

OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST

Administrative Change to the
2005 Revised Land and Resource Management
Plan

American Burying Beetle Protocol

January 2015

At this time, the Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service is moving forward with only one action identified in the scoping letter, changing a design criterion to read:

“Project planning will adhere to the Conservation Plan and revised Programmatic Biological Opinion regarding American Burying Beetles (ABBs) on the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, as well as the most current FWS direction available.”

The USDA Forest Service needs to replace outdated direction in the Forest Plan with the current direction. Administrative changes (36 CFR § 219.13) include corrections of clerical errors to any part of the plan, conformance of the plan to new statutory or regulatory requirements, or changes to other content in the plan.

The April 2010 Conservation Plan for the American Burying Beetle is a new requirement, and the USDA Forest Service is enacting an administrative change to the 2005 Plan to accommodate the new provisions. This change will be effective immediately, and no Forest Plan Amendment is required for this change.

If you should have any questions or require clarification about the administrative change process, please contact Alett Little, Forest Planner, at 501-321-5372 or alittle@fs.fed.us or if you have any questions about the requirements of the Conservation Plan for the American Burying Beetle, please contact Mary Lane, Forest Wildlife Biologist, at 501-321-5201 or melane@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill Pell (for)

Norman L. Wagoner
Forest Supervisor

Administrative Change to the 2005 Forest Plan

Proposed Administrative Change

The Forest Service proposes to change project planning design criterion TE005 (Plan p. 77), from:

“Potential project level impacts on individual American Burying Beetles (ABBs) will be reduced by using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s current bait-away or trap-and-relocate protocols” to:

“Project planning will adhere to the Conservation Plan and current Programmatic Biological Opinion regarding American Burying Beetles (ABBs) on the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, as well as adhering to the most current FWS direction available.”

Purpose of the Administrative Change

Subsequent to publication of the 2005 Revised Forest Plans for both national forests, staff of the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests completed a conservation plan for the American Burying Beetle. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a revised Programmatic Biological Opinion in May 2010 regarding the Forest Plans in question and the conservation plan for this endangered species. The Conservation Plan includes areas designated for American Burying Beetle conservation (to be achieved by active management) in Arkansas and Oklahoma. For more information about this Conservation Plan and Programmatic Biological Opinion, contact Mary Lane at melane@fs.fed.us.

Need for the Administrative Change

The 2005 design criterion is no longer valid and needs to be replaced with the most current scientific consensus regarding this species’ conservation needs on the Ouachita National Forest.