

PUBLIC NOTICE

Opportunity to Comment on Restoration of Dry Forest Communities Miller Ridge Project

The Tellico Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest is proposing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Restoration of Dry Forest Communities near Tellico Plains, TN. The project will tier to the 2019 Programmatic EA, Restoration of Dry Forest Communities on the South Zone of the Cherokee National Forest and will include noncommercial timber stand improvements, wildlife opening enhancements, prescribed burning, and forest road improvements. We are inviting you to submit comments to help define any issues or concerns identified in the proposed action disclosed below in this letter. Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.7(a)(2), this proposed project is implementing a land management plan, and is subject to subparts A and B.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of legal notice in the Monroe County Advocate and Democrat, Sweetwater, TN. The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to pre- decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. In accordance with 36 CFR 218.2, specific written comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner. To establish standing for objection the designated opportunity for scoping comments and 30-day notice and comment period will be from December 17, 2025 until January 16, 2026. Comments may be submitted electronically in a common digital format to SM.FS.R8chertelcom@usda.gov; by mail to District Ranger Andrew Carrier 250 Ranger Station Road, Tellico Plains, TN 37385; or faxed to (423) 253-2804. Oral comments can be submitted via telephone at (423) 397-8455. The office business hours for those submitting comments are from 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Additional information regarding this project can be obtained by calling 423-397-8455 or online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r08/cherokee/projects/68877>

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

An objection period, if required, will follow the regulations found in 36 CFR 218.7. For objection eligibility (218.5), only those who have submitted timely, specific written comments during any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection. Issues to be raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project and to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after a designated opportunity to comment (218.8(c)).

Please state "RDFC Miller Ridge" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail.

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