
LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
Homochitto National Forest

The Homochitto Ranger District is proposing to permit maintenance on power, oil, and gas utility corridors through the use of herbicides to control woody vegetation that interferes with access to and wildlife use of these sites. This maintenance option will be added to current maintenance options, which include clearing with hand tools, tractor mowing, and equipment such as powerline cutters. All utility corridors on the District are being considered under this project proposal.

The proposed herbicides to be used are Garlon 4 and Arsenal. These herbicides have very low toxicity and a short half-life, and are effective against most woody vegetation. They are licensed for use in seasonally wet areas and have no adverse affect to water quality and fish at the low concentrations required to control undesirable vegetation. The use of herbicides will be selective and generally confined to areas with a heavy briar or woody component. Herbicides have substantial advantage over other methods under these circumstances. The current methods have resulted in the perpetuity of woody brush on the site, which is an unnatural condition that is less beneficial to management indicator species than an open, grassy site. Hand tools expose workers to briars, poison ivy, yellow jackets, and other hazards. The incidence of cutting injuries and allergic reaction to bites and stings are much higher than the health risks associated with herbicide use. Mechanical equipment can cause damage to soils.

An Environmental Assessment is being prepared to evaluate the impacts of this proposed action. Please assist us in this analysis by sharing any knowledge or concerns you may have related to this project. Please address your comments in one of the following ways: written comments should be sent to: District Ranger, Homochitto Ranger District, Rt. 1, Box 1, 1200 Hwy 184 East, Meadville, MS 39653. Phone comments or requests for additional information should be directed to the project leader, Steve Goodson, at 601-384-5876. To insure that your comments are included in the analysis, please be sure that they are received by April 18th, 2003.