



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Brasstown Ranger  
District

P.O. Box 9  
Blairsville, GA 30514  
Phone: 706/745-6928  
Fax: 706/745-7494

---

File Code: 1950

Date: April 14, 2004

Dear Forest Users:

I recognize the interest members of the public have concerning management on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. This is why I am requesting your comments concerning proposed ecosystem restorations, which are located in Union and Towns Countys, Georgia. The proposed areas have been impacted by the Southern Pine Beetle.

Enclosed with this letter is a preliminary working map and a list of proposed sites that have been identified for site preparation (readying the sites for tree planting) and release of those planted trees, using herbicides. The focus of this restoration is to return species such as oak and shortleaf pine to sites where they naturally occurred, creating an historical forest community. Examples of this include shortleaf pine-bluestem grasses or oak woodland ecosystems.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee Forest Plan identifies restoration opportunities in the Goals and Objectives section. Existing conditions do not meet these goals, specifically, Goal 8, - Contribute to maintenance or restoration of native tree species whose role in forest ecosystems: (a) has been reduced by past land use; or (b) is threatened by insects and disease, fire exclusion, forest succession, or other factors. The proposed actions are designed to meet the forest plan goals by restoring forest composition, providing for forest health, wildlife habitat, and a more native and sustainable ecosystem.

Your specific comments to the proposed actions will help identify key issues and possible alternative ways of meeting the project's purpose and need. The key issues and alternatives will help focus the environmental analysis (effects) of the proposed actions.

***Please return your comments to me by May 14, 2004.***

If you have questions or need more detailed information regarding these proposals feel free to contact myself or Sheldon Henderson at the Brasstown Ranger District (706) 745-6928, or Sandy Henning in the Forest Supervisor's Office, (770) 297-3064. I appreciate your continued interest in the management of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alan Polk  
ALAN POLK  
District Ranger



## Summary of Proposed Treatments:

- Herbicide treatment to prepare the site for regeneration of oak in 14 stands totaling 273 acres. This will be followed by two release treatments within five years of planting, if needed, in the following compartment and stand numbers: (Compartment/Stand) 367/12, 348/03, 355/2, 25, 364/1,2, 365/18, 407/10, 410/23, 411/31, 411/03, 410/26, 357/28, 357/02, 399/12, and 399/36. All of these sites contain an offsite pine overstory that was killed by the Southern Pine Beetle. The proposed treatments will help re-establish a mixed hardwood (oak) stand type in these areas.
- Herbicide treatment to prepare the site for regeneration of shortleaf pine in compartment 412 stand 14, totaling 5 acres. This will be followed by one release treatment within five years of planting, if needed. This stand contained offsite loblolly pine that was killed by the Southern Pine Beetle. The proposed treatment will help to re-establish a mixed shortleaf pine-oak community in this stand.
- Herbicide treatment to release planted oak trees in compartment 348 stand 01, totaling 3 acres. This treatment will occur two times. This stand contained offsite loblolly pine that was killed by the Southern Pine Beetle. The proposed treatments will help the oak trees that were planted become re-established into a mixed hardwood (oak) stand type.
- Herbicide treatment for three progeny sites that have been already been planted to red oak and white oak. These sites are located in compartment 405 stand 34,5ac. and compartment 336 stand 5, 10 ac. for two sites.

The proposed site preparation treatments will use herbicides containing the active ingredient triclopyr or a triclopyr/glyphosate mixture, depending on the timing of application and the size of the target vegetation. Proposed release treatments will use a mixture of herbicides containing the active ingredients triclopyr and imazapyr. All herbicide treatments are designed to treat only the targeted or unwanted vegetation. This may occur by application to a cut stump, basal treatment, or foliar application.

All herbicide applications will be done according to labeling information and site-specific analysis. This labeling and analysis are used to choose the herbicide, rate, and application method for the site. They are also used to select measures to protect human and wildlife health, non-target vegetation, water, soil, and threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive species. Site conditions may require stricter constraints than those on the label, but labeling standards are never relaxed. Method and timing of application are chosen to achieve project objectives while minimizing effects on non-target vegetation and other environmental elements.