



File Code: 1900
Date: May 2, 2008

Scoping Notice

Non-Native Invasive Species Treatment Project

Dear Interested Citizen,

The Blue Ridge and Conasauga Ranger Districts of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests are beginning the environmental analysis process for the treatment of non-native invasive plant species (NNIS). This is a broad-scale proposal and takes an adaptive management approach. A detailed description of the proposed action has been enclosed.

We are seeking your input and encourage you to participate by providing your comments and suggestions on this proposal. Please provide your comments by **Friday, June 6, 2008**.

Scoping is an important “first step” of the environmental analysis process. Your comments will be used to identify relevant issues and help guide the environmental analysis. The environmental analysis of the proposed NNIS treatments will be documented in an Environmental Assessment.

Purpose and Need

NNIS are rapidly spreading through the natural habitats across the Districts, displacing native plants, and disrupting natural ecosystem process. The purpose of the proposal is to reduce or eliminate impacts from NNIS populations in order to protect the integrity of natural plant communities.

The purpose and need for this proposal is supported by direction provided in the Forests’ Land and Resource Management Plan under Goal 12 which states, “Minimize adverse effects of invasive native and non-native species. Control such where feasible and necessary to protect national forest resources” (Forest Plan, p 2-8).

How to Provide Comments

You may send your comments and suggestions as follows:

Comment Format	Contact Information
Hard Copy Letter	Conasauga Ranger District Attn: NNIS Project 3941 Highway 76 Chatsworth, GA 30705
E-mail	rbstokes@fs.fed.us Subject: NNIS Project
FAX	706-695-1872
Phone	Ruth Stokes, 706-695-6736, x 105



The electronic versions of the information provided in this scoping letter are available on the Forest's website at: www.fs.fed.us/conf/

If you have questions or need additional information concerning this project, please contact:

- Ruth Stokes, Conasauga District Wildlife Biologist at 706-695-6736 x 105,
- Jim Wentworth, Blue Ridge District Wildlife Biologist at 706-745-6928 x 107, or
- Cindy Wentworth, Forest TES, Botany, and NNIS Coordinator at 706-745-6928 x 109

We appreciate your interest in the management of the Conasauga and Blue Ridge Ranger Districts.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michele H. Jones

/s/ Alan Polk

MICHELE H. JONES
Conasauga District Ranger

ALAN POLK
Blue Ridge District Ranger

Enclosures: Proposed Action (4 pages)
Blue Ridge District Map (1 page)
Conasauga District Maps (2 pages)