

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR SCOPING COMMENTS ANALYSIS AREA 5 PROJECT HOMOCHITTO RANGER DISTRICT FRANKLIN & LINCOLN COUNTY MISSISSIPPI

The Homochitto National Forest is proposing vegetative management and associated activities to improve forest health and maintain or improve wildlife habitat in Analysis Area 5. This proposal includes removal of timber by timber sale and regeneration by natural and artificial methods. **All management activities will take place on Forest Service lands.**

This unit encompasses 3,721 acres of National Forest Land and, specifically, sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, and 15 of T7N, R5E; section 6 of T7N, R6E; section 31 of T8N, R6E; and sections 33, 34, 35, and 36 of T8N, R5E. This Analysis Unit is located in Franklin County and Lincoln County, Mississippi, north of McCall Creek, and is bordered on the east by the Homochitto River.

We are preparing an Environmental Assessment to evaluate the impacts of this proposed action. As part of this effort, we must provide information about the project and ask the public to assist us in this analysis by sharing with us any special knowledge, interests or concerns you may have related to the activities or project area. The following actions are proposed:

- Mixed Pine Regeneration: 117 acres will be regenerated using a clearcut with reserves treatment on mixed pine and replant to longleaf in order to restore a historic species component to the sites.
- Pine/Hardwood Regeneration: 168 acres will be regenerated using a clearcut with reserves treatment on mixed pine/hardwoods and replant to widely spaced mixed pine in order to maintain and increase pine and hardwood species on the sites.
- Seed tree Regeneration: Harvest approximately 41 acres of mixed pine by the irregular seed tree method. These are upland sites outside the areas where regularly scheduled prescribed burns are anticipated, and are suitable for shortleaf and loblolly.
- Intermediate Thinning: Thin approximately 611 acres of mixed pine and mixed pine/hardwood sawtimber. This treatment will reduce the amount of insect threat, remove mature timber, and allow younger trees within the stand more space to grow.
- Initial First Thinning: Thin approximately 154 acres of mixed pine pulpwood for the first time. These are pine plantations regenerated over the past 25 years.
- Site prepare regeneration areas using a combination of herbicides, hand tools and prescribe fire on approximately 285 acres. Release with herbicides, chainsaws, and/or handtools as needed.
- Site prepare seedtree areas by chemically releasing or prescribed burning approximately 41 acres before seed fall. Release with prescribed fire, herbicides, chainsaws and/or handtools as needed.
- Prescribe burn approximately 432 acres on an approximately three-year cycle to improve wildlife habitat and forest health.
- All acres are estimates.

This initial scoping period will end on September 14, 2000. Comments should be submitted in writing to the District Ranger, Gary W. Bennett, Homochitto Ranger District, Homochitto National Forest, Rt. 1

Box 1, Meadville, MS 39653, or by contacting Charlie Price, District Planning Team Leader, or Kate Koske, Project Leader, at 601-384-5876.