



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Clearwater
National
Forest

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NEPA Quarterly Introductory Letter

Dear Interested Party:

This report is designed to provide information on current and upcoming projects to people concerned with the management of the Clearwater National Forest. Issued quarterly, this report is intended to inform interested members of the public of projects early in the planning process. In this way, you will have ample time to comment on projects of interest. In addition, this will assure that your comments will be received in time to be considered in the final decision. This report is not intended to be a substitute for other public involvement efforts. Rather, it is intended to complement those efforts; to insure that all interested persons may have an opportunity to comment.

As I mentioned in this cover letter last quarter, the Washington Office of the Forest Service is developing a computer program for an electronic version of the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) (the official name for the Quarterly Report). This is being referred to as "e-SOPA". At that time, the expectation was that the Report would be fully functional this quarter. However, due to complexities with getting the program completely functional and making it available to the public, it will not be available to the public at the national website at this time.

However, I have been able to input the data for all of the Clearwater's projects and generate a facsimile of what the new e-SOPA will look like. Attached is a copy of what this newly formatted report. The same information is included as in the previous format, with the added convenience of projects being sorted alphabetically within ranger districts. This schedule contains the best available information at the time the report was published. Although not available on a national website yet, the report is available on the Clearwater National Forest's webpage at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/clearwater/Projects/Projects.htm> Again, the expectation is that this report will be available to the public over the internet next quarter.

If you have general questions about our program of work on the Clearwater Forest, please contact John Keerseemaker, Ecosystem Management Officer. For answers to questions or information about a specific project, please contact the person identified on the attached lists.

Sincerely,

/s/JOHN KEERSEMAKER

John Keerseemaker (for)
LARRY J. DAWSON
Forest Supervisor

