

Tornado Salvage Reforestation Project Request for Comments

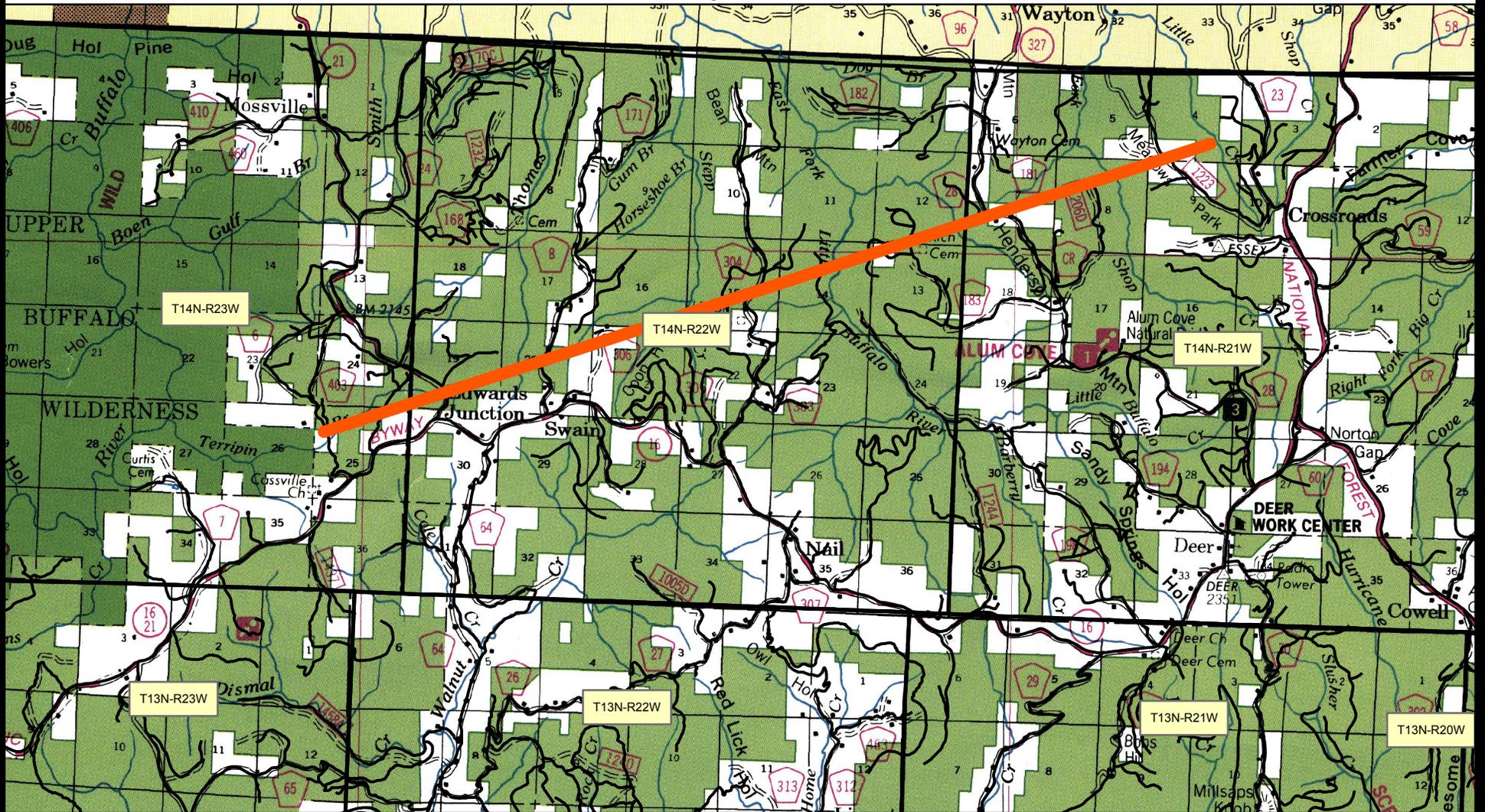
In April of 2011, a severe weather/wind event occurred in Newton County north of Deer, Arkansas causing timber blowdown on approximately 1,500 acres of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest. The Big Piney Ranger District is proposing a timber salvage project of no more than 250 acres within the affected area which takes in a path just north of the intersection of state highways 16 and 21 (Edwards Junction) and runs east-northeast varying in width to an area just southeast of the community of Wayton . The proposed action consists of a commercial salvage harvest of trees severely damaged by the tornado. Removal of these damaged trees would significantly reduce the amount of hazardous fuels caused by the storm event. Removing severely leaning trees, snags, and other potentially hazardous trees would also increase the safety of forest visitors and Forest Service personnel. Following the salvage operations treatments of manual site preparation, pine or hardwood planting and manual release may occur.

These activities fall under Category 13 of the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Section 31.2. If no extraordinary circumstances are discovered during analysis of the area, this proposal would be categorically excluded from an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) and is not appealable.

This notice requests project-specific information and comments regarding the activities proposed in this project and within the project area. I am particularly interested in identifying any extraordinary circumstances that may exist in the project area and/or any activity that when implemented would negatively affect the environment and/or its inhabitants.

To ensure your continued participation in this process, be sure that your comments are project-specific and postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day after publication of this notice in Russellville's *The Courier*. You may mail your comment(s) to Bruce C. Davenport, Big Piney Ranger District, PO Box 427 Jasper, AR 72641. 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 our office, in a common digital format, at: comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-buffalo@fs.fed.us.

TNT Tornado Salvage Project



Legend

-  Tornado Path
-  Township-Range



The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy, accurate only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation, incomplete while being created or revised, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created, may yield inaccurate or misleading results.

The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products with _____ at notification. For more information, contact: Ozark - St. Francis National Forest, 605 West Main, Russellville, AR 72608, (479)964-7211

