



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests
Supervisor's Office

1755 Cleveland Highway
Gainesville, GA 30501
(770) 297-3000

File Code: 1950/7300

Date: DEC 16 2008

Dear Forest Stakeholder:

I would like to inform you, and ask for any comments you may have about a proposal to market and sell the Brasstown and Holly Creek Work Centers located respectively near the Georgia towns of Blairsville and Chatsworth. The proposal would involve the disposal of these work centers, including the buildings, other improvements, and adjoining land area at each site by sale to the highest bidder. The marketing and sale of these two work centers would be completed in accordance with Congressional Authority granted to the Agency under the ***Forest Service Facilities Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (FSFREA)***.

The Brasstown Work Center is located in unincorporated Union County approximately five miles east of Blairsville, the county seat. The property to be sold adjoins the right of way of U.S. Highway 76 to the north for approximately 1,050 feet (please refer to the attached maps). The site to be offered for sale consists of approximately 16.43 acres and is a part of USA Tract G-57Aa. The property contains a single building with about 1,500 square feet of enclosed area.

The Holly Creek Work Center is a 31.93-acre tract located in unincorporated Murray County approximately five miles northeast of Chatsworth, the county seat. The property has a physical address of 4111 Old CCC Camp Road (please refer to the attached maps). The work center includes an office building, oil and paint storage building, equipment and vehicle storage building, and shop building. This parcel of land was acquired in 1933 and is part of the lands within USA Tract K-615.

Congressional conveyance authority is typically used to help improve Forest Service operations and ultimately to provide benefits to the American public. FSFREA authorizes the conveyance of administrative sites and facilities by means of sale, lease, exchange, or by other such means as the Secretary of Agriculture considers appropriate. This conveyance authority may include any federally owned lands that are associated with the site that was acquired or is used for administrative purposes for the Forest Service. The operation of these two specific work center sites is becoming physically and financially inefficient for several reasons. The Forest Service no longer uses the Holly Creek Work Center. A significant amount of deferred maintenance exists and there are significant needs associated with accessibility to the building structures for persons with disabilities to meet ADA requirements. In addition, both work center sites have been identified as surplus facilities due to consolidation of the land base and infrastructure that was formerly administered by the Blue Ridge/Blairsville and Conasauga Ranger Districts.

Disposal of these two work center sites will deal with several needs for the Chattahoochee National Forest. The proceeds from these sales will be used to help offset the costs of construction on either other facilities currently under construction, or for construction of facilities that are in the planning stages.



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The proposal that is described herein falls into a category of actions that may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. It has been determined that this proposed action would meet regulations contained within 36 CFR 220.6(d), Category 7, which deals with the "sale or exchange of National Forest System land or interest in land and resources where resulting land uses remain essentially the same." This determination, however, will not be finalized until after consideration of your comments and concerns.

The proposal is a starting point for discussion and analysis and no decision has been made. Responses from the local community, interested individuals and groups, other governmental agencies, and Forest Service employees are needed to help determine the extent of analysis so we meet the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments received help us to assess the overall proposal, develop viable alternatives if necessary, and indicate any mitigation and monitoring measures that may be needed.

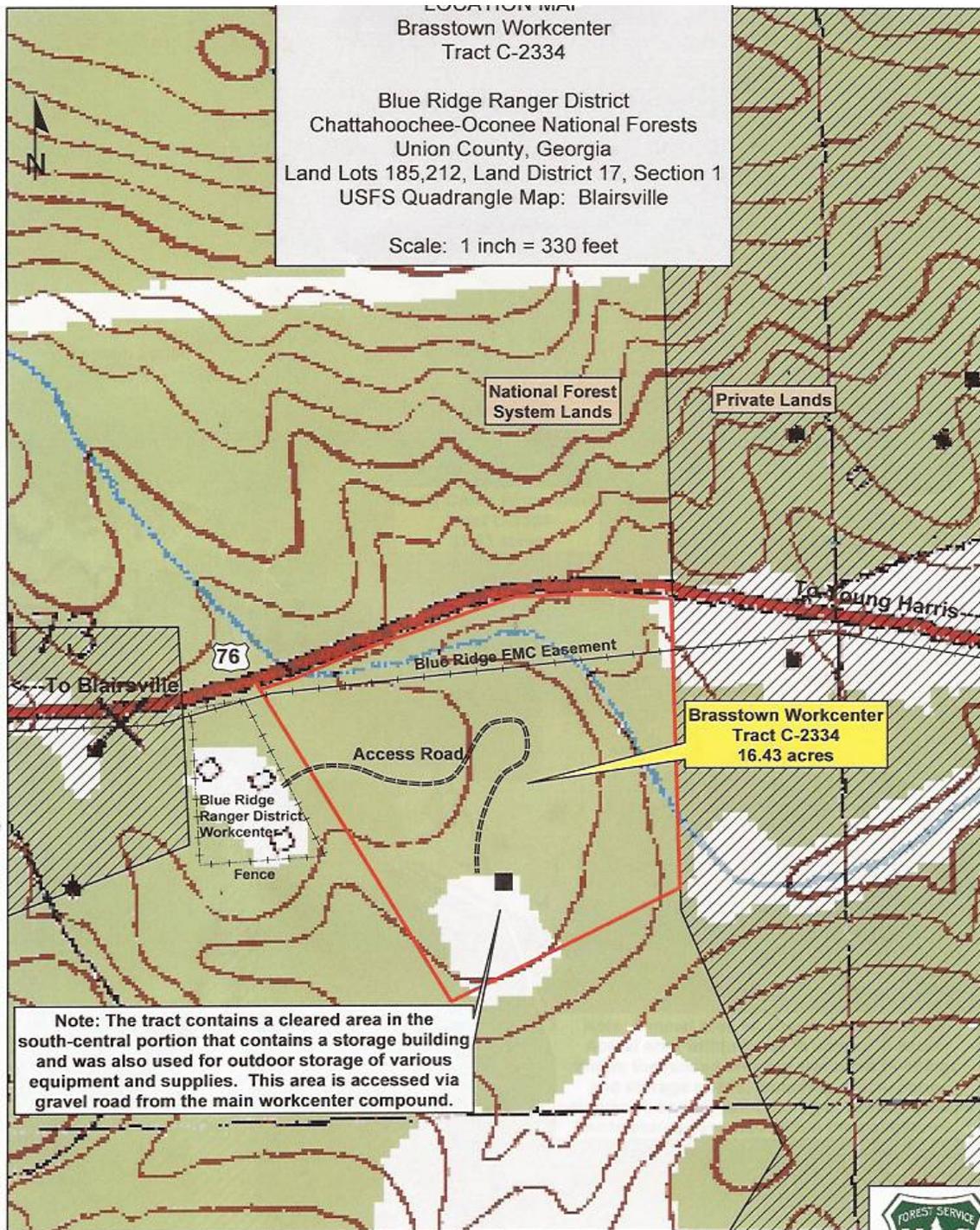
Responses should contain relevant facts or comments along with supporting reasons that we would then consider in reaching a final decision regarding this proposal. Comments received, including names, become part of the public record and are available for public review. **To have your comments considered in our decision-making process, we would need to hear from you by January 16, 2009.** Your comments will help ensure a complete and thorough analysis of the proposal. Send your written comments to the U.S. Forest Service address provided on the letterhead. You may comment by phone (see letterhead), by email to jpetrick@fs.fed.us, or in person at the Forest Service offices in Blairsville, Chatsworth, or Gainesville, Georgia. Please note that you will only receive future correspondence related to the scope of this project if you submit comments, or if you formally request all future related correspondence.

Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,



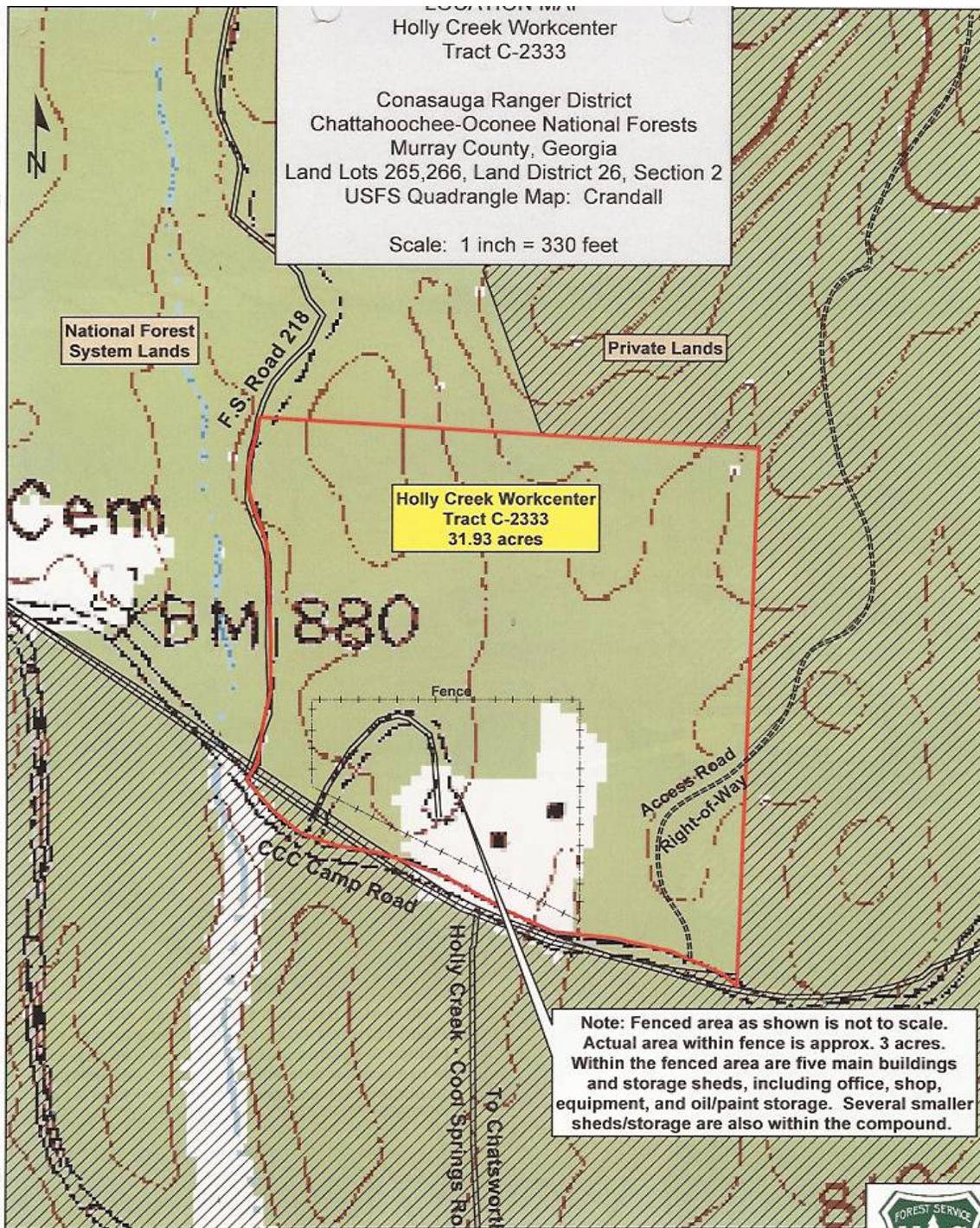
GEORGE M. BAIN
Forest Supervisor



Although the Forest Service uses the most current GIS data available, data and product accuracy may vary.

beb 4/7/08





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