



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee  
National Forests

Tallulah Ranger District  
809 Highway 441 South  
Clayton, GA 30525  
(706) 782-3320

---

File Code: 1950

Date: September 20, 2004

Dear Interested Forest Stakeholder:

On August 2, 2002, I sent a scoping letter to individuals, organizations, or agencies that indicated an interest in projects on the Tallulah Ranger District. The purpose for the scoping letter was to invite comment on a proposed project to enhance wildlife habitat by creating early successional habitat (ESH).

We received several written comments in reply to this scoping letter and the interdisciplinary team also had some concerns with this proposal. In response, we analyzed the initial Proposed Action (Alternative 2) along with two alternatives that responded to the significant issues relating to the initial proposal. Alternative 1 included no action with the District implementing no wildlife habitat enhancement projects at the proposed locations. Alternative 3 included no treatment of any forest land that may be close to reaching old growth criteria. Alternative 3 would also reduce treatments that could expose soil which may lead to erosion and sedimentation. This analysis is documented in the enclosed environmental assessment (EA), which we are making available for public comment for 30 days, pursuant to 36 CFR 215.5.

At this time I have identified Alternative 3 as preferable over the initial proposed action and the no action alternative. However, before making a final decision, I would like to hear from you. This 30-day public comment period provides a final opportunity for public review of the proposed wildlife habitat projects and the accompanying EA. Comments must be postmarked within 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the Clayton Tribune in order to be considered. Comments will be addressed in an appendix to the EA. I will consider your comments in reaching my final decision.

Please address your comments to District Ranger Dave Jensen, Tallulah Ranger District, 809 Highway 441 South, Clayton, GA 30525; or by phone call to (706) 782-3320; or by e-mail to [dwjensen@fs.fed.us](mailto:dwjensen@fs.fed.us). If you have any questions or need further information on this project, please contact Andy Gaston at the above address and phone number or by e-mail to [avgaston@fs.fed.us](mailto:avgaston@fs.fed.us).

Thank you for your participation in our project planning process.

/s/ *David W. Jensen*

DAVID W. JENSEN  
District Ranger

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment.

