



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests
Blue Ridge Ranger District

1881 Highway 515
P.O. Box 9
Blairsville, GA 30514
(706) 745-6928

File Code: 1950/2600

Date: August 1, 2008

Dear Forest User:

Enclosed is a 30 day comment copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Brawley Mountain Golden-winged Warbler Habitat and Woodland Restoration Project, on the Blue Ridge Ranger District of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests in Fannin County, Georgia. The purpose of this project is to create and maintain woodland habitat for its associated species with a specific focus on the golden-winged warbler.

The EA for the project was prepared by a Forest Service interdisciplinary team and is ready for public review and comment. It evaluates several alternatives for the future management of the Brawley Mountain Area. I have identified Alternative 3 as my preferred alternative to accomplish the project's objectives. Alternative 3 proposes to restore approximately 400 acres of woodland habitat through the use of timber harvest, chainsaw felling, prescribed burning, selective herbicide use and supplemental seeding. Restoration activities would be confined to the upper and mid, south and west facing slopes and the adjacent ridgelines.

Although a preferred alternative has been identified, my final decision on which alternative to implement has not been made. You can help me in making this decision by providing written review comments on the EA.

Comments must be postmarked within 30 days beginning the day following the publication of the legal notice in the North Georgia News in Blairsville, Georgia or The News Observer in Blue Ridge, Georgia, whichever is later. Only those who submit timely and substantive comments will have standing to appeal. Comments should be sent to Jim Wentworth, Blue Ridge Ranger District, P. O. Box 9, Blairsville, GA 30514, or by e-mail to jwentworth@fs.fed.us. Your comments should be as specific as possible and contain the following information: 1) your name, address, and (if possible) telephone number, 2) the project name (**Brawley Mountain Golden-winged Warbler Project**), and 3) and specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that you believe I should consider in reaching a decision.

The EA also is available on the Chattahoochee-Oconee web site and can be viewed at <http://www.fs.fed.us/conf/sopa/wildlife-nepa.htm>. Additional information can be obtained by calling Jim Wentworth at the Blue Ridge Ranger District at 706-745-6928.

Thank you for your time and interest in management activities on the Blue Ridge Ranger District, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.

Sincerely,

/s/ ALAN POLK

ALAN POLK
District Ranger



