



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Boston Mountain
Ranger District

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File Code: 1950-1

Date: July 13, 2009

Dear Reader:

The Boston Mountain Ranger District is proposing, watershed, timber harvesting, silvicultural, and wildlife habitat management treatments on National Forest land north of the Millers Chapel area in Washington County, Arkansas. This letter serves as notification of the project to local landowners and others who have an interest in these types of activities. If you do not have an interest in this project, you do not need to respond.

The project area includes compartments 512 and 513. The legal description is Township 13 North Range 29 West sections 10 – 12, 14, and 15 and is the *Hollow Brown Project* (see attached map).

The purpose and need for this project is to improve forest and ecosystem health, promote quality wildlife habitat and improve watershed conditions in the Jones Fork Watershed northeast of Winslow in Washington County. This watershed is contained in the larger Upper Frog Bayou Watershed, the source of a municipal water supply. The actions proposed take into account the protection and restoration of forest ecosystems.

The actions proposed were developed from field reviews that determined management needs for this area based on the goals established by the Forest Plan, and conditions encountered on the land. The interdisciplinary team proposing these actions consists of a forester, NEPA specialist and biologist, wildlife biologist, engineering technician, fire management officer, and forestry technicians.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The project is in management area 3E - High Quality Forest Products. Management activities in these areas must comply with the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (Revised Ozark-St. Francis National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (RLRMP) 2005). Forest and watershed health, scenery management, and habitat improvement activities for wildlife are strongly emphasized. The proposed treatments seek to accomplish improvements in these goals for this area.

Thinning will remove less vigorous trees to reduce competition between remaining trees. This would increase growth and vigor of the remaining trees and increase their resistance to disease and insects. Vigorous growth also aids in carbon sequestration which occurs at a higher rate if



trees are allowed to grow unhindered by competition. Thinning these stands would also increase the amount of sunlight reaching the forest floor and improve conditions for ground level plants such as bluestem grasses and various forbs. Small rodents, birds, deer and turkey would benefit from these treatments.

Table 1. Proposed silvicultural treatments

Comp/Stand	Acres	Method of Cut	Silvicultural Treatments
512/05	83	Thin	N/A
512/10	33	Thin	N/A
512/18	13	Shelterwood And SH Removal	Chemical site prep and site prep burn. Chemical release of desirable tree species as needed. After 5 years remove shelterwood trees if sufficient stocking. Planting of desired tree species as needed.
512/20	21	N/A	Pre-commercial Thin
513/06	26	Shelterwood And SH Removal	Chemical site prep and site prep burn. Chemical release of desirable tree species as needed. After 5 years remove shelterwood trees if sufficient stocking. Planting of desired tree species as needed.
513/11	57	Thin	N/A
513/22	28	Shelterwood And SH Removal	Chemical site prep and site prep burn. Chemical release of desirable tree species as needed. After 5 years remove shelterwood trees if sufficient stocking. Planting of desired tree species as needed.
513/23	21	N/A	Pre-commercial Thin
Total Acres	282		

Commercial Thin - 173 Acres: Thins the stand by removal of lower quality trees leaving the residual stand at approximately 70 sq ft of basal area.

Where regeneration cuts are adjacent to each other, a 330 foot no-treatment buffer will be placed between the treatment areas.

Shelterwood Harvest (67 acres)

Method of regenerating an even-aged stand in which a new age class develops beneath the residual trees. The initial harvest prepares the seedbed and creates a new age class where natural regeneration is preferred. In the first phase, 70 percent of the overstory is removed. Site preparation will be accomplished utilizing chemical and controlled burning methods. Periodic chemical releases will often be necessary to promote desirable tree species. With adequate regeneration, the second phase removes the remaining overstory.

Silvicultural Treatments:

1. Chemical site prep
2. Site prep burn
3. If stand adequately stocked after five years remove sheltering trees
4. If stand not adequately stocked, implement artificial regeneration as directed by the LRMP
5. Apply two chemical releases of preferred growing stock
6. Apply chemical pre-commercial thin

Pre-commercial Thin (42 acres)

Thin the stand by removing lower quality trees and leaving the residual stand on 12x12 spacing, approximately 300 trees per acre. In the long-run, this operation promotes self pruning, faster growth, and reduces damages by fire, insects, and disease.

Additional Silvicultural Treatment

Perform full planting with site prep on 67 acres: Site preparation would be accomplished with herbicides followed by prescribed burning to prepare these sites for planting. Planting will be accomplished by either mechanical means or by hand.

ROADS MANAGEMENT

Install gate at intersection of FS Roads 3WA0918 & 95513C.

Forest Development Roads (FDR) 95512A, 95513A, 95513C and 95513D are all single lane, native material surfaced roads under Forest Service jurisdiction. Some maintenance was performed during the previous timber sale on roads 95512A, 95513A and 95513C. Maintenance has been performed on these roads in the past, although light brushing, grading and additional spot aggregate placement will be needed on these roads to support additional timber sale activities.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Openings: Construct or reconstruct, maintain or improve 7 wildlife openings (approximately 11 acres). Activities will include one or a combination of the following treatments:

Wildlife Opening Maintenance/Improvement: Maintain and improve wildlife openings annually or every 2-3 years through brush hogging, mowing or hay cutting. Wildlife openings that are planted in native grasses will brush hogged or cut for hay each year after the third year of grass establishment. Other wildlife openings will be brush hogged on a 2-3 year rotation. Openings planted in native grasses will be burned on a yearly basis after the third year of grass establishment in order to maintain and improve the native grasses.

Wildlife Opening Roads: The roads that lead directly to the wildlife openings may receive overhead and side limbing and brush hogging every 2-3 years to allow for tractors to access the wildlife openings in order to maintain and improve them.

Ponds: Construct or reconstruct, maintain or improve 5 ponds for a total of approximately 4 acres. Activities will include one or a combination of the following treatments:

Pond Construction: Ponds will be constructed in areas where water availability is inadequate for wildlife. Bentonite may be added to the newly constructed ponds to assist with water holding capabilities. Ponds may have small brush structures, gravel spawning beds and some large boulders or hollow trees placed in them for fish habitat. Future activities for these ponds will include fish stocking as needed. Some ponds will not be stocked with fish in order to provide habitat for amphibians.

Pond Maintenance/Improvement: Activities may include: Fertilizing ponds as needed (determined by water quality tests); bank stabilization/erosion control through native grass, herbaceous plant and/or shrub plantings; annual fish stocking in ponds that are designated for fish habitat; addition of brush structures, gravel spawning beds, boulders/logs for fish and amphibian habitat and cover as needed over the life of the project.

Stream Habitat

Actions may include placement of medium and large wood into parts of the stream in Brown Hollow and an unnamed tributary of the Jones Fork above the confluence with the stream draining Brown Hollow (see map) to augment fish habitat, cover and shading. The wood need of the creeks will be determined through aquatic habitat surveys and will occur throughout the life of the project. Trees selected will be medium or large dead or dying hardwood trees near the creeks. The trees will be hinged cut, with a small section of wood still attached to the base of the tree. The trees will not be anchored and will be scattered along the creeks.

COMMENTS REQUESTED:

I invite your comments on the proposed action. The Interdisciplinary Team will use your comments as they identify issues and develop alternatives to the proposal for my consideration. The team will analyze the proposed action and alternatives and summarize the disclosure of environmental effects in an environmental document which will be available to the general public on our website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/oonf/ozark/projects/planning/bostonmtnproject.html>. The environmental document will be mailed to those who have commented on this proposal and to those who request a copy.

The Forest Service will accept appeals of the decision only from those who commented or expressed interest in the proposal before the close of the 30-day comment period beginning the day after the date of the legal notice of availability of this information in the *Southwest Times Record*, the newspaper of record for projects on the Boston Mountain Ranger District. Please use the enclosed comment form. Our mailing address is: U. S. Forest Service, 1803 N 18th Street, Ozark, AR 72949. You may also call, or email your comments to: *comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bostonmtn@fs.fed.us*. All comments are public information and will be released, unless otherwise requested. If you have questions on this proposal or the analysis decision process, please call Mike Hennigann or me at 479-667-2191.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gary E. Williams

GARY E. WILLIAMS,
District Ranger

***HOLLOW BROWN PROJECT
Boston Mountain Ranger District, Ozark National Forest***

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Phone: _____

Comments:

Please mail your completed comment form to Jobi Brown at 1803 North 18th Street, Ozark, AR 72949. Comments are also accepted verbally at 479-667-2191 or TTY 479-667-1931, or by email at comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bostonmtn@fs.fed.us. Your input is important.



Ozark-St. Francis
National Forests
Boston Mountain Ranger District

Hollow Brown Project

Proposed Actions

Forest Service

private

stands

Pre-Commercial Thin

shelterwood

thin

new_openings

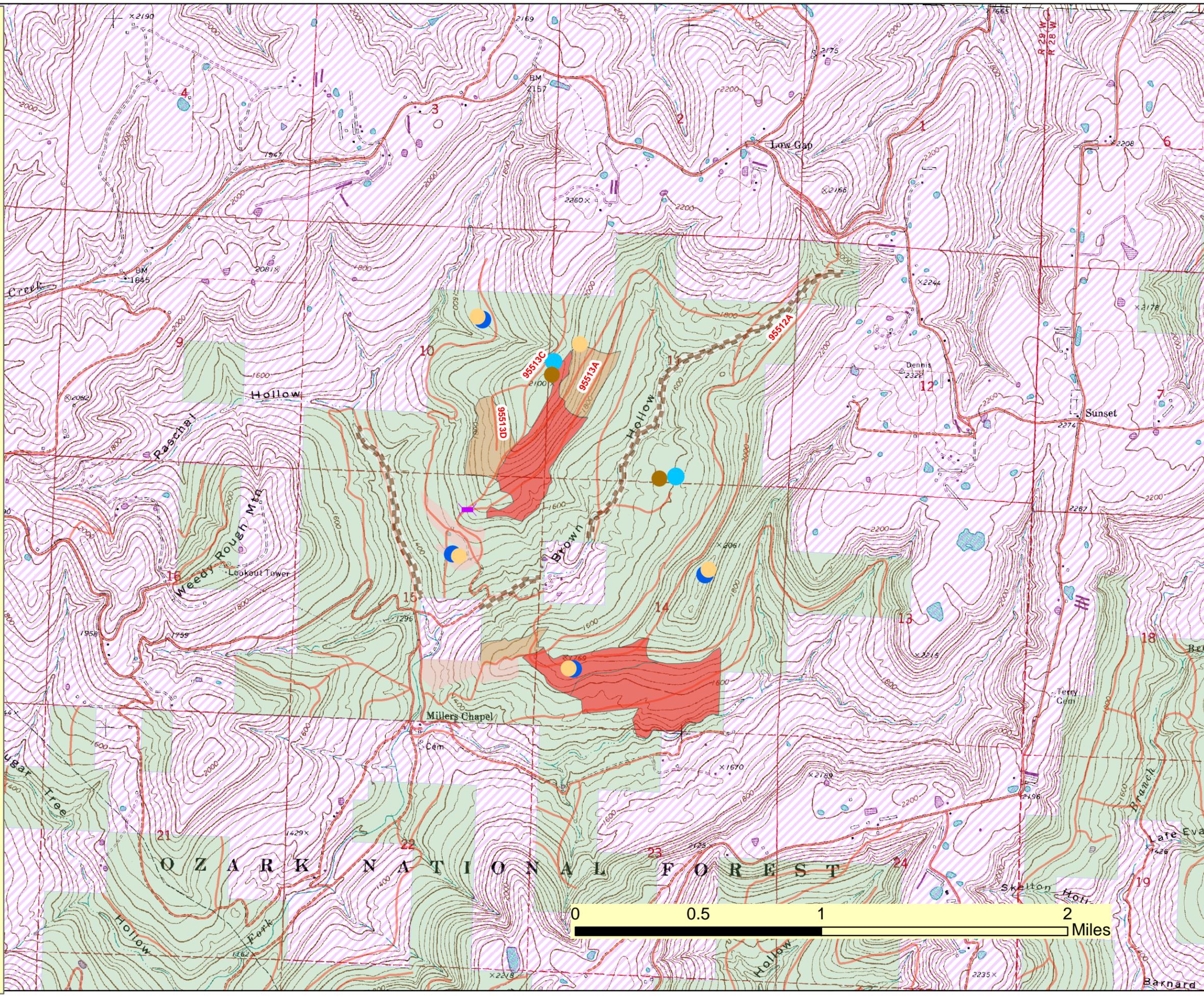
reconstruct_opening

new_ponds

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large_woody_debris

new_gate



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This GIS product was compiled from various resources and may be corrected, updated, modified, or replaced at any time.
For more information contact

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10 June 2009 jab