



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

Through File 1950  
Code:

Date: April 1, 2003

Dear Forest User,

The Brasstown Ranger District is proposing to sell sticks from mountain laurel, rhododendron and red maple on the district. These sticks would be approximately 1-2 inches in diameter and 6-7 feet long. The sticks will be pruned from shrubs or trees with hand tools.

The area considered for this project will consist of a 800 ft. corridor along either side of the following Forest Service system roads: Road numbers, 4, 33, 33-A, 33-B, 261, 55, 262, 263, 129, 34, 34-C, 144, 886, 118, 118-B, 118-A, 131, 296, 292, 47, 283, 698, 114, 113, 26-2, 42, 346, 829, 315, 604, 99, 110, 117, 122, 179, 196, 256, 265, 274, 274-A, 287, 298, 305, 377, 39, 392, 435, 439, 4-C, 4-D, 654-B, 724, 818, and 886. Sticks harvesting will not be allowed in designated wildernesses and scenic areas or developed recreation areas. The sticks will be carried out to system roads by hand. No off road vehicles will be allowed in the harvesting of sticks.

These sticks will be allowed to be sold commercially (through competitive bidding) without impairment of other uses and services (Forest Plan, page 4-1) or impairment of the ecosystem itself. The purpose of this sale is to help meet the increasing demand for this type of forest product. The sticks would be removed from species that have increased in distribution and frequency across the forest over the last century.

The proposed pruning would include the following restrictions and monitoring:

- All branches removed from the sticks would be lopped and scattered to reduce fire hazards and increase the rate of decomposition.
- Vehicles used for transporting the sticks will be limited to designated roads.
- All sales will be monitored by periodic inspections by a sales administrator.

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 (Stick Harvesting), and specific facts or comments along with the supporting reasons you believe your comments should be considered by the Deciding Official in reaching a decision. You may respond to the Brasstown Ranger District offices at the address below:



U.S. Forest Service  
Brasstown Ranger District  
P.O. Box 9  
Blairsville, GA 30514

You may also provide your comments by fax at (706) 745-7494 (Brasstown R.D) , or e-mail your comments to [jshenderson@fs.fed.us](mailto:jshenderson@fs.fed.us).

If you have any questions about this project please direct them to Sheldon Henderson on the Brasstown District. To have your comments considered in our planning process we need to receive your reply by April 30, 2003.

Thank you for your time and interest in the management activities on the Brasstown Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Frances H. Mason

(for)ALAN POLK  
Brasstown District Ranger

Enclosure