



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Boston Mountain
Ranger District

TTY 479-667-1931

1803 North 18th Street
Ozark, AR 72949
Phone 479-667-2191
FAX 479-667-5807

March 31, 2015

Dear Reader:

The Boston Mountain Ranger District is proposing to harvest timber on approximately 44 acres of National Forest land three and a half miles west of Combs in Madison County, Arkansas. This scoping letter serves as notification of the project to parties that would be affected or are interested in these types of activities. Please note that none of the activities would occur on private land. The proposed activities are referred to as the *Delaney Flat Thinning Project*.

The purpose for this project is to improve forest and ecosystem health. These trees are growing too close together resulting in stress by competition and loss of vitality and resiliency to insects and disease. To remedy this we propose to thin stands of shortleaf pine trees on approximately 44 acres. Thinning would increase growth and vigor of the remaining trees and increase their resistance to insects and diseases. Vigorous growth would also aid in carbon sequestration which occurs at a higher rate if young trees are allowed to grow unhindered by competition. Opening up these stands would 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 this treatment.

I anticipate that this proposal will fall under a categorical exclusion found in 36 CFR 220.6(e)(12): *Harvest of live trees not to exceed 70 acres, requiring no more than ½ mile of temporary road construction... (ii) Commercial thinning of overstocked stands to achieve the desired stocking level to increase health and vigor.*

This project complies with the Revised Ozark-St. Francis National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan for Management Areas 3E - High Quality Forest Products, 3C - Mixed Forest, and 3I - Riparian Corridors - activities in these areas must also comply with the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960.

The project area is in section 6 of T 13N R 27W and sections 12 and 13 of T 13N R 28W. It is in stands 17 and 44 of compartment 505 and stand 5 of compartment 506. Included is a map showing the proposed project area.

I invite your comments on this proposal. These comments will be used by an interdisciplinary team to develop issues and analyze the project. A decision document will then be prepared and mailed to those who commented on this project. We welcome comments at any time. However, to be most helpful, please return comments referencing this project using the attached comment form by mail to the above address within thirty days from the date of this scoping letter. Oral or hand-delivered comments may be received within our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time.



You may also call or fax your comments to the numbers above, or email them to comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bostonmtn@fs.fed.us. All comments will become part of the project record available for public review. Those who do not respond to this scoping will not receive further project updates. I appreciate your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Dunk". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

WILLIAM DUNK
District Ranger

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Phone: _____

Comments:

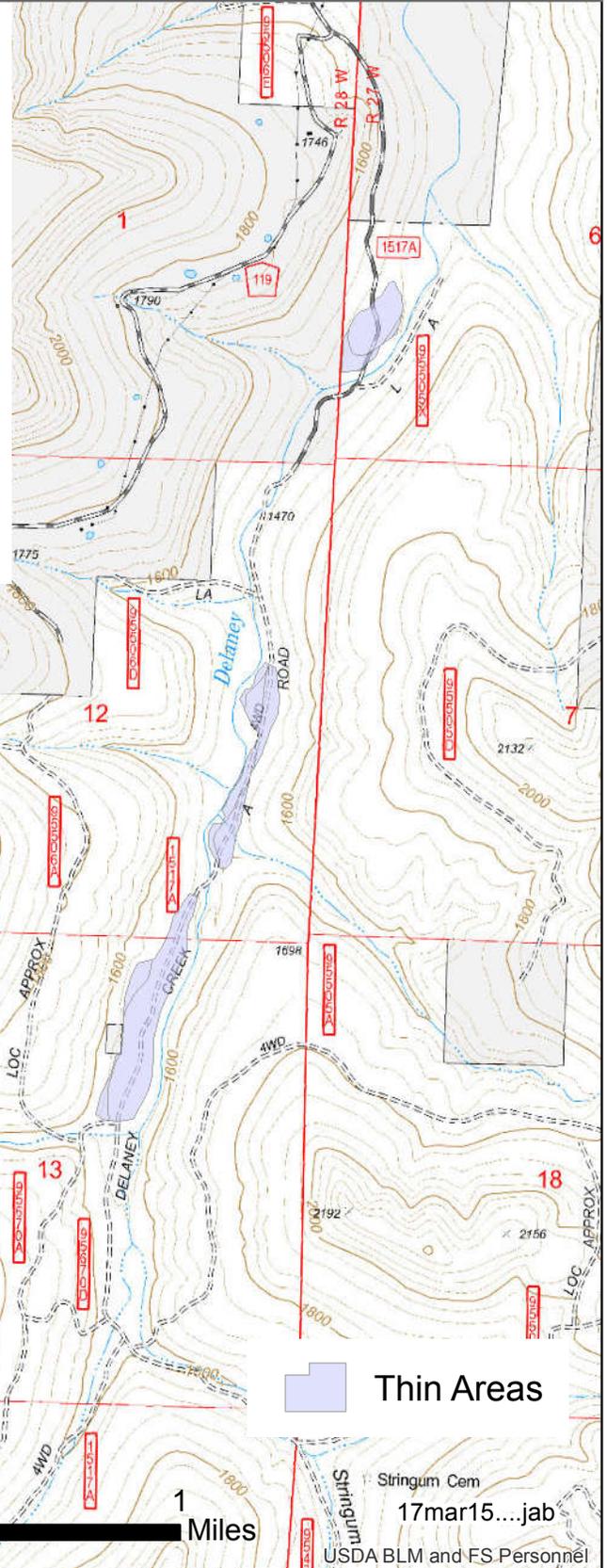
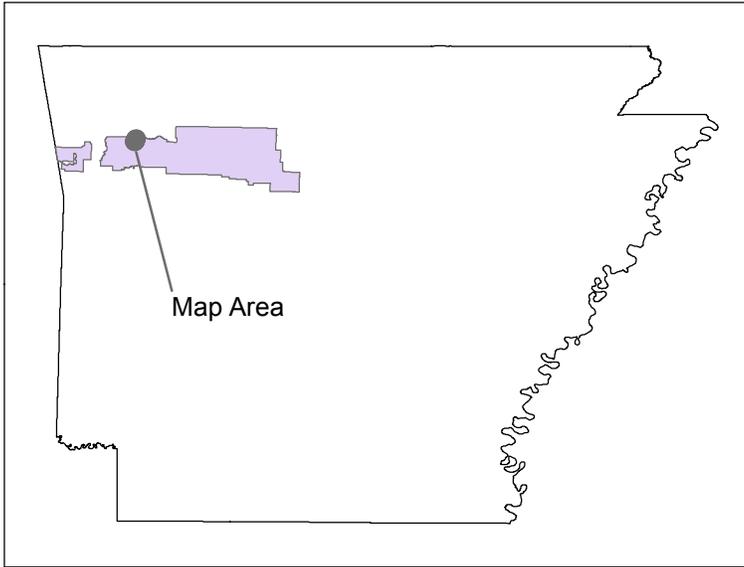
Please mail your completed comment form to 1803 North 18th Street, Ozark, AR 72949. Comments are also accepted verbally at 479-667-2191 or by email at comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bostonmtn@fs.fed.us. Your input is important.



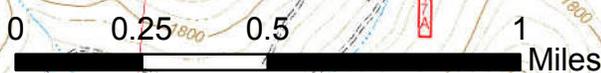
Delaney Flat Pine Thinning Project

Ozark-St. Francis National Forests

Boston Mountain Ranger District



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Thin Areas