



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Ozark National Forest
Pleasant Hill
Ranger District

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File Code: 1950

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PROJECT INITIATION NOTICE TO INTERESTED PUBLIC BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PROJECT

OVERVIEW

The Forest Service is seeking your involvement regarding the Brushy Mountain Project. Your input and ideas will help us design a project that meets the diverse needs of the project area. A proposed action and alternatives, including a "No Action" alternative, will be developed and presented to the public at a later date.

PROJECT AREA

The Pleasant Hill Ranger District of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests is currently in the beginning stages of developing the Brushy Mountain Project, located in Franklin County, Arkansas. It is bounded on the north by the Mulberry River and State Highway 215; on the east by Low Bridge and Pink Twist Roads; on the west by State Highway 23; and on the south by the National Forest Boundary. The legal description of Brushy Mountain project area is T12N R27W Sections: 24, 25, 26, 35, 36; T11N R27W Sections: 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14; T12N R26W Sections: 19, 20, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34; T11N R26W Sections: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. The compartments include 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 444, and 445. The project area encompasses approximately 17,107 total acres; 12,706 of National Forest and 4,401 acres of private.

All work will take place on National Forest lands *only*. No work will occur on privately-owned land. However, the Forest Service will seek to work collaboratively with private landowners via Wyden/Stevens agreements, which allows the Forest Service to carry out prescribed burn treatments on private lands surrounded by or adjacent to federal land in areas where both the Forest Service and private landowner will benefit.

A map depicting the current conditions of the Brushy Mountain project area is attached with this document for your review.



NEED FOR ACTION

The Pleasant Hill Ranger District's "order of entry" and the ongoing need to improve forest health led to this project proposal. The Forest Plan guides activities for a 10 to 15 year planning period and directs that all land types be inventoried within that timeframe. The Brushy Mountain project area is due for inventory, treatment, and monitoring. Foremost, the future proposal will address forest health and diversity, as identified by the interdisciplinary team members.

Examples of critical needs of this project that could be addressed during the development of proposals are:

- 1) Removing non-native invasive species that compete with native plants and animals.
- 2) Improve wildlife habitat that will benefit fish and wildlife that are dependent upon young vegetation.
- 3) Improve forest visitor safety by removing dead and dying vegetation.
- 4) Contribute to the local economy via the sale of wood products removed to meet aforementioned needs.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THIS AREA?

Your input and ideas are important in designing and completing the Brushy Mountain Project. They will help the interdisciplinary team identify issues important to the public and design a proposed action as well as alternatives to address the issues. Comments are most helpful when they refer to specific forest related resources within the project area. Your comments would be most helpful to us in developing a proposed action that ranges from addressing wildlife habitat improvement, recreation opportunities, any known problems with non-native invasive species, or forest health.

If you have any comments, issues, or concerns, we invite you to write, call, or come in to the office in Clarksville to discuss them. It would be most helpful to have your comments to us within 30 days of receiving this letter. You may reach the Pleasant Hill office by phone at (479) 754-2864 or come by during office hours to discuss the project. Our hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm, excluding all federally observed holidays.

Sincerely,


Pat Kowalewycz
District Ranger