

Legal Notice

Draft Decision Notice and Finding of no Significant Impact for Southwestern Power Administration Utility Corridor and Tower Site Vegetation Management Project U.S. Forest Service Ozark St-Francis National Forests, Big Piney Ranger District Pope & Searcy Counties, Arkansas.

Based upon my review of the Southwestern Power Administration's (SWPA) Utility Corridor and Tower Site Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment (EA), I have decided to implement The Proposed Action.

The scope of this Decision applies to a 100 foot wide overhead power line transmission that crosses the Big Piney Ranger District for a distance of 20.5 miles and a communications site which is approximately 1 acre.

This Decision will permit SWPA to integrate herbicide treatment with current mechanical vegetation management practices. The application of herbicide would be accomplished through manual, hand-application methods (i.e., backpack spraying) and include Forest Plan Standards that dictate when, where and how herbicide can be used. No motorized or boom mounted applications are approved.

This decision is subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218.8.

This Draft Decision may be viewed in its entirety along with the Final Environmental Analysis on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/osfrnf/landmanagement/planning/?cid+stelprd521222> for more information about this Draft Decision or to obtain a hardcopy of the document(s) please contact Mike Mulford, NEPA Coordinator, Big Piney Ranger District, P.O. Box 427, Jasper, AR 72641; (870) 446-5122; fax (870) 446-2063; e-mail: mmulford@fs.fed.us

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