



File Code: 1950

Date: July 06, 2004

Dear Forest User:

The Hitchiti Experimental Forest is cooperatively managed by the Southern Research Station, Georgia Forestry Commission and the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. Part of its mission is as a demonstration forest and to facilitate education transfer to resource managers, students and also the public in general (Chattahoochee-Oconee LRMP, pg 3-48).

Located inside the administrative boundary of the Brender Demonstration Forest Office site (compartment 4; stand 52) is a small arboretum used for educational purposes. The Forest Service proposes to construct a small pond (1/10<sup>th</sup> acre in size). The pond would permit a wider array of plant species, that require wetter (mesic) growing conditions.

The anticipated implementation date for pond construction is Fall 2004. Please see the attached vicinity map to show approximate location.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, I am seeking comments for the project. I anticipate a decision memo will be prepared for this project. If you want to comment or want additional information about this project, please contact the Oconee Ranger District. Comments must be postmarked or received by **July 30, 2004**. Your comments need to be as specific as possible and include the following information:

1. Name, address, and (if possible ) telephone number;
2. Title of the project (Hitchiti Arboretum Pond)
3. Specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that I should consider in reaching a final decision on this proposal.

Your comments can be sent to the address on the letterhead. If you have any questions regarding this project please contact Tim Walker or myself at the District Office between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday, 706-485-7110.

Sincerely,

/s/ William B. Nightingale

WILLIAM B. NIGHTINGALE  
District Ranger

Enclosures

