

Decision Summary -- Wilderness

Project Name	2021 Alexander Wilderness/Hinson Mound Restoration Project		
Forest	National Forests in Florida, Ocala N.F.	Region	R8
Choose Type of Activity (Wilderness, Roadless, Energy infrastructure, Minerals, Vegetation CE, Land Management Plan) and level of Decision (No DM, DM, DN/FONSI, ROD)			
Wilderness: 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(20) – Activities that restore, rehabilitate, or stabilize lands occupied by roads and trails, excluding National Forest System roads and National Forest System trails.			
Decision Level - DM			
Planned Decision Date	February 17, 2021		

Summary Description

Purpose/Need
Illegal vehicle access by non-system, user-created roads into the Alexander Springs Wilderness has increased and is causing resource damage and loss of wilderness character. The purpose of this project is to obliterate illegal roads that are used to access the wilderness. Associated activities will involve revegetating and recontouring sites to restore hydrology, prevent erosion and protect nearby heritage resources.
Intended Selected Action
(1) Use motorized heavy equipment within the Alexander Springs Wilderness Area to decompact soils on portions of illegal roads/trails with slopes greater than 5% and re-establish native vegetation in intersections with more than 200 square feet of denuded area; (2) Use motorized heavy equipment to obliterate illegal access points originating from FR 18 & 18-1.8; (3) Convert the easternmost 1.9 miles of FR 18-1.8 from Management Level (ML) 3 to Management Level 1 and install gates to restrict access to the ML1 portion; (4) Eliminate 1000 feet of FR 18-1.8 and conduct restoration and erosion abatement activities on the eliminated section.
Potentially Significant Effects or Extraordinary Circumstances (if any)
None. Actions within Wilderness are proposed, and there are heritage resources nearby, but actions would provide benefit and protection to these resources and will be implemented according to a minimum requirements analysis coordinated with the Regional Office.
Public Involvement (include State, local governments and Tribal consultation)
The scoping letter is anticipated to be issued by February 10.
Timeline Considerations (statutory, court-related, administrative) and Objections Status
Road obliteration and restoration actions are being undertaken by a Forest Service Enterprise Team that is scheduled to arrive at Ocala N.F. on Feb. 17, 2021, so this project is very time-sensitive. The decision would not be subject to objections.