

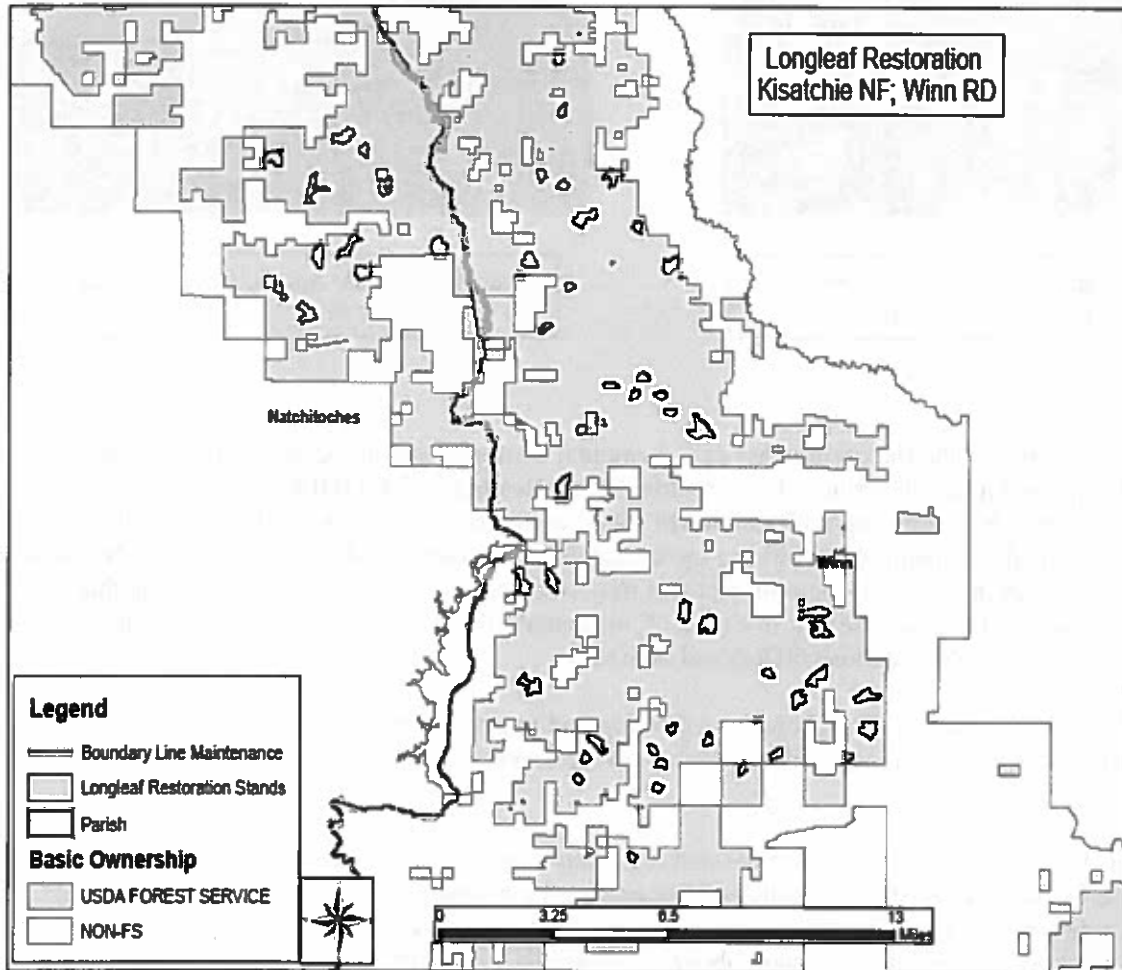


File Code: 1950
Date: March 13, 2018

Dear Forest User:

The Winn Ranger District is proposing 2,665 acres of longleaf pine restoration and associated activities in Compartments 9, 10, 13, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 36, 38, 40, 41, 48, 49, 54, 55, 57, 58, 61, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 74, and 75 of the District. The proposed actions include clear cut with longleaf pine reserves, mechanical site preparation for planting, planting longleaf pine seedlings, chemical or mechanical release, town ant treatment with insecticides, non-native invasives species control, erosion control and road maintenance for access.

The project areas is located throughout the District in Natchitoches and Winn Parishes (see vicinity map).



Purpose and Need for Treatments

The purpose and need for treatment is to restore longleaf pine to its native range. Also, by removing loblolly and slash pines and planting native longleaf pine, the risk of southern pine beetle (SPB) infestation is reduced and the resiliency of the stand and forest is improved. Longleaf pines enhance future potential Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) habitat and are more resilient than other southern pine species, being able to withstand severe windstorms, pests, tolerate wildfires and drought.

The project area currently does not meet the desired future conditions as described in the Forest Plan for sub-management area 3BL and 5CL. There is a need to implement forest plan direction by working towards meeting the desired future conditions of the project area.



Current Condition: Approximately 60 year old loblolly pine stand in the project area.



Desired Condition: Approximately 60 year old longleaf pine stand

I have reviewed the project and the preliminary environmental consequences associated with the proposal and find that this project meets the criteria for a Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) categorical exclusion (CE). Section 603 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (commonly referred to as the Farm Bill) establishes a categorical exclusion for qualifying insect and disease projects in designated areas on National Forest System lands. An insect and disease project that may be categorically excluded under this authority is a project that is designed to reduce the risk or extent of, or increase the resilience to, insect or disease infestation in the areas (HFRA, Sections 602(d) and 603(a)).

Use of the Farm Bill CE includes a requirement to develop and implement the project through a transparent and nonexclusive collaborative process with interested persons representing diverse interests (HFRA, Sections 603(b)(1)(A) - (C)).

You can help us improve our decision processes and make our management choices more responsive to the public we serve. I would like to start our collaborative process by asking you to provide your comments (thoughts, ideas, issues, and concerns that relate to this specific proposal) by March 23, 2018. Please indicate your preferred method of involvement (email, phone, meeting). If you desire, a statement of support would also be helpful as we develop this proposal. Please provide comments and information to: Brian M. Rudd, District Silviculturist, Winn Ranger District, 12319 Highway 84 West, Winnfield, LA 71483, by phone at 318-628-4664, email: brudd@fs.fed.us, or fax 318-628-2971.

This scoping notice also constitutes consultation for the determination of Area of Potential Effect (APE) under revised regulation implementing the National Historic Preservation Act found at 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1). The APE considers potential and direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to heritage resources. All 2,665 acres within the APE have been previously surveyed with Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) consultation. One site, 16NA466, was recorded and is not considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Documents related to this project will be posted at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/kisatchie/landmanagement/projects>

If you would like more information or have questions relating to this proposal, please contact Brian M. Rudd, Silviculturist, by email at brudd@fs.fed.us or by phone at 318-628-4664.

Thank you for your continued interest in the management of the Winn Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest.



GREGORY D. COHRS
District Ranger

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