



File Code: 1950
Date: June 17, 2011

Dear Reader,

The Pleasant Hill Ranger District is evaluating a potential salvage sale of trees damaged by tornados that hit portions of the Forest in May 2011. The proposed project area on the Pleasant Hill Ranger District is in Johnson County, Arkansas. Salvage of trees would occur in portions of the following areas: Compartments 345, 372-374, 378-379, 381-383, 385-386, for up to 250 acres. The legal descriptions for the sale areas include the following: T11N R24W Sections: 24-28, 33-35; T11N R23W Sections: 8-9, 16-20. The proposed project is located entirely on public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Ozark National Forest-Pleasant Hill Ranger District.

We are inviting comments from the public to begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for this project known as the **2011 Tornado Salvage Project**.

Proposed Action

The proposed action would include salvaging trees that were damaged by the May 2011 tornado on approximately **250** acres. Green timber (timber that has not been damaged) may also need to be harvested in order to provide access to the stands and facilitate the logging of damaged trees. Additionally, this project would help to remove additional fuel loads created by this natural disaster.

Implementation of this project would occur in fiscal year 2011.

Documentation

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment because it fits under Category 36 CFR 220.6(e)(13): "Salvage of dead and/or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than ½ mile of temporary road construction. The proposed action may include the incidental removal of live or dead trees for landings, skid trails, and road clearing." Examples include but are not limited to:

- Harvest of a portion of a stand damaged by a wind or ice event and construction of a short temporary road to access the damaged trees and;
- Harvest of fire damaged trees

The categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects which may significantly affect the environment. The comment period for the **2011 Tornado Salvage Project** lasts for 14 days following publication in the Johnson County **Graphic** on June 22, 2011. If you can provide additional information that will help us make the best decision on the proposed project, please contact Pat Kowalewycz at (479) 754-2864; or mail to: District Ranger, Pleasant Hill Ranger District, 2591 Hwy 21, Clarksville, Arkansas, 72830. Our e-mail address is: comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-pleasanthill@fs.fed.us

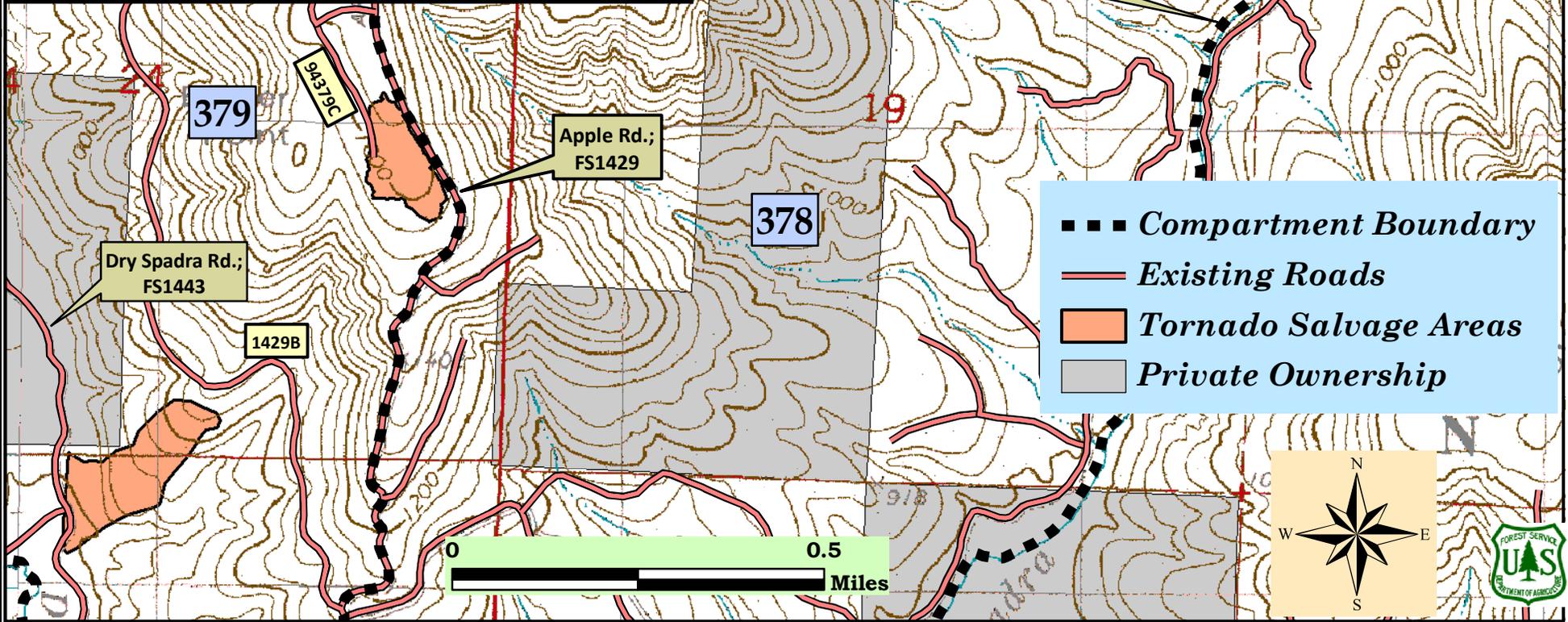
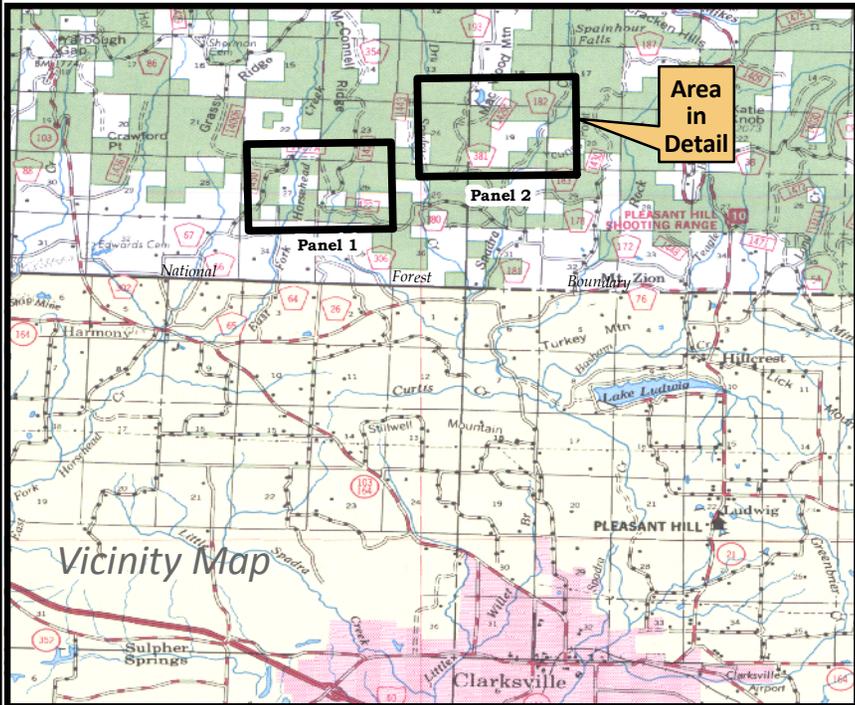
Sincerely,

/s/ GREG TAYLOR

Greg Taylor
Acting District Ranger

enclosure:





Tornado Salvage Panel 1 - Southwest

