

**BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST  
LIAISON PANEL MEETING SUMMARY  
OCTOBER 19, 2004  
DOUBLE SPRINGS, ALABAMA**

**Liaison Panel Members Attendees**

Ron Eakes, ADCNR  
Randy Feltman, Logger  
Charles Bordon, Recreation User  
Anthony Hood, Recreation User  
Mike Henshaw, AL Extension Service  
Vince Meleski, Wild South  
Quinton Humphries, Winston Co. Commission  
David Borland, TNC  
Randall Lou Allen, Lawrence Co. Commission

**Additional Attendees**

Shambhu Katel, Alabama A&M  
Bobby Ayers, Resident  
Taylor Storm, Resident  
Vernon Jay, Cherokee River Comm.  
Gene Bagwell, Cherokee River Co.  
Wes Stone, Alabama A&M  
Devine Bagwell, Cherokee River Comm.  
Scott Johannes, Cherokee River Com.  
Hank Byrnes, Wild South  
L.C. Hall, Resident

**Forest Service Attendees**

Steve Rickerson, Forest Supervisor  
Glen Gaines, District Ranger  
Jean Allan, District Archaeologist  
John Creed, EIS Team Leader  
Mike Cook, Resource Assistant

**Meeting Agenda**

6:30 Welcome and Meeting Objectives  
6:45 Bankhead Heritage Resources and Looting Problems  
7:30 Discussion on Ideas to Address Looting  
8:00 Center of Ecosystem Assessment  
8:30 Membership Needs  
8:45 Closeout

**Bankhead Heritage Resources and Looting Problems**

**Jean Allan, District Archaeologist, Bankhead National Forest**

Jean made presentation that provided an overview of cultural heritage resources on the Bankhead National Forest. A hard copy of Jean's PowerPoint presentation will be provided at the next meeting.

Jean discussed actions that had been implemented to address looting that included: volunteer program of inventory in the Sipsey Wilderness; distribution of anti-looting material to local schools; newspaper articles; Archaeofest event on the Bankhead; and law enforcement investigations of reported looting.

This discussion led discussion with the liaison panel and public on ideas to address the continued problem of illegal looting of heritage sites:

- Incorporate educational signs on looting around the recreation areas and other congregation areas
- Handout education flyers to hunters when they receive their WMA hunting permits
- Place educational display at Black Warrior WMA headquarters during hunts
- Develop awareness of forest visitors to the looting problem to increase reporting of these activities
- Education
- Use email lists to increase awareness

#### **Alabama A&M University Center for Forest Ecosystem Assessment**

Wes Stone, Professor, provided an overview of the long term research centered on the Forest Health and Restoration effort on the Bankhead National Forest. A hard copy of Wes' PowerPoint presentation will be provided at next meeting. Researchers will be addressing effects of thinning and prescribed burning associated with forest health and restoration project on plants, animals, and soils, while also looking at tree genetics and social aspects of national forest management. There were questions and interest of expanding scope, with additional researchers to look at shortleaf/bluestem and longleaf/bluestem woodlands restoration.

#### **New Membership Needs**

Glen Gaines discussed the need have representation of private property rights and professional forester on the panel. He asked panel members to consider this for discussion at the next meeting.

#### **Forest Health Thinning Working Group**

Vince Meleski, Randy Feltman, and Mike Henshaw are preparing their next reviews of forest health/restoration thinning timber sales.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2004 at the Moulton Parks and Recreation Center, in Moulton, Alabama beginning at 6:30 pm. The panel will begin discussion on Outdoor Recreation and Future Demand on the Bankhead National Forest. Mike Cook, Bankhead National Forest, will lead the discussion at this next meeting.