

LEGAL AD NOTICE
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
USDA – FOREST SERVICE
HOMOCHITTO NATIONAL FOREST
HOMOCHITTO RANGER DISTRICT

AMITE, ADAMS, COPIAH, FRANKLIN, JEFFERSON, LINCOLN, WILKINSON
COUNTIES MISSISSIPPI

FIRST THINNINGS YEAR 2001

This is a request for comments on the proposed first thinning of pine/hardwood stands. These stands are proposed for thinning during the year 2001, to be sold in several sales. The ages of the proposed stands range from 20 to 26 years old. The acreage of these pine and pine/hardwood added together is approximately 2578 acres. These 66 stands are scattered across the Homochitto National Forest, and range in size from 11 to 87 acres. Proposed for thinning are pine/hardwood and loblolly pine stands. The average stand size is 39 acres. The approximate total volume to be thinned from these stands would be 12,890 MMM bdf or 23,202 CCF. The products would be pine pulpwood, hardwood pulpwood, small pine sawtimber and chip-n-saw. Road maintenance of 55.3 miles and spot road reconstruction of approximately 3.6 miles would be necessary to facilitate harvesting.

The objectives of the proposed thinning is to:

- Increase the vigor of the remaining trees which improves the forest health and reduces the chance of successful attacks by southern pine beetles and other forest pests.
- Release and increase the vigor of mass producing hardwoods.
- Salvage the trees that are about to die from natural competition.
- Foster grasses, forbs, and shrubs beneath the forest canopy for animals.
- Provide a financial return early in the rotation from the sale of pulpwood and small sawtimber.
- Produce greater future value of the remaining trees
- Improve the visual appearance of stands and enhances the dispersed recreation opportunities on the area by reducing the density, providing travel paths, and improving the visibility.
- Develop red-cockaded woodpecker habitat more rapidly, within their habitat management area.

Comments should be sent to: District Ranger, Homochitto District, Route 1, Box 1, Meadville, MS. 39653. Additional information may be obtained at this address or by calling 601-384-5876. Comments must be postmarked or received within 14 days beginning the day following publication of this notice. The District Ranger will consider these comments in reaching a final decision.