



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee  
National Forests  
Armuchee/Cohutta  
Ranger District

3941 Highway 76  
Chatsworth, GA 30705  
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**File Code:** 1920-2-5

**Date:** July 27, 2004

Dear Forest Users:

The Armuchee-Cohutta Ranger District is proposing to reduce the stand density in three pine stands of maturing trees on the Armuchee Unit within a year. These stands total approximately 113 acres and have an average age of 20 to 25 years. The trees are at a point where their vigor and health are declining due to too many trees too close together. This creates a stress on the trees that make them susceptible to insect and disease attacks. These stands are located near previous outbreaks of Southern Pine Beetle infestations. Presently, the basal area of the trees range from 100 to 180 square feet, and, this project will reduce the basal area to an average of 70 square feet. The reduced competition should improve the overall health of the remaining trees. The primary tree species that will be commercially harvested from the sites include loblolly pine, Virginia pine and yellow poplar.

The selected areas have good access so this project will not construct any new roads. Old existing temporary roads will be utilized to remove the timber and will be reconstructed to standard where needed. All activities will comply with the Best Management Practices for the State of Georgia and the standards for the Forest Plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee NF.

This project meets the following objectives set forth in the Chattahoochee-Oconee Forest Plan:

- Thin shortleaf and loblolly pine overstory trees (Objective 3.7)
- Reduce stem density in loblolly and shortleaf pine stands with priority for stands at high risk of insect or disease attack (Objective 40.1)
- Management Prescription 7.A, Scenic Byway Corridor: Manage forest successional stages to maintain a minimum 75% of forested acres in mid- and late-successional forest, including old growth (Objective 7.A-01)
- Management Prescription 9.H, Management, Maintenance and Restoration of Plant Associations: Manage forest successional stages to maintain a minimum 50% of forested acres in mid- and late-successional forest, including old growth (Objective 9.H-01)

We are interested in your comments about this proposal and invite you to send site-specific written comments to us by August 26, 2004 at the Armuchee-Cohutta Ranger District office, or by email to [mwmurphy@fs.fed.us](mailto:mwmurphy@fs.fed.us). Thank you for your interest in your National Forest.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Whitman  
DEBRA L. WHITMAN  
District Ranger

