



File Code: 1950

Date: October 4, 2004

Dear Interested Forest Stakeholder:

On November 3, 2001, District Ranger Dave Jensen wrote to invite your comments on the development of a new facility on National Forest System land that would serve as an integrated complex for the Tallulah Ranger District. This complex would include the office/visitors center, the work center, and the helibase in one location. Our initial proposal included construction of these facilities on a site near Wiley, about six miles south of Clayton on Highway 441 South. The co-location of the administrative facilities supporting the Tallulah District would consolidate the functions of the district to a central location and would allow for much more efficient operations.

We received several written comments in reply to this scoping letter and the interdisciplinary team also had concerns over this proposal. In response, we analyzed the initial Proposed Action along with two alternatives that responded to the significant issues relating to the initial proposal. Alternative 1 included no action with the District continuing operations at the existing facilities; and Alternative 2 included construction of all facilities at a site north of the Wiley site between Boggs Branch and Boen Creek (Boggs-Boen site). This analysis is documented in the enclosed environmental assessment (EA), which we are making available for public comment for 30 days, pursuant to 36 CFR 215.5.

At this time I have identified Alternative 2, the Boggs-Boen site, as preferable over the initial proposed action (Wiley site) and the no action alternative. However, before making a final decision, I would like to hear from you. This 30-day public comment period provides a final opportunity for public review of the proposed construction project and the accompanying EA. Comments must be postmarked within 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the Gainesville Times in order to be considered. Comments will be addressed in an appendix to the EA. I will consider your comments in reaching my final decision.

Please send your comments to District Ranger Dave Jensen, Tallulah Ranger District, 809 Highway 441 South, Clayton, GA 30525; or by phone call to (706) 782-3320; or by e-mail to dwjensen@fs.fed.us. If you have any questions or need further information on this project, please contact Steve Cole at the above address and phone number or at the e-mail address sncole@fs.fed.us.

Thank you for your participation in our project planning process.

/s/ Kathleen Atkinson

KATHLEEN ATKINSON
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment.



