

PROPOSED Decision Memo

Condro Prescribed Burn

**USDA Forest Service
Hidden Springs Ranger District, Shawnee National Forest
Pope County, Illinois
T15S, R6E, Sec 3, 4**

Proposed Action

The proposed action is the completion of a prescribed burn in cooperation with the Southeastern Illinois Burn Association on land boarding private property. This cooperation will allow for minimal fireline construction for both the Forest Service and the SEI Burn Association. Planning, preparation, and firing on private property will be the responsibility of SEI Burn Association and the land owners. Approximately 72 acres of Forest Service land is involved in this project.

The project will reduce the understory component of shade tolerant tree species (maple, elm, etc.), which will result in an increase of sunlight to the shade intolerant tree species of oak and hickory. Additionally, the project will reduce ground fuels and reduce the spread of a wildfire.

The activity will include associated fire lines needed to contain the prescribed burns. Dozer use will be anticipated on existing roads on the western side of the project area. The use of blown hand line will be used on the slope down to the creek in the southwest corner of the unit (see map for Alternate Fireline Location). Fire line construction will avoid all known heritage resource sites. Burning will be limited to the time period of October 31 to March 30.

Rationale for the Decision

The project will support burn operations on adjacent private land by decreasing the overall amount of constructed line necessary to implement the burn. National Forest and private land operations will be conducted separately but in concert with one another. Although the overall project size will be larger with the addition of these national forest acres the ground disturbance necessary to contain the burn will decrease. The manner of implementation and the anticipated environmental result on national forest lands will be typical of that experienced at other prescribed fire locations on the forest where fire is used to produce desirable stand conditions or habitat improvement. The proposed activities are consistent with Category 6.

Public Involvement

This proposal was listed in The Shawnee Quarterly, October 2012 and posted on the Shawnee National Forest internet site.

Other Findings

The proposed action is consistent with Standards and Guidelines described in the 2006 Shawnee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment. Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, where Section 31.2 of this amendment identifies categories of routine, proposed actions for which documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment may be excluded but a project or case file is required and the decision to proceed must be documented in a Decision Memo. Section 31.2, Category 6 describes management activities resulting in vegetative manipulation consistent with the proposed action.

A small portion of the Burk Branch Research Natural Area is included within the project area. The Forest has received a permit for the proposed action from North Central Experiment Station pertaining to the prescribed fire management of the Research Natural Areas.

Implementation Date

Implementation of this decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the publication of this decision in the Southern Illinoisan newspaper (36CFR§ 215.15).

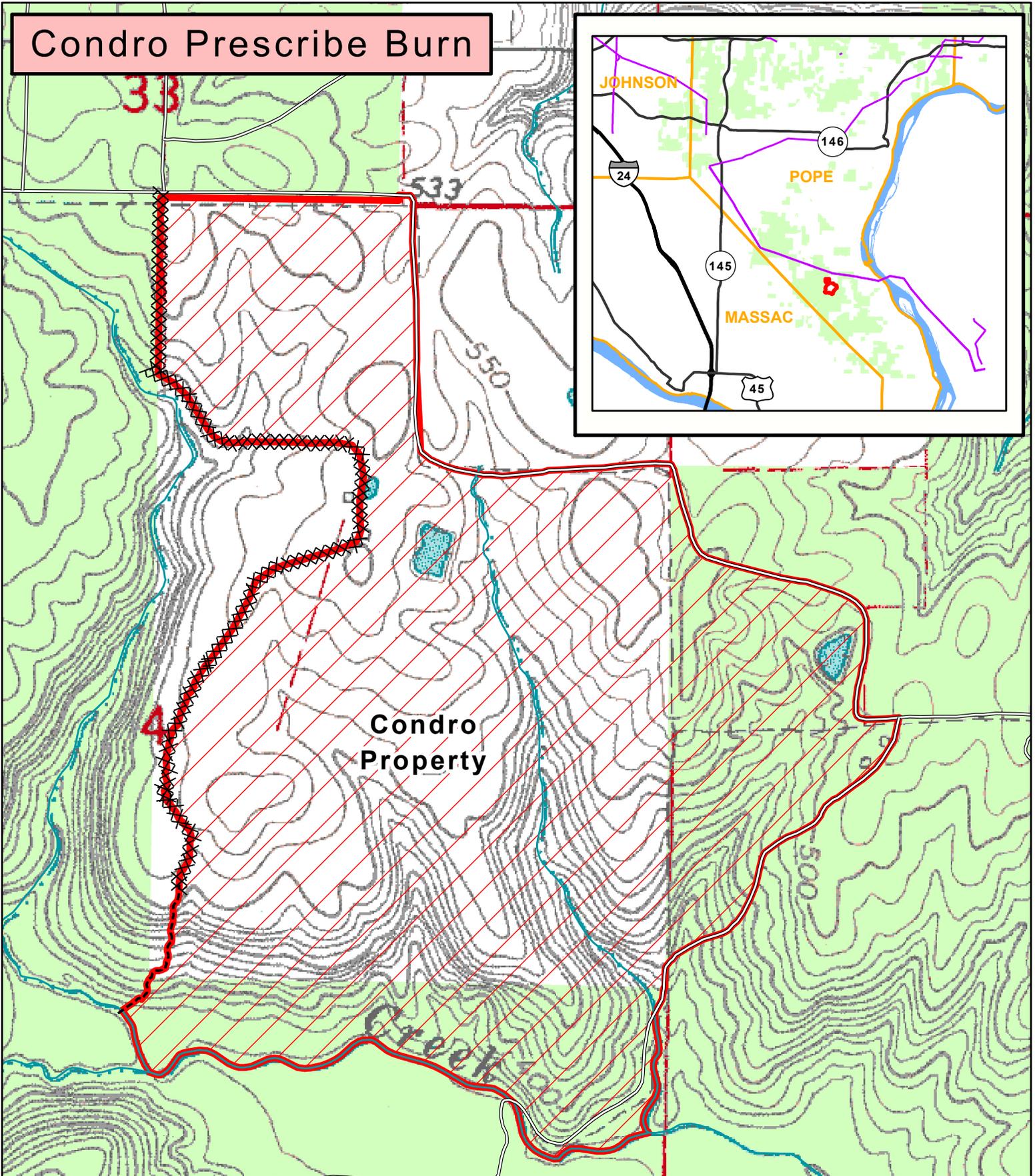
Contact Person

For further information on the decision contact Frank Paukert at the Shawnee National Forest, Hidden Springs Ranger District, 602 North First Street, Vienna, IL 62939; (618) 658-2111.

Date

Tim Pohlman
District Ranger
Hidden Springs Ranger District
Shawnee National Forest

Condro Prescribe Burn



Condro Property

Legend

01.28.2013
J.V. p1636B



XXXXXX Dozer Line/Skid Trail

Stream

Road

Condro Burn Unit

----- Handline

Powerline

Highway

National Forest Land

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles