

Upcoming Public Meeting on the Black Pinesnake Listing, Rule and 4(d) Exemptions - Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the black pinesnake as a “threatened” species under the Endangered Species Act in October of 2015. The black pinesnake is a non-venomous, secretive snake. Preferred habitats are longleaf pine forests with a reduced woody midstory and dense herbaceous ground cover. They also occur in open pine forests containing loblolly or slash pine. The listing has the potential to affect landowners in 12 Mississippi counties and 3 in Alabama. Mississippi counties potentially affected by this listing include: Forrest, George, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Lamar, Lawrence, Marion, Perry, Stone, and Wayne.



Black pinesnake

ACTION

On **Wednesday, October 26, 2016**, a public meeting will be held for private forest landowners who would like additional information, or have questions about how the 4(d) ruling could impact their future forest management activities. Speakers will be from the USFWS office in Jackson, MS. Topics will include identification characteristics of the black pinesnake, and how this listing might impact forest management activities on private land.



Open pine forest

When: Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016 - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Where: Forrest County Extension Office, located at 952 Sullivan Drive in Hattiesburg. This is adjacent to the Forrest County Multi-Purpose Center located south of Hattiesburg on Highway 49.

Cost: No cost to attend.

Registration: Not required. The **public is invited**.

This meeting is sponsored by the Mississippi Longleaf Restoration Team.