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From the summary on page 1 to the end of this draft EA it is clear that the overarching intent of the proposed work outlined in it's 72 pages is the restoration of the long leaf pine forest ecosystem in Morrison Hammock. A worthy endeavor and a good solid plan of action.

By contrast, there is no real emphasis on the protection of the other major ecosystems within the project's boundaries, specifically the hardwood bottomlands. These bottomlands are of particular concern to me and many others who have hunted these woods for decades.

While no work appears to be proposed for the hardwood bottoms proper, which is good news, it seems like every spot in a hardwood bottom no matter how small or isolated, that may or may not have been planted with pines years ago and might support a long leaf pine today, has been targeted for work of one kind or another.

Examples: "stand" numbers 24, 28, 29, and 13 in "compartment" 353 and possibly 502, 503, 505, 506, and 507 in "compartment" 354.

These small, isolated, slightly higher and drier "stands" (islands, ridges, hammocks) are prized features of the hardwood bottoms. They provide essential cover and bedding areas for deer, bear and other wildlife. The thicker and rougher the better. To disturb those areas in the name of restoring a long leaf pine ecosystem would be misdirected. Plus, to scar up the woods with log skidders, trucks and other equipment just to get in and out of these isolated spots would be a shame. The bottomland ecosystems would be better served if these spots were simply left alone.

We all wish we could have back the long leaf pine forests of yesterday and we laud the efforts towards restoration in the flatwoods where they once existed. We also hope we can keep what hardwood bottomlands are still with us. If messed up they won't come back in our lifetimes.

Suggestion/request: evaluate all the small, isolated numbered "stands" listed in this document that are shown within a hardwood bottom for possible exclusion from the proposed work.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, Wallace Giddens