



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Apalachicola Ranger District
P.O. Box 579
Bristol, FL 32321
850/643-2282

Wakulla Ranger District
57 Taff Drive
Crawfordville, FL 32327
850/926-3561

File Code: 1950

Date: April 28, 2009

Dear Concerned Citizen:

The Forest Service is pleased to announce the availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Visitor Information Areas (VIA's) project for a 30-day Notice and Comment period. The EA is available by request or on the internet at

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/florida/apalachicola/resources/projects.php?p=1.1.6.2>

The Apalachicola National Forest (ANF) proposes to construct 17 (VIA's) at strategic entry points throughout the Forest. The project area includes primary and secondary roads between the ANF and its urban interfaces. They are within both the Apalachicola Ranger District and the Wakulla Ranger District. The purpose of this initiative is to provide forest visitors with information and orientation to the ANF. Currently the ANF does not provide adequate forest entry information other than signs saying "Apalachicola National Forest". This action is needed as a critical communication tool for forest visitors in urban interface locations and strategic portal entry points, providing visitors with forest rules of conduct and useful information to assist them in having a safe and enjoyable experience while using their National Forest.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.5, the District Ranger, Marcus Beard, is seeking comments on this proposal. Comments must be postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day following the publication of the legal notice in the Tallahassee Democrat and Calhoun Liberty Journal. Your comment needs to be as specific as possible and contain the following:

- (1) Name, address, and (if possible) telephone number;
- (2) Title of the proposal on which comment is being submitted; and
- (3) Specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that you believe the Responsible Official should consider in reaching the decision.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Written comments on this proposal should be sent to: District Ranger, 57 Taff Drive, Crawfordville FL 32327, called in at (850) 926-3561, or faxed to (850) 926-1904. Oral or hand-delivered comments must be received within our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Friday, closed on federal holidays. Comments may also be mailed electronically in a common digital format to our office at comments-southern-florida-apalachicola@fs.fed.us



To obtain additional information about this proposal, contact Shanon Harvey at (850) 926-3561, extension 6512.

Sincerely,

MARCUS A. BEARD
District Ranger