



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Hoosier
National
Forest

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File Code: 1950/5150

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Greetings, AL

You are invited to comment on a proposal to treat excess fire fuel loading in the Hickory Ridge area of the Hoosier National Forest. The majority of the proposed project is in Jackson County with a small portion in Lawrence County. Comments would be appreciated by September 28, 2001.

The excess fuel loading is the result of a tornado that passed through the area on April 19, 1996. A portion of the area was salvage logged in 1997 through 1999. This treatment reduced a major portion of heavy fuels in those units that were logged. A portion of the area received major damage and has received no fuels treatment to date. A fuels assessment of the entire tornado damage area has determined that a wildfire hazard still exists and subsequent treatments are necessary to provide for public and firefighter safety.

We have stratified the affected area into five different fuel loading categories:

Background—No blowdown, considered to be typical of background levels of dead and down materials. These areas are included to provide a comparison of what we would expect fuel loads to be under normal conditions.

Moderate blowdown harvested—moderate blow down, majority of area treated with timber harvest.

Moderate blowdown not harvested—Moderate blow down with no treatment to date.

Heavy blowdown harvested—Entire or most of most of the stand completely blown down with harvest treatments.

Heavy blowdown not harvested—Entire or most of the stand completely blown down with no treatment to date.

The following table lists the general location, fuel loading categories, current fuel loading, acres proposed for treatment, and proposed treatment. The unit identifier (A-N) is used on the enclosed maps for location of proposed treatments.



General Location		Heavy Blowdown Not Harvested	Heavy Blowdown Harvested	Moderate Blowdown Not Harvested	Moderate Blowdown Harvested	Background Fuel Loading (Tons per acre)	Current Fuel Loading (tons per acre)	Acres Proposed to be Treated	Proposed Treatment
STARNES	A	XX				15	25	53	Broadcast burn
	B		XX			15	25	35	Pile burn
	C		XX			11	28	67	Treat by isolation, treat surrounding area
	D				XX	11	24	95	Treat by isolation, treat surrounding area
SALT CREEK	E		XX			9	17	50	Treat by isolation, treat surrounding area
	F				XX	9	20	437	Broadcast burn
PIPELINE	G	XX				9	26	26	Machine pile/burn
	H			XX		9	15	158	Broadcast burn
	I				XX	9	25	187	Machine pile/burn
HICKORY East West East	J	XX				3	26	58	Treat by isolation, treat surrounding area
	K				XX	3	24	24	Machine pile/burn
	L				XX	15	20	23	Machine pile/burn
FORK RIDGE	M	XX				14	27	30	Treat by isolation, treat surrounding area
	N			XX		14	17	118	Broadcast burn

Terms and Definitions:

Broadcast burn- The burning of forest residue scattered over an area.

Fuel loading- The amount of fuel present expressed quantitatively in terms of weight of fuel per unit area.
This may be available fuel or total fuel and is usually dry weight expressed in tons per acre.

Treat by isolation- The burning of forest residue next to and surrounding heavy fuel areas; but not the heavy fuel areas themselves.

Machine pile/burn- The use of mechanized equipment to pile downed debris, then burn the piles.

Definitions Source: Southern Forestry Smoke Management Guidebook, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report SE-10, December 1976 by Southern Forest Fire Laboratory Personnel-Southeastern Forest Experiment Station- Asheville North Carolina and Macon Georgia.

** Broadcast burn lines will encompass portions of the surrounding area. The control lines may use existing features such as roads, trails, creeks, and natural features that will assist in preventing fire spread.



For more information about this project, please contact Chris Peterson, Forest Fire Management Officer, at (812)-547-9247 or email capeterson@fs.fed.us.

Please send comments to: Hoosier National Forest
Attn: Tornado Fuels Project
248 15th St.
Tell City, IN 47586

Sincerely,

/s/James E. Denoncour
JAMES E. DENONCOUR
District Ranger

Enclosures: Maps

