



File Code: 1950

Date: May 11, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

As the deciding officer, I am requesting comments on the environmental assessment (EA) entitled *Establishing a Southern Appalachian Farmstead in the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor*. You can read the EA on the Sumter National Forest's website at <http://fs.usda.gov/goto/scnfs/farmstead>.

Based on the analysis presented in the EA, my preferred alternative is Alternative 2 which is a modification of the original proposal submitted to the U.S. Forest Service by the Oconee Heritage Center in 2009. The original proposal was presented to the public during a scoping/30-day notice and comment period, also in 2009. Before a final decision is made, the public may review the EA and submit specific comments for me to consider. This letter constitutes the beginning of the opportunity to comment and the notice of the publication of the legal ad (refer to 36 CFR 215.3 and 215.5). Comments must be postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day following publication of this legal ad in the paper of record, *The State*, Columbia, South Carolina.

In accordance with 36 CFR 215.6(a)(3), to be eligible to appeal the final decision, you must provide the following information:

- 1) Your name and address.
- 2) Title of the Proposed Action (Southern Appalachian Farmstead Environmental Assessment).
- 3) Specific comments (215.2) on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision.
- 4) Your signature or other means of identification verification. For organizations, a signature or other means of identification verification must be provided for the individual authorized to represent your organization.

Comments should be sent to:

District Ranger
Andrew Pickens Ranger District Office
112 Andrew Pickens Circle
Mountain Rest, South Carolina 29664
Telephone: (864) 638-9568
FAX: (864) 638-2659

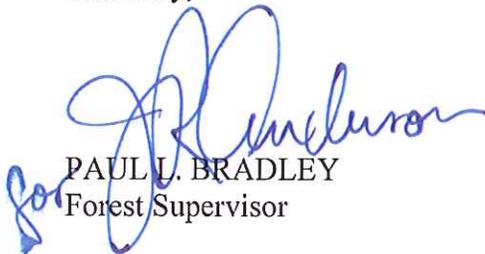


Comments can also be faxed to the Andrew Pickens Ranger District office. Additional information, as well as a paper copy of the EA, may also be obtained there.

Oral or hand-delivered comments must be received within normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Comments may be e-mailed in a common digital format to comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us.

Only those who submit timely comments during this second 30-day notice and comment period and those that submitted comments during the first 30-day notice and comment period will have standing to appeal. For appeal eligibility, individuals or representative from organizations submitting substantive comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

Sincerely,



PAUL L. BRADLEY
Forest Supervisor