

DECISION MEMO

Upper Brushy Stewardship Project Shortleaf Woodland Restoration FY 2006 - 2009

USDA, Forest Service
Bankhead National Forest - National Forests in Alabama
Winston County and Lawrence County, Alabama

Decision

I have decided to do site preparation work on one southern pine beetle damaged area followed by planting of shortleaf pine (approximately 40 acres). This treatment area is located in Section 9 Township 9 South, Range 7 West on the Bankhead National Forest. This site is located in Area 2 of the Forest Health and Restoration Project, National Forests in Alabama, Bankhead National Forest ([FHRP](#)).

The purpose of this project is to restore the shortleaf pine/bluestem community type and facilitate restoration to the desired future conditions as identified by the [FHRP](#). Shortleaf pine is an intolerant species, requiring full sunlight with little or no competition for moisture and nutrients for successful establishment. This area was a loblolly pine stand and is in need of regeneration after southern pine beetle killed the existing pine overstory.

Restoration to Shortleaf Pine

There is a need to perform site preparation activities to prepare 40 acres for planting shortleaf pine seedlings and to ensure survival. The proposed method of treatment is roller drum chopping, followed by prescribed burning. Shortleaf pine seedlings will be planted after site preparation is completed. This treatment will begin the restoration process that will eventually produce the desired future condition (shortleaf pine woodland) as identified in the [FHRP](#).



Example of Current Condition



Example of Desired Condition

The following area will be treated:

- Compartment 31, Stand 30

Rational for the Decision

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an EIS or EA because it is consistent with the following category from Forest Service Handbook 1909.15-2004-3, dated 07/06/2004:

Section 31.2 (5) - Regeneration of an area to native tree species, including site preparation which does not involve the use of herbicides or result in vegetation type conversion.

I find that this project is appropriate for categorical exclusion within this category because no extraordinary circumstances exist as defined in FSH 1909.15, 30.3.2.

Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species. – The project area has been surveyed for threatened, endangered or sensitive plants and animals (TES), the biological evaluation ([BE](#)) was completed and the determination was “No Effect”, on T & E species requiring no further consultation, and “No Impact” on Sensitive species.

Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds. – The proposed action is not in a floodplain, wetland, or municipal watershed, and forest plan standards are implemented to prevent off site impacts.

Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas. – No congressionally designated areas are within the project area.

Inventoried roadless areas. – No part of the project area is designated as inventoried roadless area or research natural area.

American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites or Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas. – A cultural resource survey has been conducted on the project area and a report was sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). No properties that are eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places were found. Therefore, the proposed treatments will have no impact on significant cultural resources.

Mitigation measures that are listed in the [FHRP](#) (pp 48-51) and those addressed in the [RLRMP](#) will be followed.

Public Involvement and Analysis

Scoping with the public was accomplished on this proposal with a notice published in the Northwest Alabamian and in the Moulton Advertiser on June 25, 2005. A letter was mailed to the district mailing list on June 27, 2005, to notify the general public and ask for comments on the proposal. Two comments were received and the respondents were supportive of the action as proposed, provided the needed surveys and analysis work was accomplished prior to the beginning of project work.

A legal advertisement establishing formal notice and comment period for this project was published in the Northwest Alabamian on December 10, 2005. Additionally, a letter notifying

interested parties of the formal notice and comment period was mailed to the District mailing list. Two supportive comments were received.

Findings Required by Other Law

National Forest Management Act - My decision is based on an analysis of the situation and this action is consistent with the [RLRMP](#), Goals and Objectives.

Implementation

Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12 (e), this decision is not subject to appeal. Implementation of this decision may begin immediately. For further information, contact Glen Gaines, Bankhead National Forest, PO Box 278, Double Springs, AL or at (205) 489-5111.

/s/ Glen D. Gaines

1/23/2006

GLEN D. GAINES
District Ranger
Bankhead National Forest

Date

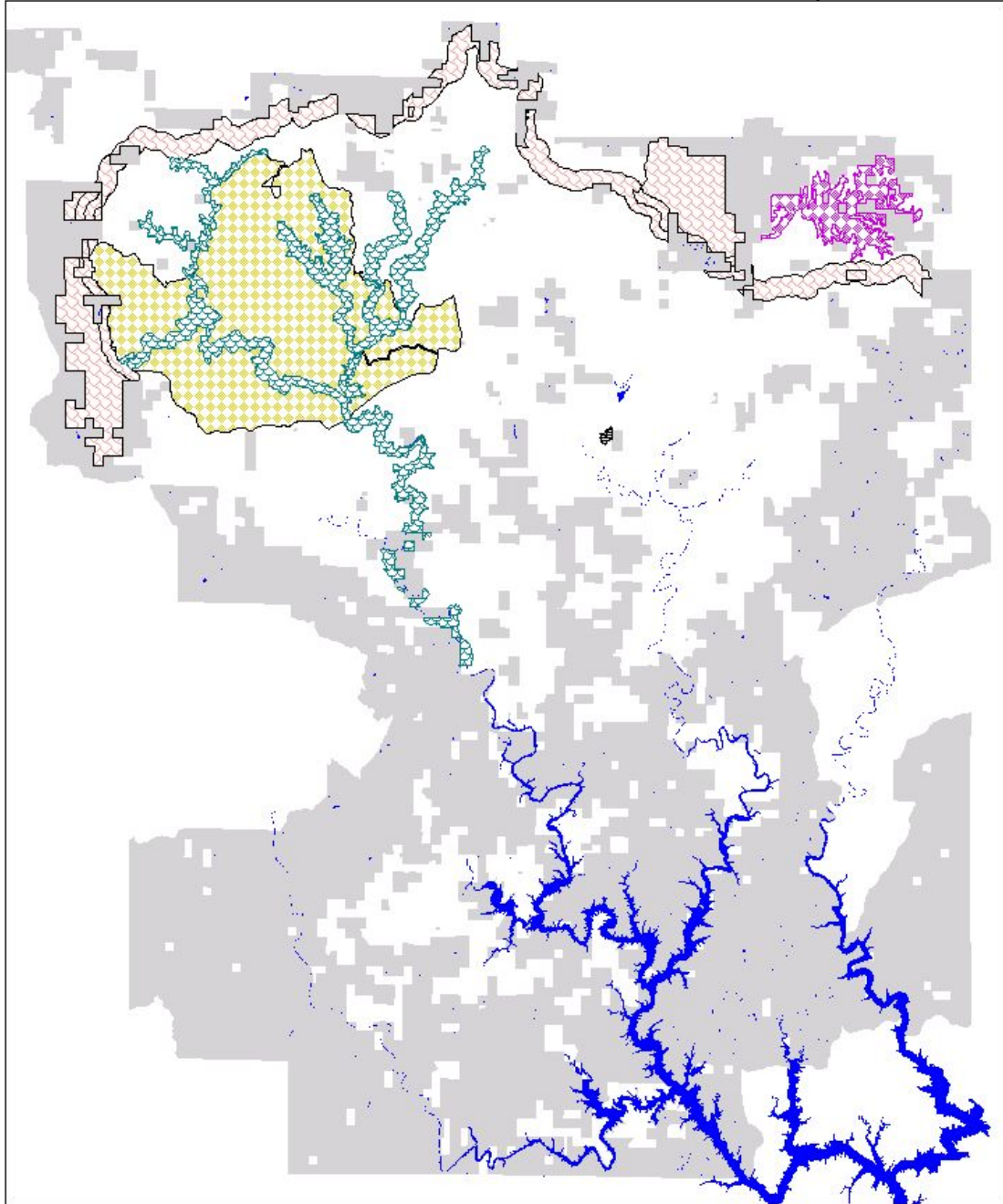
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Bankhead National Forest Upper Brushy Reforestation Project

- Pine Reforestation
- Wild & Scenic River
- Special Wilderness
- Special Study Areas
- Flint Creek Botanical Area
- Water
- Private Land






scale = 1:225000
jwc 8/2005



Bankhead National Forest
Upper Brushy
Reforestation Project



-  Pine Reforestation
-  Water
-  Private Land

scale = 1:24000
jwc 08/2005

T9S, R7W

