



File Code: 1950/2400/5140

Date: January 9, 2004

Dear Interested Publics:

I am asking for your comments to identify any extraordinary circumstances, issues, and concerns that I should consider about the following proposed action to reduce pine fuel reduction in pine stands along AA Highway east of Alton, Missouri. This would be achieved by commercially thinning these pine stands, followed by prescribed burning. This proposed action would be part of an overall program of reducing forest fuel levels in these stands adjacent to federal, state, and county developed roads, private land and/or associated structures to reduce the risk of the loss of property, life, or putting the public's safety at risk. The areas included in this proposal are all National Forest lands currently being managed for multiple uses, including wildlife habitat and pine forest products.

The proposed actions were first identified as part of the 2,500 acres of pine stands on the Doniphan/Eleven Point Ranger District that met the five criteria contained in a scoping letter dated September 28, 2001 for approximately 12,000 acres forestwide. It was noted that three of the five criteria emphasized access into areas using existing roads, proximity to private land, and clearly defined borders between ownerships (established landlines). A review based on all five criteria of the stands making up the 2,500 acres on the Doniphan/Eleven Point Ranger District resulted in pine stands along AA Highway three miles east of Alton, Missouri being identified for treatment.

This area along AA Highway has a higher frequency of arson fires that elsewhere on the Doniphan/Eleven Point Ranger District which is facilitated by a high density of roads. This meets the criteria for area inclusion in the program of pine fuel reduction treatments due to the existing road access into this area. The public lands are also in close proximity to, if not sharing, property boundaries with private land.

The table below identifies the compartments and stands in this proposed action. The attached vicinity map shows the location of these stands.

Compartment	Stand	Acres
203	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25	Approximately 181 acres
204	80	Approximately 20 acres
205	22, 23, 25, 33, 39,	Approximately 123 acres



I would like to hear your specific comments and suggestions concerning this proposal that involves National Forest lands only. You may send a letter to: Jerry Bird, Doniphan/Eleven Point District, 1104 Walnut St., Doniphan, MO 63935, or you may FAX your comments to me at 573-996-7745 or you may E-mail your comments to: mailroom_r9_mark_twain@fs.fed.us. The subject line should read: NEPA Doniphan. You may also call Tom Oldham or Don Fish or Ben Wyatt 573-996-2153. If extraordinary circumstances are identified, a determination would be made as to how impacted they are by this proposed action. This process will identify the level of analysis documentation for these proposals. Please have your comments to us by close of business January 23, 2004.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jerry Bird

Jerry Bird
District Ranger

Enclosures (map)

PLEASE NOTE: Comments received in response to a solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on a proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address by the close of business on October 15, 1997.

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