Bankhead National Forest
Forest Health and Restoration Project

Project Summary
The Process

- **1/2000 thru 5/2002** - Identification of problem and need for action, field inventory
- **5/2002** - Release of project proposal and public scoping Period
- **6/2002 thru 1/2003** - Determine significant issues based on scoping comments and develop a range of alternatives
- **1/2003 thru 6/2003** - conduct analysis of alternatives
- **7/2003** – deciding officer selects preferred alternative
- **7/2003 thru 8/2003** – release of draft environmental impact statement (EIS) and 45-day comment period
- **8/2003 thru 9/2003** – analysis of comments and finalize EIS, eis and record of decision (ROD) sent to publisher
- **10/2003** – release of rod and final eis (we are here)
- **11/2003 into 12/2003** – 45-day appeal period

Bankhead National Forest
The Current Situation

- 79,000 acres typed as Loblolly Pine
- 10-year Southern Pine Beetle epidemic resulted in 18,000 acres of pine killed
- Standing and downed dead trees resulting in heavy fuel buildups, trails blocked, public safety concerns, reduced visual quality

Bankhead National Forest
Forest Health and Restoration Project EIS – The Need for Action

- Improve the short-term forest health (reduce SPB risks)
- Restore native upland hardwood forests
- Restore native fire dependent pine and oak woodlands
- Provide forest communities and habitats uncommon on other lands in the Southern Cumberland Plateau

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Bankhead National Forest
ISSUES

• Establishment of Fire-Dependent Woodlands
• Use of Artificial Pine Regeneration
• Impacts to Recreation and Cultural Values
• Annosum Root Rot and Littleleaf Disease
• Distribution of Early Successional Habitat
• MIS and TES
• Use of Commercial Timber Sales
• Thinning as a First Step in Restoration
• Soil and Water Resources
• Old-Growth Forest Communities

Bankhead National Forest
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• 7/2003 - Deciding officer selects alternative 5 as the preferred alternative
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Alternative 5 - The Preferred The Future Forest

- Area 1 – Emphasis on native upland hardwood restoration
- Area 2 – Emphasis on native fire-dependent shortleaf pine and oak woodland restoration
- Area 3 – Emphasis on native fire-dependent longleaf pine and oak woodland restoration

Bankhead National Forest
Forest Conditions Today

Bankhead National Forest

Cove and Canyon Hardwood and Conifer - Northern Hardwood
Upland Hardwood and Hardwood Pine
Oak Woodlands
Longleaf Pine
Shortleaf Pine
Loblolly Pine
Virginia Pine
Southern Pine Beetle Spots 10 Acres and Larger
Uninventoried Lands
Alternative 5 - “The Future Forest”

Bankhead National Forest
Alternative 5 - The Preferred Five Year Priority Work

- Commercially thin 9,452 acres of overstocked loblolly pine
- Restoration of 6,860 acres of southern pine beetle impacted areas (shortleaf and longleaf planting, site preparation w/ fire and mechanical, hardwood natural regeneration)

Bankhead National Forest
The Results

- **Short-term** – reduced risk to SPB infestation in remaining loblolly pine
- **Long-term** - healthier/sustainable watersheds, forests and habitats by:
  - Increasing acres of native upland hardwood forests
  - Increasing acres and distribution of native
  - Fire-dependent pine and oak woodlands

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Bankhead National Forest
Economic Impacts
Bankhead National Forest
Green Sale Annual Timber Volume
20 Year Trends and Projections

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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
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<td>1994-2003</td>
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<td>2004-2008</td>
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Bankhead National Forest
Annual Acres Treated by Timber Harvest
20 Year Trends and Projections
NFS Contribution to Area Jobs – Current Forest Plan

1.6 98.4

Jobs - FS Related Contribution
Jobs - All Other
NFs in AL Volume Trends Past Decade and Projected Forest Health Volumes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Million Board Feet</th>
<th>Current Forest Plan</th>
<th>Forest Health Projects</th>
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<td></td>
<td>102</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Other Districts FH Volumes
- Bankhead FH Volumes
- ASQ
- Volume Harvest - Past Decade

- Other Districts FH Volumes
- Bankhead FH Volumes
- ASQ
- Volume Harvest - Past Decade
Public Involvement
Public Involvement

- Liaison Panel public forums since Spring 2000
- Pre-NEPA Scoping “Forest Health Brochure” – Early Spring 2002
- 5/2002 - Release of project proposal and public scoping Period
- 11/2002 to May 2003 - 7-month facilitated public forums with the Liaison Panel
- 7/2003 thru 8/2003 – release of draft environmental impact statement (EIS) and 45-day comment period
- 9/2003 – Meetings with concerned elected officials, meeting with persons providing comments, and Free State of Winston Natural Resources Committee meeting