

01/08/2010 — NOTICE OF DECISION

U.S. Forest Service -- Ouachita
National Forest
Arkansas and Oklahoma
Travel Management Project

The Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN and FONSI) for the Ouachita National Forest Travel Management Project was signed by Forest Supervisor Norman L. Wagoner on January 4, 2010. Based on the results of the analysis documented in the EA, it is the Forest Supervisor's decision to implement the travel management actions of Alternative E. This is a two-part decision: Part A amends the Revised Forest Plan to implement the National Travel Management Rule (36 CFR ¤212.51) and to comply with 36 CFR 261.13 which prohibits motorized vehicle use off designated roads and trails and outside designated areas. The amendment also changes the Revised Forest Plan to allow limited motor vehicle use for big game retrieval. Part B authorizes changes to the Ouachita National Forest travel system, including mileage of roads and trails, seasons of use and vehicle types allowed. This project will be implemented throughout the Ouachita National Forest, located in western Arkansas (Ashley, Garland, Hot Spring, Howard, Logan, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Polk, Saline, Scott, Sebastian, and Yell Counties) and southeastern Oklahoma (LeFlore and McCurtain Counties).

For Part A of this decision, the Forest Supervisor decided to use the "Optional Appeal Procedures Available during the Planning Rule Transition Period." These procedures are available at

<http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/applit/includes/PlanAppealProceduresDuringTransition.pdf>. A written appeal must be filed in duplicate, clearly state that it is a Notice of Appeal pursuant to the "Optional Appeal Procedures", and it must meet the content requirements of Section 9 of the Optional Appeal Procedures. Appeals must be postmarked or received within 45 days after the date the legal notice of this decision is published in the newspaper of record. Appeals must be filed with the Regional Forester for the Southern Region at: USDA Forest Service, Attn: Appeal Reviewing Officer, 1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Suite 811N, Atlanta, GA 30309-9102. Appeals may also be faxed to (404) 347-5401 or mailed electronically in a common digital format to appeals-southern-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Hand-delivered appeals must be received within normal business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday -- Friday, closed on federal holidays. Section 10 of the Optional Appeal Procedures provide for implementation of this (Part A) decision as soon as seven calendar days after the legal notice of decision is published in the newspaper of record. However, the agency will not begin implementation of this part of the decision until any appeals filed under 36 CFR 215 (see below) are resolved.

Part B of this decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.11. A written appeal, including attachments, must be postmarked or received within 45 days after the date this notice is published in the newspaper of record. The appeal must clearly state that it is being filed pursuant to 36 CFR 215, and must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14. Appeals must be filed with the Regional Forester for the Southern Region at: USDA Forest Service, Attn: Appeal Reviewing Officer, 1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Suite 811N, Atlanta, GA 30309-9102. Appeals may also be faxed

to (404) 347-5401 or mailed electronically in a common digital format to appeals-southern-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Hand-delivered appeals must be received within normal business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday -- Friday, closed on federal holidays. If no appeal is filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of this decision may occur on, but not before, five business days from the close of the appeal-filing period. If an appeal is filed within the 45-day time period, implementation may not occur for 15 business days following the date of appeal disposition. (36 CFR 215.9) Additional information may be obtained at

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/ouachita/recreation/ohv/index.shtml> or contact the Supervisor's Office at (501) 321-5202.

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