

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin
National Wildlife Refuge
8675 Willtown Rd.
Hollywood, SC 29449
Phone: 843-889-3084

Information Bulletin



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 16, 2025

Contact: Brett Craig, Refuge Manager
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service seeks public comment on Draft Compatibility Determination for Commercial Tree Harvesting Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is opening a public comment period for 14 days on Sept. 16, 2025 for the public to review and comment on a proposed Compatibility Determinations for Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge: Commercial Tree Harvesting. The draft compatibility determination reviews and replaces the 2009 compatibility determination for commercial timber harvest. The 2009 compatibility determination "Forest Management Commercial Timber Harvest" was evaluated and found to be compatible in conjunction with the 2009 Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Finding of No Significant Impact.

Commercial timber harvesting identified in the Ace Basin Habitat Management Plan (HMP) and includes commercial thinning and other silvicultural practices used to improve forest health and habitat conditions. Although forest management on refuges would be conducted solely to enhance forest conditions, contracts are an economic use as part of forest management practices. The use of commercial loggers in an active forest habitat management program can assist land managers with maintaining appropriate forest structure, age, and/or size class distribution of trees on the landscape.

The draft compatibility determination and associated documents will be made available for public review and comment for 14 calendar days; electronically on the refuge website (website <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ernest-f-hollings-ace-basin>) and at the Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters and Visitor Center: 8675 Willtown Rd., Hollywood, SC 29449.. Please let us know if you need the documents in an alternative format; contact: acebasin@fws.gov or 843-889-3084 for assistance.

Comments submitted by U.S. mail should be sent to: Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge c/o Refuge Manager, Brett Craig 8675 Willtown Road. Hollywood, SC 29449

Comments submitted by email should be sent to: acebasin@fws.gov

Across the country, national wildlife refuges work closely with state and Federal agencies, Native American Tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations, private partners, and the public, to engage them in refuge management activities and proposals.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.