again to actually see the results.... Maybe we should give it a try...

Herb McClure

1 month 3 weeks ago

3



My name is Herb McClure and I live in White County at the foothill of Horse range mountain I would like to thank the employees with the US Forest Service especially those in the districts and all other people who are involved with having any parts with these public meetings concerning the Foothills in the National Forest I am not here to complain or belly ache of any past policies or doings because I have never been actively involved with any forest service meetings before However I have always been an mountain outdoors man more specifically a mountain turkey hunter in the foothills and mountain tops of Lumpkin Dawson White Gilmer Fannin Habersham Rabun and with Union and Towns Counties as well This has always been on national forest land which goes back sixty year ago to 1956 When I first became a user of this national forest land there were many many standing dead chestnut trees everywhere along with many fallen chestnut logs laying on the forest floor however they are now all gone As the years have gone by I have witness a changing forest on the Chattahoochee I have always studied outdoors's nature things whether it was a gobbler I was hunting or the trees in his surrounding forest This has always been my outdoor lifestyle Now I have taken notice of how the hardwoods in the forest are loosing out in todays environment What is happening White Pine Trees Anyone should be able to see the billions of young white pines everywhere They are thick as hair on a dog's back in today's national forest Fifty years ago I hunted in open hardwoods where one could see two or three hundred yards anywhere without a white pine hardly to see Today those same places lots of them I can hardly push my way through the white pine thickets The pines are growing under and up through the hardwoods all over our national forest However I will say the North foothills slopes and the high ground there are worse off with white pines Why am I so concerned about all this The way I see things the white pine are more prolific and they out grow the hardwoods two to one They also come up from their seed in total shade and grow in total shade Whereas the hardwoods need a certain amount of sunlight to sprout and then to grow into acorn producing trees Hardwood trees after grown do need sunlight for them to set a good acorn crop The faster growing white pines are now on a road to completely shunting down hardwood trees from having acorn production This will happen by shading them out in the not to distant future It doesn't require a lot of imagination to see white pines 60 to 80 feet high in 50 or more years The Forest Service knows what I am talking about can come true My reason for even being here is to tell you the public how critical I think the changing of the hardwood forest will be in the next 30 to 50 years I want to encourage something positive to be done now for the hardwoods Those white pines already over 20 feet tall everywhere will be shading thirty years from now This will cause hardwoods in white pine thickets to stop producing acorns for winter time wildlife survival What can be done to slow down this changing of the hardwood forest Winter time control burning will help more than anything Control burning will kill the very young White pine and prolong this change that is taking place A control fire will also kill back the very young deciduous seedlings too But the deciduous seedlings after being killed by fire are a wildlife benefit Because deciduous shrubs will soon re-sprout back with tender leaves either from off the stems or will sprout back from the roots thus giving the deer some much needed Spring and Summer tender leaf browsing However those young white pines when they are killed by a fire do not re-sprout thank goodness they are dead Here is another reason for winter time control burning A winter time control burn reduces heavy woodland forest fuel in case of wildfire in a dry spell forest fire condition As a wildlife advocate and turkey hunter I encourage the forest service to do more and more and then even more regular control burnings It is a wildlife benefit far much better than having food plots However control burns need to be done before egg nesting time Again some benefits of having winter time control fires on Foothills forestry land 1 to slow down the over taking of the hardwoods by killing the young white pines that are on a path to hinder or stop acorn production by shading 2 to create spring and summer leaf browsing from re-sprouted deciduous shrubs for deer to eat in summer the tender leaves 3 to reduce forest fuels from becoming excessive dangers No doubt by time is running out using the national forest which I have enjoyed for many years But if control burnings are not applied more often and in more places future generations of our forest users will never know how it was before the white pines took over the forest just like most of today's users don't know what the dead chestnut forest looked like years ago

Response from Jim P.

Herb McClure describes being able to see 2-300 yards through the woods. He is describing a mature hardwood forest. That mature forest he describes takes at least a human lifetime to grow. I too want to see the mature forests because they are so beautiful. The forest service on the other hand seems hell bent on cutting them all down leaving us with the scrubby pine crap forests that result from their logging. Here is a quote from the GFW about the Cooper Creek Watershed project that the forest service proposed. When GFW personnel visited the locations where the forest service explained that they needed to cut down trees for multiple made up reasons "What we saw was shocking! It seems as if

the whole project is based on the idea of finding the very best and oldest timber and cutting it down."
<http://gafw.org/forest-news-summer-2014/> It is true folks, the forest service thinks that they need to cut down our forests to save their jobs. The biggest trees are their first targets. <http://gafw.org/current-issue-cooper-creek-watershed-project/> <http://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/coopercreek>

Response from Herb McClure

In response to Jim P.'S statement about herb mcclure being able to see 2-3 hundred yards without seen hardly no white pines-and that I was looking across a mature forest-maybe a human's lifetime age. Well Mr. Jim I will say that was back in 1956---when I started going to the Chattahoochee Forest the logging had been done everywhere---Not the clear-cut type of the later sixties-but with logging roads used to pull logs to where they could be loaded onto a logging truck---This type of tree harvesting did not cut everything down---Too many people fault the forest service for old growth tree removal. Truth is---large timber company's like Vogel-Pfister and Gennett Lumber company own the land where the Chattahoochee National Forest is today---with the exception of a few remote private land owners---They are the ones who cut and removed the old growth timber before it ever belong to our government---Yes the resort town of Helen, GA. had a large sawmill many years before the forest service started the Chattahoochee National Forest--- My hole statement earlier---was to bring attention to the white pines taking over the forest and eliminating acorn production---by shading the hardwoods in years ahead.

Response from David Govus

Herb McClure. In the 50 years I have been hunting and fishing in the Chattahoochee NF I too have wondered about the increasing understory of White Pine in some areas. Prescribed burns kill back the smaller White Pines but seedlings quickly return. Natural fire is very rare in these mountains and there is little evidence that Native Americans burned large areas regularly. Areas with rich soil do not experience White Pine invasion. I was Grouse hunting on top of the Rich Mts yesterday on the north side . Hundreds and hundreds of acres of Oaks I walked through and not a White Pine seedling in sight and this area has not burned in 60 years if then. Rich soils buffer the effects of acid rain which this Forest received a good deal of for over 100 years. I wonder if that has any thing to do with it ? I don't hunt Turkeys but allow others to hunt them on my farm and of course notice the sign back in the mountains. Their declining numbers both on my farm and back in the mountains seem to coincide with the rise of Coyotes.

Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest (ab)

1 month 3 weeks ago



We all bring a point of view regarding our public lands We are sharing an article that outlines just how many perspectives there are It is titled Perceived Land Use Patterns and Landscape Values by Ervin Zube in the journal Landscape Ecology The abstract is copied below Land use patterns and land form are important sources of information that contribute to the formation of landscape perceptions and values This paper discusses three concepts of human-landscape relationships the human as an agent of biological and physical impacts on the landscape the human as a static receiver and processor of information from the landscape and the human as an active participant in the landscape - thinking feeling and acting - a transactional concept A model of the transactional concept and of human perception and response is presented along with a conjectural example of human-landscape transactions Three empirical research projects are presented to illustrate varying relationships between and among humans and landscapes Variations in human experiences needs and desires personal utility functions for the use of the landscape and socio-cultural contexts are suggested as mediating variables on perceived values and human responses The importance of landscape values information to planning and management activities is discussed

<http://landscape.forest.wisc.edu/LandscapeEcology/Articles/v01i01p037.pdf>

Response from M. S. Grindle

Many areas in the Forest Foothills are "tenderboxes" due mainly to the recent drought coupled with dead and dying hemlocks. Many stands of hemlocks have not been treated and will continue to die. Controlled burns have been useful and must be expanded once drought conditions improve.

Response from Anonymous
 I agree but do not do control burns when high winds are predicted

Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest (ab)
1 month 2 weeks ago

Share with us anything you think the Forest Service should know What is currently working or functioning What could use improvement Do you have a solution Who else could help What areas are special to you and why Post a comment and get the conversation started

Anonymous
1 month 2 weeks ago

I would like to see secondary roads opened more for small game and hunting I have seen several areas open one day and closed the next

Doug Adams
1 month 2 weeks ago

Keep Sumter NF Andrew Pickens in the loop regarding the management plan for the Chattooga River Does not like to see us go away fro Watershed management Issue 13 from forest plan Don't repeat mistake too much work went into that

Jim Kidd
1 month 2 weeks ago

1- Road condition- why isn't Chattahoochee system roads is as good of condition as other NF's across nation2- Silviculturally-selective cutting - removal of large white pine create openings disturbance for wildlife Done in a large scale - 40 - 100 acres Silvia's of species on Chattahoochee will allow this more regeneration Create and need diversity and improve habitat

Doug Adams
1 month 2 weeks ago

Keep Sumter NF Andrew Pickens in the loop regarding the management plan for the Chattooga River Does not like to see us go away fro Watershed management Issue 13 from forest plan Don't repeat mistake too much work went into that

Anonymous
1 month, 1 week ago

-We need higher game populations

GA Taxpayer

1 month ago

2 



I think the project to repair and replace culverts in Tumbling Creek to help save the endangered Hellbender is an awesome idea worthy of public funding I want to save our Hellbenders they are amazing animals

<http://gafw.org/around-the-forest-by-darren-wolfgang-forest-ecologist/>

Anonymous

1 month ago

2 

 1

On 11/2016 the Forestry Foothills Landscape meeting presentation was just that a well coordinated presentation which was an insult to our intelligence as the local hillbillies The very goals mission of the Foothills Landscape contradicted what is about to happen to the western border of the Cohutta Wilderness of the Chattahoochee National forest Forestry staff agreed with us it was an environmental disaster about to happen but they couldn't get involved until the ecosystem is ruined or there are fish kills on Sumac Creek due to Diesel soot runoff or diesel soot wind drift into the Cohutta's For the Forestry not to be looking a prevention and how the Cohutta's will be affected by 50000 trucks and 1200 diesel locomotives coming to Crandall Georgia and emitting diesel fumes is a crime We have endangered fish species the amber darter the blue shiner and the Conasauga Logperch which once are dead gone forever not replaceable but our voices were spoken on deaf ears that responded we can't get involved because this port is not being built on Federal land Well it is withing 2 miles of the Cohutta Wilderness and Sumac Creek headwaters originate from the Cohutta Wilderness of the Chattahoochee National Forest I would be rather on the side of honest prevention rather than error on having to solve a massive cleanup By the Fall of 2017 when you begin to consider these comments the damage will already have been done because the Appalachian Inland Intermodal Container port will already be up and running by 2018

Chatworth Meeting Comments (11/1/2016)

1 month ago



Old Georgia 2 Road one and a half miles past check station The wooden bridge might be county jurisdiction The weight limit sign guardrails and planks are missing

Chatworth Meeting Comments (11/1/2016)

1 month ago



 1

NOT HAPPY WITH FOREST MANAGEMENT PERIOD

Chatworth Meeting Comments (11/1/2016)

1 month ago



Bear hunting and hog hunting with dogs and open gates

Response from Dustin Reece

Running hogs with dogs would be beneficial. They're an invasive species that is very destructive. Allowing hunting with

9 of 82

dogs will increase hunter success rates.

Chatworth Meeting Comments (11/1/2016)

1 month ago



Create a bear sanctuary like Tennessee and North Carolina and other Appalachian states have This will bring in tourism revenue greater than hunting in surrounding areas

Tim

1 month ago



Scientific data on forest management should have equal weight with comments Wildlife need more openings and successional habitats your own studies say 5-6 percent openings your latest sopa report says we have 1 percent

Steve

4 weeks ago



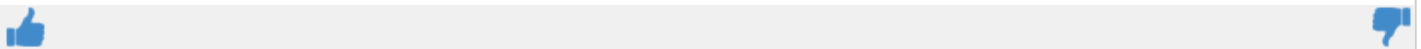
Our family highly values our national forests for multiple reasons and wish they be maintained for the purpose of recreation protection and development of 'old growth' forests protection of wildlife and habitats tranquility of wilderness hiking camping and historical areas therein We believe that timbering should be left to private lands and for private enterprise and disallowed in our forests Income motivation is contrary to protection

Response from Anonymous

I totally agree with Steve above!. Our family enjoys being able to hike, paddle and camp in the protected forest areas. These are OUR forests. They are not for others to come in and profit on by cutting down the trees and silting up the waters.

Steve

4 weeks ago



Our family highly values our national forests for multiple reasons and wish they be maintained for the purpose of recreation protection and development of 'old growth' forests protection of wildlife and habitats tranquility of wilderness hiking camping and historical areas therein We believe that timbering should be left to private lands and for private enterprise and disallowed in our forests Income motivation is contrary to protection

D. L. Grindle

3 weeks 5 days ago



Enforcement Forest Service Law Enforcement is understaffed with a single ranger covering several counties As forest users increase so will the requirement to enforce the rules and regulations required to implement the new plan Additional enforcement personnel must be an integral part of the plan otherwise a few forest abusers will ruin the outdoor experience for other users

Response from David Govus

Good point. In the 90's there were 9 FS law enforcement officers (LEOs) for the Forest . Now visitor numbers have

quadrupled and there are 6 LEOs. Also in the 90s there were over 30 Forest Protection Officers (FPOs).These are FS employees who are not sworn law enforcement officers but who can write tickets. Now there are only 10. The results are plain to see. Torn down gates, trashed campsites, illegal ATV use, shot up or torn down signs, mudbogging road sides, automobile break ins at trailheads, squatting at campsites, illegal shooting without a backstop or shooting into trees or across roads. I spend a good deal of time in the forest hunting, fishing and botanizing and can go literally years without seeing a Forest Service person let alone an LEO. The GA DNR has drastically cut their law enforcement also. Just a few years back Gary Hilton roamed the Chattahoochee NF and other southern forests breaking into cabins and living in his van and murdering at least 4 people. Everyone should write their congressman and state representatives and lobby for more law enforcement on the forest.

Response from brenda smith

I agree that we need more rangers. The economy is back, there are young people who need jobs who are qualified to be rangers. Hire them...it's a win/win situation.

D. L. Grindle

3 weeks 5 days ago



Drones Sales are increasing exponentially While drones may be useful tools for the USFS private use should be regulated to minimize conflict with forest users seeking more peaceful experiences Drone operators should be required to maintain visual contact with their aircraft Perhaps it would be appropriate for done users to register with USFS and receive written guidelines covering their operation

Response from Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest (ab)

The USFS has a policy regarding the use of unmanned aircraft in the Forest. Please find more information at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fire/unmanned-aircraft-systems>

Response from Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest (ab)

The USFS has a policy regarding the use of unmanned aircraft in the Forest. Please find more information at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/science-technology/fire/unmanned-aircraft-systems>

John

3 weeks, 1 day ago



I know it would be a monumental effort but separating mountain bike trails from equestrian trails at Bull Jake seems like a worthwhile effort Nothing malicious intended but we come up on the horses so fast Naturally they get spooked I worry for their safety and their riders

Response from David Govus

Good point John. Bikes move very fast and on narrow trails pose a threat both physically and psychologically to horse riders and hikers. Not an enjoyable experience to have bikes come bombing by you. The posted etiquette of bikers yielding to hikers is not followed particularly on Mountaintown and Bear Creek. Have there been cases of runaway spooked horses from bike encounters on Jake Bull ?

Response from Russell Lundstrum

I really do not want to get into more facebook type arguments than there's already been about horses vs bikes, I simply want to provide my opinion. I do not think separating the bikes and horses on trails would be good in the long run and here's why. Horses hoofs grind up leaves, stir up the dirt, loosen the soil to speed sedimentation, generally grind up the trail and occasionally make fertilizer. Bike tires roll, compact the soil to make a hardened channel for water to run and speed up erosion. Trail hikers to an even more focused extent, but takes longer. On their own, on a single use trail, each of these activities have much more erosion and and faster degradation. My point is, in this area, horses and bikes

have a symbiotic relationship that keeps the effects of each activity on the environment in check. I don't have any scientific proof, just my observations (examples Blankets Creek- very heavy bike use and very heavy maintenance, Conyers horse trail- lots of mud and standing water, Sawnee mountain hiking trails- rutting and undercut roots from persistence use) As for user conflicts, I think that improving sight lines in key areas where there are blind curves and downhill sections will help resolve *most* issues.

John

3 weeks, 1 day ago

1 



A pit toilet somewhere in this area where we park to get on the Bear Creek Pinhoti trails would be much appreciated

D. Born

2 weeks 3 days ago

2 



Please preserve our forests for all of us to useThe national forest is the only land in this country that is owned by all citizens We should all be able to appreciate it and use itThat means we preserve it not cut it downProtect old-growth stands restore stands to the kind of trees that were cut Protect roadless areas for wildlife habitat and so they don't become overusedPlease don't turn the forest into a big public park that is honeycombed with roads Don't let the woods becomes so overused that the trees die like what has happened in Joyce Kilmer

Stacey McCoy

2 weeks 2 days ago



A cut through trail from the top of the loop to the bottom with a connecting trail to the horse camp grounds would be very beneficial to some people who want to enjoy this beautiful country but are not able to ride as far

Jodi Russell

2 weeks 2 days ago



A connector trail between the top and bottom loops along with a connector to horse camp would be a welcome addition to this beautiful trail system

David Govus

1 week 6 days ago



I hope that this forum does not result in the announcement at some time in the future of a large project with only 30 days to comment thus depriving citizens of the ability to examine the project on the ground This has happened before on this Forest Most notably a 6000 acre project on the Blue Ridge District to thin overstocked Pines announced a few years back When examined the stands specified for thinning did not have overstocked Pines and in fact most did not have any Pines Planned projects should be of such a size that the owners of the forest the public have an opportunity to make informed comments which is not possible if projects comprising thousands of acres are announced with 30 days to commentThe Agency clearly feels that timber cutting projects are necessary to create ESH If ESH is created no Oaks should be cut and old clearcut stands should be slashed down Mature mast producing Oaks are critical for healthy wildlife populations and past management activities have reduced mast production Beavers should be offered more protection and allowed to fulfill their historical role which will result in more ESH with none of the damaging side effects of timber harvestingroad building and the inevitable soil lost and sedimentation The Forest Service should finalize its

12 of 82

Transportation Analysis Process and close failing eroding roads which are adding sediment to headwater streams This Forest should make a stronger case to the Washington office that it is entitled to more Law Enforcement resources as it is located on the edge of the 6 million person metro Atlanta area More Forest Service personnel need to get out in the field particularly on weekends I spend a good deal of time in the Forest hunting fishing and botanizing and can go for years without seeing an Agency person This forum has provided an opportunity for a small number of citizens to voice their opinions but can hardly be considered to be a basis on which to form a consensus as to how the public would wish to see their forest managed The majority of the comments have been submitted anonymously and there is apparently no limit on the number of times any one person can comment Considering this it is hard to conclude that this exercise is worth the considerable amount of money it must have cost

Brenda smith

1 week 3 days ago

2 



I come from a family of hunters my son is a mountain biker I have friends who ride horses on forest trails I am an avid hiker and of course would like to see our Forests managed in a sustainable way that would leave things as natural as possible I am also a supporter of keeping our national forest free of special interest groups who want our hard wood and would not be adverse to using any means to harvest it for profit That is a statement that seems over the top but be aware Please watch the news and see what huge conglomerates can do if they want something We should all try and see each other's view point and talk about it among ourselves while being aware of laws with hidden paragraphs that leave our forests open for exploitation by people who care about nothing but profit

Marie Dunkle

1 week 3 days ago

2 



The FS has greatly reduced its public safety resources and that concerns a great many female recreational users There is no safety presence and everyone knows it I don't want to have to take a sidearm into the woods but I've encountered some menacing characters especially as I've come out of or on the edge of forest during hikes in areas like Panther Creek Stonewall I've had these discussions with other women hikers and many women are discouraged in hiking unless there is a larger group There needs to be some level of FS commitment to public safety and there needs to be open discussion in this regard

Debbie

1 week 2 days ago

1 



We are all in this together Most of us forget how much we depend on nature Had humans not had such a negative impact on nature nature would not be depending on us to make the right decision to ensure her survival The Foothills Landscape Project gives us an opportunity to address several aspects of the forests and watersheds Among these are the protection of the older growth trees including the roadless areas which provide habitat for species necessitating larger territories Georgia has many beautiful places to hike Hopefully the plan executed for the Foothills Landscape Project will include protecting nature and allowing us to continue to appreciate from her beauty



D. Grindle

1 week 2 days ago





Nimblewill Gap Road FS Road 28-2 should either be reopened and regularly maintained or closed with closure enforcement Currently the road is closed to traffic across Nimblewill Gap but the area seems to be a playground for the Off Roaders

Patrick Hunter
1 week 2 days ago

3





The Forest Service does not have the budget it needs to maintain its existing road system Unmaintained roads cause damage to natural resources and often contribute disproportionate amounts of sediment to mountain trout streams The Forest Service should close roads that get the least use but cause considerable adverse impacts The transportation budget should be spent fixing problems on prioritized roads that get a lot of use but are causing adverse impacts and specific roads for maintenance closure should be identified as part of this project The agency should stop building new roads until it has the budget it needs to maintain its existing road system

Ted Doll
1 week 2 days ago



Daylighting along FS roads should be stopped or minimized because it introduces and encourages the growth of non-native invasive species

Ted Doll
1 week 2 days ago

1





Forest management efforts should be concentrated on recently disturbed areas such as pine plantations where a healthier mix of tree species would increase the resilience of the stand

Ted Doll
1 week 2 days ago

1



The Chattahoochee National Forest should be reserved for low-impact recreation preservation of plant and wildlife diversity and as a natural water filter and purification source for the whole state of GA rather than for commercial exploitation for timber or other resources


Ted Doll
1 week 2 days ago

1



Special care should be taken to avoid the introduction of invasive species during forest management projects and a major campaign should be undertaken to remove non-native invasive species from the forest

Anonymous
1 week 2 days ago

2



I hike in the Chattahoochee National Forest An intact mature forest protects a healthy mix of tree species and a mix of different tree ages healthy abundant under-story and ground cover plants and healthy wildlife populations Many tree species in the Foothills Landscape can live hundreds of years the majority of trees are middle-aged Protect existing old growth and allow the middle-aged forests to grow to maturity I oppose logging in this area Forests have thrived for thousands of years without human intervention Only 11000 scattered areas of old-growth forest exists in GA It is unthinkable to cut a single remaining old-growth tree The most obvious and damaging results of logging are Cutting and

removing trees Building roads tears up the forest floor Skidders and logging trucks compact the soil and crush plants and animals Loss of rich topsoil Sedimentation of pristine trout streams Flooding and erosion Herbicides contaminating soil water and air Removing and limiting invasive species should be a management priority I volunteer with the National Park Service and have seen how privet displaces all native plants essentially destroying native woodlands Forest and wildland restoration should encourage native species that previously lived in the area to be restored Mother Nature is a good guide for choosing plants that thrive in the area Established native trees will attract a compatible under-story and ground cover birds and animals Protect the large roadless areas and corridors for species that need large areas Grassy Mountain Emery Creek and the Chattooga River corridor As climate change alters habitat and raises temperatures species will need wide safe migration corridors

Eric G

1 week, 1 day ago

1 



I hunt fish and hike in the CONF and understand that keeping all of these different user groups is difficult if not impossible Managing timber by harvesting and controlled burns are great for increased hunting opportunities However this is not something that I would like to see along hiking trails or beside trout streams One of the main things I see from all user groups that is disappointing is litter I ve seen increased signage about burn bans over the last month and maybe these sign boards can be used to encourage pack it in pack it out practices once our rainfall returns to normal Any way to increase FS presence could help with this along with providing a personal face to what is often viewed as a nameless faceless government agency that is managing an area for their goals and not the publics interest Hopefully this is the first step in managing healthy forests that can provide an experience that many different user groups are happy with Thanks

TU Rabun Chapter

1 week, 1 day ago



Provide direct and timely repair rehabilitation and healing of sites that are impacted by construction or any other degradation that results in erosion and loss of healthy fish and wildlife habitats As always poorly maintained road conditions result in the major share of undesirable sediment transfer into the streams- particularly harmful to the cold-water habitats Make available sufficient resources to greatly minimize this ongoing problem

TU Rabun Chapter

1 week, 1 day ago



The Rabun Chapter of Trout Unlimited appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Foothills Landscape Collaborative Plan We support proper use and management of the lands and waters in this plan as parts of a larger jurisdiction based on whole stream watersheds and physical zones- not just geo -political Therefore please keep that in mind while noting our general comments above We look forward to successful phases of this plan yet to come

Bruce O'Connor

1 week, 1 day ago

1 



I value the forests that I hike through Historically nearly all of the original trees in the Foothills Landscape area were cut many many years ago In the process this brought considerable damage to numerous ecosystems of the region Over time some of this damage has been repaired or stabilized While there are now some sizable areas that are reforested those forests here are at best middle age a far cry from the stands of mighty trees and associated habitats that were originally there So I believe we must work diligently to preserve protect prolong and expand our forests for future

generations In doing so the most appropriate management practices must be used These may include selective cutting control burning reforestation etc Removal of invasive species is a must All this should be done in a way to imitate the original natural forest ecosystem processes In particular I believe the remaining larger roadless areas Chattooga River corridor Emery Creek Grassy Mountain especially need protection Of course funds are not unlimited so these projects should be done where they will be most likely to succeed based on past experience and forestry studies For example replant tree types in areas where there is good evidence that those types were able to flourish there in the past Similarly the creation of a habitat for wildlife should proceed with minimal adverse impact on the environment by considering important factors such as erosion and stream sediment load

Lyn Hopper

1 week, 1 day ago



Please protect old-growth in our national forests that cannot be replaced Where cuts must be made take special care to avoid soil erosion and protect streams from sedimentation Thanks for listening to stakeholders

Larry Winslett, Consv. Chair, Ga. Sierra Club

1 week, 1 day ago

1



Throughout the whole project area my main concern is the protection of Old-growth watershed protection and Rare Threatened and Endangered species habitat protection Based on what I've seen in other areas significant species changes are happening in many areas in recent years This is likely at least in part due to climate change The recent drought is an example So climate change must be considered in analyzing any project In light of this I would strongly urge that new and updated species inventories be conducted in any planned project area

James

1 week ago



The high elevation western ridge of the Cohuttas does not fit well into the foothills landscape The Grassy Mountain Lake Conasauga area is all over 3200 feet It contains all or most of the Montane and rich coveslope forest ecozones in your analysis These high elevation areas belong in the Cohutta Landscape The transition between Ridge and Valley and Mountains is a bit different than the piedmont to mountains but still 3600' is not a foothill

Anonymous

6 days 15 hours ago



Bikepacking please Please don't make all the trails easier'

Mary Topa

5 days 21 hours ago



The Chattahoochee National Forest has some of the most diverse temperate forests in the world. These forests have the highest salamander diversity in the world, and more tree species than all of Europe. They are renowned for the spring wildflower displays, including the greatest trillium diversity in the world. They are the water source and filter for millions of Georgians.

Voicemail from Katie Korensky (12/2)

3 days, 1 hour ago



I value old growth forest, streams and the wildlife. I think all wildlife is equally valuable for its own sake, not for hunting. I feel these issues are all the more urgent especially since the earth itself is going through change and climate change. I value everything that is there, the way it came. I think it should stay that way. I am a hiker. I hike all over the Chattahoochee NF and all over Georgia and North Carolina. Thank you for your consideration.

Dena Maguire Young received via email

3 days, 1 hour ago



1. Please protect our existing old growth and middle growth forests from prescribed burns (unless absolutely necessary due to imminent danger), logging and road creation. 2. Protect wildlife habitat, streams, native trees and wildflowers from invasive species and erosion. These disappearing gems areas are our heritage and need to be preserved for all to enjoy. 3. Do not try to introduce a species into an area unless it is known to be able to thrive in that area. Consider evidence of prior existence in that area before considering introduction into the area. 4. I ask the forest service to work with individuals and environmental groups that have the knowledge and proven research to assist in planning and managing our forests. 5. I value the forests, wildlife and streams for hiking and backpacking. We are blessed with the beauty and peace that nature brings.

Lawrence Earl received via USPS on 12/5

1 day 2 hours ago



I am very interested in there being a protective plan for the Foothills area under question. I deeply value the opportunities to experience the natural environments that humans have evolved in. It is part of our being and needs to be experienced and must not be lost or diminished. It should be kept as untouched as possible so that the ecosystems remain as whole as possible. Trees that need hundreds of years to mature are a vital part of this ecosystem and need to be preserved as a whole unit. Roadless areas need to remain with no roads cut for logging. ATVs need to be kept out of these areas. Please keep as many areas as natural as possible for hikers to enjoy nature as it evolved to be.

Comments received via email from Monte Seehorn on 12/2

58 mins 13 secs ago



AS far as I know, the Chattahoochee NF is the only National Forest in the Appalachians in Region 8 that still abides by Elizabeth Estills (previous Regional Forester) edict that timber can only be harvested for purposes other than to provide the public with timber or wood products. There are at least three Congressional Acts that specifically state that the Forest Service will provide the public with a continuous and sustainable supply of wood products. Its time the Chattahoochee NF got rid of such an encumbrance!

Comments received via email from Monte Seehorn on 12/2

57 mins 40 secs ago



The Chattahoochee NF includes permanent wildlife openings, R/Ws, pastures, and even open woodlands in their definition of early successional wildlife habitat. Gated roads seeded to clover or other wildlife plants are especially

17 of 82

important as wildlife habitat, and should be emphasized as a management tool, but they should not be recognized as early successional habitat. I can only assume that the Forest Service includes such habitat as a means of appearing to make a reasonable appearance of meeting early successional habitat needs through the greater acreage total reached by including such habitat. However, although it is a form of wildlife habitat that meets certain needs of wildlife, there is nothing successional about it, nor does it meet the needs of wildlife requiring early successional habitat.

Anonymous

2 months ago

8 

 1

I think its important to maintain old growth forests as our cities grow and we lose land It's also very important to help wildlife prosper though responsible land management The key here is to see both sides because only then can we manage all of our WMA areas effectively for our future generations

Response from Anonymous

There needs to be a balance between big trees ("Old Growth") and other forms of naturally occurring habitat. Wildlife populations are very low in the mountains, because fire and other disturbances have been suppressed through human intervention. I think the Forest Service needs to manage the land in a way that mimics its natural cycles, using prescribed burning and timber harvest. This will put the forest more in line with its historical past and allow wildlife to flourish. This can also be done to ensure there are plenty of forest stands with larger trees. Keep in mind that this is government land and will not developed into residential neighborhoods, so a scientific management plan that increases wildlife populations and improves the overall health of the ecosystem gets my vote.

Response from GA Taxpayer

Anything in the Chattahoochee NF that even *approximates* old growth characteristics is a small percentage of the overall forest, there's plenty of early to mid successional forest. Old growth and 'big trees' should not be logged or burned, we need to preserve what little we have. Prescribed burns probably have their place, and could take place in more disturbed areas. There are plenty of those too. Pretty much the entirety of North Georgia was clear cut in the early parts of the last century, only just now are some tracts starting to become mature forest.

Response from Patrick Hunter

I agree with GA Taxpayer. There is so little old growth remaining on the CONF that what remains should be preserved. Forests approaching old growth conditions should also be set aside and allowed to mature into old growth. There are plenty of other areas for "management" that do not involve impacting old growth or older forest.

Anonymous

2 months 2 weeks ago

2 



Excited

Response from Anonymous

Me, too

Response from Anonymous

second that

Powered by [PlaceVision Community Remarks](#) ©2011-2016. All Rights Reserved.

Please stay on topic. Comments will not be posted if they are flagrant or contain offensive language.

Select Language

Powered by [Google Translate](#)

18 of 82



Sharing a Sense of Place

Anonymous

1 month 3 weeks ago

1 



my comment

Anonymous

1 month 3 weeks ago

2 



Panther Creek needs more parking and trail maintenance

Response from Lisa

Panther Creek is heavily eroded and needs trail maintenance yes, but also there is the human factor of more and more people hiking and camping there.

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago



This is my backyard There is hiking and horseback riding It is great the way it is

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago



Dicks Creek has hiking horseback riding and swimming It has a super forest

Response from Tom Colkett

Much of this area is covered by Georgia DNR. I'm not sure how much say the FS has in here, but there is more need for LEOs to control misuse of the campsites, parking areas and waterfalls. Lots of trash and signs of people cutting down small live trees for firewood.

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago



Boggs Creek needs the campsites opened up It has hiking and horseback riding and is beautiful

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago



Willis Knob has hiking and horseback riding it is beautiful

Response from Pat Thompson

This trail loop is a great ride but too long for certain situations. It badly needs a connector trail for a shorter option

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago

1 



Maintain hunting and fishing access in all areas

Response from Mark Shearer

I'd like to see the hemlocks on Upper Gaddistown Valley Rd treated chemically with a margin of about 25 feet on either side of the road so the road can remain passable. I'd also make the same suggestion for the trees along the roads in Noontootla and Cooper Creek/Mulkey Gap area to keep them from falling or having to be cut down. I'll even volunteer to help.

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago





gate closures on WMA and NFS Dog training on NFS out of season Use of silt fencing during road grading

Gainesville Meeting Comments (10/15)

1 month 2 weeks ago





For 25 years my family has been gathering in Warwoman Dell for annual picnics hiking and playing in the creek

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago





Trail is a common dumping ground for household trash

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago

1 



My special place are deep dark hardwood coves Because that is where the ginseng grows The problem is that the FS keeps burning the coves Stop burning them

Response from Anonymous

I do not like to walk through a forest that has been burned. It feels deserted and bare of life. Nature does repair itself, but who knows how many plants will not reappear, and how many animals will die because of loss of habitat? I don't like man made fires. Nature seldom starts one here in the rain forest, and that may be because it shouldn't be burned.

Response from Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest (ab)

Southern Appalachian forests are in a temperate zone. Many of the plants and animals in the south east are adapted to and tolerant of fire. Currently, many of these plants and animals are experiencing habitat degradation because of the

lack of regular fire disturbance. The scientific studies have demonstrated that all of our rarest terrestrial plants and animals on the Forest are dependent on some fire. Without fire, the forest canopy will close and shade out and kill understory herbaceous (e.g. grasses, or forbs) plants. These understory plants provide the brooding habitat for insects, nectar for pollinators as well as seen and forage. Insects provide the pray base for birds, bats and reptiles that live in the forest. The wettest habitats in Georgia burn regularly, the Okefenokee Swamp has burned at least 4 times in the last 20 years. Read more about this at: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/gtr-nrs-p-102papers/01christensen-p-102.pdf>

Response from Anonymous

Baloney. Not all forest ecosystems depend on fire. Northern cove habitats DO NOT need fire. The large landscape scale fire of a thousand acres and more include many areas like cove hardwoods that do not need to be burned.

Response from Anonymous

The FS control burns kill ginseng. I know for a fact. Does the FS even try to see if ginseng survives? And now the FS will not give out ginseng permits because they think it is overharvested. Not true people have been digging ginseng for many years. It's the FS control burns that is endangering ginseng, not digging it. Digging ginseng is part of my heritage and it makes me sick that I can't dig it any more.

Response from Anonymous

The FS control burns kill ginseng. I know for a fact. Does the FS even try to see if ginseng survives? And now the FS will not give out ginseng permits because they think it is overharvested. Not true people have been digging ginseng for many years. It's the FS control burns that is endangering ginseng, not digging it. Digging ginseng is part of my heritage and it makes me sick that I can't dig it any more.

Response from Jess

Fire isn't simply good or bad. Fire can be critical in maintaining habitats or it can completely destroy habitats. The difference depends on the nature of the fire and what plants and animals are adapted to. The intensity, size, time of year, and time since the last fire all dramatically effect what a fire does. Some of our rarest plants are adapted to frequent or high intensity fire like turkey beard and smooth purple coneflower. However, others can be devastated by fire. Sweet white trillium roots in the decomposing leaves that are consumed by fire. The thin bark of yellowwood trees makes them easily killed back to the ground and even infrequent fires will prevent them from reproducing. From 1970 to 1999 there were 142 lightning strike fires on the Chattahoochee Oconee National Forests, according to the forest plan. That suggests fire is a natural but infrequent part of this landscape. That is likely roughly similar to the fire regime that plants and animals in the foothills are adapted to, though there may be large differences between different forest types. The Christensen paper cited above also provides evidence that fire is a natural part of these forests. However, due to the uncertainty in fire dates (roughly 150 to 200), that paper does not provide information about fire frequency. Native Americans also burned these forests. How ubiquitous that burning was is unclear, and whether that burning is considered natural is subject to interpretation. While many herbaceous plants need high light levels to survive, many others in this region are adapted to the shady conditions found underneath a forest canopy, especially in cove forests. Other factors such as how dry the site is and how dense the shrub cover is will determine whether the canopy closing has much effect on herbaceous plants and all the other organisms that depend on them. While more fire will lead to more open canopies overall, fire and closed canopies are not necessarily incompatible either. So fire can open canopies and create habitats not otherwise available, but that will not always be the case. Most forests in this region naturally have closed canopies, though with small gaps in them that create local areas of high light levels. The Okefenokee Swamp may seem like a tempting comparison, because it is in the same political boundary as the foothills landscape. But it's not actually relevant. The Okefenokee differs from the foothills landscape in the frequency of lightning, temperature, rainfall, topography, flammability of vegetation, flammability of surrounding vegetation, and even the flammability of the soil. Finally, if a forest after a fire feels deserted to someone, then that's how it feels to them. Regardless of how fires affect plants and animals in the forest, people will have different reactions to them. I hope prescribed fire is included in management of the foothills landscape. But I also hope it is used in a careful way that appreciates fire is just one piece of a complex set of factors that affect these forests, and that people's reactions to fire are respected.

Response from Anonymous

Several problems with Jess's response. First, although the FS tries to apply fire where it is needed, they locate the

control lines at natural features such as creeks thus including areas that do not need to be burned. Second, most natural fire in the So Appalachians start on ridge tops (lightning strikes on dry ground and snags) and then back slowly down slope until natural features stop it. This may take many days and results in a low intensity fire. But the FS control burns are all lit by helicopter in one day creating hot uphill runs, killing the timber. Third, small gap openings in the So App mtns are naturally the result of weather events, such as wind, floods, and landslides, not fire. Finally, just because the Native Americans burned the woods does not automatically mean it is the right thing to do now. The Indians also hunted year-round and killed does and fawn deer. We know not to do that now. The idea of restoration is flawed: at what point in time in the past is the FS trying to restore? The FS has arbitrarily decided to restore to pre-Columbian time yet there are too many pieces of that ecosystem that are gone forever: large woodland ungulates, like bison and elk. American Chestnut. Passenger pigeons. Etc etc. Both the natural and social environments now are different; admit it and manage for today's wants and needs.

Response from David Govus

It is very uncertain if native Americans burned the wood very often. The early Spanish explorers did not mention it. When Native Americans took to cattle raising they followed the European tradition of woods burning to increase grasses and forage. Very few accounts of Native American woods burning prior to that. As the comment points out there is very little similarity between a natural fire and the FS rx fire regime.

Response from Carla

My grand daddy was a farmer and WWII vet. He lived in these mountains his whole life, and his daddy before that. My grand daddy always looked forward to digging ginseng every fall, it was his Christmas money. I took him to the Forestry Service office in Clayton a few years back to get his annual ginseng permit. They told him they did not issue permits anymore and he would be breaking the law if he dug it. It was the only time I ever saw my grand daddy cry - it broke his heart. He died shortly after, he never dug any more ginseng because he would never break the law. This makes me sick with grief --

Response from Tom C

I agree with Jess (above), that a certain amount of fire may be helpful in the southern Appalachians but that caution is needed for several reasons, including an understanding that studies of fire intervals are probably somewhat inaccurate due to the omission of slopes not showing fire scarring (what percent of the forest is therefore not included in these studies?), and, second, that the huge release of carbon into the atmosphere in these times of global climate change is not advisable, especially considering the size of the recent wildfires. Studies have shown that older trees are more efficient in absorbing carbon than younger ones, and so I question the idea of creating ESH by removal of older trees. Better we concentrate on doing this in areas where past practices have resulted in ESH and the spread of invasive species, both native and non. Leave the old forests alone please.

Ray Gentry

1 month, 1 week ago



I am interested in fish habitat mgt water quality mgt and road access mgt Getting to the fish or game is vital to the user Not building roads but maintaining roads to allow the user to have reasonable access to the Forest

Response from David Govus

Roads on the Forest if open should be maintained for recreational access using normal automobiles. Deteriorating roads that are only passable by high clearance 4 wheel drive vehicles should be closed. The recent phenomenon of convoys of Jeeps with super aggressive tires turning what were once normal roads into off road courses should be halted by gating those roads. These deteriorating roads contribute too much silt to the streams and hurt trout fishing.

Anonymous

3 weeks 6 days ago



I own 82 acres that are surrounded by Chatt Nat'l Forest Most of my land is pristine mountainside that hasn't been developed The natural forest is a place to walk and reflect No place is more peaceful I have a natural affinity for Nature and I believe that left alone Mother Nature knows best Let the trees grow let the streams flow and allow the natural order to go

Response from Thomas Colkett

I agree. I spend a great deal of time hiking in these forests and am always struck with the sense that, for the most part, the forest can take care of itself. The main exception to this being rational attempts to restore the forest to a more natural condition as a result of human interference in the past. The FS may be a little to focused on the idea of "management", especially in areas that are doing just fine having been left alone for long enough. I'd like to suggest that the emphasis in this area be shifted considerably toward law enforcement (LEO's) rather than interfering with natural processes.

Response from Mark Wolinsky

I too prefer preservation. However, it seems evident to me from some of the comments there is an important misconception about the United States Forest Service (USFS). To keep a perspective on the conversation, it is meaningful to understand that while the United States Park Service (Department of the Interior) is all about preservation of natural habitats, the USFS (Department of Agriculture) is all about managing our forests for multiple uses. They cannot, by congressional mandate, manage our forests for preservation only. That said, the USFS has come a long way since the middle 1900's from concentrating only on timber and hunting to multiple uses such as passive recreation, ecosystem management, watershed management, recreational vehicle use and many other diverse uses our forests. Part of the USFS multiple use philosophy does include preservation in the form of designated wilderness areas.

Anonymous

3 weeks 6 days ago

2 



I own 82 acres that are surrounded by Chatt Nat'l Forest Most of my land is pristine mountainside that hasn't been developed The natural forest is a place to walk and reflect No place is more peaceful I have a natural affinity for Nature and I believe that left alone Mother Nature knows best Let the trees grow let the streams flow and allow the natural order to go

Anonymous

3 weeks 6 days ago



I own 82 acres that are surrounded by Chatt Nat'l Forest Most of my land is pristine mountainside that hasn't been developed The natural forest is a place to walk and reflect No place is more peaceful I have a natural affinity for Nature and I believe that left alone Mother Nature knows best Let the trees grow let the streams flow and allow the natural order to go

Anonymous

3 weeks 6 days ago



I own 82 acres that are surrounded by Chatt Nat'l Forest Most of my land is pristine mountainside that hasn't been developed The natural forest is a place to walk and reflect No place is more peaceful I have a natural affinity for Nature and I believe that left alone Mother Nature knows best Let the trees grow let the streams flow and allow the natural order to go

Susan Caster

3 weeks 5 days ago

2 


I love to hike in the Cohutta Wilderness I particularly love the mature trees clean water animal sightings and solitude Suggestions include1Protect large areas so that seven generations out there are truly mature trees2More Leave No Trace education or other strategies to prevent over use trash in popular areas especially near roadswaterfalls Encourage star gazing instead of camp fires3Maintain trails but do not build new trailsroads Celebrate well maintained areastrails4Protect corridors for larger predators to roam freely manage invasive species5Hire strong biologists and ecologists to monitor and protect flora and fauna

Lisa Burton

2 weeks, 1 day ago




These trails are some of the most scenic in the Southeast A cut through trail would be appreciated so that shorter rides are feasible This addition would also enable an injured horse or rider to get back to camp quicker

Jeff Wilson

1 week 6 days ago




I would like to see more management of streams in this area for trout streams

Marie Dunkle

1 week 3 days ago

3 


I live on the edge of national forest in Tiger GA and my spirit is fed by my hikes in the forest trails of Stonewall Falls as well as trails of Chattanooga River and Bartrum It's important to close off user created trails as I've seen many cases where they have caused plant damage erosion as well as confusion on the part of mountain bikers and hikers Some users don't understand the damage caused and figure it's their forest and can be fully used Environmental education on may levels is needed to create understanding and perhaps responsibility

Jolene schwartz

1 week 3 days ago




THE Willis Knob loop is desperately in need of a cut across for safety health recreation and logistics reasons This has been needed for years I am glad we are finally seriously taking a close look at this If we are going to have these trails why not make them the best they can be

Bryce C

1 week 2 days ago


1 



Love coming up to this area to ride my mountain bike The area hiking and biking trails provide a great economic benefit to the area and insuring sustainable growth into the future is imperative

Denny Rhodes

1 week, 1 day ago

24 of 82


1 




The Springer Mountain Viewshed is in the Foothills Landscape That is what one sees when they stand next to the bronze plaque that marks the southern terminus of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and the flanking white blaze the first or the last of a string of such going all the way Maine The southern terminus of the Benton MacKaye Trail is nearby People come from all over the world to Springer Mountain It is probably the second most visited place on the AT in Georgia behind Blood Mountain Ten years or so ago the Forest Service used LWCF money to acquire acreage in the Springer Viewshed from the Glover-Little families A conservation easement was created for the balance of the property the families retained Has anyone considered this in a decade I realize the easement is probably a state issue Has the Forest Service considered acquired additional acreage A large north Georgia real estate developer once considered then abandoned the idea buying a tract on Bird Mountain in the viewshed The owner of the property was interested selling it at that time

Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

1 week, 1 day ago







Each landscapesite has its unique identity consisting of natural and cultural features These significant elements including special visual interest and quality should be protected from degradation Awareness and interpretation would enhance support the value of sense of place Examples may be elements such as stream corridors mountain peaks and ridges historic features etc

[Trout Unlimited Rabun Chapter](#)

Mary Topa

5 days 21 hours ago







Close and rehabilitate user-created trails that are sediment sources and degrade streamwater quality. Maintain legal trails (hiking, biking, equestrian, and PHV) and campsite areas to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation of streams, and invasion by non-native invasive plants. The Forest Service has enough resources to maintain 30-40% of its 850 miles of trails in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests (with 200 miles in the Foothills Landscape). Given the limited Forest Service resources allocated towards trail maintenance, it seems fiscally prudent to focus trail activities in the Foothills Landscape on those immediate needs identified in the Five-Year Trail Plan, a plan that CoTrails volunteers and Forest Service staff developed. If the current 200 miles in the Foothills Landscape are not being maintained in an ecologically-sustainable manner, how will adding more trails to the system affect the quality of existing trails and their surrounding natural environments (stream water quality, soil erosion issues and degradation of surrounding plant/animal communities)? It makes sense to focus limited resources on maintaining and improving existing trails, particularly the most popular ones, before adding new trails.

Trout Unlimited Georgia Council received via email

3 days, 1 hour ago





Founded in 1959, Trout Unlimited is a national non-profit organization with over 4,000 members in Georgia, dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring Georgias coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. The Georgia State Council of Trout Unlimited is dedicated to protecting, reconnecting, restoring and sustaining the coldwater fisheries in the region. Toward that end, we advocate for the following specific policies and goals for any future forest planning: 1. Forest activities must be undertaken with the importance of stream buffers in mind, which involves (a) filtering rainwater runoff from roads and trails; (b) placement of trails and campsites as far from the streams as are possible (and preferably not

between a road and stream), (c) promoting cooling effect from shade by protecting streamside vegetation and restoring lost shade, such as in Hemlock treatment and replanting programs; (d) reduction of surface erosion; and (e) stream bank stabilization, such as providing hardpan or improved crossings where traffic other than foot-traffic is permitted at crossings. 2. Forest activities and maintenance that impact streams should be limited to activities that do not unduly degrade stream structure or water quality. 3. Restoration of trout habitat should continue to be a top priority of the Forest Service and we support expanding these efforts of Protecting, Reconnecting and Restoring our Trout Streams. Trout Unlimited pledges its support to stream structure creation and maintenance and to promoting and assisting with such projects as arch-culverts, which are cost efficient ways to ensure passage of, and unbroken habitat for, fish and other species. 4. Enforcement of laws and restrictions on public land should be enhanced. Law enforcement is a critical component for safety of citizenry who are lawfully using public lands as well as the resources that should be preserved and shared by all within the law. ORV use should be limited to reasonable and lawful circumstances. Care must be taken to ensure safety of persons using the forest, and competing uses should be allowed with safety paramount and conservation goals as well. 5. The plan must promote water quality that is good enough for a healthy balanced population of aquatic life. Fishable water supports agriculture, industry, clean drinking water and recreation. It is an essential part of a strong economy's foundation. Fishable water is dependent on habitat conservation, water quantity and fishery management. TU has a basic approach to its conservation strategy. We use the best available science to: protect headwaters and spawning habitat for trout; reconnect tributaries with their rivers to ensure resilience; restore waters where development has impacted trout and the opportunity to fish for them; and then sustain our work by promoting and maintaining a strong legal and regulatory framework to protect fish and angling opportunity. As a conservation organization, we pledge full support as a partner with state and federal agencies to assist in accomplishing these goals through volunteer support, funding when feasible, and education of the public and promotion of positive efforts by all constituencies. We look forward to working with the USDA Forest Service in planning AND EXECUTION of comprehensive and forward-seeing efforts on behalf of the coldwater fisheries in this region.

Powered by [PlaceVision Community Remarks](#) ©2011-2016. All Rights Reserved.

Please stay on topic. Comments will not be posted if they are flagrant or contain offensive language.

Select Language

Powered by [Google Translate](#)



Providing Sustainable Recreation Opportunities

Alan Baker

2 months, 1 week ago

2 

 1

Just curious if Lake Russell in Mount Airy is included in any kind of efforts made with this initiative Lake Russell has amazing potential for around the lake recreation with proper paths and an effort to retain the beach area Its really a shame that it has been let go for so many years and now appears to be run down and only used by a party crowd on the weekends Would love to see a true Greenway around the lake for hiking and biking

Response from Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests (jt)

Thanks so much for your thoughtful comment about the Lake Russell Recreation Area. While it is not part of the focus area at this time, your ideas are good ones and we would love to explore them more in the future. In the meantime, there are some improvements in the works. Feel free to reach out to the new recreation program manager there at the Chattooga River Ranger District Office anytime to discuss more at 706-754-6221.

Response from Matt Williams

I was born and raised in north Georgia and have always loved backpacking and hiking here. After achieving my masters at GT in environmental engineering, I always hoped the USDA would do more to protect and revitalize this area. Some specific areas of concern for me are, increased housing development in the area, large useless roads that break up habitat areas, lack of monitoring for campers (people destroy the area by not packing out). I would like to see the forest be restocked with native species (red wolves, mountain lions, elk, and deer). I would love it if we could stop wasting tax payer money on four lane roads that no one uses, and most of all, I think it's time we really start focusing on land management. Why should a few people be allowed to build sun divisions in an area that is enjoyed by everyone and provides a real ecological benefit to the region. There isn't much commerce in these areas, so there isn't really a lot of reason to allow sprawl to ruin them. If the USFS partnered more closely with organizations like the Trust for Public land to expand wilderness areas, it could provide benefits for future generations. As for littering, I think trail cams and/or drones could be used to make the USFS more effective at managing human behavior and prevent illegal poaching and logging.

Response from Hank Steel

Good comment Matt. I hope the decision makers listen to you. Sprawl blocks access to the forest. If you google map satellite the Chattahoochee National Forest area you can see it is surrounded by uncontrollable sprawl and development. It will almost make a grown man cry. I, like many of you I have talked to, am willing to pay the Forest Service and Game Wardens more to take care of what unspoiled Forest is left. Higher fees to protect the forest plants, game and non game animals and for the people who enjoy the forest should not be a concern. One more comment- It is fun to ride horses and ATVs in the forest but they take a heavy toll on the land, trails and roads and should pay much more than now. You got to pay to play.

Response from Bridget Hogan-Cigarroa

I'm also concerned about sprawl throughout North GA. It will only get worse as more people, especially retirees, flee the catastrophic metro Atlanta sprawl and head north. I would like to see government and NGOs step in to maintain wild and agricultural lands throughout the region before they're turned into suburban sprawl like the rest of metro Atl. The rural atmosphere of North GA must be preserved. Economy and environmental conservation can go hand in hand here.

Response from GA Taxpayer

Awesome comment, Matt, couldn't agree more

Response from brenda smith

I am an avid hiker in the national forest in general, and your response about Useless roads and people trashing the forest represents my feelings about the matter. I've found that when roads are provided into the wilder areas, more trash and destruction are the results.

Response from Anonymous

Well said Matt and Brenda

Response from Anonymous

Well said Matt and Brenda

Les Mullis

2 months, 1 week ago



This sounds like it's been in the works for a long time I can see it already a bunch of left wing liberals get in here want to protect some sort of endangered bugbird or something start putting up signs and gates saying don't do this do t do that NO CAMPING NO FISHING AND THEY START PUTTING UP THOSE PIPE GATES EVERYWHERE slowly locking everyone that loves the mtns just as they are Hey how about staying out of my forest and leave it alone you already have enough gates and signs up SOMETHING IS UP FOLKS SOMEONE HAS PLANS TO MAKE SOME BIG MONEY DO YOU THINK THEY SPENT ALL THAT BIG MONEY ON THE SO CALLED CLEVELAND BYPASS TO JUST RELIEVE TRAFFIC FROM THERE TO GET TO A LITTLE TOWN CALLED HELEN I DON'T THINK SO WATCH OUT FOLKS SOMETHING IS UP

Response from Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests (jt)

For the benefit of a robust and constructive conversation, please make sure comments relate to the Foothills Landscape and show respect, civility and consideration to the other forum visitors. You can review USDA's comment policy here: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=comment_policy.xml

Response from Hank Steel

Les it sounds like they want to protect what is left and hopefully improve access to the foothills and forest. More enforcement against those who abuse the foothills and the rest of the forest area is welcomed. On the other hand, as you say, you always have to watch your back.. What's the end game- hopefully to save the forest and not to benefit the rich land developers.

Response from GA Taxpayer

Citizens and taxpayers are taking the time out of their busy lives to make sure the places they love are protected and not developed/logged/hunted out of existence until all that's left is a bunch of half-tame deer running around McMansion subdivisions. Must be a conspiracy.

Response from brenda smith

I would also like to see this small piece of national forest that is left in Georgia protected from development and exploitation. It takes all of us working together to make sure this happens. Gates are sometimes put in place to make sure people don't drive into sensitive areas and set up truck camping where there are no toilet facilities or trash collection containers. Stone Wall Falls is a good example of that. Before a gate was installed, the place would be trashed on a regular basis with human waste and tissue paper so prevalent, that you could smell it before you saw the waterfall. Most people who love the forest wouldn't do this, but those who would are very destructive. The Forest Service responded to this problem with the only solution that was available at the time, and they should be commended for it. I agree that the Forest belongs to everyone to be used in a way that protects and conserves these areas for future generations.

Shawn Lee

2 months ago

1 


Im glad to see forest service is finally looking into ideas to improve this area Quality hunting in this area ended 10 years ago It was not hunters over-harvesting the deer either Most hunters will hunt these woods for days and days never seeing a deer I remember 10 years ago seeing 50 deer in a season For whatever reason the deer populations crashed and I would love to see steps taken to bring them back both as a hunter and a nature lover Feral hogs and other invasive species like coyotes need to be controlled better or the deer populations will never bounce back to what they were years ago Hunters were responsible for the amazing come back of the whitetail deer in the mountains after market hunters nearly wiped them out I hope the USFS continues to work with hunters to bring the deer back to healthy levels again Timber management is an important part of improving wildlife habitat Controlled burning alone just isnt cutting it We also now have to deal with armadillos in this area which will likely finish off rare ground nesting birds that used to thrive here like the ruffed grouse I believe environmentalist have good intentions at heart but when considering management of the land and wildlife I hope the forest service listens to science and not feelings when making their decisions

Response from Drew C

I agree with the majority of what Jeff has said here as well. I am a hunter and it is astonishing how poor the habitat is in the mountains relative to the diversity in other parts of the state. I believe that if sustainable forestry practices are put in place that will provide more cover and food for wildlife the populations would rebound and flourish tremendously.

Response from Justin Ravan

I'm all for making hunting and fishing better, if that means cutting down old growth to make it better then i don't see no problem if its done correctly and they don't allow mud and everything else to run into the creeks and streams , I have see a small creek go from knee deep to almost nothing in a short period of time due to bad logging

Response from John

The forests need to be protected, not "managed." They have been "managed" to their current dismal shape. If we do not stop the senseless timber harvests that only serve very short term monetary goals, we all lose. I do not believe that large mature forests are a fire danger and I do believe they sustain wildlife naturally.

Anonymous

1 month 3 weeks ago



Parking on the side of old 441 is dangerous

Anonymous

1 month 3 weeks ago



1

A shooting range in this area would be a nice addition for the people around here there are several in the Forrest but none close to this area within 50 miles anyway



Anonymous

1 month 3 weeks ago





We would like to see a skeet shooting range in the foothills landscape project There are not opportunities for skeet shooters on the forest


Michael lee
1 month 2 weeks ago

1



Campsites at Willis knob CB need restored to standard Overtime they have deteriorated The sites need to be redefined maintained gravel wood barriers etc



Taylor Howard
1 month 2 weeks ago

3







Illegal off road use at Earl's ford needs to be addressed There have been multiple instances of off road vehicles entering the Chattooga River by way of Earl's ford see photo

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)
1 month 2 weeks ago


Boggs Creek would make a great horse trail area

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)
1 month 2 weeks ago

1





Need a kiosk at stonewall trailhead Trucks and four-wheelers are going around the gate and using the trail area

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)
1 month 2 weeks ago




Continue to allow hunting and fishing















Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)
1 month 2 weeks ago

Gates on small roads are closed during hunting season for small game Folks have paid for a refuge stand to hunt and want to have access -- this area is not in the foothills

Response from Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest (ab)

Thank you for participating in the Dahlonega Community Conversation. We are always open to hearing ideas and concerns about forest management anywhere in the Forest. This project forum is focused on the Foothills Landscape and any ideas, recommendations and concerns you have about that area specifically.

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)	1 month 2 weeks ago
<div> <div>   </div> <div> <p>Dicks and Waters Creeks need to have the gates moved to accommodate day use parking area further into the forest but still maintain the closure in the winter</p> </div> </div>	
Gainesville Meeting Comments (10/15)	1 month 2 weeks ago
<div> <div> 1   </div> <div> <p>Would like to see more Law Enforcement Officers in the Forest as recreational use seems to be increasing dramatically</p> </div> </div>	
Gainesville Meeting Comments (10/15)	1 month 2 weeks ago
<div> <div>   </div> <div> <p>No new jeep or OHV trails but maintain what is already in place</p> </div> </div>	
Gainesville Meeting Comments (10/15)	1 month 2 weeks ago
<div> <div> 3   </div> <div> <p>Increase wilderness areas</p> </div> <div> <p>Response from GA Taxpayer Seconded.</p> </div> </div>	
Gainesville Meeting Comments (10/15)	1 month 2 weeks ago
<div> <div> 1   </div> <div> <p>Protect drinking water</p> </div> </div>	
Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)	1 month 2 weeks ago
<div> <div>   </div> <div> <p>Address off road use near Earls and Sandy Ford</p> </div> </div>	
Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)	1 month 2 weeks ago
<div> <div> 1   </div> <div> <p>Add Forest Service resources for safe hiking Many women do not feel safe hiking examples are Stonewall vicinity and Panther Creek</p> </div> </div>	
Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)	1 month 2 weeks ago

Enhance opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)
1 month 2 weeks ago

1

address the issue of people altering rocks and bedrock at HWY 76 access on Chattooga River

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)
1 month 2 weeks ago

Establish campfire rings in the WMA as so campfires can be better contained

Response from Anonymous

All campfires need to be banned during this severe drought until there has been ample rainfall. Also, the Forestry service needs to try to extinguish all fires in the Cohutta Wilderness because of the threat of high winds which would threaten homes located in the surrounding Wilderness areas.

Anonymous
1 month, 1 week ago

Would like to see a natural bench about every mile or mile and a half on the established trails if they are especially rugged or steep throughout the foothills areas

Anonymous
1 month, 1 week ago

The road to the trailhead at Oakey RV trail area and the parking area is in horrible shape I could barely get my vehicle in and out of there

Chattahoochee NF (bmj)
1 month, 1 week ago

I wanted to add to the conversation a publication regarding recreation and an ever going population

http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/legacy_files/media/types/publication/field_pdf/paths-more-traveled-final-9-28-15.pdf

Chattahoochee NF (bmj)
1 month, 1 week ago

I wanted to add to the conversation a publication regarding recreation and an ever going population

http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/legacy_files/media/types/publication/field_pdf/paths-more-traveled-final-9-28-15.pdf

Simon Bishop

1 month ago

1 



I would like to propose a recreation area development on usfs rd 151 I have been an avid outdoorsman in the cohutta's for over 25 years I am a structural and wildland firefighter who has been more than pleased with our recent prescribed burn operations in the cohuttas I practice tread lightly and leave no trace I participate in everything from hunting hiking fishing mnt biking backpacking kayaking and atv riding all in what I call my back yard which is the cohutta wma I have hiked every trail in our district I have over 40 kayak trips on the conasauga within the wilderness area I also have first descents of many creeks in our area I love serenity more than most so if you would of asked me this 10 year ago I may of been skeptical about my opinion with development of new campgrounds on usfs land Truth is after having kids and slowing down our ability to hike a 10 mile trail before setting up camp my feelings have changed We now enjoy rv camping as well The rv camping community is left out in the chattahoochee national forest I realize that not everyone can backpack to camp Not everyone can sleep in a tent Also not everyone can tow a camper to the top of fort mountain state park Lake conasauga and Hickey gap neither is a good option for rv recreation I propose rd 151 be the perfect area for a campground that supports both rv and tent sites with power water and dump station that could be built around a lake the size of Murray's lake Rv campers want level sites well spaced apart decent roads thats not to steep so elderly can walk around and children can ride bikes There is not one place i can say our kids can even ride a bicycle in this district I know it is mountain terrain but the sad truth is cherokee nantahala and pishah national forest are as well but are way ahead of us in recreation campgrounds that help smaller children and ADA have access Rv campgrounds do have their place on our usfs land I understand this is a large proposal but this area is in a huge need of this to create access welcoming to all The acreage in the cohuttas is very large to not support this ideal This area is close to hwy 411 It is still in the foothills and easily accessible for everyone traveling through A small lake about the size of Murray's lake would be outstanding I would like to see a day use parking area beyond the campground It should have a hiking trail to connect to doogan mountain at the rock face as well as iron mountain trail since our access has been closed at old hwy 2 We can drive up into Tn in the cherokee nf to parksville lake or chilhowee where a small but decent rv camp is and it stays booked These are good models of what could be built on rd 151 or even Holly creek area except the grade to get to chilhowee is a bit much for most vehicles towing campers Thank you very much for taking public opinions and I really do hope this is considered

Response from Simon Bishop

please move my pin to the correct location. rd 151 off douthit circle. known as moneyham rd. Thanks

Simon Bishop

1 month ago



First I would like to say Im glad paddler access is now available on the headwaters of the chattooga However there shouldn't be any restrictions to a paddler who chooses to go down any river within our public lands We sailed here in boats to create the freedom of the USA We should be allowed to paddle every river at any time of the year at what ever flow we feel comfortable at I can understand a fishing regulations to help conservation as i trout fish as well But I can't understand how legally putting any restrictions on paddling is possible Thank you for taking public opinions

Simon Bishop

1 month ago

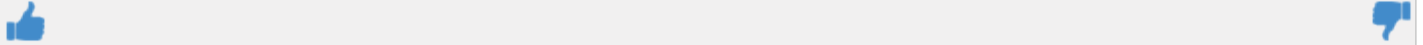


1

First I would like to say Im glad paddler access is now available on the headwaters of the chattooga However there shouldn't be any restrictions to a paddler who chooses to go down any river within our public lands We sailed here in boats to create the freedom of the USA We should be allowed to paddle every river at any time of the year at what ever flow we feel comfortable at I can understand a fishing regulations to help conservation as i trout fish as well But I can't understand how legally putting any restrictions on paddling is possible Thank you for taking public opinions

GA Taxpayer

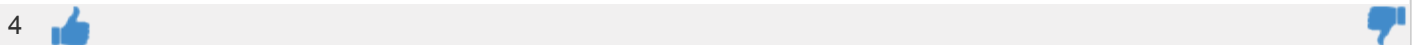
1 month ago



Some hunting bag limits seasons are not sustainable in the long term Black bears for instance have no overall quotacap in North Georgia anybody who wants to can purchase a tag to kill 2 black bear in a season with absolutely no indexing or consideration of bear population Literally every man woman and child could conceivably purchase a bear tag and kill every bear in North Georgia in a given year Not saying this would happen but this approach needs to change we need a cap on bear tags sold per season indexed to some percentage of the estimated bear population So for instance maybe every year the DNR could sell enough tags for 10 of the bear population to be killed Many other states do this it's called a lottery and it's no coincidence that this includes those with the best bear hunting like Minnesota and Wisconsin Coyotes may be invasive but with the eradication of the only native canid in the region the red wolf the coyote is the only canid meso-predator we have and is probably an important part of the ecology at this point Coyotes need to stop being treated as vermin and need to be 'managed' like any other large game Deer might be the worst example of mismanagement it seems every hunter can take 12 deer a season again with no absolute tag cap not indexed to the deer population in any way and the season lasts effectively half the year This is an absurd level of hunting pressure and too much for a forest ecosystem Maine only allows 1 deer per hunter per season Now it makes sense to me that if people are worried about the deer herd in North Georgia instead of potentially imperiling the entire ecosystem by trying to turn a wild area into a deer farm for the benefit of one narrow special interest deer hunters we should first look at the main cause of mortality for these animals which is hunting and whether the limits are too liberal

Jeff Adams

1 month ago



Maintain and expand the Jake Mountain Bull Mountain trail system Expand the trail system into the Ed Jenkins recreation area and BlueRidge WMA to disperse users and provide long distance riding opportunities for users Reduce or eliminate timber harvests in this area to provide a better natural experience for the growing trail user population Develop a campground centered in the expanded trail system This will provide a steady source of tourism dollars for the local communities and provide a source of income Campground fees to support the personnel to manage the campground The campground at Tsali in NC is a good example

<http://www.singletracks.com/blog/mtb-trails/mountain-bike-tourism-by-the-numbers/>

<http://www.pinkbike.com/news/economic-impacts-of-mountain-bike-tourism-2016-update.html>

<https://www.npca.org/articles/1055-wheels-of-change> <https://www.imba.com/world-summit/resources/economic-benefits-mtb-tourism>

Response from Elliot

I agree. The Bull and Jake trail system is good, but we need more trails. This remark seems to be placed on Campbell mountain. Campbell mountain would make an excellent mountain biking area and would be close to Dahlonega and could be connected to Jake Mountain.

Response from Terry Palmeri

Excellent comment and supporting documents. I do think that completing the trail improvements that are planned to bring the present trail system up to sustainable (both socially and environmentally) should be priority before expanding.

Response from David Govus

A good point. Over a million dollars of public money has been spent on the Jake Bull system and the trails are still in need of repair and degrading the environment, Horses and Bikes are very damaging to trails . Horses cup their hooves as they pick them up acting as mini excavators. Bikes displace a lot of soil as they brake and skid. Both of these activities result in a high maintenance trail system. Enough is enough.

Response from Sue Harmon

I agree with Terry - bringing current trail systems up to sustainable standards is crucial before any expansion....

Response from brenda smith

I hike in areas where horse trails, bike trails, and hiking trails intersect. There are signs that indicate which trails do not support horse traffic or bikes. I've seen these signs torn down and laying on the ground with horse tracks leading into protected areas that have not been prepped for horses. Everyone should read and respect the signs put up by the Forest Service, but that isn't always the case. My hiking group met a mountain biker tearing along on a hiking path. When we told him that this trail was not set up for mountain biking, he just laughed and went on his way. We didn't have the authority to stop him. I enjoyed meeting all the rangers at the Clayton Meeting, and talking to them about the national forest in this area. They all seemed dedicated and were very helpful in answering my questions. They could not tell me when more rangers would be assigned to this area to uphold the sensible rules that are already in place regarding the respectful use of trails already designated for the specific use of hiking, biking, and horse back riding. We need more young rangers. The economy is back, and if we can spend money on bridges and roads, we can spend some and give jobs to young people graduating with forestry and law enforcement degrees.

Response from Isaac

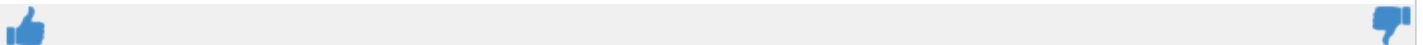
Completely agree with Jeff Adams on all fronts. There is so much potential in the area to expand the trail system, and compared to many trails around the nation, our local trails are in excellent shape even with the horse, foot and bike traffic.

Response from Isaac

Completely agree with Jeff Adams on all fronts. There is so much potential in the area to expand the trail system, and compared to many trails around the nation, our local trails are in excellent shape even with the horse, foot and bike traffic.

Sarah

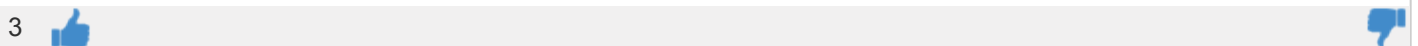
1 month ago



Improve tent pads and install a pit toilet for campers I camped here and my dog ended up rolling in what I think was human waste

Dylan

1 month ago



Add more trails to the awesome mountain bike trail system These are some of the best trails in the southeast

Response from Mark

Dylan is right. These trails are great, but there needs to be more. There is plenty of land to do it!

Response from Steve Jackson

I would like to see the Jake Mtn. Trail system expanded.

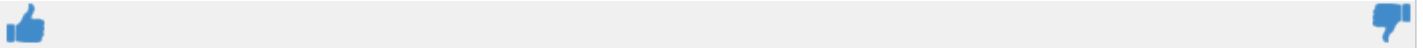
Response from Chris Knepper

I second the comment about expanding the Jake Mtn. (And Bull mtn.) trail system. I ride my bike here all the time and I

never fail to meet people who are here from other areas/States. It seems that the more epic the trail system gets the more people (along with their money) come to ride it. I realize that too many people is not a good thing, but bringing in tax revenue from outside areas is a good thing. And....it would be great to have expanded features for the current trail users as well.

Joe C.

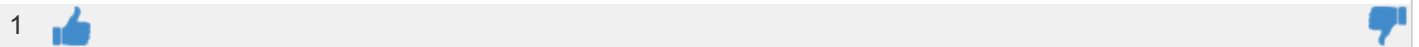
1 month ago



Make a campground by the beautiful Rock Creek lake

Anonymous

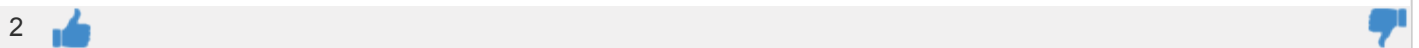
1 month ago



A pit toilet at the Bull Mountain trail parking lot would be nice When I drive up from Atlanta to enjoy the trails It would be nice to have a place to go Thanks

Twotom

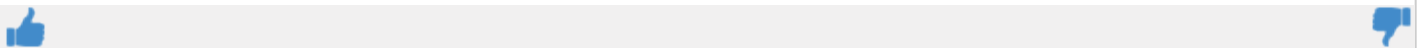
1 month ago



The BullJake trail system should be assessed to ensure that future management practices result in sustainable use for both mountain bicyclists and equestrians The entire study region should be considered for additional trail use by bicyclists

**Comment Received from Doug Adams by
Chattahoochee-Oconee NF (05 Nov 2016)**

1 month ago



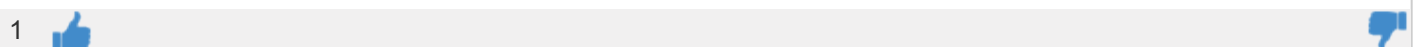
As you well know the Chattooga River watershed is unique in that it lays in 3 National Forests When the CONF and the SNF collaborative developed their current forest plans Issue 13 was common to both forests and was the publics way of being sure that both forests were treating the Chattooga River watershed the sameMy concern is that Foothills and Escarpment Landscapes do not stop at the Georgia bank of the river SNF and NNF also has these Landscapes and should manage accordingly In other words the Chattooga River watershed should be managed in the same manner regardless of what NF is doing the management action

Response from Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest (ab)

The Foothills Landscape Project Team will coordinate with both the Sumter National Forest and Nantahala National Forest to ensure that the guidelines in the Forest Plans are met. We will also look for opportunities for treatments that complement the on-going efforts in the watershed.

Chatworth Meeting Comments (11/1/2016)

1 month ago



Work to remove invasives while being mindful of impact on pollinators and other native species

Chatworth Meeting Comments (11/1/2016)

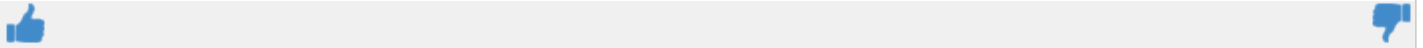
1 month ago



A focus on sustainable trails on existing and new trails

Chatworth Meeting Comments (11/1/2016)

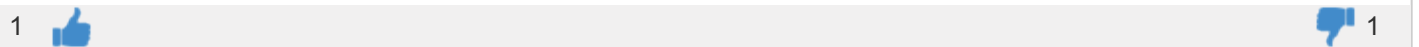
1 month ago



Hay and straw waste at the Cottonwood Patch Campground needs taken care of Perhaps dumpsters need to be brought in

Chatworth Meeting Comments (11/1/2016)

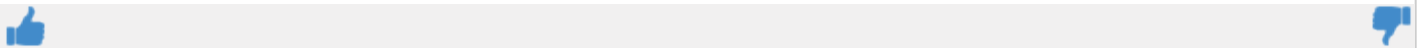
1 month ago



Consider reintroducing native predators like the cougar or red wolf to control hogs

Chatworth Meeting Comments (11/1/2016)

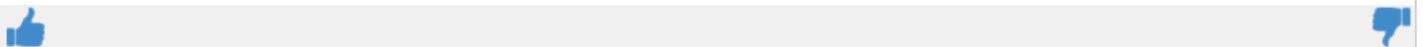
1 month ago



I love to hunt I don't want hunting restricted More timber harvest is need to improve wildlife habitat

Lisa

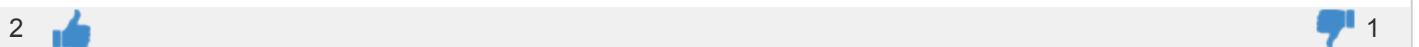
4 weeks ago



There is an area of the Gohuti Trail at Fort Mountain in Late JulyAugust that needs serious attention the 101 and 103 Thigh high stinging nettle Let's keep the existing trails well groomed so there is no need to do any kind of clear cutting for new areas of recreation

Jeff Adams

3 weeks, 1 day ago



The US Forest Service estimates that 124 million hectares 31 million acres of southern forest will be lost to development between 1992 and 2040 an area roughly equal to the size of North Carolina So why are we not protecting OUR publicly owned forests Especially forests that are close to the sprawling Atlanta metro where deforestation is happening at an alarming rate The Bull Jake trail system is a destination for outdoor enthusiasts from the Atlanta Metro and neighboring states Volunteers have spent countless hours working to make an enjoyable trail system for hikers bikers and horseback riders Please preserve this area for recreation Please stop timber sales in this area as I believe that it reduces the quality of this area for recreation

Forest service numbers on loss of trees <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/5029>

Response from Anonymous

Agreed! The very LAST thing we should be doing is logging our tiny patches of old and middle growth. We should be protecting them and letting them grow. Mother nature ensures clearings for wildlife through natural forest fire and the

37 of 82

browsing and damming actions of of herbivores and beavers, etc, so stop killing everything that moves and there will be more open areas and more wildlife. Protect our forests!

Terry Palmeri

3 weeks, 1 day ago

1 



Create more sustainable multi-use trail opportunities to disperse over-use on the Pinhoti Bear Creek Trails New trails should include beginnerfamily friendly trail

Response from Jeff Hunt

Totally agree. The Pinhoti system and Bear Creek are wonderful trails but are not well suited to beginner mountain bikers or young children.

Response from Steve Jackson

I agree . New trails could expand the outdoor experience for younger riders who are unable to ride the more difficult trails. It would also give the older mountain bikers an alternative to the more strenuous trails and still be able to enjoy the area.

Terry Palmeri

3 weeks, 1 day ago

3 



Create sustainable multi-use trail loop opportunities and connection with Fort Mountain with the Pinhoti between Hwy 52 and Dennis Mill Trailhead

Terry Palmeri

3 weeks ago

3 



Create a longer multi-use trail destination for intermediateexpert mountain bikers 25 miles

Kathy Keller

2 weeks 6 days ago

1 



The Willis Knob horse trail needs a cut-through trail down the middle with a connector to the horse camp It would provide more options for the horse rider on the trail

Linda Martin

2 weeks 6 days ago





This trail is too long for me to ride all the way around There needs to be some trails to shorten the ride

Betty Evenson

2 weeks 5 days ago

2 



Willis Knob is our favorite horse camp We've been camping there for about 25 years We camp there several times per

38 of 82

year We love the privacy of the camp and the proximity to the trails However it would be great if there were a cut through trail or two on the large trail system here so that it would be options for less lengthy rides Thank you in advance for your consideration

Response from Jimbo Waller

The trails are very nice trails but sometimes we do not have time to ride the full loop. During the winter months it would great if we had a cut thru trail. This would also come in handy if someone had to get back to their trailer for an emergency. I would help in anyway I can.

Jeanne Barsanti

2 weeks 5 days ago

1 


I rode the Willis Knob horse trails last weekend They are great trails I appreciate them and hope you can maintain them A trail to make 2 loops would be appreciated

marilyn vanne

2 weeks 5 days ago

1 


we need a connector horse trail to shorten the big loop trail for less conditioned horses and allow for more options Do you need help Email me and let me know

David Moore



2 weeks 4 days ago

2 


I live in nashville tn and come down 2 or 3 times yearly room mountain bike Love north Georgia

Anonymous

2 weeks 3 days ago

North Georgia is very fortunate to have such an extraordinary resource as the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest As the population of North Georgia and metro Atlanta expands more and more people are using the forest for recreation hunting fishing hiking camping biking birding and just enjoying nature I am sure that the Forest Service understands how important recreational use of the forest is to millions of people So why would you not want to adequately manage and police itWhile the vast majority of visitors to the forest are respectful of it and cause no problems a small minority are disrespectful and violate laws rules and regulations Problems encountered on the forest include everything from leaving trash on campsites dumping garbage mudbogging of roads poaching reckless shooting and illegal ATV activity to vandalism tearing down gates and automobile break-ins Serious crimes are best handled by armed law enforcement officers LEOs but there are now only five LEOs much fewer than in the past to police 866468 acres of forest There are also forest protection officers FPOs who according to the Forest Service Manual have the authority and responsibility to Observe and report in a timely manner violation of Federal laws and regulations to special agents or law enforcement officers And Attempt to gain voluntary compliance by informing and educating persons who appear to be in violation of rules and regulations Unfortunately the number of FPOs has declined precipitously in recent years and now there are only ten on the forestWe need more LEOs more FPOs and more presence of all Forest Service personnel on the forest

As recreation becomes an ever-greater part of the CONFs mission more interaction between Forest Service personnel and visitors to the forest is needed If violators realize that there is a significant chance of encountering Forest Service personnel there will be fewer violationsIn addition to personal interaction signage is important Rules and regulations should be posted at all campgrounds and also at heavily used dispersed sites and replaced as soon as possible after they have been torn down And road signs should be put up to indicate roads that may have been well maintained in the past but are now hardly passable in anything other than a high-clearance four-wheel-drive vehicle These road signs should be checked often and promptly replaced when they have been torn down Thank you for your collaboration

Response from Sue Harmon

I too believe that we need to have more law enforcement in our forest. Just their presence is a deterrent for illegal activity and provides for all forest users being safer. This forest is an urban forest. With recreational use increasing rapidly, we must have more officers patrolling, especially in areas of highest use.

Response from JW

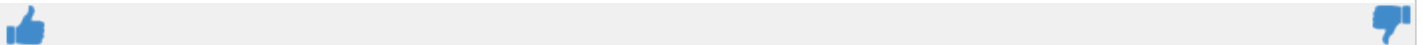
For reasons I do not understand, it may be difficult or impossible to add more LEOs. But there should be no obstacle to certifying more forest protection officers (FPOs).

Response from John Dyke, Educational Chairman, Cohutta Chapter. TU.

When weather and water levels permit, I and others fish N. Ga. at least once a week ! One thing I have noticed is the lack of respect some of the public have for out National and State Parks ! Garbage is left along the banks and around the parking areas ! Pieces of leader, bottles, cans bait containers, wrappers, etc. I would like to see a concerted public awareness program started with larger signs against littering, providing trash cans at most major locations with larger fines ! I know this would increase the Forest service costs , but perhaps some groups would agree to a Adapt-a - Site program ! We also have a lot of groups interested in saving the Parks, could not these groups if properly approached be used to spot treat the Hemlock Infected areas, near access areas ? Clean up major access trails, etc ?

Dayle Faulkner

2 weeks 2 days ago



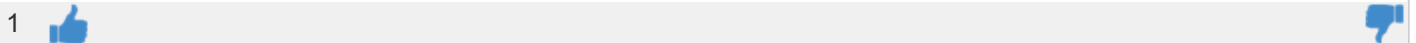
Willis Knob Horse Trail is one of the most beautiful trails in the southeastern United States Creating a cut through trail will make it easier for users that are unable to ride the whole 15 mile loop to enjoy the trail A looping trail system is preferred by many people

Response from Anonymous

The several hours it takes me to arrive at Willis Knob Horse Trails is worth the drive. trails are breath taking, such a stress reliever. It would be an added benefit to have a loop trail for short rides and for users that are not able to ride the entire trail.

Anonymous

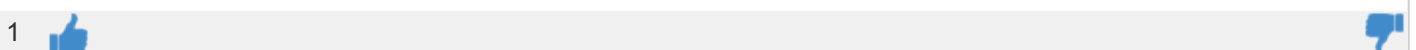
2 weeks 2 days ago



The horse trails at Wills Knob are without question the most scenic trails in Georgia Unfortunately as we are becoming senior citizens it becomes more difficult to enjoy this wilderness experience due to the length of the trail A cut through trail to access the camp sight would be greatly appreciated by US Old timers who want to continue using this recreational opportunity Thanks

Tina Maddox Owen

2 weeks 2 days ago



These trails are some of the finest in Georgia Willis Knob is a favorite destination for equestrians and it is unique in what it has to offer The connector trails proposed by BCHNEG would enhance the trails and offer riders who are unable to make the whole loop opportunities that do not exist today Not only would it allow those who wish to make a shorter loop but in case of an emergency it would allow a faster route back to base camp

Anonymous

2 weeks 2 days ago

1 



There has been in increase in trash at the Cottonwood Patch Campground Would like to see trash cans back

Anonymous

2 weeks 2 days ago



Holly Creek is trashed

Anonymous

2 weeks 2 days ago



Forest boundaries need to be marked more clearly

Anonymous

2 weeks 2 days ago



Dicks Creek is full of riffraff - I used to go camping there but will not go anymore

Response from Anonymous

Most of the time it is quite lovely and people respectful of the forest. Of course the occasional "squatter" comes along and leaves their trash. No place is perfect.

Anonymous

2 weeks 2 days ago

1 



Spend more money on canoe launches at highway crossings

Anonymous

2 weeks 2 days ago



Open Forest Service Roads 630B and 630D for all hunts

TJ K

2 weeks 2 days ago

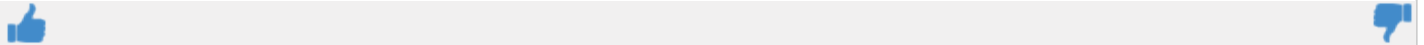
4 



A sustainable multi use trail from the Mountain Creek Trail to the Bear Creek Trail would be a great addition to the area
Allowing Mountain bikers to connect the two trails with out hiking their bikes across

Anonymous

2 weeks 2 days ago



install air quality monitors at the Appalachian Trail Port

TJ K

2 weeks 2 days ago

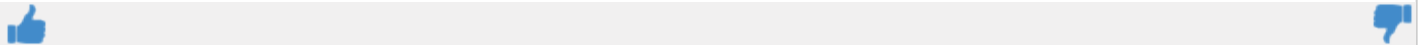
3



Adding more sustainable mountain bike trails in the Bear Creek Mountaintown Pinhoti corridor would bring economic growth to the area and drive eco tourism up as well as getting more people out into this beautiful forest to enjoy what nature has to offer

Anonymous

2 weeks 2 days ago



Old Hwy 2 - To Buggan fire tower -- keep public access open

Sue Harmon

2 weeks, 1 day ago

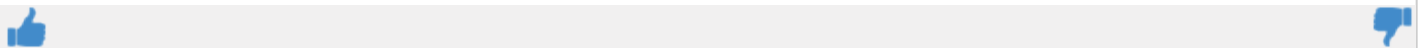
2



Continue to support the Co-Trails process and mission Maintain legal trails and campsite areas to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation of streams and invasion by non-native species Close user created trails that are sediment sources and which degrade water quality Right-size the trail system Focus limited resources on maintaining and improving existing trails particularly the most popular ones Keep the Foothills open to fishing and hunting

Kathryn Mattson

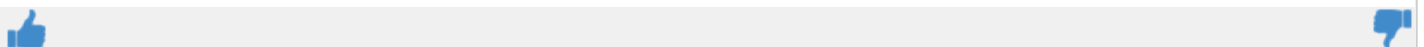
2 weeks ago



The gate at this point when closed makes for very limited parking and a greater distance to access trails There is a much more suitable parking area just a short distance further into the forest Could the gate be moved to allow year long access to the beautiful forest

Kathryn Mattson

2 weeks ago



Locals use this beautiful foothills area for daily hiking and occasional horseback riding Please do not make any changes it is perfect

Anonymous

2 weeks ago

A beautiful area for horseback riding and hiking No improvements needed

Anonymous
2 weeks ago

area used for hiking

John Ray
1 week 5 days ago

2

The Bartram Trail and Chattooga River Trail are in the Foothills area When laying out logging boundaries keep at least 300 ft from the trails Near Bynum Branch the logging along Willis Knob marred the Bartram Trail by making large orange paint markings on the trees along the trail cutting trees right up to the trail and leaving slash in the trail This detracts from the experience of hikers that go to the effort to explore the forest There are some logging operations planned between Warwaman Dell and Dicks Creek Falls please check that the trails are protected As another eample near Flat Top on the Bartram a Forest service crew cut a fire break perpendicular to the trail right through a series of switchbacks This was abandoned after it was pointed out but better education of the crews would eliminate both of these problems I hope this new landcape intiative does not weaken the oversite for logging the forest for example by weakening the NEPA process Thank you for protecting the Forest

Debbie crowe
1 week 3 days ago


1


Willis knob - There is a strong need for a trail to cut thru existing loop that will enable users to enjoy that trail system moreCurrently you ride out and back on same trails because the loop is too long and takes 6 hrs to rideHaving options for shorter rides will result in increased usageAnd less impact on the current trails close to the horse campIt is crucial though that any new routes be properly design as contour trails and that they be built following proven construction methodsNot by contractors who build roadsThank youThis has been a need for decadesOne more comment is to require Reserve America to permit a person to reserve the entire campground with one clickCurrently it takes two people working together to book the whole campground and we have to hope that no one else is booking at the same timeWe do not feel it is wise or safe to be there with people we don't knowSo we will not book it unless we can get all of the sitesToo far from town with no cell service

Diane Ayres Cochran
1 week 3 days ago

The availability of one or more shorter loops on this trail system will attract more usage Loops are much more appealing to trail riders and the current loop at Willis Knob is too long for many riders I have heard this same comment from many of my trail riding friends Although I don't camp at the Willis Knob horse camp because I live nearby I have heard from many friends that it needs some updating I also suggest a larger day use parking area Thank you for considering support for this trail system


Eric Nicoletti
1 week 2 days ago


- 1 



Please add pit toilets to the Jones Creek Camping area Expand Bull Mountain Trail system for all users
- Eric Nicoletti**


1 week 2 days ago


1 



Increase mountain biking access in the Clayton Area Beautiful country with no trails for bikes currently
- Eric Nicoletti**


1 week 2 days ago






Develop sustainable connection for Mountaintown Creek trail accessible to mountain bikes
- Scott Greer**


1 week 2 days ago


2 



There is a very nice flat area here at the base of P3 I would be nice to have this open for public parking Currently there is flat parking at the start of P2 and the landowners at the base of Bear are nice enough to allow us MTB'ers to park outside their driveway without much fuss or complaint This flat area at the base of P3 would provide another excellent option
- Scott Greer**


1 week 2 days ago


1 



PLEASE re-open Tibbs Even if for MTB and hiking use only This was one of the best sections of MTB riding in the state of GA until a few months ago when it was closed
- Anonymous**


1 week 2 days ago






I would like to see a dedicated downhill mountain bike trails
- Anonymous**


1 week 2 days ago






USFS should clarify and publicize policy on target practice which is now occurring on and adjacent to forest service roads Perhaps some designated gun ranges would be appropriate
- Anonymous**

1 week 2 days ago

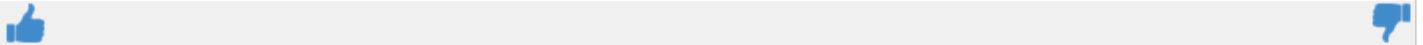




USFS should clarify and publicize policy on target practice which is now occurring on and adjacent to forest service roads Perhaps some designated gun ranges would be appropriate

D. Grindle

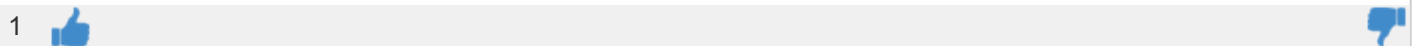
1 week 2 days ago



Stream Siltation is becoming a significant problem Water quality is in the national spotlight and the forest foothills contain many tributaries and/or headwaters of major rivers particularly the Etowah Chestatee Chattahoochee Tallulah and Conasauga Some major causes of siltation include Grading of forest service roads with run-off directed into streams Unauthorized vehicle use on closed roads and areas Horse and bike trail stream crossings with little or no remediation such as GEO Webbing The feral hog population is growing rapidly they are rooting up streamside areas and hogs are being illegally transplanted into new areas These plus other such issues should be addressed in the new plan as water quality cuts across the entire spectrum of the Forest Foothills considerations

Ted Doll

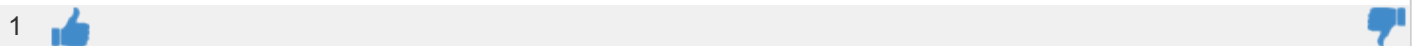
1 week 2 days ago



ORV and user-created trails that cause erosion and degrade stream quality should be closed Legal trails and campsites should be maintained in a way that minimizes erosion and introduction of non-native species

Russell Lundstrum

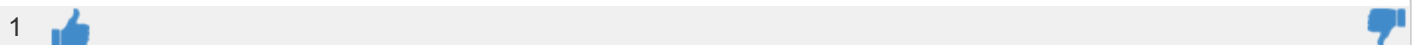
1 week 2 days ago



If the bike trail system can be built upon consider trying to connect nearby features instead of adding another loop or spur trail Build trails to connect to Amicalola Falls to the west I know it's a state park so inter-agency policies goals and practices will get in the way Maybe try to connect all the USFS dispersed use campgrounds by multi-use trails not just roads

Russell Lundstrum

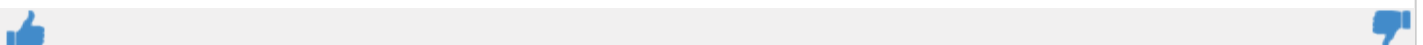
1 week 2 days ago



And build bike-friendly trails towards this area see comment straight north at the end of Bull Mtn Trail 223 There aren't many Destination features on bike rides here scenic overlooks water falls rock formations so having Cochran's Falls along a bike route would be awesome Kinda steep and rocky so it will be a challenge I have mixed feelings about it because the existing trails are run-down and not restoring themselves very well I would like to see bike trails here but bottom line is that the area needs faster restoration

Marty Palmour

1 week 2 days ago



YONAH Mountain Hiking Trail this trail is being degraded by hikers cutting through the trail to shorten their hike This leads to erosion and creation of multiple trails to the top Also bouldering creates the same issue with new trails being created which destroys habitats for plants such as Bloodroot and ferns The solution here would be clearly marking official trails Blocking additional use of unofficial trails with woody debris and signage would be successful Cloudland Canyon State Park has used this method successfully Knowing that Forest Services resources are limited the formation of an organization such as Friends of Yonah Mountain in association with the Forest Service could protect the flora

fauna and still have a well marked trail for hikers Friends would need to put up trail markers barriers and signs Members of local colleges Scout troopsthe Ranger Camp soldiers could be enlisted to help with the labor of this project

Jeff Hunt

1 week 2 days ago

2 



There is a short section of the Pinhoti that connects the Mountaintown Creek trail to Bear Creek It is currently closed to bikes but if allowed it would create a great opportunity for more routes through this great section of forest

Response from Daniel Jessee

I second this. The multi-use Pinhoti should not have a 1-mile "no riding" gap in it. Open the Mountaintown/Bear Creek connector to bikes.

Rex Mayne

1 week, 1 day ago





Ive been mountain biking the Bull MountainJake area trails for 20 years I recall a ride about 10 years ago where the trails felt empty and neglected and it seemed almost certain that the days of mountain biking that area were numbered I worried that some of the suburban trails of Atlanta had become too good too convenient and maybe even too easy compared to the challenging trails I loved At that time it seemed that the equestrianmountain biker relationship was at best one of tolerance Im not sure how but somehow that changed and the accomplishments of those two groups - working closely together - are amazing Bull and Jake are back and worth the drive Stan Debbie Kathleen Neil Neal Emil and many others that I dont know Thank you! think the fact that two groups can come together and do a great job creating maintaining and sharing trails should serve as proof that there are many recreational opportunities in these areas Its the best antidote to all the us versus them poison thats threatening trails out West and other areasBuild more trails that invite more riders while being careful not to build so much that the resources to maintain trails are hard to findThanks for listening

Rex Mayne

1 week, 1 day ago





Ive been mountain biking the Bull MountainJake area trails for 20 years I recall a ride about 10 years ago where the trails felt empty and neglected and it seemed almost certain that the days of mountain biking that area were numbered I worried that some of the suburban trails of Atlanta had become too good too convenient and maybe even too easy compared to the challenging trails I loved At that time it seemed that the equestrianmountain biker relationship was at best one of tolerance Im not sure how but somehow that changed and the accomplishments of those two groups - working closely together - are amazing Bull and Jake are back and worth the drive Stan Debbie Kathleen Neil Neal Emil and many others that I dont know Thank you! think the fact that two groups can come together and do a great job creating maintaining and sharing trails should serve as proof that there are many recreational opportunities in these areas Its the best antidote to all the us versus them poison thats threatening trails out West and other areasBuild more trails that invite more riders while being careful not to build so much that the resources to maintain trails are hard to findThanks for listening

TU Rabun Chapter

1 week, 1 day ago





Insure 'controlled ' public access and only appropriate recreation use of each site All proposed site modification plans

should follow very detail land vulnerabilty anaylses to insure sustainable activities while honoring the lands and waters Consider infrastructure linkage between different recreationinterpretive activities as in recreation corridor designation Continue to support the creation of recreation venuesfacilities for the disadvantaged or special needs physical and emotional public Note recently constructed Tallulah River HC fishing deck and site Remain open and interested in new recreation activities that may be appropriate on USFS lands in the future

Stephen Lush

1 week, 1 day ago

3 



Since this is the only off road cycling trail in this area expanding the network of trails or perhaps exploring areas near Clayton for off road cycling would seem to bring more people to this particular area of the district I particularly enjoy the backcountry feel of these two trails and would love to see sustainable trail built here that honors that feel

Response from Daniel Jessee

This! But also find ways to connect the trails to town!

Response from Daniel Jessee

This! But also find ways to connect the trails to town!

Response from Daniel Jessee

This! But also find ways to connect the trails to town!

Response from Daniel Jessee

This! But also find ways to connect the trails to town!

Stephen Lush

1 week, 1 day ago



Creating a multi use trail from the top Northeastern corner of this area to the Stonewall FallsWhite Twister trail system would be very inviting to a number of off road cyclists among others for an experience along the lines of the Continental Divide Trail or Colorado Trail which is lacking in the Southeast Georgia could pioneer a trail system that is linked throughout the entire region

Stephen Lush

1 week, 1 day ago



Great job with Bear Creek and the Pinhoti drawing off road cyclists into this area of the forest

Diana Kelsey

1 week ago



What magnificent trails and scenery here I have been riding the Willis KnobRocky Gap trails since 1989 A connector trail or two on the Willis Knob trail would be very beneficial for 2 reasons The entire loop is between 4-6 hour ride Too long and strenuous for 50 of ridersorses that typically trail ride If an accident occurs the distance back to civilization is life threatening A lack of cell service in this area makes it impossible to get help This is my favorite place to ride I am so glad that you are considering our thoughts on how to make this a safe and enjoyable trail

James

1 week ago



There are no soils in any Chattahoochee NF landscape that can sustainably support ATVORV trails They will constantly be requiring expensive maintenance to prevent damage to watersheds More likely that maintenance will not happen or will happen too late

Brett Davidson

1 week ago



Develop a 30-60 mile progressive mountain bike trail system in and around Stonewall FallsWhite Twister Area Rabun County is an outdoor recreation destination for many other sports such as hiking horseback riding fishing and paddling but mountain bikers have been underserved in the area There should be a maintenance and design assessment done on the existing trails at Stonewall and a new design proposal for a destination level trail system incorporating a larger area I grew up just over the ridge on Lake Rabun- Worley Ridge and Joe Mountain have long been inaccessible for sustainable recreation and trail access but this area looks to be ideal for a destination trail development of regional importance A new system could capitalize on the outdoor recreation and tourism that is already happening in Rabun County by capturing a user group who are currently passing through mountain bikers on there way to Tsali and Pisgah in North Carolina to ride Rabun County has an existing community of mountain bikers with few legal places to ride and they would happily engage in the design construction and maintenance of the system through the local IMBA SORBA Chapter Northeast Georgia SORBA

Brett Davidson

1 week ago



Close Road on the top and Eastern Side side of the Bear Creek Loop and create a sustainable bike optimized road to trail conversion If road closure is not an option develop new single track trail below or above the road to create a better design and user experience Most users are riding the Western side of Bear Creek because it is a better trail experience if the Eastern side of the loop was an actual trail or a bike optimized experience more people would use the Eastern side thus dispersing the traffic resulting in less maintenance and a better user experience Work with the local IMBA SORBA Ellijay Mountain Bike Association to develop a design proposal and to help provide funding through grant writing opportunities

Brett Davidson

1 week ago



Develop a Bear Creek connector single track trail for bikes from the DNR Check Station to the Bear Creek Parking Lot using existing old road beds to decrease bicycle traffic on the FS 68 climb up Potato Patch This would create a better experience for all users

Brett Davidson

1 week ago



Develop a sustainable single track connector trail from the Bear Creek to the Lake Conasauga Recreation Area and the Windy Gap Trails Partner with local IMBA SORBA Chapter Ellijay Mountain Bike Association for trail development and funding

Response from Brett Davidson

Correction-From the Bear Creek Trail head parking lot to Lake Conasauga Recreation Area and Windy Gap

Brett Davidson

1 week ago



Develop intermediate and advanced sustainable mountain bike trails and a loop system off Windy Gap Trail to Muskrat Creek and Cohort Branch Develop a trail head and parking lot off Muskrat Creek Road FS 218 Increasing Mountain Bike Trail Development on the South and eastern facing slope of the Cohuttas could make this area a National Destination for Mountain Bikers seeking the fair weather the beauty and the trail experience of the Southern Appalachians Partner with local IMBA SORBA Chapter the Ellijay Mountain Bike Association to assist with trail design funding and maintenance

Brett Davidson

1 week ago



Designate the Trans North Georgia as a long haul Bikepacking Route across the CONF and North Georgia This would be in line with such National Scenic Trails like the Colorado and Arizona Trails and Adventure Cycling Association Routes like the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route The Trans North Georgia is a nationally recognized bikepacking route and the route could be marked by trail markers on FS roads and the experience expanded by additional single track Partner with IMBA SORBA Atlanta on development of trail corridor single track and designation of this bikepacking route

<http://www.bikepacking.com/routes/trans-north-georgia-tnga/>

Brett Davidson

1 week ago



Develop a 250 route around the Cohuttas and Blue Ridge as a long haul Bikepacking Loop across the CONF into Tennessee and North Georgia This would be in line with such National Scenic Trails like the Colorado and Arizona Trails and Adventure Cycling Association Routes like the Allegheny Mountains Loop 400 and the Idaho Hot Springs Route The route could be marked by trail markers on FS roads and on single track Partner with IMBA SORBA Atlanta on development of trail corridor single track and designation of this bikepacking route Backpacking is a great form of Outdoor Recreation and Bicycle Tourism on mixed surfaces and has a great potential for economic benefit of rural communities

<https://www.adventurecycling.org/routes-and-maps/adventure-cycling-route-network/idaho-hot-springs-mountain-bike-route/>

Response from Anonymous

Correction : Bikepacking is a great form.....

Terri H.

6 days 22 hours ago



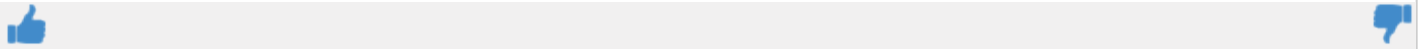
I agree these trails are so much fun and bring people from all over the place to enjoy the mountains Mountain bikers

49 of 82

care about the forests and they also bring a lot of money to towns Towns like Moab UT Crested Butte Co Coldwater AI and Brevard NC to name a few are thriving due to bicycle tourism On a recent visit to Crested Butte the local mountain bike president who was working at the tourism office stated that mountain biking is year round and now generates more money than skiing Tsali NC has made great use of their forest and have a nice but simple campground next to their trails that is always full of folks camping and riding bikes They generate a lot of income off the campground and the trails Our amazing trails in Dahlenega are used by hikers dog walkers horses trail runners Please keep our beautiful forests and add more trail so people can get out and enjoy nature This seems like the best use for our forest Leave timber production for private lands

Greg

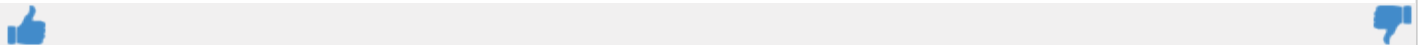
6 days 22 hours ago



I visit the Bull Jake trails on a regular basis This is one of the best places in Georgia to get a true mountain biking experience Expanding the trail system and preserving this area for recreation makes sense to me since this is about the closest NF to Atlanta metro DO NOT harvest timber in this area Preserve it for recreation

Robert C.

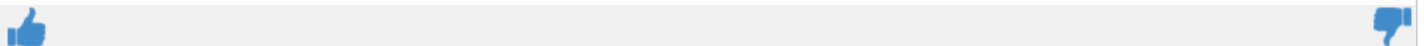
6 days 18 hours ago



It would be really cool to expand the MTB trail into more of the available land in this recreational Park There plenty of room and funding could be a mix of State Federal and donations Plus Sorba organization can do a lot to rally volunteer labor This could be one more feature in the cap for Dahlenega economy to make this area a week-weekend destination for MTB Equestrians and Trout Fishing enthusiast Access to the forest is a good thing especially with todays responsible trail building techniques This area could easily sustain 100 miles of MTB Trails that could be uninterrupted single and double track The would make this place a very sought after destination Adding quality trail facilities parking and access at a few locations is key There is no reason this area couldn't be another Brevard NC only better

Franklin Paine

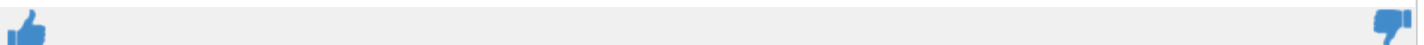
6 days 14 hours ago



I visit this area at least once a week and find it to be a fantastic place to ride bicycles hike and ride ride horses There is tremendous opportunity to make the area even more of a destination than it already is by expanding this system There are plenty of examples of other areas that have utilized similar resources such as this to grow the surrounding economy and expand trail networks to protect land from development and provide unsurpassed opportunities to those individuals who want to experience the woods as they were intended Being a bike shop manager cyclist and avid hikerbackpacker I know that areas to convene with nature are priceless and I see more and more individuals pursuing these areas There is tremendous value in expanding this area for outdoor recreation and it would be a shame to see this opportunity pass

Anonymous

6 days 13 hours ago

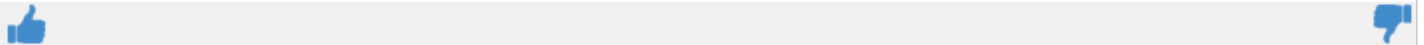


The trail from Weaver Creek Road through to 515 should be open to bikes There is precedent for the BMT to be multi-use because of the overlap with Stanley Gap This section is not frequently used by hikers but is an old road bed and would be great for bikers so they can cut through the mountains to the gravel roads and more access on the west side of 515

Anonymous

6 days 13 hours ago

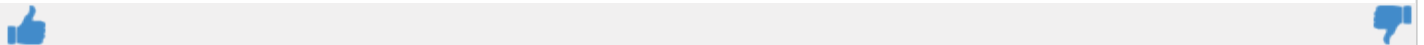
50 of 82



It is a disgrace what the USFS allowed to happen to the Green Mountain and Flat Creek loops I know SORBA came in and educated the USFS but the trails are still a fraction of the enjoyment they once were The Green Mountain Trail needed NO improvement at all and yet you wasted money to make it worse and then fixed it and it's still worse Consult with mountain biking or any user group before deciding a trail needs any work

Anonymous

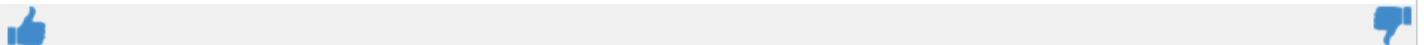
6 days 13 hours ago



Add a bike trail to the Hike Inn even it's only open in the off season or during weekdays We need more bike-friendly backcountry huts andor lodges

Daniel

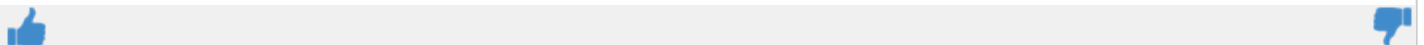
6 days 13 hours ago



Hickory Nut Ridge needs to be re-opened as a mountain bikehiking trail This old trail is one of if not the best descent in Georgia I know it was closed to prevent 4-wheelers but let's engineer the entrance so that cant happen We cant just keep closing trails so we can keep others open We have to open the RIGHT trails and close the WRONG trails Hickory Nut is something I would volunteer to support maintain and steward It would add a major recreation attraction to Helen - a place that has lots of road cycling but doesnt capitalize on the mountain biking it could have Hickory Nut should be an official trail

Daniel

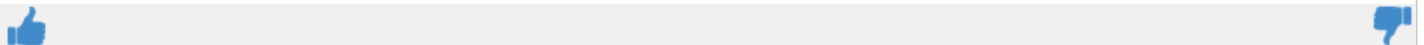
6 days 13 hours ago



Additionally Hickory Nut should become part of a nationally designated bikepacking route Trans North Georgia People come from all over the country to ride this route and it should be an official scenic route just like the BMT Colorado Trail or Maah Dah Hey Trail

Anonymous

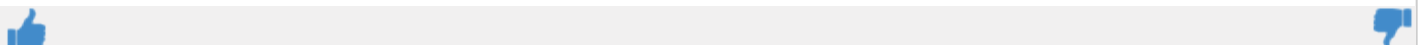
6 days 12 hours ago



Acquire the semi-abandoned railroad track from Ellijay to Blue Ridge and make it a packed-gravel bike trail

Justin Ravan

1 month 3 weeks ago



I would like to see the gates on the chestetee wma stay open after the last big game hunt if im correct its from Dec15 - 18 2016 The reason why i think they should be open is because the last small game hunt on the chestetee wma goes from Dec19 2016 - Feb28 2017 thats 41 nights that a legal hunter has paid to hunt and to have access to the wma Keeping the gates open during the small game season will create more land to coon hunt away from the busy highways and from the land and home owner that don't understand why my dog is barking behind his house

Response from Anonymous

Not to mention limiting access to those of us with elderly loved ones. Whats the point of locking the gates after deer hunts? To protect an almost non existent deer herd? Come on DNR,,,,,think!

Powered by [PlaceVision Community Remarks](#) ©2011-2016. All Rights Reserved.

Please stay on topic. Comments will not be posted if they are flagrant or contain offensive language.

Select Language

Powered by [Google Translate](#)



Caring for Unique Habitats

Wild Mountain Girl Herbal School

1 month 3 weeks ago

1 



As one who conducts native and medicinal plant walks I have seen so many valuable and often endangered plants in our forests We live in Dahlonega and I feel many of these plants and trees habitats need to be protected as well as the public needs to know which plants are endangered or are a rare and special species such as the lady slipper

<http://natureable.vpweb.com>

Marie dunkle

1 month 2 weeks ago

1 



Signage in stonewall trails could be improvedI want to know when fire is planned in the Stonewall area as I live nearby

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago



Native canebrake ecosystem restoration

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago

1 



Plant more native pollinators to help bee and butterfly populations

Response from Kevin

I agree. This Foothill is already highly disturbed with many trail system running through often similar habitats. Why not create several 5-10 acre native grass and pollinator plots along these trail systems to add diversity, increase the chance to view wildlife and encourage more bee's!

Response from GA Taxpayer

I think this is a good idea, too. Especially in already disturbed, damaged areas.

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago



Help preserve the dwindling Mt Camellia populations along the Chattooga River

GA Taxpayer

1 month ago

4 



Continue with and extend treatment of the hemlock adelgid problem aside from being an impressive tree hemlocks are an important part of the appalachian ecosystem they provide shade all year especially important for trout streams since if these heat up fish populations and fishing suffer Also we should cooperate with the American Chesnut Foundation to plant blight resistant chesnut trees these were probably the single most important hard mast resource for wildlife before they were wiped out and their reintroduction would greatly benefit wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities Save our hemlocks bring back our chesnuts

<http://www.acf.org/>

More Wilderness

1 month ago

2 



I think the areas around Coopers Creek Scenic Area and WMA as well as Blue Ridge WMA and areas southwest of Highway 60 should be considered for Federal Wilderness designation Also the Mountaintown Roadless Area Southeast of Cohutta Wilderness should be added to Cohutta and Ellicott Wilderness should be extended west in Rabun

County We need more Federal Wilderness to protect the precious little old growth and undeveloped national forest land we have as suburban sprawl creeps steadily northward

More Wilderness

1 month ago

1 



I think the areas around Coopers Creek Scenic Area and WMA as well as Blue Ridge WMA and areas southwest of Highway 60 should be considered for Federal Wilderness designation Also the Mountaintown Roadless Area Southeast of Cohutta Wilderness should be added to Cohutta and Ellicott Wilderness should be extended west in Rabun

County We need more Federal Wilderness to protect the precious little old growth and undeveloped national forest land we have as suburban sprawl creeps steadily northward

Response from Dietrich



I have an older booklet from the Wilderness Society. It addresses the unprotected Wildlands of the Chattahoochee Nat. Forest. There are many described zones that fall within the foothills designation. We should heed the advice and attempt the following. Isolate these acreages with gates and tie them with - best riparian - corridors to other wild or designated wilderness. That would repeat what ocean protected zones do, i.e. benefit adjacent areas from the spill-over. In the spill-over zones hunting and recreational usage can further foster the awareness of those wilderness spots. Overall, I wonder why we cannot actively, like with replanting and landscaping, create new or restored environments for rare plants and fauna. It is not that difficult and lots of volunteer organizations would certainly follow a prescribed plan and leadership. If anyone cannot find the above referenced booklet I'd be happy to hand it over to that person or entity to make good use of it.

Anonymous

1 month ago

2

54 of 82


Hale Ridge Bog needs substantial hydrologic restoration in order to support re-introduction of the Bog Turtle Please incorporate this into the largerproject


Response from Mincy Moffett - Ga DNR

Agreed

Susan Caster

3 weeks 5 days ago


1 




I live in on the south end of this watershed Please keep it clean and protected We are fortunate that there are still pine snakes bog turtles and rare plants in this area Support partnerships including with private land owners to protect rare species

Jess

2 weeks 2 days ago


3 




Are there any opportunities for reintroducing beavers on Foothills streams When beavers abandon their ponds it often creates open habitat that takes far longer to fill in than does a cut over forest Beavers also create open habitats in areas where logging isnt really an option because of water quality concerns They are now on only a fraction of the streams they used to occupy and their openings had a huge impact They couldnt be reintroduced just anywhere but it seems like there should be opportunities somewhere on 143000 acres

Russell Lundstrum

1 week 2 days ago







This is a picturesque area on private land I think Are they interested in selling can USFS acquire

Patrick Hunter

1 week, 1 day ago


2 




Unfragmented areas provide important corridors for wildlife to travel for species to migrate in response to a changing climate and opportunities for solitude and escape Let's avoid mechanical treatments with noticeable impacts in the largely unfragmented Grassy Mountain Emery Creek and Chattooga River corridor areas

TU Rabun Chapter

1 week, 1 day ago





Continue to identify protect unique and critical habitats and/or whole ecosystems All species should be investigated Consider physical site buffer zones to assist the on-going care Monitor habitats routinely

Response from Dennis Stansell

Agree with TU. About 2 years ago TU sponsored Climate Change Science and its affects predicted to occur. One was increased extreme drought and another was extreme rain events. I since found that the National Academies of Science

has published a great deal of research about its affects on ecosystems. But the USFS in our area has not included this best science in any discussion or planning in a meaningful way. The NAS is nonpartisan and this troubles me greatly that the USFS is not following its own regulations regarding use of best science available on what is called the biggest threat to the natural world. Hard science is absent rendering any plans by the USFS irrelevant legally and morally.

Response from Dennis Stansell

Agree with TU. About 2 years ago TU sponsored Climate Change Science and its affects predicted to occur. One was increased extreme drought and another was extreme rain events. I since found that the National Academies of Science has published a great deal of research about its affects on ecosystems. But the USFS in our area has not included this best science in any discussion or planning in a meaningful way. The NAS is nonpartisan and this troubles me greatly that the USFS is not following its own regulations regarding use of best science available on what is called the biggest threat to the natural world. Hard science is absent rendering any plans by the USFS irrelevant legally and morally.

Alex Lamle

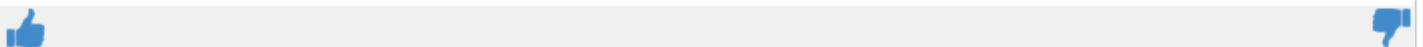
1 week ago



Protection of critical inholdings and edgeholdings is a key component to long-term management in the foothills

Alex Lamle

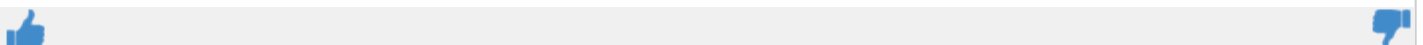
1 week ago



It is also our hope to continue partnering through stewardship agreements modeled on the current Sumac Creek Agreement between the Conservancy and the Forest Service By expanding these stewardship contracts in priority watersheds such as Holly Creek we expect to see greater restoration and management efforts throughout the forest thus providing more key habitat for imperiled species Incorporation of fire management in stewardship contracts in combination with thinning to restore woodland structure is important because it significantly increases plant and animal biodiversity where the two are used in concert In areas at or close to a healthy woodland structure fire alone may be used to promote diversity and restore habitat

James

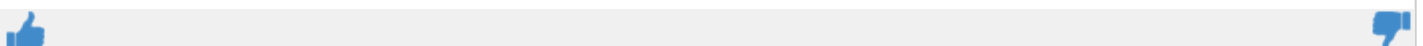
1 week ago



The implementation of the 9F prescription has fail to date The are 40 rare ecological communities that should have been searched for and mapped on the Chattahoochee NF These sites should have been monitored for health and defended from encroachment of invasive species sediment and human disturbance I know there have been some real success stories with rare community restoration but overall implementation of the 9F prescription has not happened We can do better

Comments received via email from Monte Seehorn on 12/2

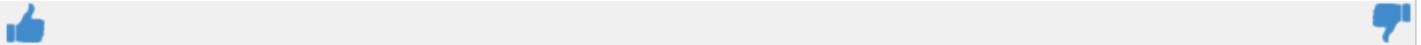
57 mins 40 secs ago



The Appalachians, for the most part, are a hardwood forest, and should be managed as such, with pine trees dominant on some drier sites such as ridgetops and south and western slopes. Rotational burning at relatively short intervals is implemented to control understory hardwood vegetation, and should be limited to minor acreage in the Appalachians. Currently, the Chattahoochee NF is planning to include far too much acreage in a rotational burning program. The claim that the Forest Service has made that they are favoring or bringing back oak through rotational burning is nonsense.

James Little

1 month, 1 week ago



I would like for improvements to be made for hunting ruffed grouse Selective logging and controlled burnings in specific areas would help promote the grouse in Georgia There are few bird hunting opportunities in N Ga especially when you have a bird dog and enjoy spending time in the woods

Response from Dena

I would like to see the forest service work with local environmental groups such as Georgia Forest Watch and Chattahoochee River Keeper to develop plans to protect our rivers, forests and wildlife. The Forest Service is more limited in their ability to perform extensive studies due to staffing etc. These regional specialty groups have done the studies and know the areas and needs very well. This will help to prevent old growth forest degradation. When a restoration project is planned, not destroying old growth forests is crucial. Protecting stream buffers is also crucial. When restoration projects are planned, it is very important to know the wildlife in the area so as to minimize harm to their living spaces. Please work with others to share knowledge and expertise. Thank you.

Response from Anonymous

Agree with Dena on this, good point.

Response from Anonymous

Agree with Dena on this, good point.

Response from Lindsey Mann

In general, I would like to see more forest preserved and protected in perpetuity. Healthy forest ecosystems do so much more for us than we can tally. Passive activity, such as hiking, fishing, responsible camping is a good use of public land. I hike and appreciate the Chattooga River corridor tremendously. The wild and scenic designation not to develop along the river has led to spectacular natural areas that are highly valuable for light use. Activities such as ATVs that tear the landscape up should be restricted more. I have a background in Ecology and have noticed the timber management program with the USFS is more of a clear-cut and get out strategy. I'd like to see some innovative, more sustainable timber strategies, like selective harvesting. Clear-cutting by the USFS is not acceptable.

Response from Susan

We have done so much to destroy what wildlands there are, including the bits of re-grown forests that used to exist in the greater Atlanta area. When the decision was made to start clear-cutting around areas like Alpharetta, Roswell, and Cobb County to make large parking lots with strip malls, and homes around those "commercial" areas in the 80's and 90's, many bad things happened. People moved into these homes and suddenly had two-hour long commutes that have gotten worse. Air pollution has increased with resulting increases in childhood asthma. And people are becoming more disconnected from the natural beauty of the earth around them as they try to wait at the stop light for a trip to Target after going to Bed Bath and Beyond to buy items that are themselves made from resources we are running out of. All this leads to my comment: that these natural lands, these ecosystems for migrating bird populations (facing a 75%+ decline in their numbers in the past 50 years) to populations of rabbits and coyotes and bear and ruffed grouse and deer that are healthy and genetically diverse, call for preservation of wild lands. This exact area of the Foothills Landscape is unique. It does not come back. These recent wildfires are an indication that we have tampered with too much destruction of woods and wild areas, and preserving what is left is the only way our stewardship of this portion of our planet can work. And hey - can we bring the red wolf back into this area? To maintain the healthy populations of rabbits and deer and the rest?

Response from GA Taxpayer

+1 for considering reintroduction of the Red Wolf, and add the Mountain Lion to that. North Georgia has no native large carnivores anymore, and a healthy ecosystem needs these.

Response from Sam Booher

I am concerned about the disappearance of large forest trees. I feel sure the recent forest fires and drought have not helped the situation. I would ask the Forest Service to do all it can to protect the few places left where the older trees still exist. I am also concerned about having nesting areas for migratory birds when they arrive and nest in North Georgia. This world is going to be a very lonely place if we lose all of our Forest Wildlife. I look to the Forest Service as the last guard to save our wildlife. My last comment is that an effort needs to be made to reduce the number of forest roads. Forest roads allow invasive species to include poachers into the forests. These excess roads are supporting storm water run-off going into forest streams. The excess need to be closed and every effort be made to not allow new road construction. As a result of the recent Forest Fires I would like to see the Forest Service stop giving away our National Forests to the Timber Industry.

Powered by [PlaceVision Community Remarks](#) ©2011-2016. All Rights Reserved.

Please stay on topic. Comments will not be posted if they are flagrant or contain offensive language.

Select Language

Powered by [Google Translate](#)



Protecting Communities from Wildfire

Anonymous

2 months 2 weeks ago



I live near this area and want some fuels reduction here

Alex

2 months 2 weeks ago

3

1

I live here too I don't want fire here

Response from Smokey Bear

How about control fire or fuel reduction?

Response from Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests (jt)

Please visit our website to learn more about our Prescribed Fire program and how we work with partners to protect communities from wildfire at [this link](#). You can also give us a call if you have specific concerns or want to know more about this program at 770-297-3000.

Gary Farmer

1 month ago

2



I would like to see the construction of at least 2 more lakes with primitive campingboatingfishing Primariary used as a water source for firefighting

Murray County taxpaying citizen

1 month ago



It's getting too smoky with the smoke wind drift and you can't even see Grassy Mountain The smoke wind drift is affecting some of the elderly residents who have lung problems and asthma problems Just telling people to go to their doctor doesn't get it Put the fire out now before it gets out of control with high winds then you will have a problem Who is the person making these decisions to keep the fire burning Firebug

Response from Anonymous

When u have a wilderness area that is suppose to go to its natural state u get decades of duff layer built up. Put a cardboard box over a charcoal grill fire. Now dump a jug of water on top of the box. Did the fire go out?

Ted Doll

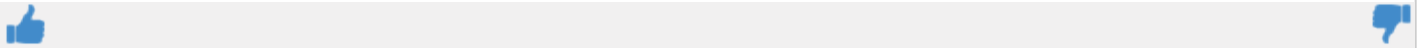
1 week 2 days ago



Prescribed burning should be used only in stands that naturally have a short fire interval such as dry ridge tops And when fire is used it should be done so as to leave a patchwork of unburned lightly burned and more heavily burned areas to encourage diversity of plant and wildlife

TU Rabun Chapter

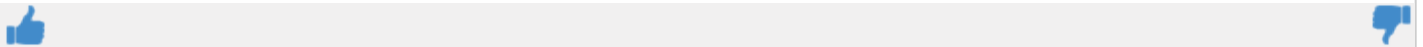
1 week, 1 day ago



Keep up the good work and repair any collateral damages to the site as needed

Alex Lamle

1 week ago



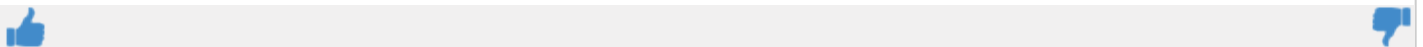
We at TNC recommend that fire be used on a broad scale especially in areas where aspect and remnant plant communities point to pyric woodlands as restoration targets Fire should be applied to as many appropriate areas as possible and it should be returned on relatively short rotations to promote woodland structure The Foothills Landscape likely had shorter fire-return intervals than most montane systems and could provide models for other Piedmont lands and high-resilience matrix forests protecting many species if fire is used to greatest effect In addition to fire being easier to justify in this landscape it could also be considered less difficult logistically due to lower elevations than the montane landscape and more accessibility

Response from Jess

Agree with everything except the relatively short rotations

Alex Lamle

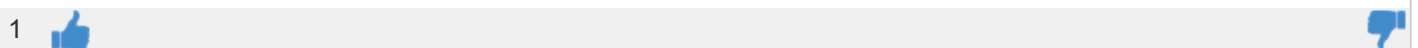
1 week ago



We encourage the use of judiciously applied timber harvests to reduce basal areas to woodland structures where appropriate 30-60 canopy cover and to reduce presence of invading wetland hardwoods on upland slopes eg red maple tulip poplar water oak Where appropriate woodland pines and oaks are already present areas can relatively easily be converted to open habitats receptive to fire Harvests can also be useful in removing loblolly pine plantations or other off-site species Other plant community restoration activities could include planting shortleaf pines and appropriate hardwoods if absent and removing non-native invasive species

Alex Lamle

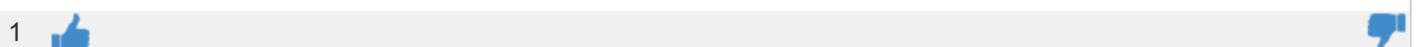
1 week ago



Road maintenance is another key area to highlight for this project Sedimentation from unpaved roads can greatly impact water quality and quantity and erosion of forest roads can have significant impacts on the surrounding waters We recommend that the Forest Service consider closing roads when possible and apply appropriate sediment-management BMPs to roads that must remain open as these actions would benefit aquatic species and protect water quality

Alex Lamle

1 week ago



Another priority should be enhancing aquatic connectivity focusing specifically on the replacement of under-sized

culverts and removal of unneeded impoundments Aquatic habitat fragmentation occurs throughout the forest resulting in reduced access to critical spawning areas and refugia during times of stress exacerbating the impact of climate change By identifying these barriers and assessing their potential for replacement or removal key habitat would be reconnected for a significant number of sensitive species This work is a high priority for the Conservancy as a leading partner in the Georgia Aquatic Connectivity Team and we extend an open offer to provide assistance with identifying barriers for replacement or removal and resources to ensure successful project implementation

Alex Lamle

1 week ago

1 



We recommend that heavily used recreational areas be given more attention in terms of maintenance These recreation areas are important resources for local communities and visitors from metro Atlanta however the trash problem in particular has become a serious issue The Holly Creek recreational use area is a key example of misuse that occurs in the National Forest with 540 pounds of trash picked up in a single day at this site overseen by the Conservancy during this years 22nd annual Conasauga Watershed Clean-up While we recognize that limited capacity makes additional management in these areas a challenge we recommend that the Forest Service explore alternative models such as Friends groups where volunteers can be tapped to improve management approaches in these heavily used areas

Powered by [PlaceVision Community Remarks](#) ©2011-2016. All Rights Reserved.

Please stay on topic. Comments will not be posted if they are flagrant or contain offensive language.

Select Language

Powered by [Google Translate](#)

Managing Healthy Forests, Fish and Wildlife Habitats

Shawn Lee

2 months ago

3 

Im glad to see forest service is finally looking into ideas to improve this area Quality hunting in this area ended 10 years ago It was not hunters over-harvesting the deer either Most hunters will hunt these woods for days and days never seeing a deer I remember 10 years ago seeing 50 deer in a season For whatever reason the deer populations crashed and I would love to see steps taken to bring them back both as a hunter and a nature lover Feral hogs and other invasive species like coyotes need to be controlled better or the deer populations will never bounce back to what they were years ago Hunters were responsible for the amazing come back of the whitetail deer in the mountains after market hunters nearly wiped them out I hope the USFS continues to work with hunters to bring the deer back to healthy levels again Timber management is an important part of improving wildlife habitat Controlled burning alone just isnt cutting it We also now have to deal with armadillos in this area which will likely finish off rare ground nesting birds that used to thrive here like the ruffed grouse I believe environmentalist have good intentions at heart but when considering management of the land and wildlife I hope the forest service listens to science and not feelings when making their decisions

Response from Anonymous

Loaded comment right there! Key was at the very end. I too hope that the Forest Service will listen to the Science that is taught in our Universities across this nation, and not only to the emotions of those, including myself, that enjoy our National Forests. I willingly admit that I do not know the ins and outs of forest sciences nor wildlife management. Neither do any other people groups that will have input in this public response. However, those employed by the US Forest Service and our State's DNR do understand the science here. That is why they are in this position. I trust that their judgment will be sound in managing each and every aspect of the multiple uses for Forest Service lands in North Georgia.

Response from Anonymous

The science has been proven already. Forest management is beneficial to wildlife. It may not look pretty to some seeing areas logged but that is looking at it through their eyes. Through the animals eyes that live in the woods, a logging operation is the best thing they will ever see. It provides food, nesting habitats and areas to flee predators like coyotes, bears and hunters too. Before man, these areas were in constant change due to Mother Nature. Wildfire was constantly burning these forests, killing trees and creating the food and habitat the animals needed. In the last decade or two, man has done nothing but prevent the forest from changing as it should. All for the sake of a "prettier" landscape for people to enjoy. The science HAS been proven already and hunters seem to be the only ones speaking up for science and not beauty.

Response from Anonymous

I was a young boy and heard a strange noise in the woods behind our home. I ran to my father and told him someone was trying to start a motorcycle or something back there. He laughed and went with me to woods. Suddenly I heard this sound again and I said there it is dad. He laughed again and said that's a grouse drumming. Why don't you see if you can get close enough to see it. I chased that grouse around the woods for probably an hour only seeing it a couple of times as it flushed from cover. What a fond memory from my childhood. My dad took me bird hunting when I was older and we had a really good time watching the dog work and occasionally getting to feast on a fresh quail or grouse we had taken. I'm 43 now and my 3 sons have been privileged to hunt deer, Turkey and small game with me but they have never heard a grouse drum. We have spent 2 or 3 years traipsing around the mountains in search of wild trout and have been blessed to find all 3 trout species! They were photographed, released and some fried. (delicious). We have followed a long eared bluetick hound through these North Georgia mountains listening for that long locate bawl and hoping for 2 bright yellow eyes in the top of a white oak. What fun memories we have made outdoors in our national forest! Let's let the USFS do what they do best and make our forests thrive with wildlife, whether we chase them with hounds, watch them with binoculars, listen to a powerful gobble or fry them in a cast iron skillet, the memories of these experiences are a true blessing from God and they form the character of our sons and daughters. Let's support our USFS and maybe our grandchildren can enjoy the mountains as I have and maybe my boys will hear a grouse drum this spring while we're chasing Longbeards.

Anonymous

2 months ago

3 

Management of the forest and habitat is the number one thing hurting the population of wildlife or should I say the lack of management Please make a change and let's become proactive to help rebuild the habitat in these areas Habitat is the future

Phillip

2 months ago

5 

Hunters should have a major say in how lands are managed I travel from out of state and my group will spend well over 1000 of revenue for this area We buy gas food maps supplies taxidermy ectect All of this is because of sustainable hunting and sound land management I live in Kentucky ask anyone in this state who hunts or google Land Between the Lakes deer in decline You will read firsthand on what will happen to wildlife when selective logging and non hunting groups run the show There are no deer there anymore wildlife suffers at the hands of these groups who think they know what is best Land Between the Lakes went from a sportsmans paradise to a desert of large trees and no undergrowth forage to sustain wildlife The county to the left and right has more deer than the state management goal wants I would hate to see North Georgia suffer the same fate as a once great Kentucky public land

Anonymous		2 months ago
<div><div>1</div><div></div></div>		
The Forests in this area of the Cohutta WMA are lacking in wildlife population numbers I am uncertain of what the causes are but I would like to see some habitat improvements to boost our deer heard in the Eastern portion of Cohutta WMA Perhaps more prescribed fires and some timber harvesting are in order for this area		
<div><div>Response from Anonymous</div><div>I just don't think it is all about the deer populations! I don't feel we need to be cutting more trees to bring more deer! Look at the WHOLE. ALL Flora and fauna.</div></div>		
Anonymous		2 months ago
<div><div></div><div></div></div>		
This area known as Flat Top to the locals has several wildlife openings all the way down the ridge I would like to see these openings managed and planted each year perhaps that could be beneficial to both game and non-game species found in the area depending upon what is planted		
Anonymous		2 months ago
<div><div>2</div><div></div></div>		
This area is proof of what timber harvesting and prescribed fire can do for an area Prior to the Brawley Mountain Project this area held very few grouse if any Currently I have seen a few grouse each year for the past two years here in this location This is due to the introduction of a man made habitat specifically designed for the Golden Winged Warbler a threatened species here in Georgia This shows how not only game species but even endangered or threatened species can be helped by man manipulated habitats Some people might try to tell you that this sight did little to help the golden winged warbler due to the sub 3000 foot elevation of the area I cannot say whether it has or has not helped them but I will say it has not harmed their population here in Georgia and it certainly has not harmed the habitat for deer bear turkey grouse woodcock and many more species of non-game birds and mammals Again proof that logging and prescribed fire still have a place in the management of our National Forests		
<div><div>Response from Anonymous</div><div>I agree, there needs to be a forest management plan that at least mimics historical natural disturbances in the area. This would need to include logging and prescribed burning, which would lead to more early sucesional habitat. Higher wildlife populations (game and non-game) and reduced risk of wildfire would result. A harvested area of a forest is a welcome sight for me, since it means there will be more wildlife in the area, sustainable wood products produced, an increased rate of carbon sequestration, and more opportunity for hunters.</div></div>		
<div><div>Response from David Govus</div><div>The Grouse were there before the Brawley project began . In the drainage to the eat of the west ridge where Hurricane Opel blew down a bunch of trees. My dog pointed them several times.The Golden Winged Warbler population has decreased since the project. With Climate change many species are moving north and as N GA was always the southern limit for Grouse and GWW it is unrealistic to think that any costly forest manipulation will change that.</div></div>		
<div><div>Response from Sue Harmon</div><div>We have to consider climate change in our forest planning process for exactly the reasons Mr. Govus states. Otherwise we'll find ourselves wasting precious USFS resources on management activities that will never bring about the desired result because we aren't factoring in climate change that is beyond our management control.</div></div>		
<div><div>Response from brenda smith</div><div>I agree with Sue. Climate change is happening fast, and can be seen with satellite views. Man made or not, it's there, and the forests will be impacted.</div></div>		
<div><div>Response from Janet</div><div>I agree with the last 3 comments. I believe "Mother Nature" knows best. I am praying she can accommodate for the future changes ahead!</div></div>		
Anonymous		2 months ago
<div><div>2</div><div></div></div>		
I would like to see the Forest Service DNR and the American Chestnut Society or similar organizations continue to work together and potentially reintroduce a blight resistant strain of the American Chestnut to our North Georgia mountains I think that the loss of the American Chestnut as a large mast producer in our mountains is a huge portion of the continual decrease in our deer populations A large and dependable mast producer such as the American Chestnut would certainly increase the protein and nutrition in the diet of our mountain wildlife species Also poor mast years from the white and red oaks would be less devastating to our wildlife Between these government agencies American Chestnut NGO's and the public we could re-establish the American Chestnut for future generations		
<div><div>Response from Anonymous</div></div>		

This is an interesting idea and one that I would love to see followed up on. At minimum, or to start, NGOs and govt could do some marketing to educate property owners about current available blight resistant options in our area.

Response from GA Taxpayer
Agreed, good idea

Josh Abernathy

1 month 3 weeks ago



Control burns here would help with some of the underbrush and would help improve wildlife habitat Also on the upper road people are dumping a lot of trash and the road needs to be maintained better

Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest (ab)

1 month 3 weeks ago



We wanted to make sure that an article we received at the meeting in Gainesville from an attendee was included as part of the conversation It is titled Marble Colorado Eschews Feelings Embraces Facts by William Perry Pendley in the magazine Logger World

<https://www.mountaintateslegal.org/news-updates/summary-judgment/2016/09/01/marble-colorado-eschews-feelings-embraces-facts#.WATH6PkrKiM>

Ronia Hunter

1 month 2 weeks ago



I have lived in Clayton for 68 years and have seen management of the forest and fire fighting and this enhanced the amount of deer in the woods and other hunting opportunities I would like to see something like cutting 100 acres moving 2 miles and than cut another 100 acres The forest needs all ages roughly in a 10 year rotation 10 20 30 year old etc I believe in a diverse forest and prescribing fire for the health of the forest and reduce the insect and disease ie southern pine beetle to trees If they cut I would like to see more natural regeneration I am for heavy timber harvesting to have a diverse forest Protect the water and stream crossing and adjacent vegetation such as the North Broad River

Response from James L Brooks V

Ronia, I couldn't agree more. I am a forester and this is my profession so I see this on a daily basis. The positive implications of using active management techniques to help sustain a health forest is key for us to have a healthy forest and wildlife population. Preserving or being stagnant in forest management does nothing but create an unbalanced ecosystem that does not sustain its wildlife and can cause issues. This fire is a prime example of why we need to be active in our management. If we were actively managing this forest the debris layers would be less which intern would create a less intense fire. Fire is very much natural on this landscape and suppressing fire is not the answer and in a way it should be embraced and very much used throughout. Thanks for the share!

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago

1



Air craft fuel leakagespills connected with Camp Frank D Merrill

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago



Would like to see a fee shooting range by Camp Merrill vicinity It would be okay if it was ran by a private outfittergun club on FS property

Dahlonega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago



Timber management - remove old growth to have better wildlife management

Response from Sue Harmon

Removing old growth is not required in order to manage well for wildlife. In fact, allowing our small amounts of "old growth" to mature can provide the kind of diverse forest mosaic that benefits wildlife.

Dahlongega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago

1

Protect trout streams

Response from Jeff Wilson

Yes protecting Trout Streams should be a primary focus of the management plan. Having healthy Trout Streams is a sign of a healthy forest.

Dahlongega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago

Want to see quality hunting opportunities for future generations

Dahlongega Meeting Comments (10/13)

1 month 2 weeks ago

Need to do a controlled burn in Byrant Creek area in Lumpkin County

Gainesville Meeting Comments (10/15)

1 month 2 weeks ago

1

Would like to see ESH early successional habitat creation in already degraded or recently lumbered areas instead of old growth or older growth areas of mature stands

Response from GA Taxpayer

This. We need to protect what little old growth and mature forest we have. There's plenty of disturbed and degraded areas to create edge habitat in.

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago

1

Old growth restoration in stands identified in Carlson study

https://books.google.com/books?id=zKA2AQAAMAAJ&pg=SL4-PA7&lpg=SL4-PA7&dq=carlson+old+growth&source=bl&ots=5Z9JEat83Z&sig=0KK6CA1INiVYYIhrF4P8epb_v8Y&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiNzbiV_ebPAhVDI1QKHaOcCvcQ6AEIHZAB#v=onepage&q=carlson%20old%20growth&f=false

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago

Would like to see more harvesting in Yellow Mountain Area to enhance diversity and increase wildlife habitat

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago

1

Address the non-point pollution in and along Warwoman Creek

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)



Would like to know areas where wild pigs have significant presence -- concerned about hiking safety

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago



More prescribed burning to reduce fuel and enhance turkey deer and small game habitat

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago



Do not remove old growth habitat the wildlife will adapt

Jim Walker

6 days 23 hours ago



Industrial logging in the late 1800s and early 1900s pretty much wiped out most of the old-growth in the North Georgia mountains. There are pockets of it left here and there, mostly on remote sites that are not very conducive to growing valuable timber. What we have left of the towering primeval forest is photographs of men standing in front of unbelievably huge trees and a very few individual specimens that were spared, such as the Gennet poplar. But, fortunately, logging methods back then were not nearly as destructive as today's, and for the most part loggers did not bother with trees less than 18 inches DBH. So, although we may have to wait another one or two hundred years to see how big trees can really get on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, it is not too hard to find very nice stands of relatively young, but recovering forest (one hundred years or more old). If undisturbed, such stands will eventually replicate the ancient forest, at least to some extent. The clearcuts of the 1970s, 80s, and 90s are a different story. They will never have the same tree species composition and diversity of the herbaceous layer and wildlife (including birds, game, smaller animals, amphibians such as salamanders, etc., and even insects) as the old forest, or even of less disturbed recovering stands. While true old-growth is relatively rare on the CONF, there are a considerable number of stands that have not been severely disturbed and will soon qualify as genuine old-growth. We need to let these stands reach their full potential, and not throw away the chance for the forest to create more old-growth. This is the people's forest, and they deserve to see the best. Most people have no idea of what the forest is capable of becoming. They need to see it. The objective to Reserve 5 percent of each 6th level HUC is not nearly enough. Fifty percent would be more appropriate for this forest, considering the millions of people in Atlanta and North Georgia who are starved for contact with nature. What is the value of old-growth? Surely it is greater than a few tens of thousands or even a couple of hundreds of thousands of dollars in timber sales. Please do not monetize the forest. I understand that hunters want ESH, but there are over 80,000 acres of old clearcuts on the forest. Creation of ESH should be confined to those stands. ESH should not be an excuse for harvesting timber nearing old-growth status. In the Foothills Landscape, Grassy Mountain is by far the best example of true and potential old-growth. No timber should be cut on Grassy Mountain, and no management is needed there. Thank you for your collaboration.

Response from Janet Westervelt

I totally agree with Jim here. Creation of ESH should be in forested areas that have been cut more recently. ESH should not be an excuse for harvesting timber nearing old-growth status. No timber should be cut on Grassy Mountain, and no management is needed there. We have a right to be able to see what our forests can really become! Please let more forests mature into "old growth". Don't cut those areas progressing into that. Re-cut the newer growth areas if you must cut at all.

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago



Need to have access on roads that have gates for older and disabled people

Clayton Meeting Comments (10/18)

1 month 2 weeks ago



Increase timber harvest through commercial timber sales not only in pine-hardwood forest types but also in mesic hardwoods using shelterwood group select and EAM Combine thinning with fire

Anonymous

1 month 2 weeks ago



Manage timber for better deer hunting opportunities

Response from Anonymous

2 anonymous comments saying the exact same thing. Sounds like Forest Service workers who want to justify selling trees.

Response from Jeff Wilson

Not a Forest Service worker. Managed Timber Harvests are one of the best ways to manage a forest and help keep it healthy. Most Timber harvests are select cuts and help regenerate new growth. Managed Timber Harvests to promote better wildlife diversity and native plant growth should be a part of the forest management plan.

Concerned Hunter

1 month 2 weeks ago

1 



Manage timber for better deer hunting opportunities

Anonymous

1 month 2 weeks ago



Manage Forests for better deer hunting

Pat Hopton

1 month 2 weeks ago



My concern The Forest Service planted many acres of loblolly pine in the 1980's in sites better suited for shortleaf pine Most of the Foothills Landscape area is not within the native range of loblolly pine however there is a significant amount of acreage planted to loblolly within the area My suggestion I suggest that on the highly productive sites that have the terrain and transportation systems conducive to intermediate thinnings then these stands should be managed for loblolly pine until it meets full rotation age 80 years However on other less productive steeper sites the loblolly stands should now be clearcut and planted back to shortleaf pine on a wide spacing to manage for a shortleaf pinehardwood stand Use the Shortleaf Pine Initiative as a template The benefits My suggestion would meet Forest Plan Objective 32 and 36 It would provide wood products and employment to the local economies

<http://shortleafpine.net/>

Response from Jeff Wilson

I agree with this recommendation

Response from Steve Westmoreland

Very good point Pat.

Potential 319 Streambank Restoration Site

1 month 2 weeks ago

1 



Chattahoochee River Headwaters Stream RestorationNacoochee Valley Sautee NacoocheeSummary and Site Location In the Appalachian foothills of northeast Georgia the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River flow through Sautee Nacoochee an unincorporated community in the eastern central part of White County Within the Nacoochee Valley and approximately 550 feet downstream of the confluence of Sautee Creek a 250-foot section of a highly eroded and unstable outer bank of the Chattahoochee River results in heavy sediment pollution negatively impacting habitat for desirable flora and fauna in a 303d listed for biotic impairment Bio F section of the river which is also located in a Priority HUC-12 Watershed This erosion also causes channel deepening and widening prohibiting floodplain connection This disconnection starves the adjacent wetlands of water and exacerbates downstream flooding Proposal Conduct a stream restoration project with the following goalsImprove water quality by eliminating bank erosion and resulting sedimentation contributing to the possible delisting of an impaired segment of the Chattahoochee RiverImprove habitat for desirable flora and faunaReconnect the stream channel with its floodplain in order to reduce further instream channel erosion and downstream flooding and to preserve adjacent wetlandsRestore an aesthetically pleasing landscape to its natural and pre-impacted stateThis project will restore 500 linear feet of stream using Natural Channel Design versus hard armoring or rip-rap installation Natural Channel Design techniques use best available science and engineering in order to effectively remedy streambank erosion rather than diverting the problem elsewhere in the channel a result typically seen when hard armoring banks This design will incorporateAppropriate channel dimension cross-section pattern plan view and profile bedformStable streambanks constructed at a low slope with appropriate matting and native vegetationIn-stream structures eg offset boulder cross vane boulder cross vane log vane logboulder J-hook brush toe to provide bank protection grade control streambed diversity and improved habitatRiffles and pools in the streambed to promote habitat and energy dissipationOff-line pools constructed in portions of the remnant channel in order to provide riparian habitat and flood storageEmail for more info

67 of 82

DCaldwellchattahoocheeorg

Response from Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest (ab)

The project described is well thought out and meets the Foothills Landscape project objectives. Is there a place in the Foothills Landscape where there is an opportunity for restoration of this type?

Response from Dale Caldwell

I'm not sure who left this comment, but it was copied and pasted from a project summary that I drafted for a site on the Chattahoochee River in Sautee Nacoochee. With that said, I'm sure there are a plethora of aquatic restoration opportunities within your jurisdiction. I'd certainly encourage the consideration of grant or other funding opportunities to address these sites, and prevent degradation to aquatic resources by eliminating the source, whether it be motorized vehicles, horses, or the unnecessary harvesting of trees. Thanks for considering these comments.

Anonymous

1 month, 1 week ago



Increase timber management and wildlife management There are too many mature hardwood stands which reduces interspersions and habitat variability Wildlife need a multitude of habitat types to flourish Timber management would lead to successional habitats and therefore increase the variability of habitat types FS roads need to be left open for recreational use

Anonymous

1 month, 1 week ago

1



Land management is needed to help wildlife numbers grow More fields and cut overs would help

Anonymous

1 month, 1 week ago



I would like to see higher populations of game in these areas

Mike LaChapelle, Chatsworth, GA

1 month, 1 week ago

3



1

I am concerned about the massive diesel soot wind drift into the Cohutta Wilderness western boundary of the Chattahoochee National Forest beginning in 2018 when 50000 diesel intermodal trucks will be coming to the proposed Appalachian Inland Port in Crandall Georgia to pick up and deliver intermodal containers for CSX intermodal trains from the Georgia Ports Authority in Savannah Garden City Georgia There needs to be an environmental impact study to determine how these diesel emissions will affect the fragile ecosystem of the Cohutta Wilderness and its endangered species of fish and wildlife not found anywhere else in the United States I would recommend that an alternative sight be considered for this Appalachian inland Port rather than within two miles or less of the Cohutta Wilderness Studies have shown that where diesel emissions are highly concentrated the environment will be negatively effected The CEO of the Georgia Port Authority has stated that 25 trains per week can be expected in addition to the current train traffic This is over 100 trains were month arriving on the western border of the Cohutta Wilderness Noise light pollution and air quality will be negatively affected in addition to water pollution due to diesel fuel runoff from diesel trucks and train locomotives Please consider this request for an environmental impact study especially as it relates to the air quality and water quality of the Cohutta Wilderness Mike LaChapelle

Response from GA Taxpayer

This is a really good point. The Conasauga and Jacks River are supposedly the cleanest rivers in GA, and some of the last that haven't been dammed far upstream. Building this port without an environmental impact study is a bad idea.

Response from GA Taxpayer

This is a really good point. The Conasauga and Jacks River are supposedly the cleanest rivers in GA, and some of the last that haven't been dammed far upstream. Building this port without an environmental impact study is a bad idea.

Response from Anonymous

Today 11/3/2016 a tree service is doing massive tree cutting paralleling Hwy 411 in Crandall, which crosses over Sumac Creek. This appears to be on the 411 Highway right of way but cutting trees on Sumac Creek's banks is going to erode the bank on both sides of Sumac Creek which is a trout stream and holds many endangered species of aquatic life. Sumac Creek headwaters originate from the Cohutta Wilderness of the Chattahoochee National Forest that carries these endangered species of aquatic life.

Response from Anonymous

Sumac creek watershed is not at all in the wilderness. Its watershed is 100% on the west side of the wilderness boundry. If u drive across the bridge trees were once cut there so u could cross. Also

electricity is probably at your house and had to cross water somewhere and trees were cut. They own that land and right of way. Do u tell your neighbor how to cut their grass?

Tim Grice

1 month, 1 week ago



I have introduced 5 of my 6 children to deer hunting by way of the Chattahoochee National Forest but I now only have 1 that still maintains an interest in deer hunting We have spent hours upon hours for the last 8 years without harvesting a single deer in the national forest When we began hunting this area 8 yrs ago the deer sign was plentiful and one of my sons actually shot at a deer Since that time the deer sightings and the deer sign have dwindled It now seems that I can walk forever without even jumping a deer Due to a large household with varying interests it is not practical for me to pay for an expensive lease in middle or south Georgia I fear that I have failed to provide the memorable experiences to my children that I was privy to and I fear that the result will be apathy toward our national forests and resources All but 1 of my children have lost interest in deer hunting and he chose to nap today instead of going hunting I would like to be able to utilize our national forest land to teach my children to appreciate the harvest of big game however I may not be able to keep any of them interested long enough I am beginning to question my own sanity when planning our hunting trips We have not fired our guns for the purpose of harvesting a National Forest animal in over 8 years despite many hours each season spent sweating shivering and panting Please help

GA Taxpayer

1 month ago



1

There should be no commercial logging at all in the Chattahoochee National Forest and especially no logging of 'old growth' Georgia has very little national forest land compared to nearby states like NC VA etc and precious little old growth That we would think of logging this natural resource as it is just beginning to rebound I think would be irresponsible and poor land stewardship We should be preserving and growing what we have in the North Georgia mountains There are sterile tree farms in Central Georgia that are utterly devoid of the biodiversity we have in the mountains let them log thoseAlso we should extend and create wilderness areas especially to adjacent roadless and undeveloped areas The Mountaintown Creek Roadless Area near Cohutta is long overdue to be incorporated into the Cohutta Wilderness This is jus tone example there are numerous such places scattered throughout north Georgia and they are inventoriedNorth Carolina and Tennessee have tremendous influxes of tourist dollars because of their smart management of their natural resources Let's follow their lead and preserve what we have Extractive industries like logging take resources away from they community the money goes to a handful of private companies that hardly employ anyone they just use machines and in a few years the industry is gone the trees are gone and the community is left with nothing Let's build a sustainable local economy for the people of North Georgia based on tourism and conservation

https://www.southernenvironment.org/uploads/publications/roadless_04.pdf

Response from Dustin Reece

Conservation. That is exactly what this proposed project is all about, and logging is a huge part of that. It has to be done to maintain early growth habitat that is vital to everything in the ecosystem. To say that logging some of these acres will cripple the economy is idiotic. It will bring money to the private sector as well as the state parks/national forest and fund future projects that will promote and improve the use of the property.

Response from Dustin Reece

Conservation. That is exactly what this proposed project is all about, and logging is a huge part of that. It has to be done to maintain early growth habitat that is vital to everything in the ecosystem. To say that logging some of these acres will cripple the economy is idiotic. It will bring money to the private sector as well as the state parks/national forest and fund future projects that will promote and improve the use of the property.

Response from Anonymous

Industrial logging is not part of any acceptable definition of conservation. Of course degree matters here, and small clearings to provide openings for wildlife I would not be opposed to, "in more disturbed areas". Logging of what tiny bit of old growth we have left is what's idiotic, though. For millions of years there was no industrial logging in Appalachia and the wildlife did just fine. Wildfires, boggy areas and the damming and browsing activity of animals kept spaces in the forest open, and the forest service is already moving in this direction, the right direction, with it's management of the fire in Cohutta. This will create plenty of openings for wildlife. Wildlife needs forest and old growth hardwoods that produce mast and cover, too. Most hard mast trees need at least 20 years of growth before they can produce food for wildlife, and they don't explode with acorns and hickory nuts until about 50 years of age. Profitability is about the worst justification for commercial logging on public lands I've ever heard, it's not sustainable. The trees are logged and then they're gone for 20, 40, 50 years. Much smarter to have a public lands economy based on tourism, recreation, hunting, outfitting, guides, canoeing, etc. Public lands weren't created to be profitable, they were created to give every American opportunity for outdoor recreation. As opposed to Europe where all the best undeveloped land was in the private hands of lords. Let's not cut down our old growth.

Response from Dustin Reece

Let's take another look at this. "Old growth" just what deams a forest as "old growth"? Almost all of this part of the country was wiped clean of timber 100+ years ago. So let's say 100 year old forest is a decent bench mark for being considered "old growth". This proposed project is just over 140,000 acres. If we harvest 1400 acre a year it will take 100 years to completely harvest the entire stand. At that point the initial 1400 acre will be considered "old growth". Now of course harvesting the entire stand of timber is observed and will never happen. There are a plethora of places that the terrain and other geological factors simply won't allow it. I think the common misconception here is people seem to think that the entire 143,000 acre tract will be cut and all timber removed in a short time fram like 10 years. That's simply not the case.

Response from Dustin Reece

Let's take another look at this. "Old growth" just what deams a forest as "old growth"? Almost all of this part of the country was wiped clean of timber 100+ years ago. So let's say 100 year old forest is a

decent bench mark for being considered "old growth". This proposed project is just over 140,000 acres. If we harvest 1400 acre a year it will take 100 years to completely harvest the entire stand. At that point the initial 1400 acre will be considered "old growth". Now of course harvesting the entire stand of timber is observed and will never happen. There are a plethora of places that the terrain and other geological factors simply won't allow it. I think the common misconception here is people seem to think that the entire 143,000 acre tract will be cut and all timber removed in a short time fram like 10 years. That's simply not the case.

Response from David Govus

100 years old is not even close to old growth. When Europeans arrived in the Southern Appalachians they found a forest of huge trees. Oaks don't begin to reliably produce acorns until they are 50 years old. White Oaks don't reach maximum production till they are 200 years old. When the first traders from Charleston made contact with the Cherokee in the late 1600s the Forest was old with huge trees and Deer were plentiful as evidenced by the fact that a booming trade in Deer hides began almost immediately. White Oaks can live to be over 400 years old and other Oak species over 200. When these huge trees died and fell they created large gaps in the canopy which coupled with windstorms, disease and beaver meadows and the very occasional fire produced ample browse. It is unrealistic to think that the steep mountains of North Georgia would ever have the same numbers of Deer as a baited Deer lease on flat ground surrounded by crop land. "On infertile forest lands in the South...Deer populations are fueled in such habitats by mast, especially acorns.....monitoring deer populations through data collected at checking stations reveals mainly the effects of mast crops." (March 1986 Southeast Deer Study Group , A. Sydney Johnson, James M. Wentworth et al) In addition to the problems of the increasingly erratic mast crops, Bear and Coyote populations, both major predators of Deer, have exploded in the last 30 years as have wild hogs. Also in a change from years past many new arrivals in N Georgia choose to feed Deer drawing them out of the mountains into people's back yards. Tons of corn are sold as deer food every week in N Ga. In the 60s and 70s if a Deer wandered into a settlement it stood a good chance of getting shot. Instead of reverting to the clearcutting of the 70s and 80s , which ended mast production on nearly 100,000 acres, the Forest Service should let the Forest age. No Oak trees should be cut under any circumstance and if early successional habitat must be created it should be created by slashing down old clear cuts .

GA Taxpayer

1 month ago

1 

 1

We should consider reintroducing native top predators that were wiped out in the last century like the cougar and red wolf This would restore our mountain forests to some approximation of their natural state I don't believe for one second that deer are 'under-populated' in north Georgia They have no natural predators here and there are plenty of acorns and shrubs If anything they're overpopulated They're just difficult to see because of forest cover and the hunting season has them in hiding During summer I see deer in the mountains every day Deer over-population is a serious issue central Georgia is dealing with it now these animals are disgustingly overpopulated there The land is managed for primarily deer hunting interests at the expense of everything else especially healthy ecosystemsWithout predators deer eat everything and decrease both animal and plant biodiversity They're at least as destructive for ground nesting birds as hogs are Cougar can easily coexist with dense human populations California and other densely populated western states are examples of this Significant numbers of cougar live alongside suburban populations and help keep deer and hog populations from exploding These animals don't want to hurt you They want to eat deer and hogs and mind their own businessAttached is an article on some of the safety benefits of cougar reintroduction in the east Lets restore our natural ecosystem and bring back the cougar and red wolf

<http://www.washington.edu/news/2016/07/14/cougars-could-save-lives-by-lowering-vehicle-collisions-with-deer/>

Response from GA Taxpayer

Instead of spending money to constantly have to trap hogs bring back native predators to do the job for you with little to no cost

Response from GA Taxpayer

Also we need core refuges where hunting is off limits, especially for large game like Deer and Bear. This will actually INCREASE hunting opportunities by ensuring that no area is over-hunted, a core population of animals will always be present and disperse outwards. It's a more intelligent way to manage game. NC and TN have already implemented these in the form of Black Bear Sanctuaries, and they certainly have denser bear populations that GA, and therefore more opportunities for hunting bear.

Response from GA Taxpayer

We should also reintroduce elk, it's been done in the smoky mountains, virginia and Kentucky, it can be done here. Kentucky now has thousands of elk and a thriving elk hunting industry that is a boon to the economy. We could implement the same here.

Response from Anonymous

Places where hunting is off limits are called National Parks. The bear reserves are in place because of the way bears breed and the males migrate to find their own territory. They are great for ensuring bear populations. Deer do not need the same reserves because they don't require the same amount of territory. The highest deer populations are around human development because of more food and agriculture. They breed and live in peoples back yards. Deer have predators in the form of coyotes, bobcats, and black bears, which kill not only fawns but adult deer and turkeys also. There are also plenty of years where there is little or no mast crop. This is the main food source for all game on National Forest in Georgia. Deer populations are lowest in Georgia in the mountains. Ask a biologist

Response from Anonymous

Friend, there already are cougars in the Cohutta Wilderness of the Chattahoochee National forest. I have seen them very briefly, like a streak of lighting because they move that fast and if you are lucky you might see one, but they are already there and we don't need more of them.

Response from Anonymous

There are no cougars in cohutta or anywhere else in the chattahoochee

Response from Robim Tondra

Maybe you can direct me toward the right forum. I live in Pickens County and have seen the clear cutting of mature or maturing forest of Hardwoods harvested in the Big Ridge Wilderness Areas. Of course it was private land but some was done to forestry standards and it left a pine monoforest in the place of a 30-70 year old hardwood forest. We need to protect those areas and not accept that cutting them are forest management. It is forest destruction and affect wildlife in an extremely negative way. I would really like to support the suspension of any hardwood forest harvesting. And also any pine forests until their lifespan has been reached. Most pines live over 100 years. The forestry service supports logging areas when they have reached their maturity that yields the most money. If I am wrong please inform me

Simon Bishop

1 month ago

3 

I would like to say Im pleased with the job our usfs is doing with rotating prescribed fires in the cohutta's I get to see the before during and after from these fires I wish that anyone who doesn't understand the benefits of good prescribed fires would reach out for more information Its good to see new healthy grasses and browse prosper for our wildlife If we didn't burn at all and had an overwhelming amount of fuel load build up in our forest throughout several years a natural wildfire or arson fire would be devastating to wildlife and forest I do wish that the seasonal gates be open year around and only be closed during fires I feel certain gates should of never been installed Im glad some gates protect certain food plots from vandals but our plots are not planted and utilized like they could be Good prescribed fires and outstanding food plots isn't the answer for our deer population though Its hard to make everyone happy but the cohutta's has been over deer hunted The booming population of bear pigs and coyote has hurt the deer and turkeys as well I wish DNR would close deer down for 3-5 year then open to QDMA on many of north ga wma We have way to many either sex tags for the deer population of north ga as well Our future generations will never take interest in deer hunting because the lack of seeing them I hope many others feel the same and help to make needed changes

Response from GA Taxpayer

Definitely agree that North Georgia is over-hunted for deer and that there are way too many deer tags available, more than the deer population can support.

Response from Anonymous

Overhunted? Cohutta has a bow season that is way too early to harvest any number of deer in the mountains. The next gun hunt is way too early, in October. The best hunt lasts FIVE days in early December. Check the harvest records. Over hunting is not the problem with low deer populations. It is lack of adequate habitat. Deer population was higher in the Cohutta years ago because the Forest Service was allowing more LOGGING of a renewable resource. Look it up.

Response from Dustin Reece

North Georgia isn't over hunted. In fact it's hunted very little. Hunters don't frequent the area because the game numbers across the board are basically in the gutter. Small game numbers are low, bird numbers are low, and big game numbers are low. The reason their numbers are down is lack of landscape diversity. Without early successional habit deer lose their bedding areas and grouse and other small game lose the dense cover vital to their survival. Without open areas where food plots can be planted in crops or native grass, these animals lose a crucial food source. The food supply right now is almost solely the mast crop. Some years that crop is very low and almost nonexistent. More wildlife opening must be established to promote both habitat diversity as well as alternative food resources to the mast crop.

Anonymous

4 weeks, 1 day ago



What are some good wildlife habitat improvement projects that could be done

Anonymous

4 weeks, 1 day ago



I would like to see bike specific trails where smart to decrease user conflict and increase enjoyment of users I would also like to see the Jones Creek campgrounds better maintained and policed

Response from David Govus

The Jones Creek campground is in poor shape. At one time every site had a picnic table and now every one has been stolen. Horse people haul gigantic horse trailers in there and leave behind enormous piles of manure..FS road 77-A and 877A servicing the campsites are not suited for huge trucks and horse trailers. I have seen horse campers in there with pumps in the creek and propane heaters to furnish hot showers.with rigs so large they block the road. All of this in the riparian zone along what used to be one of Georgia's finest wild trout streams. The Forest Service has spent a fortune building a horse camping area at Jake Mt. High and dry with ample room for big rigs and adjacent to the trail system and just a few miles away from the Jones Creek camping area. Horse camping should be banned along Jones Creek.

Jess

3 weeks 6 days ago

6 

I would like to see restoration work be a management priority and for that work to be targeted where it can do the most good Everywhere in the Foothills Landscape has been



altered from what it was prior to European settlement but some areas have been altered much more than others Restoration projects can do more good in those heavily altered areas than in places that are still similar to natural conditions Restoration can also be important for species that depend on rare habitats that have been changed At the same time many restoration projects produce high quality early successional habitat that is in short supply and benefits game species A good example of an area that could benefit from some restoration work is the Macks Mountain area east of Helen and south of Tray Mountain This area has a bunch of loblolly pine plantations Loblolly has no business being on these sites Its not native to them produces low quality wildlife habitat is vulnerable to southern pine beetle damage and is radically different from the forest that would naturally occur on these sites There are also several plants that indicate the ridge tops in this area used to be very open forest woodlands Rattlesnake master *Eryngium yuccifolium* is common in Midwestern prairies but hard to find in north Georgia It grows in a couple of patches on the ridges There is also blackjack oak which is uncommon and the most light-demanding of all our oaks in the mountains The ridge tops also support several more common dry-site sun-loving species that don't move around very well like rosinweed and false indigo Finally there are uncommon rocks high in iron and magnesium underlying the area that help explain why this area would have been different from surrounding areas Taken together the site indicates that this area used to have very different very open forests and that restoration can be successful This is a good area for woodland restoration

Response from Finley

Awesome idea, agree with this.

Response from James

Success in open canopy woodland restoration has been mixed. Selecting appropriate sites is key. Identifying species that may be remnant of open canopy condition is a first step. I suggest test plots 30x30 meter opened by chainsaw and maintain open for several years. Burning might help as well, although raking parts of the plot would work. It is amazing what will be in the seedbank if the site was open canopy in the past. I know that it delays the start of larger restoration activities, but wouldn't it be better to have an idea of what conditions would develop after treatments? I am sure we could identify a dozen sites across the forest to test.

Jess

3 weeks, 1 day ago

4



Woodland restoration is one of the major objectives in the current forest plan Objective 34 restore 10000 acres of open woodlands savannas and grasslands on the Chattahoochee The Foothills Armuchee Ridges and Upper Piedmont are the hottest and driest landscapes and seem like the obvious places for the lions share of the woodland restoration But there are still a lot of places in these landscapes where trees grow well Its going to be hard to maintain a woodland in those places Id like to see woodland restoration done on areas where it will be most successful Places where trees struggle a bit and that used to be much more open There are areas like that around Joe Mountain Worley Ridge just north of Lake Rabun Some of the rocky south facing slopes have pretty thin forest now They would burn easily and the area is unusually devoid of fire sensitive species There is no ginseng or trilliums Just a bunch of really scruffy forest with pitch pines scarlet oaks dwarf rhododendron and low-bush blueberry Soils are also very poor and fast-draining so trees aren't going to grow back fast The same general area has some old white pine plantations that could be harvested at the same time These plantations aren't doing much right now No mast to speak of not much of an herbaceous layer and really low diversity overall Removing them would create some big openings

and could start them on the track towards being more suitable habitat for that area Could be potential for more woodland in the surrounding area The whole ridge system is on nutrient-poor bedrock and even the north-facing coves have more chestnut oak than tulip poplar or basswood

Anonymous

2 weeks 6 days ago

1



Dam comes up as a high priority when prioritizing barriers for removal based on ecological benefit Stream is filling with sediment Would like to suggest seeing this dam removed and the stream free flowing once again

Nicole Hayler of the Chattooga Conservancy

6 days 3 hours ago



This is the first page of four pages of comments from the Chattooga Conservancy



Jess

2 weeks 6 days ago

4



Shortleaf pine has been declining across the southeast by some estimates losing half its acres over the last 30 years. So the Forest Service made restoring shortleaf pine one of its objectives. Objective 31. Within the first 10 years of Plan implementation, restore 1100 acres of shortleaf pine forests on the Chattahoochee on sites where they once likely occurred. The western edge of the Foothills landscape is probably the best place to reach that objective. On ridge after ridge there are nearly pure Virginia pine stands. But if you look around the edges there are usually a few shortleaf pines and there are shortleaf pine stumps in some of the stands. It looks like shortleaf pine used to be much more common on these ridges but Virginia pine came in after some big, probably artificial disturbances. Parts of this area are roadless and valuable as unfragmented habitat. Parts are within the Sumac Creek Project area and are already having about as much work done as the Forest Service can. But the very northwestern corner of the Foothills Landscape looks perfect for shortleaf restoration. There's good road access to many ridges. Ridges are often broad so steep slopes will be less limiting than many other areas. And shortleaf restoration would create some open habitat in this area.

Jess

2 weeks 2 days ago

1



The ridges at Whissenhunt Mountain near Dahlonega seem to fit with multiple Forest Service objectives, particularly woodland restoration and shortleaf pine restoration. Some of the ridges have blackjack oak and very slow tree growth. Grasses could compete well with trees on those sites so woodland restoration treatments have a good chance of succeeding. Other ridges have nearly pure Virginia pine that came in after early 20th century logging. Those ridges probably had a bunch of shortleaf pine in the past and shortleaf could certainly do well there if planted. The tricky part is this area has an OHV trail network. I don't know if the logging could be done in the winter when the trail system is normally closed. Visual impacts and the effects of logging trucks on the trails would also have to be considered. The vegetation and logging fit well enough in this area that it should be looked at to see if they could be done without harming other uses of the area.

Jess

2 weeks 2 days ago

1



The south side of Campbell Mountain northwest of Dahlonega is another area that fits really well with the Forest Plan objective for restoring open woodlands. There's blackjack oak scattered across the slope which suggests it has been fairly open in the past. Where trees have naturally fallen, few tree saplings are filling the hole in the canopy. Everything on the slope points to dry, harsh conditions. This area was likely much more open in the past and some fire after logging would probably keep it open pretty easily. The exception is the western end of the mountain. That area has different geology and very different forest. Campbell Mountain looks like a good choice to meet some Forest Service goals and produce some open habitat.

Jess

2 weeks 2 days ago

2



I wish more would be done about invasive species. For most of the issues we discussed on the Foothills, we can try one thing and if it doesn't work, try something else. With non-native invasive species, you either get them early or it's over. Kudzu is the one everyone knows, but it's just one of many. 10 years ago I saw Japanese spirea in only a few spots; now it seems like I run across it on every road I go down. Hemlocks are being decimated by hemlock woolly adelgid right now, though valiant efforts by the Forest Service and others mean we'll have at least a few little groves left. Emerald ash borer is right next to the forest and about to do the same thing to our ash trees. Oriental bittersweet is another one that's just now getting started on our forest that we could still do something about. I've seen it around Asheville looking like a bunch of mini kudzu patches. Check out the small infestation on this page:

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/shrub/oriental-bittersweet>

Sue Harmon

2 weeks, 1 day ago

1 

Our older forests should be allowed to mature Focus management in areas where it can do the most good for example pine plantations and old clear cuts Focus forest restoration in areas where there is evidence that the desired community existed previously under natural conditions Move our forest closer to conditions BEFORE European settlement Allow natural disturbances like beavers old growth aging and falling to create natural gaps Use more natural fire regimes with a wider range of fire intervals

Sue Harmon

2 weeks, 1 day ago

1 

Create Early Successional Habitat from younger forests that were clear-cut in the 80's and 90's instead of cutting older mature forest areas

Sue Harmon

2 weeks, 1 day ago

1 

Climate change needs to be considered in forest management Carbon emissions should be considered when evaluating any potential timber project

Sue Harmon

2 weeks, 1 day ago

1 

Minimize commercial timber cutting withint the 100 ft riparian buffer zones in sensitive watersheds Protect closed canopies in these areas in order to help mitigate the impacts of warming water temperatures due to climate change

Sue Harmon

2 weeks, 1 day ago

1 

Right-size the road system and bring it in line with the limited USFS roads budget Gate or close the least-used roads andor those that are the greatest threat to water quality Spend limited road budget dollars on maintaining the most popular and well-traveled roads

Sue Harmon

2 weeks, 1 day ago

1 

Wildlife need corridors for migration and in response to a changing climate Protect our remaining roadless areas for this purpose Don't plan commercial treatments in roadless areas Three areas that are particularly valuable and should not be subjected to mechanical treatments are Grassy Mountain Emery Creek and the Chattooga River corridor

Sue Harmon

2 weeks, 1 day ago

1 

Beavers should be reintroduced in appropriate areas and could help address systemic forest problems by creating natural long-lasting successional habitat in riparian areas

Sue Harmon

2 weeks, 1 day ago

1 

Restore woodlands on ecologically appropriate sites where they have the greatest chance of succeeding ie on harsh fire-prone sites Take note of the presence of dry-site species that require an open canopy as they are good woodland indicators plants such as Georgia aster coneflower and turkey beard

Sue Harmon

2 weeks, 1 day ago

1 

Use of prescribed fire should leave a mosaic of unburned lightly burned and more intensely burned areas Maybe limit the number of ignitions to help achieve this Also different habitats require different fire regimes with different fire intervals How will all the natural fire the forests have received this year effect the USFS plans for prescribed burns in the coming year

Anonymous

2 weeks ago



I would like to see an extensive effort in creating a diversified forest that would benefit ALL wildlife through the use of proper timber harvesting and prescribed burning

Dale Caldwell

2 weeks ago

2 

These comments apply to all areas of your jurisdiction. Thank you for this opportunity and the consideration of my comments. First and foremost, I'd strongly encourage the Forest Service to manage these forests in the best interest of all of their natural resources, including ALL wildlife (not just game species), native vegetation, and aquatic (stream and wetland) resources. I have absolutely nothing against hunting, but it is frustrating to see people focused only on hunting, game species, and benefits to them. If a forest is managed to encourage the health of and maximize the diversity of flora and fauna, then the deer, turkey, and small game animals will be present for hunters. I would encourage the Forest Service to restrict vehicle, horse, and bike access to sensitive areas. If a hunter or other recreational user wants access to these areas, then they can tough it out and walk, even if overnight camping would be required. Many seem to think that their tax dollars should warrant them the opportunity for motorized vehicle access to nearly all areas of these forests, which could in turn be degrading to the forests. The integrity of the forests as natural and healthy communities should be the top priority, not the hunter, not the taxpayer, and not the human. Rather than managing forests for "our" benefit, how about we help the forests manage themselves (as they did before humans had the means to degrade them) when possible, and manage them for the best interest of ALL native flora and fauna when assistance is needed. Let's not pander to politicians, special interests, or timber companies. Let's instead focus on invasive species and the protection of aquatic resources. It would also be nice to see an increase in law enforcement officers, allowing people who arent negatively impacting the resources (e.g. respectful hunters and backpackers) to enjoy them without burdensome requirements for camping, and stiff penalties for any and all who are contributing to degradation. Let's manage the forests for the forests, instead of the people. Most of us are no longer part of the forests, as we have destroyed them in order to establish our communities. As a result, these remaining and protected forests are much of what we have left, and for many of us our only opportunity to experience wilderness. If we allow the same influences as those who dictate the fate of the forests in our communities to manage national forests, then destruction of those will follow too. If we promote health and diversity, then everyone, including those who are tough enough to hunt, trek, and camp on foot, will be happy. Regardless of whether or not the hunter, politician, and/or timber company is happy, it is more important that the forest be natural, wild, and healthy. All that to say, please manage the forests for the forests instead of the people. Its not asking a lot of a Forest Service.

Response from GA Taxpayer

Excellent comment, I agree with this totally. Especially giving hunting interests a outsized say in the management of our public forests, and "management" as a euphemism for increasing hunters access and game populations at the overall expense of ecosystem health and everyone else's enjoyment of the forest. We ALL pay taxes, not just hunters.

Jeff Wilson

1 week 6 days ago



I agree with the GA TU in protecting our trout streams Restoration of trout habitat should continue to be a top priority of the Forest Serviceand we support expanding these efforts of Protecting Reconnecting and Restoring our Trout Streams

Response from Bill Lott Sr

As one of the 800 members of UCCTU, we have actively supported the Forest Service and DNR in stream restoration projects. We believe healthy streams support fish and all wildlife which can be enjoyed by all. Over 50 TU members participated in a Martins Branch restoration this summer near Helen. Stream Buffers are an important part of stream protection and need to be maintained. We also need to purchase stream side property as it becomes available. For that funds need to be appropriated and action needs to be taken promptly when properties become available.

Marie Dunkle

1 week 3 days ago



FS installed a gate to prevent vehicle use on the access road to Stonewall Falls in Tiger That was a good move and has resulted in 90 less trash and environmental damage in the facility of the falls However people have cut the area beside gate making it easy for any vehicle to go around--and they do mountain bikes ATV tracks observed Attached is a photo to illustrate This needs corrected or your efforts will have been wasted

Letter recieved from Donna Born by the Forest on November 25, 2016

1 week 2 days ago

1 

Please preserve our forests for all of us to use. The national forest is the only land in this country that is owned by all citizens. We should all be able to appreciate it and use it. That means we preserve it, not cut it down. Protect old-growth stands, restore stands to the kind of trees that were cut. Protect roadless areas for wildlife habitat and so they don't become overused. Please don't turn the forest into a big public park that is honeycombed with roads. Don't let the woods become so overused that the trees die like what has happened in Joyce Kilmer. Thank you for your consideration.

M. Grindle

1 week 2 days ago



Camp Merrill sewage disposal system poses a potential hazard to the Etowah River water quality Since Congress transferred USFS control of some 300 acres around Camp Merrill to Department of Defense who will monitor water quality of Montgomery Creek I trust this process is safe

Patrick Hunter

1 week 2 days ago

1 

If timber harvest commercial or not is going to be part of this project let's focus it in the areas we can all agree are the most degraded or departed from their natural condition For instance much of the Southern Apps was harvested and replanted as some type of monoculture plantation at some point in the past Those areas likely aren't doing much for wildlife and aren't an ecosystem we would expect to find in N Georgia if they hadn't been specifically planted that way Let's prioritize work in those areas

Ted Doll

1 week 2 days ago

1 

Wildlife openings should be done only in younger forests that were cut in the 80's or 90's rather than in older forests The latter should be allowed to mature into old growth

Stan hurder,dial ga

1 week 2 days ago



With the current forest fires burning across Fannin County the NFS will have a chance to study the impact of burns on thousands of acres of wilderness and forest lands This will tell us whether control burns promote various wildlife populations or not I noticed additional dirt and silt in Weeks Creek coming from the Brawley Mountain area I was not impressed with the burns and logging around Brawley Mountain in the name of helping a warbler I think the most valuable resource in this area which feeds the TN River and areas that feed the Chattahoochee is the clean water The woods should be considered a water factory especially for Atlanta The clean streams promote wildlife which benefits hunters and fisher hikers and bicyclesSo all management activities should do no harm to the beautiful healthy clear streams in this area This is some of the cleanest streams in America

Rick Kinkade, TU Member

1 week 2 days ago



I strongly support the TU Georgia Council's comments concerning the future of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests I want to encourage the USDA forest Service to keep the Council's comments in mind as they plan for the future of our cold water fisheries

Dreaming BearakaBarbara T Newell

1 week 2 days ago



I have a MAJOR interest in the USFS since it surrounds me on 3 sides of my 70ac at the end of Daves Rd off 60 south of Morganton I choose ALL categories

Jess

1 week, 1 day ago

2 

76 of 82

Id like to see management specifically for more forests reaching their full potential That is forests that are good for wildlife and plants and not the simplified forests that were often used too Many Foothills stands are almost all Virginia pine or all chestnut oak and the trees are all the same size You have to search to find a hollow tree that could serve as a den or a fallen log that a critter could hide under And weve gotten so used to seeing only small and medium sized trees that we think of the medium sized trees as big Calling the oaks and poplars we have now big is like calling someone whos 40 a senior citizenOnly about two percent of the Chattahoochee National Forest is old-growth has never been logged And almost all of that is on some steep mountainside where there a too many boulders to build a road or on some dry ridge where trees are twisted and stuntedthe table scraps from early 20th century logging The old-growth isnt next to a stream or places where people frequently visitThese remnants have value for wildlife research and as windows into the past The run-of-the-mill forests have value too for their tremendous biodiversity as places to hunt and as providers of clean water But theyre not at their full potential Thats going to take time Its also going to take cutting younger or degraded forests when we need to cut forest If we do that though we wont have to settle for the discount version of our forests

Response from GA Taxpayer

Another great comment, this guy clearly knows what he's talking about. USFS, listen to this.

Patrick Hunter

1 week, 1 day ago

1 



If commercial timber harvest is going to be part of this project let's avoid locating it in the the riparian corridor The riparian corridor as prescribed in the Forest Plan provides a buffer to protect water quality from erosion and sedimentation impacts and preserves a canopy over mountain streams to keep them cool This benefits species that require cool water like trout Keeping a canopy over streams can also mitigate against the impacts of warming water temperatures as a result of climate change and dying hemlocks

TU Rabun Chapter

1 week, 1 day ago



The plan should provide for water quality as a principle objective of the project drinking water is most crucial Care must be taken in all endeavors to enhance dissolved oxygen availability while minimizingeliminating bacterial pollution suspended solids and turbidity and thermal pollution Special interest should be given to both cold- and also not-so-cold water fisheries and sustainable habitats based on a total watershed or other physical ecosystem zones Where possible avoid site disturbances within interbasins direct runoff into stream or first order basins smallest permanently flowing streams Sites with severe slopes 15 should be avoided for most construction Ecosystem quality and habitat stability could be major project objectives- permitting natural changes to occur as much as possible

Phyllis Miller

1 week, 1 day ago

2 



I understand The Forest Service is asking for public input on the largest project ever conducted on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, the Foothills Landscape Project. I want to speak up for these forests and watersheds, with an eye towards protecting this landscape for future generations.... Here are a few ideas that I am hearing about:Since most tree species in the foothills can live 200 years or more, the majority of our forests are essentially middle-aged. Protect existing old growth, and give middle-aged forests the chance to become elders.Create wildlife habitat in a way that has the least impact on the environment, minimizing soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Invasive species are one of the biggest threats to the foothills landscape and should be a management priority. Protect the few large roadless areas and important corridors that we have in the foothills: Grassy Mountain, Emery Creek, and the Chattooga River corridor. These areas provide habitat for species requiring large territories and help species migration in a changing climate. Focus restoration efforts in areas where these efforts will be most successful, that is in areas containing evidence that these forest types existed under natural conditions. For example, do shortleaf pine restoration in stands where there are existing shortleaf pine stumps.I value old-growth forests, the many views of green as far as the eye can see, and the solitude of hiking less-traveled trails. I was born and raised in Georgia and this North Georgia-Oconee Landscape is dear to my heart. Please preserve the Foothills of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest.

Cohutta Chapter TU

1 week ago



We greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide input into such a unique and special area Our Chapter is in agreement with the comments of the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited We have a long and productive partnership with the USFS and look forward to a great future It is apparent from the comments that these areas have a diverse and loyal aggregate We all have to share this resource and have respect for the outcome of this process Our main focus is to provide protection of clean water resources clean water is part of the foundation of a healthy forest and deserves considerable attention

Comments recieved by Forest on 11/30 from Linda Ordiway - Ruffed Grouse Society

1 week ago



Thank you for the opportunity for input in the development of the Foothills Landscape project. It is both with discouragement and optimism that is sensed in the review of the literature available. Stating this project is to provide quality habitat for rare and declining species, as well as desired game and non-game species would suggest proposing a project in an area with a high hardwood component.

Disappointingly this is not the situation here. I would also question what species are intended for enhancement within this landscape that is dominated by shortleaf and pitch pine? Perhaps reviewing the declining species evidence from BBS routes, your own monitoring and other local sources for game / non-game and flora diversity should be the direction in determining the most appropriate area to implement action to achieve this stated objective. Given the effort and time line to go from this stage of a project to actual soil disturbance this project area is viewed as less desirable as those in other ranger districts. Many species of declining songbirds and game have elevational limits and forest type preferences less appropriate to the areas described here. The Ruffed Grouse Society will remain active in the progression of this project and remains hopeful that future projects will both be proposed and proposed in areas with a lower concentration of pine type.

Comment received from S. Booher on November 30, 2016

1 week ago

1 

My primary concerns are the local and migratory birds and native wildlife. In light of the recent fires, I am concerned we are not protecting our Old Growth trees/ forest areas and endangered plant species. I am also concerned about all of the forest roads that allow invasive species to include poachers. I offer a lot of forest roads need to be closed to protect watersheds from storm water runoff from too many forest roads. The last time I checked Forest Service Indicator species numbers were declining. Instead of asking why were they declining and fixing the problem, I was told you were going to drop those species and change to Indicators species that there were plentiful. My concern is why were the old Indicators species number dropping. Us identify the problem and fix it.

Donna Shearer

1 week ago



Here are some suggestions for our hemlock conservation areas Conduct a review of all the original HCAs to determine which ones are still viable and establish new ones to replace any that are defunct In any HCA that does not have the full complement of protected trees 60 trees per site with 3 sites per HCA add trees to bring the HCA up to maximum capacity especially large trees and those growing along waterways To safeguard the public interests of tourism and outdoor recreation allow for an increase in the number of HCAs giving priority to scenic areas and buffer zones along forest service roads hiking trails and trout streams Allow for the flexibility to change the control method chemical or biological in any HCA where the originally designated one does not appear to be working well before the trees get beyond savable condition Here are some suggestions regarding chemical treatment of hemlocks In addition to Imidacloprid allow for the use of Dinotefuran on an as-needed basis as well as other currently existing products or products developed in the future that are labeled for treatment of adelgids Keep all chemically treated trees on a steady 5-year treatment cycle Also schedule trees larger than 22 dbh that have been treated with Imidacloprid and trees that have been treated with Safari for year-two treatment with Imidacloprid And here are some suggestions for other initiatives that can easily be support by volunteers from nonprofit organizations with minimal to no impact on USFS staffing funding Issue permits to responsible nonprofit organizations to rescue small saplings from the national forest where they are not designated for chemical treatment and will otherwise perish Such trees could be used for reforestation efforts hemlock field insectaries and other charitable purposes but not for any commercial purpose Where hemlocks have been lost or are desirable but absent in key sites such as scenic areas hiking trails and trout streams establish a hemlock restoration initiative to plant pre-treated hemlock saplings using saplings rescued from other parts of the national forest or donated by partner organizations Save Georgias Hemlocks has already implemented this initiative on non-federal lands and would be happy to expand it onto the national forest Allow for the augmentation of existing bio-control field insectaries on the national forest and the establishment of additional ones using saplings rescued from other parts of the forest or donated by partner organizations

James

1 week ago



Invasive plant species are prevalent in this landscape Treatment of existing invasive plant sites should be a priority Even more important special care needs to be taken to prevent spread or introduction of invasive plant by management activities

James

1 week ago



The foothills landscape extends well beyond the USFS boundaries There is more private land in the landscape than public land Areas of the foothills landscape in private land has abundant open land in agriculture and abandon fields as well as early and mid-succession forest Looking at the whole landscape what is in short supply is large tracts of late-succession and old growth forest The first priority in developing a management strategy for the foothills landscape should be to identify where large uninterrupted tracts occur whether they are old forest or not These tracts should generally be left to grow old Early succession will happen naturally within these tracts or be lightly managed for in stands that have been converted to plantation in the near past there are plenty of these Hard mast production in these older forests drive wildlife populations We should not sacrifice good mast production for early succession

Jim Walker

6 days 22 hours ago

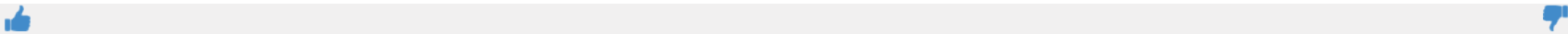


Do Appalachian Herbaceous Understories Ever Recover from Clearcutting? David Duffy, UGA, and Albert Meier, UGA "Whatever the long term dynamics of herbaceous understory communities in mixed-mesophytic forests following logging or other massive disturbances, the data presented here strongly suggest that recovery requires at least several centuries longer than the present logging cycles of 40-150 years for Appalachian cove hardwoods. Management of fully-functioning forest herbaceous communities to maintain biological diversity as mandated by the 1976 National Forest Management Act



Mary Topa

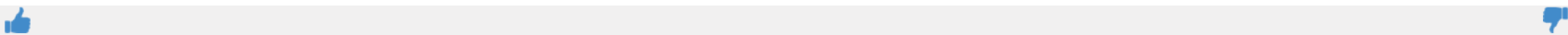
5 days 21 hours ago



There has been a lot of discussion about the benefits of logging on wildlife and forest health in this section. But I havent heard much discussion about potential negative impacts of logging on soil health and site productivity, both of which will impact health of the next generation of trees and plant communities in general. The USA is losing soil 10 times faster than the natural replenishment rate, in part because it takes 100-400 years to form an inch of soil. Modern-day logging techniques with heavy equipment and construction of skid trails, haul roads and log landings compact soil, and accelerate soil erosion and sedimentation of streams in our mountain forests. Georgias Best Management Practices are designed to minimize these losses, but soil losses still occur and will vary depending upon steepness of slope, soil texture, management practices, proximity to streams, storm events, and other factors. Intense rain events are becoming more commonplace, and Georgias Best Management Practices may not prevent the significant loss of soil and sedimentation of streams that occurs during an intense rain event. This accelerated erosion of soil, combined with removing harvested trees from the forest stand, remove nutrients from a generally nutrient-limited soil environment. So logging our mountain forests can negatively affect the health of the next generation of trees through soil loss, deterioration of soil physical properties, and loss of soil fertility. Lets find better ways to reduce soil loss during commercial harvests and protect soil health for future generations of trees.

Mary Topa

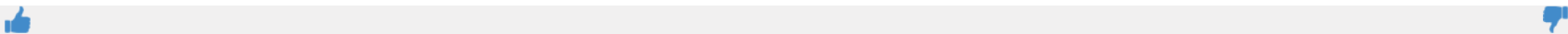
5 days 21 hours ago



I havent heard much discussion in the forum about impacts of logging and other management techniques (including prescribed burning) on wildlife that live in the soil and leaf litter. If we are managing our forests for wildlife, we need to consider impacts on all wildlife, including these ground-dwelling organisms. Many amphibians are in decline, with populations threatened by habitat loss, habitat modification from disturbances, climate change, and diseases like the amphibian chytrid fungal disease. Habitat conservation of these ground-dwelling organisms should be a management priority, particularly since the southern Appalachian Mountains have the highest salamander diversity in the world. A recent study in the Southern Appalachians by the late Ray Semlitsch indicated that it can take up to 100 years for certain salamander populations to recover from logging. Management techniques that leave more of the forest canopy intact appear to be more compatible with maintaining salamander populations across a landscape. Lets work together to increase monitoring of future projects and determine impacts of various logging techniques on amphibian populations, and how to best conserve their habitat. Thank you for the opportunity to raise this issue.

Comments received via email from Monte Seehorn on 12/2

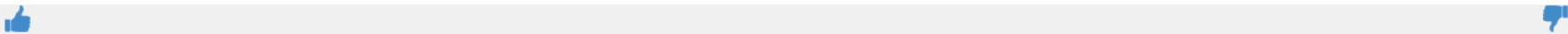
58 mins 43 secs ago



I question the logic of concentrating or limiting management efforts to only one physiographic portion of a National Forest for a period of years. Wildlife habitat conditions, Forest vegetative conditions, road maintenance, and access problems, etc. may actually be more critical and need more attention in other portions of the Forest than in the Foothills. Specific examples (and they are not the only ones) are the habitat requirements for ruffed grouse and goldenwing warbler. Both are found primarily in elevations above the foothills. Management assessments should be made at the Forest level in order to properly prioritize management efforts. I strongly oppose the compartmentalizing of Forest management for a number of reasons, including opposition to the Management Area concept for wildlife management, in which intensive management is limited to a relatively small acreage of a large unit, with little such effort in the rest of the Forest. Equal effort spread over a larger area will create better conditions for a more diverse and sustainable wildlife population. Furthermore, spreading the effort into a larger area will provide a far better recreational experience for both hunters, birdwatchers, and other people interested in wildlife. Cramming hunters and other forms of wildlife recreation into discrete small acreage units of the Forest is simply not good management. The Forest Service has emphasized Forest wide management for many years for these reasons, which is adequate justification in itself to oppose the Foothills concept.

Comments received via email from Monte Seehorn on 12/2

57 mins 34 secs ago



First and foremost is the lack of vegetative diversity in stand age classes on the entire Chattahoochee NF, including the Foothills. Currently, only a fraction of one percent of the Forest is in the category of early successional forest (0-10 year age class). In order to meet the needs of the broad range of wildlife species found in this Region, five percent or more of the Forest should be maintained in this age

class. Although a few FS employees contend that early successional goals can be met through prescribed burning operations, such claims are not valid. The occasional hotspot in a prescribed burn that removes a few overstory trees doesn't meet the criteria. That is called management by accident.

Comments received via email from Monte Seehorn on 12/2

56 mins 33 secs ago



The most efficient and economical management technique for creating early successional habitat is through regeneration type timber harvesting, which in hardwoods, is generally limited to clearcutting and two age shelterwood harvesting. The two age shelterwood was developed primarily as an alternative to clearcutting, for political reasons, and not from a silvicultural need. The Forest Service Experiment Station developed arbitrary guidelines that would retain enough trees so that it wouldn't be classed as a clearcut. They felt that if 20 OR LESS basal area were retained that this amount of leave trees would not be a major detriment to the new stand coming on. However, in many cases, the tendency of some managers in the field has been to bastardize these guidelines by using 20 BA as a minimum or simply to create higher minimums. From an economical, silvicultural, and wildlife standpoint, clearcutting is the more desirable of these two.

Comment via email from William Gimson on 12/4

25 mins 40 secs ago



I think the Forest Service needs to seriously consider reintroducing native carnivores like the cougar and red wolf to the Chattahoochee National Forest. We have a serious problem with wild hogs that hunters cannot solve. These wily, intelligent animals tear up the forest, decrease plant diversity and destroy fragile cove ecosystems, and compete with native animals like bear, deer and turkey for wild food sources. And their population is only growing. I've seen them on numerous occasions while hiking the Chattahoochee NF, though I will rarely encounter a deer or bear. In addition these reintroductions should stand on their own merit. With conservation increasingly being the goal of the forest service, returning our ecosystem to completeness should be a top priority. It is not expensive to release the founders of a breeding population of cougar or red wolf into a remote wilderness area like Cohutta or Southern Nantahala.

MKD

1 week 3 days ago



This should not be considered the primary vehicle for public comment about forest management for sure. When the FS is considering timber removal of an area or burning the members of the public who wish should have opportunity to visit those areas first, examine stands specified for thinning and verify for example that if an area is said to have overstocked Pines then that is actually true. We have sometimes found plans based on inaccurate field information. The public are the owners of the forest and we need to have an opportunity to make informed comments which is not possible if projects comprising thousands of acres are announced with 30 days to comment. On the matter of ESH, if ESH is created no Oaks should be cut and old clearcut stands should be slashed down. Mature mast producing Oaks are critical for healthy wildlife populations and past management activities have reduced mast production. Give nature like the Beavers a chance to fill their natural role. This will have less damaging effects than timber harvesting with its environmental impact with rod building, soil loss and sedimentation. Furthermore, more Forest Service personnel need to get out in the field particularly on weekends to give a presence and influence public safety and environmental protection. I live at edge of national forest hike frequently and cannot recall a time when I've seen any FS presence--unless I am specifically in the woods with them on a project related to fire data or transportation planning.

Daniel Crawford

1 month, 1 week ago



As we move forward in our understanding of ecological systems and the disturbance regimes that shape those systems, it is paramount that we recognize that historical approaches to managing forests and their inhabitants needn't dictate future action. Many of our Appalachian wilderness areas have been left untouched for too long, resulting in lack of successional diversity across the landscape. Early successional habitat is critical for maintaining biodiversity. I would like to see increased timber harvests in these areas rather than extreme burns. We should utilize the timber resources available rather than torching them, as not to displease the public sector uneducated in natural resources management. Fire certainly has a place in the North Georgia ecosystem, but it makes little sense to me to burn valuable timber in order to reach management objectives without active harvests.

Mark Willingham

1 month, 1 week ago



Please consider some of the opportunities being brought forward including more early successional forests and rotational burning. This will do nothing to hurt wildlife habitat but greatly helps.

Ryan Swafford

1 month, 1 week ago



4

81 of 82

I consider myself an avid PUBLIC LANDS hunter I could easily spend tons of money on a hunting lease in a game rich area but my passion is in our National Forests and Wildlife Management Areas It is an awesome feeling knowing that myself and all other Americans share 640 million acres of just National Forest alone I am pleased to see the initiative taken by the Forest Service to receive public input on forest management practices in the foothills region of North Georgia I hope the input of hunters will greatly influence management decisions as hunters are the first real conservationists and we all love seeing the success of animal species that we so greatly respect Who knows better than those who are constantly deep in the forest getting up close and personal with the game they are chasing I am a Tennessee resident from Chattanooga and also hunt the Cherokee National Forest I choose to purchase an out of state Georgia hunting license every year for the cost of approximately 365 I do this because I have greater success and more public land opportunity in Georgia Even though I feel the Chattahoochee offers better hunting than the Cherokee there is a lot of work that could be done The greatest problem with wildlife habitat that I see is the lack of diversity in forest growth As a former Forest Service employee Cherokee Hotshots I know that prescribed burning works wonders It is currently probably the most effective tool for timber stand improvement and wildlife management However there are places that haven't seen fire in decades if ever I recommend broadening the acres burned yearly given increased man power and funding and burning some of the units close to the wilderness that need it most Anyone who believes prescribed fire is bad is absolutely incorrect Spend enough time in the southern mountains and you can witness burn units thrive in weeks months and years after a quality prescribed burn Another means of achieving forest diversity is through bad word logging There is not enough cover for deer grouse and other nesting birds to survive and thrive The poor grouse are basically gone due to no timber harvest Deer are very few and far between because they don't have good thick cover brought on through logging and yes some clear cutting I don't condone cutting massive swaths of land or old growth timber but the foothills region is perfect for much more productive managed timber harvest Another goal the Forest Service should have is to plant the small openings and designated gated roads with seasonal grasses and keep them maintained I'm not sure of the relationship between the Forest Service and Georgia DNR but I hope its great You can work together for this goal There is also the unbelievable growth of the feral hog population These animals are not a game species and are bad in every way possible Hunters alone cannot make a dent in their numbers I would like to see large scale trapping or other known means of getting rid of the hogs as much as possible by the Forest Service and Georgia DNR I know the red tape and bureaucracy the Forest Service has to go through to complete any project burn plans NEPA etc Most of it is a joke and just increases planning time and overall cost to any project My apologies to the agency However I hope the sportsman's voices will be heard and that the non-hunters can agree that we hunters are passionate about not just wildlife management but the health of our public lands We hunters tend to notice a lot of things that others do not

Justin Ravan

1 month 3 weeks ago



they should clean up all the tornado damage on raven cliff trail in a smart way

Powered by [PlaceVision Community Remarks](#) ©2011-2016. All Rights Reserved.

Please stay on topic. Comments will not be posted if they are flagrant or contain offensive language.

Select Language

Powered by [Google Translate](#)