USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Ouachita National Forest
Caddo-Womble Ranger District
1523 Highway 270 East
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2101
Fax: 870-867-3338

File Code: 1950; 2400
Date: June 5, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

The Ouachita National Forest, Caddo-Womble Ranger District, has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Non-native Invasive Plant Species Project. This proposal would be implemented throughout the Caddo-Womble Ranger District, located in central Arkansas (Garland, Montgomery, Pike, Polk, Howard and Hot Spring Counties). As of May 2019, the Caddo-Womble Ranger District was comprised of approximately 310,000 National Forest System (NFS) acres.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to the pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

The EA is available on-line at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57573. Documentation is also available for review at Caddo-Womble Ranger District office in Mount Ida, AR.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments per §218.2 regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection §218.24(b)(6). For issues to be raised in objections, they must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit written comments on a proposed project or activity. The time period for the opportunity to comment on a proposed project or activity to be documented with an environmental assessment shall not be extended. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner.

Written comments must be submitted to: Shalonda Guy, District Ranger, 1523 Hwy 270 E, Mt. Ida AR 71957 or fax to (870) 867-3338. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to comments-southern-ouachita-caddo-womble@fs.fed.us. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request §218.24(b)(8). Please state "Non-native Invasive Plant Species Project" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail.

After considering your comments, the Forest Service will finalize the EA. Prior to decision, an objection period will be provided on the EA and a ***draft*** Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact. If you have questions about this project or would like more information, please contact Chip Stokes at 870-867-2101 or chip.stokes@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

SHALONDA L. GUY
District Ranger