

**BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST  
LIAISON PANEL MEETING SUMMARY  
November 8, 2012  
DOUBLE SPRINGS, ALABAMA**

**Liaison Panel Members Attendees**

Anthony Hood, Recreation User  
Randy Feltman, Logging Interest  
Daryl Lawson, Al. A&M University  
LaVerne Matheson, Smith Lake Advocacy  
Chuck Byrd, The Nature Conservancy  
Matt Brock, ADCNR - WFF  
Jud Easterwood, ADCNR - WFF  
Russell Miller, Forester (forest industry)

**Additional Attendees**

Marcus Garner  
Athel Wilhite  
Matt Smith  
James Alexander  
Edmon Smith  
Stewart Horn  
John Green  
Hank Byrnes  
John Montgomery  
Jim Ferguson  
David Brown  
Dave Morrill

**Forest Service Attendees**

Elrand Denson, District Ranger  
Kerry Clark, District FMO

Tripp Gaskins, District Silviculturist  
Travis McDonald, Dist. Biol. Scientist

## **Meeting Agenda**

6:00	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Elrand Denson,</b> District Ranger, USFS, Bankhead
6:15	<b>Hemlock Woolly Adelgid</b>	<b>Tripp Gaskins,</b> District Silviculturist USFS, Bankhead
6:30	<b>Prescribed Burning Program And Environmental Assessment</b>	<b>Kerry Clark,</b> Fire Management Officer, USFS, Bankhead
7:00	<b>Feral Swine Research Project</b>	<b>David Morrill</b> Forestry Student Alabama A&M University
7:30	<b>Water Quality Improvements</b>	<b>LaVerne Matheson,</b> Winston County Smith Lake Advocacy, Inc.
8:45	<b>Close-out</b> Next meeting & agenda items Panel business items	<b>Elrand Denson</b> District Ranger, USFS, Bankhead

### **Presentations & Summary of Discussion:**

Bankhead District Ranger Elrand Denson opened the meeting and introductions of the Liaison Panel members present were made. Denson reviewed the Bankhead Liaison Panel Mission and Ground Rules.

Tripp Gaskins, District Silviculturist, gave a presentation on Identifying Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. This PowerPoint presentation is attached. Currently the Bankhead

National Forest is requesting assistance from the public to help monitor Hemlocks for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA).

- The public asked questions concerning how the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is being tracked and how it is spread.

Kerry Clark, District Fire Management Officer, talked about the progress on the Prescribed Burning Environmental Assessment. This Environmental Assessment includes the Bankhead's plans to burn 65,000 acres over a 10 year period. Short rotation burns (2-3 year rotations) comprise 42,000 acres of the total 65,000 acres.

- Public expressed concerns about burning too much acreage and that large areas of woodlands have never existed on the Bankhead.
- Public also asked the question about timing of burns and burning during turkey season. Kerry stated that he determined the timing of burns and that approximately 40% of burns on the Bankhead occurred during growing season. He also stated that during turkey season, he planned on burning smaller blocks.

Dave Morrill, Forestry student with Alabama A&M University, gave a presentation concerning the increasing problem of feral hogs on the Bankhead. The PowerPoint presentation is attached. Dave's study examined the stomach contents of feral hogs dispatched from the Forest. His findings were that feral hogs are preying upon and competing with native fauna.

- The public asked questions about the diseases that feral hogs carry and their impact on water quality.

LaVerne Matheson, Winston County Smith Lake Advocacy, Inc., gave a presentation on water quality in Alabama. He expressed concerns about sanitation issues with septic tanks and the lack of regulation.

- Public asked questions concerning water quality testing on Smith Lake.

Ranger Denson also mentioned that work on the Borden parking lot was complete.

See attached documents for copies of all PowerPoint presentations.

#### **Liaison Panel Business:**

The **next meeting** date was set for January 31, 2013 in Moulton.

The minutes from the last meeting are available on the Bankhead National Forest website, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/alabama/districts/bankheadRD>