

Decision Summary – Vegetation CE

Project Name	JNF Crown Touching Release Project		
Forest	Jefferson National Forest	Region	Southern Region
Choose Type of Activity (Wilderness, Roadless, Energy infrastructure, Minerals, Vegetation CE, Land Management Plan) and level of Decision (No DM, DM, DN/FONSI, ROD)			
Timber Stand Improvement - Decision Memo 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6)			
Planned Decision Date	February 15, 2021		

Summary Description

Purpose/Need
The purpose is to maintain and improve the species composition in timber stands on the Jefferson NF to trend them towards the desired conditions for timber, wildlife, and aesthetic characteristics as described in the 2004 <i>Revised Land and Resource Management Plan Jefferson National Forest</i> .
Intended Selected Action
The proposal is to treat up to 2,000 acres annually within candidate stands on the Jefferson National Forest using the crown touch release method. Competing trees would be cut with chain saws, brush cutters, or hand tools. No heavy equipment or machinery would be used. No cut trees will be removed from the site. Sites would be accessed from established Forest Service roads or trails and no soil disturbance would occur.
Potentially Significant Effects or Extraordinary Circumstances (if any)
The determination was made that there would be no significant effects from this proposed treatment and no extraordinary circumstances were identified. Design criteria were developed to avoid any significant effects; they have been incorporated into the Decision Memo as Appendix A.
Public Involvement (include State, local governments and Tribal consultation)
The Forest Service received correspondence from thirteen individuals, organizations, and agencies for this project, including the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation-Natural Heritage (DCR), during the public scoping period, which ran for 30 days from November 22 nd through December 23 rd , 2019. Comments were considered and additional design criteria were developed in response.
Timeline Considerations (statutory, court-related, administrative) and Objections Status
This project has been in development since July of 2019. The decision is not subject to objections, the decision may be implemented immediately upon signature of the Decision Memo.