

Big Piney Ranger District
Pear Tree Salvage Project
Request for Comments and
Public Meeting Announcement

On June 24, 2011, the Big Piney Ranger District suffered damage from a tornado. The District Ranger proposes to conduct salvage timber sales to remove the damaged trees in order to reduce future hazardous fuel loading, thus reducing the chance of catastrophic wildfires as well as smoke emissions from wildfires and prescribed fires. The damaged areas total approximately 4,000 acres of which 500 acres of pine stands and 750 acres of hardwood stands are accessible to be salvaged across the district. This project is named the Pear Tree Salvage and we intend to conduct an environmental analysis using the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, which utilizes a public meeting and an objection period (see Part 218 of CFR 36) to disclose effects to the environment.

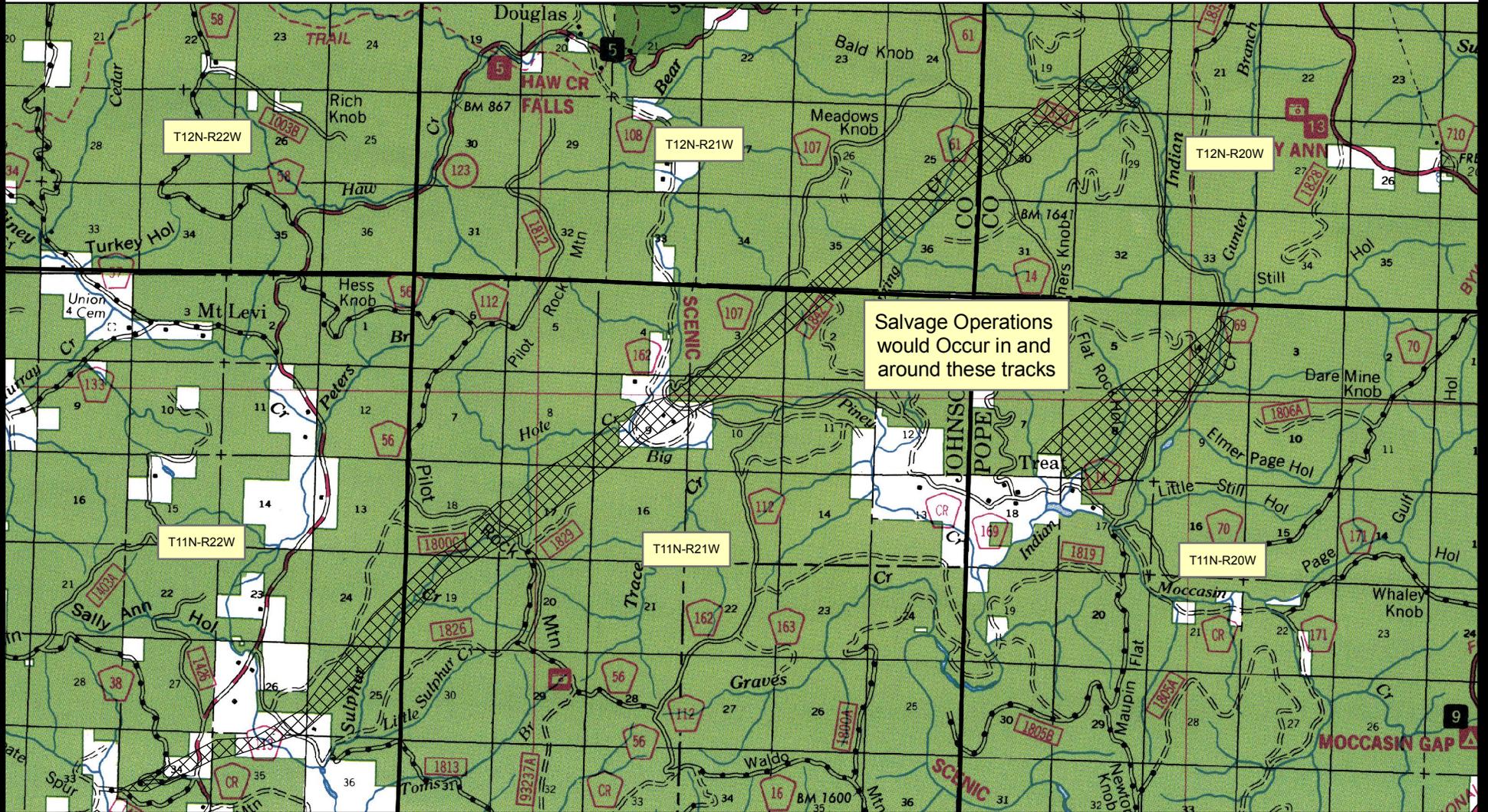
This project would allow the removal of damaged trees from affected National Forest lands and the cutting of some undamaged trees in order to improve the overall health of the stand, create log landings, and some temporary roads for access. Maps of the affected area can be viewed at the following website: www.fs.fed.us/oonf/ozark/projects/planning/bayouproject.html, at our district offices in Jasper or Hector, AR or during the public meeting discussed below. A biological evaluation will be prepared for these areas before harvesting occurs. Heritage resource surveys will also be conducted on damaged timber stands that have not been previously surveyed.

This legal notice requests project specific comments from the public 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, you may attend a public meeting to be held at the Ozark-St. Francis Supervisors Office, 605 West Main St., Russellville, AR at 6:00 to 8:00 PM on July 6, 2011 or use one of the following alternative methods. Be sure that your comments are project-specific and postmarked or received by no later than 30 days from the publication of this notice. You may mail your comment(s) to Bruce C. Davenport, Big Piney Ranger District, 12000 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 our office, in a common digital format, at: comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bayou@fs.fed.us.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mike Mulford at the District Ranger's office in Jasper, AR (870) 446-5122 x5136.

Pear Tree Tornado Salvage Project



Salvage Operations would Occur in and around these tracks



Legend

-  Tornado/Wind Damage
-  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

