



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

National Forests in North Carolina  
Pisgah National Forest  
Appalachian Ranger District  
Burnsville Station

PO Box 128  
US 19 Bypass  
Burnsville, NC 28714-0128  
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File Code: 1950-1

Date: December 9, 2005

Dear Interested Members of the Public:

Enclosed with this letter is a list of proposed actions associated with the Shinwhite Project. These actions have been developed to address management opportunities identified for timber and wildlife resources within Analysis Area (AA) 7, Nolichucky. Also enclosed are preliminary working maps depicting the actions in the AA. The purpose of this letter is to inform interested and affected parties and to solicit comments for this proposal which is located about 12 miles north of Burnsville in Mitchell and Yancey Counties, North Carolina.

Management opportunities have been identified through a comparison of existing and desired conditions which could move this landscape toward a desired future condition. The desired future condition for a given resource was determined by examining the Land and Resource Management Plan, Amendment 5, for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests (USDA March 1994 and here after referred to as the Forest Plan). The purpose and need (objectives) for the proposal are to meet Forest Plan direction by: balancing age-class distribution, improving timber stand conditions and providing for a continuous supply of timber; reducing competition and improving species composition in proposed harvest units through herbicide use; controlling non-native invasive species through herbicide use along existing roads and trails, and historical routes; improving conditions for wildlife by creating a diversity of habitat and maintaining and enhancing existing fields; and improving water quality by rehabilitating or relocating away from areas of resource damage caused by equestrian use.

I envision the enclosed actions would be implemented following analysis documented in an environmental assessment (harvesting of timber and application of herbicides).

I recognize the interest and concerns members of the public have concerning management on National Forest System lands. This is why I am requesting your comments concerning the proposed actions. Your specific comments to the proposed actions will help me identify key issues and possible alternative ways of meeting the project's purpose and need. The key issues and alternatives will help focus the environmental analysis (effects) of the proposed actions. ***Please return your comments to me by January 9, 2005.*** Comments may be mailed to: Appalachian Ranger District, P.O. Box 128, Burnsville, North Carolina, 28714, or e-mailed to: [comments-southern-north-carolina-pisgah-appalachian@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-north-carolina-pisgah-appalachian@fs.fed.us).

Feel free to contact Michael Hutchins, Interdisciplinary Team leader or me at 828-682-6146 or Linda Randolph, Project Leader at 828-622-3202 if you have questions or need additional information regarding this proposal. I appreciate your continued interest in management of the Pisgah National Forest.

Sincerely,

*/s/ PL Bradley*

PAUL L. BRADLEY  
District Ranger

Enclosures



**Shinwhite Project Proposal:**

1. Within the 9,709 acre Nolichucky AA 7, regenerate approximately 195 acres in Management Area (MA) 3B using the two-age harvest method (20-25 ft<sup>2</sup> basal area retained per acre) in (Compartment # - Stand #): 65-1<sup>1</sup>, 65-3, 65-6, 68-5, 69-5, 70-8, and 70-9. Within the AA is a proposed State Natural Heritage Area – a portion of Stand 69-3 is within it;
2. Use and maintain the existing road and skid trail system;
3. Construct approximately 500 feet of temporary haul roads between stands 70-8 and 70-9;
4. Site preparation and the subsequent release, if needed with herbicide (Triclopyr) in all stands. Control all invasive exotics along roads adjacent to harvest areas before cut.
5. Designated 70 acres of small patch old growth in compartment 65 (70 acres);
6. Within several existing wildlife fields, use Imazapic herbicide to eradicate fescue component then refurbish the fields by using a clover/warm season grass mix, lime, and fertilizer. Within existing fields control other non native invasive plants and daylight around existing fields to develop a brushy interface. Existing fruit trees in wildlife openings would be “released” and autumn olive would be eliminated in all existing fields. All landings constructed for harvest activities would be seeded following harvest with a clover and wildflower seed mix and on smaller landings, an old variety species of apple or other fruit trees would be planted;
7. Use herbicides (Triclopyr and Glyphosate) to control non-native, invasive exotic plants along Forest Service roads and trails, and historic routes within the AA; and
8. Implement a soil and water improvement project by rehabilitating damaged areas or rehabilitating and relocating away from damaged areas caused by equestrian use.

## Vicinity Map

## Shinwhite Project Map 1

## Shinwhite Project Map 2

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<sup>1</sup> All stands would be logged with tractor logging systems except a portion of stand 65-1 would be logged with cable