

Bankhead National Forests
Liaison Panel Minutes
Lawrence County, Moulton, AL
July 29, 2010
1700 – 2100

Liaison Panel Members:

Anthony Hood, Hiking/Youth

Chuck Byrd, The Nature Conservancy

Charles Borden, Forest Resident/Recreation

Charles Chandler,

Daryl Lawson, Alabama A&M University, Center Manager, Center for Forest Ecosystem Assessment

Ron Eakes, District Supervising Wildlife Biologist, Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

Jeff Still, Recreation and Back Country Horsemen's Association

Mark Kolinski, Wild South

Mike Henshaw, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Juliana Birkhoff, Facilitator

Forest Service Representatives:

Elrand Denson, Bankhead Ranger

Blake Addison, Forester (TMA)

Allison Cochran, Biologist Scientist

Stephanie Love, Forester (Silviculturist)

Lorenzo Walton, Bankhead National Forest, SCEP Student

Stephanie N. Johnson, Acting Forest Supervisor

Nina Davison, Executive Assistant

Speaker:

Dr. Colomore Christian, AAMU

Hwan Han, AAMU

Public:

John Wiederecht

Randy Campbell

Athel Wilhite

Larry Barkey

Jerry Williams

Linda G. Drzycimski

Theodore Kuzma

D.D. Martin

Hank Byrnes

Stewart Horn

Brian Hall

Janice Barrett

Stewart Horn

James E. Alexander

Evie Liles

Mimi Barkey

Thelma Williams

Starlin Blankenship

Donald Jones

David Woodaff

Paul Bussman

Mike Bagwell

Vince Meleski

Kenneth Suddoth

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Juliana B. – Welcome, overview of Agenda, ground rules

Elrand D. – Introduction

- Barry Baird as Ron Eakes alternate for ADCNR - WFF
- Larry Barkey as LaVerne Matheson alternate for Smith Lake Advocacy
- Voted in Daryl Lawson for AAMU

Dr. Christian – Power Point Presentation - Special Recreation Study

- 227 questionnaire were filled

Hwan H. – Power Point Presentation – Eddy Covariance Station

- The purpose is to study the carbon balance in the Bankhead Forest examining affects of human land managements
 - Can we use the fire tower?
 - This location is not typical for forest data
 - What is the purpose for the tower being so high?
 - With our 70 ft tower we can determine if the carbon is coming from the forest or other areas and account for the growth of the forest.
 - Who makes the decision for the tower?
 - Forest Service
 - How long will project run?
 - 20 – 30 years

Overview of Timber Sale Contract Revision

- What was the agreement with purchaser?
- Spoke with purchaser and made agreements that cannot be disclosed to the public at this time.

Overview of Timber Sale Improvement Plan

- Stephanie L. - Provided power point presentation about improvements to compartments 90, 91, 101, and how the plan will be implemented. Her presentation covered removing saw timber from sale areas. She further reviewed graphs of the of basal area increase in the next 10 – 15 years.
 - How would the number increase?
 - 10 year watershed scheduled
 - Any ideas to improve stand?
 - Set up GPS points and monitor closely
 - Go in with Herbicide in the winter

Overview Future Sale Contract Revisions

- What is going on in other areas?
- Visited compt. 9, 10, 22, and 24 to see if data matched what was on the ground.
 - Negotiated with purchaser to modify contract to keep all hardwood 12 inches and above.
 - Purchaser mutually agreed
 - What was found or are there any suggestions?
 - Elrand has passed test and is commended

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- What objectives does the purchaser have to taking pine? Why not take more?
- It is what the purchaser can do financially?

Overview – Remaining 1,866 Acres under the EIS

- Does the Forest Service keep up with the calculations of the volume coming off of the land? No
- Are sales sold in lump sums? Yes
- Continue to review plan to achieve DFC
- Verify stand history and stand conditions
- Conduct more field visits in EIS stands
- Hold district refreshers on LMRP standards and guidelines
- Host hardwood fieldtrip
- Treat stands that are verified as type 31 stands
- Exclude large hardwood

Stephanie L. – Lists of stands under contract

- Compartment 43, stand 20 found similar to Compt. 101
- Pulled stand out of contract
- Re-enter into watershed contract
- 90 – 95 stands not updated
- Adopt compartment 101 to collect data on regeneration to move towards DFC

Overview – Suggestions on remaining acres

- Forest Service has done an excellent job
- Commends purchaser to making concession
- The trust level with the Forest Service should be back up

Decisions:

- Workshop Hardwood Restoration
- When do you suppose this workshop take place?
- What are the expectations of this workshop?
 - In the classroom and in the field
 - More field action less classroom
 - Do we need a small committee to coordinate the workshop?
 - Daryl L. & Chuck B. - agreed to coordinate workshop

Field trip Update - Mark K.

- Photo overview
- Stand was heavily mistyped
- Prefer stand 10 be removed from sale
- Prefer scheduled monthly team tours

Public Questions - Juliana B.

- Need marking guidelines
- We need to harvest more

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- Wants to thank Forest Service for saving rest of Compt. 101
 - Is stand 10 complete?
- Working with purchaser now on stand 10

Clarification questions - Juliana B.

- Things to go on next Panel meeting agenda
 - How to get diversity in the Forest?
 - Species Age workshop
- Can we get the update on the A&M project?
- We will bring in Thomas T. from the S.O.

Wrap up - Elrand D.

Next meeting: details forthcoming