



File Code: 1900 Planning

Date: 9-11-01

Dear Friend:

The Tusquitee Ranger District is proposing to implement the following projects as part of its program of work for FY 2002. These land and resource management activities are planned to achieve desired conditions and goals as described in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP, March 1994). Projects include actions to build new or maintain existing recreation sites to provide for public enjoyment, health and safety. Other projects include actions to improve timber stands, wildlife habitat or water quality.

- 1) It is proposed to conduct prescribed burning on approximately 1,624 acres in seven areas. Six of these areas are in Cherokee County, one site is in Clay County, and all have been previously burned. All stands are proposed for burning to reduce fuel loads, enhance sensitive plant habitat or improve wildlife habitat.
- 2) It is proposed to replace existing pit toilets with new prefab SST toilets at four recreation sites in Cherokee or Clay County. These sites include the Hanging Dog boat ramp area, the Grape Creek boat ramp area, the Jack Rabbit boat ramp area and the Bob Allison Campground.
- 3) It is proposed to develop a water system to serve the Fires Creek Picnic Area and the Bristol Campground in the Fires Creek watershed. This will involve drilling wells and developing safe drinking water systems for the recreation sites.
- 4) It is proposed to build a 100 yard rifle shooting range and adjacent parking area in Milklick Cove in the vicinity of Panther Top Lookout in Cherokee County. This proposal is in response to requests from sportsmen in the Cherokee County area to provide a legal public area safe for shooting firearms.
- 5) It is proposed to construct a bridge to cross the Tellico River on Trail #5 in the Tellico ORV area.
- 6) It is proposed to site prepare areas by slashing and prescribe burning, and reforestation by hand planting native pine species, stands that were infested with southern pine beetle and are now non-stocked. It is estimated that approximately 250-300 acres will require this treatment in Cherokee County to insure reforestation.

An interdisciplinary team will begin working on the environmental analysis for these projects this Fall, and would like to have your input regarding issues, concerns, or other opportunities that concern these proposals.

Please send your comments to District Ranger Charles N. Miller, Tusquitee Ranger District, 123



Woodland Drive, Murphy, NC 28906, phone (828) 837-5152. To help us with this process please send your written comments no later than October 12, 2001. Thank you for your interest in the management of your National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Charles N. Miller
CHARLES N. MILLER
District Ranger

Enclosure