

File Code: 1950
Date: May 14, 2019

Dear Forest Stakeholder:

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, Blue Ridge Ranger District, has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Union County Target Range Project, located in Union County, Georgia. This project consists of authorizing Union County Government to construct a target range on National Forest lands. Union County Government will be the primary permit holder and will assume the responsibility of funding, maintenance and operation. A third party, Union County Gun Club, will be in charge of the day to day operation of the target range. The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to the pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

The draft EA and supporting documents are available on the Chattahoochee- Oconee National Forests website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54559>. Also, they are available for review at the Forest Supervisors Office at 1755 Cleveland Hwy, Gainesville, GA 30501. Additional information regarding this project or activity can be obtained by contacting Jerome Bennett and/or Nelson Gonzalez-Süllow by phone at 770-297-3000.

Public Meeting

The proponent (Union County Government) will hold a public meeting which will include an update to interested stakeholders. The meeting will be as follows:

- *Thursday, May 30, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at the Pat Haralson Memorial Civic Center located at 165 Wellborn Street, Blairsville, GA.*

You are invited to attend this meeting. Agency representatives will be available to talk about the EA and the comment process.

HOW TO COMMENT

The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the publication of the legal notice in the North Georgia News (Blairsville, Georgia) and The News Observer (Blue Ridge, Georgia), whichever is later. **We expect this notice to be published on Wednesday, May 15, 2019.** Only those who submit timely and specific written comments as defined by §218.2 regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection under §218.24(b)(6). For issues to be raised in objections, they must be based on previously submitted written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspapers of record are the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit written comments on a proposed project or activity. The time period for the opportunity to comment on a proposed project or activity to be documented with an environmental assessment shall not be extended. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner. Only those who respond to this request for comments will remain on the mailing list for this project.



Specific written comments may be made directly on the Union County Target Range Project webpage at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54559> by selecting the “Comment on Project” link on the right-hand side of the page. Electronic comments can also be submitted by email in a format such as plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to comments-blueridge@fs.fed.us. Comments may also be submitted by mail to: Andrew L. Baker, District Ranger, 2042 Highway 515 West, Blairsville, GA 30512, or by fax to 706-745-7494. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 11:30 am and 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity up request (§218.24(b)(8)).

Please state “Target Range Project” in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.

Sincerely,

/s/ Andrew Baker
ANDREW BAKER
District Ranger

cc: Nelson González-Süllow; Jerome Bennett; Andy Baker