



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Big Piney
Ranger District

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File Code: 1950

Date: March 19, 2014

Dear Interested Party,

The Southwest Power Association's Vegetation Management Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Big Piney Ranger District of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest is available for your review and comments. The EA can be found online at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/osfnf/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5212180> or by contacting the District Offices.

The project area is a 100 foot wide overhead transmission line which enters the District south of Long Pool recreation area, and runs northeast for approximately 27 miles exiting National Forest south of the community of Witts Springs. The project area crosses both Pope and Searcy counties. The Proposed Action and one Alternative were analyzed in the EA. I have identified the Proposed Action as my preferred action.

Although a preferred action has been identified, my final decision on which action to implement has not been made. You can help me in making this decision by providing comments on the EA. Your comments should be project-specific and **must** be postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day after publication of notice in Russellville's *The Courier*. You may mail your comment(s) to Timothy E. Jones, Big Piney Ranger District, 12,000 SR 27 Hector, AR 72843. Verbal or hand-delivered written comments must be received during our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri. Comments may be mailed electronically to: comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bayou@fs.fed.us. This project decision could be objected if public comments are received (36 CFR 215).

The Draft EA is being reviewed both internally and externally during this 30 day period. So, it can be expected that the final EA will have minor changes which will not affect the analysis or the results of the assessment, but serve to clarify and enhance the disclosure of effects.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mike Mulford at the District Ranger's Office in Jasper, Arkansas at 870-446-2228 extension 5136.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY E. JONES
District Ranger

