

Request for the adoption of a Citizen's Alternative for the Crooked Creek Vegetation Management Project

We, the undersigned members of the public, ask that the U.S. Forest Service adopt a Citizen's Alternative for the Crooked Creek Vegetation Management Project that is consistent with the following principles and guidelines:

1. No herbicides will be used in the project area.
2. No logging of mature forest overstory trees (>50 years old or 12" diameter) will take place.
3. Precommercial thinning on recovering clearcuts (stands < 33 years old) should be increased from the current proposal (281 acres) to a minimum of 477 acres (50% of all stands < 33 years old). Thinning will be carried out with hand tools only (no herbicides). After precommercial thinning, thinned stands adjacent to Forest Service roads will be designated as firewood collection areas for forest users who obtain a Forest Service firewood permit.
4. Upland water sources (ponds/wetlands) will be created as in Proposed Action 11 of the scoping document.
5. Pine planting will occur only in previously cut (< 33 years old) stands.
6. The northern section of the project area (along Green Pond Rd., as shown on Scoping Map 1 of 3), known as Climax Mountain, will be established as a "Spring Recharge Protection Zone" and managed for the protection of spring water resources.
7. The Forest Plan will be amended to change the management prescription for the southern section, south of Highway 1004 (725 acres, shown on Scoping Map 3 of 3), and known as "Little Egypt" from 1.K. Habitat Diversity Emphasis to 1.I Designated Old Growth.
8. A well-designed hiking and equestrian trail system will be constructed in the Little Egypt area to educate the public about the cultural and natural history of Rockcastle County. The trail will be sited to pass old homesteads, old growth trees, and interesting natural features and natural communities. Placards with information on points of interest may be along the trail.
9. No temporary or permanent road construction or reconstruction will take place. Forest Road 477 will not be reopened, widened, graveled, or otherwise developed. Forest Road 3051 will not be widened, and no gravelling or other development (other than to prevent erosion) will occur past the junction of FR 3051 and 3051D.