



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Brasstown Ranger
District

P. O. Box 9
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File Code: 1950

Date: November 25, 2002

Dear Forest User,

The Brasstown Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest is asking for your comments on a proposal to reduce the spread of kudzu on four areas in Union and Towns counties (see enclosed map). The areas proposed for treatment are as follows:

1. 2 acres along Hwy. 180 between Vogel State Park and Wolf Pen Gap.
2. 2 acres along Hwy. 288 east of Hiawassee.
3. 5 acres near Lake Nottely at Reese Creek, north of Blairsville.
4. 4 acres near Gum Log Gap, north of Blairsville.

The proposal includes using a combination of herbicides, cutting, and burning to rid the area of the exotic plant. A combination of these tools will be used for 3 to 5 years until control is completed.

In area #1 above, the kudzu is located within 100 feet of the Blood Mountain Wilderness area. If it continues to spread, it could move into the wilderness and threaten the area's native vegetation. In the other areas, the kudzu has begun to overtake native tree species. Unless the plant is reduced or eliminated, the area's native plant species may be jeopardized.

We are currently in the process of determining the significant environmental issues and public concerns. You can help us in completing our analysis by providing comments on this proposal. Your comments should be as specific as possible and contain the following information: your name and address, the project name (Kudzu Control Project), and specific comments along with supporting reasons you believe your comments should be considered by the Deciding Official. Environmental concerns already being considered by the planning team include protection of water quality, protection of archaeological resources, protection of sensitive and endangered plant and animal species, and maintaining the established Visual Quality Objectives.

If you have any concerns and considerations that you want the Forest Service to consider in our decision-making process, you can send them to US Forest Service, Brasstown Ranger District, P.O. Box 9, Blairsville, GA 30514 or by e-mail to apolk@fs.fed.us. Please submit your comments by December 20, 2002.



Thank you for your interest in management of the Brasstown Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest. We look forward to your comments and working with you and this and other projects.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alan Polk

ALAN POLK
District Ranger

Enclosure