
File Code: 1950
Date: July 11, 2018

Interested Public:

The Nantahala Ranger District of the Nantahala National Forest has prepared an environmental assessment and a draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Southside Project. Consistent with direction set forth in the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, this project would conduct management activities in Compartments 28 – 41, 49, 75, and 77 of the Nantahala Ranger District in the southeastern corner of Macon County and the southernmost portion of Jackson County, North Carolina.

Also consistent with direction set forth in the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, the proposed project is designed to improve or maintain wildlife habitat, species diversity, soil and water resources, and forest health through vegetation management and other treatments. The proposed project is subject to the pre-decisional objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

The Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact and the Southside Project Environmental Assessment are available online by following the “Land and Resources Management” and “Projects” links at: www.fs.usda.gov/nfsnc. The EA and supporting documentation are also available for review at the Nantahala Ranger District office in Franklin, NC.

How to Object and Timeframe

The opportunity to object ends 45 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the *Franklin Press*. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection, and that those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by another other source.

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after designated comment opportunities §218.8(c).

The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d) and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector’s responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Written objections, including attachments, must be filed with: Reviewing Officer Allen Nicholas, Forest Supervisor, National Forests in North Carolina, 160 Zillicoa Street, Suite A, Asheville,



NC 28801-1082, 828-257-4200 (voice), 828- 259-0523 (fax). The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to objections-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us. Please state "Southside Project" in the subject line when providing electronic objections, or on the envelope when replying by mail. For further information on this decision, contact Steverson Moffat, NEPA Team Leader, at 828-837-5152.

Thank you for your continued interest in the management of the Nantahala National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mike Wilkins

District Ranger
Nantahala Ranger District

