



NEPA

Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions

January - March 2004

PURPOSE OF THE NEPA QUARTERLY

This schedule lists actions being proposed on the Forest that are governed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of this schedule is to provide early and informal notice of proposed projects so that you can become aware of Forest Service activities, indicate your interest in specific projects, and become involved early in the environmental analysis and documentation process.

FORMAT

Proposed actions (projects) are sorted by the Ranger District where the action would occur. In some cases, Forest-wide projects are listed separately. Information indicating what stage of public involvement and analysis is occurring is provided for each proposal. Following the proposals is a list of decisions made since the last quarterly schedule. With this information, you'll have an idea of upcoming projects, and you may wish to get involved by commenting on them. We're still analyzing some projects listed in the last Quarterly schedule, so they appear once again in this update. In future months, we'll add new projects as they are proposed, and they will be listed in future issues of the NEPA Quarterly.

The information given for each project is brief, but specific. A table provides the project name, short description, location, time frames for public involvement, a date when we expect to make a final decision on the projects, a contact person, and the status of the analysis. Each project has a unique alphanumeric number that is keyed to a map showing the general project location on a particular District. From time to time other information associated with environmental analysis or planning will also be included in the NEPA Quarterly.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to comment on a project or be placed on the project mailing list, call the contact person or write to the appropriate office (see list of offices on the next page). You may comment right then, or ask to be put on a mailing list for that specific project to receive more information and an opportunity to comment at a later time. We ask you be project-specific about your interest.

ROLE OF THE NEPA QUARTERLY

The NEPA Quarterly adds to the public involvement activities we have always done; it doesn't replace them. We will continue to contact those people known to be affected by and/or interested in our proposals. Those that have expressed interest about certain projects will still be contacted.

Thank you for reviewing this list of recent decisions and proposed projects. We appreciate your interest in the management of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

PRIVACY OF YOUR COMMENTS

Comments received in response to solicitation as part of the NEPA process, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on a proposed action, and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act permits such confidentiality.

ANTICIPATED "WALK-IN" BUSINESS

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate that analysis be completed with a short turn-around. This may mean that some decisions are made without prior announcement in this update. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads and utility rights-of-way. Scoping efforts for these requests will be conducted as applicable.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

For additional requests, please contact one of the offices listed on the next page. Please let us know if the address we have for you is incorrect.

This publication is available in large print from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Headquarters in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

WHERE TO CALL, WRITE OR VISIT OUR OFFICES:

Forest Supervisor's Office
1170 4th Avenue South, Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552
Phone: (715) 762-2461; TTY: (715) 762-5701

Eagle River-Florence Ranger District
P.O. Box 1809, Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521
Phone: (715) 479-2827; TTY: (715) 479-1308

Great Divide Ranger District
P.O. Box 126, Highway 13, Glidden, Wisconsin 54527
Phone: (715) 264-2511

Lakewood-Laona Ranger District
15085 State Road, Hwy 32, Lakewood, Wisconsin 54138
Phone: (715) 276-6333; TTY: (715) 276-3909

Medford-Park Falls Ranger District
1170 4th Avenue South, Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552
Phone: (715) 762-2461; TTY: (715) 762-5701

Washburn Ranger District
P.O. box 578, 113 E Bayfield Street, Washburn, Wisconsin 54891
Phone: (715) 373-2667

Forest Supervisor's Office
68 South Stevens Street, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501
Phone: (715) 362-1300; TTY: (715) 362-1383

Eagle River-Florence Ranger District
HC 1, P.O. Box 83, Florence, Wisconsin 54121
Phone: (715) 528-4464; TTY: (715) 528-5298

Great Divide Ranger District
P.O. Box 896, 10650 Nyman Ave, Hayward, Wisconsin 54843
Phone: (715) 634-4821

Lakewood-Laona Ranger District
RR 1 Box 11B, Laona, Wisconsin 54541
Phone: (715) 674-4481

Medford-Park Falls Ranger District
850 North 8th, Hwy 13, Medford, Wisconsin 54451
Phone: (715) 748-4875; TTY: (715) 748-4875

Oconto River Seed Orchard
18100 Saul's Spring Road, White Lake, Wisconsin 54491
Phone: (715) 276-7400

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following are definitions of some of the terms used in this report.

Appeal Period - The 45-day period after publication of a decision in which an appeal can be filed.

Categorical Exclusion (CE) - A category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

Comment Period - The time allowed for interested persons to provide comments to a Responsible Official on a proposed action.

Decision Memo (DM) - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision to implement an action that has been categorically excluded from documentation.

Decision Notice (DN) - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision based on an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) - A document that presents issues and concerns important to a project, alternate means of accomplishing a project, and environmental effects of each of these alternatives.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - This document is required for proposed actions that may have significant effects on the human environment. The contents are similar to an environmental assessment, and it includes some additional sections.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) - A document prepared by a federal agency presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

NEPA - Acronym for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This is the procedural guide for the decision making process for site-specific projects.

Proposed Action - A proposal made by the Forest Service to authorize, recommend, or implement an action on National Forest System lands to meet a specific purpose and need which is subject to public notice comment provisions.

Scoping - Includes internal and public involvement to determine the range of issues to be addressed. Scoping aids in the development of alternatives for a proposed action.

Significance - As used in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requires consideration of both context and intensity.

Notice

Future issues of the quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) will have a different appearance. The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is in the process of converting to the new, national format of the SOPA. This new format is intended to standardize the “look” and content of the SOPA across the agency.

I apologize for the lateness of this January-March issue. A number of technical difficulties delayed its normal timing of issuance. The April-June issue of the SOPA is anticipated to be back on schedule.

**Brian Quinn
Forest Environmental Coordinator**

DECISIONS ISSUED SINCE THE LAST NEPA QUARTERLY

FOREST-LEVEL

Hardrock Mineral Prospecting:(MP13). On 02/02/2004, Forest Supervisor Anne Archie decided to add stipulations and notifications to eight BLM prospecting permits as described in the EA under Alternative 2. These additions will provide greater resource protection during prospecting operations.

LAKELAND-LAONA RANGER DISTRICT

Access to private land (LL19). On 10/16/2003, Forest Supervisor Anne Archie decided to allow access across 500 feet of NFS land to private property in Oconto County, and issue a special use permit.

Installation of buried Power Line (LL20). On 10/29/2003, Forest Supervisor Anne Archie decided to permit Wisconsin Public Service to install, operate and maintain 22,020 feet of underground electrical distribution line across NFS land in Forest County. This decision will be implemented by amending the Special Use Authorization.

January 2004 Schedule of Proposed Actions

FOREST-LEVEL

Project Number	Description and Location of Proposed Action	Dates, Contacts and Project Status
SO03	<u>Revising the Forest Plans</u> . The Forest Plans direct all management activities on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests first issued their plans in 1986. Plans are to be revised at least every 15 years. Available planning documents can be found on the CNNF home page at http://www/fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf .	<u>Public Involvement Began</u> : June, 1996 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : January 2004. <u>Contact Person</u> : Mike Miller 715-362-1343 mtmiller@fs.fed.us Project Status: Record of Decision being prepared, FEIS and LRMP being finalized for public release.
SO22	<u>Maintenance of Weeds at Roads, Trails, Recreation and Administrative Sites</u> : The Forest proposes to control non-native, invasive species (weeds) along roads, trails, recreation and administrative sites. In addition to preventative measures, control methods would include herbicides, hand-pulling, biological, burning and mechanical treatments. <u>Location</u> : Weed-infested sites that have been mapped on the forest. The locations are varied and distributed across the forest.	<u>Public Involvement Began</u> : April 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : December 2003 <u>Contact Person</u> : Brian Quinn 715-762-5176 <u>Project Status</u> : Preparing Decision Memo.
SO23	<u>2004 Gypsy Moth Control</u> : The Forest proposes to control gypsy moth at 4 locations where 2003 surveys found gypsy moths. Treatments would consist of aerial application of pheromone flakes or where moth populations are high, a moth-specific bacterial control. <u>Location</u> : Two locations are on Washburn district (T49N, R5W, S15; T48N, R6W,S13&14), one on Great Divide (T44N, R5W, S3), and one on Park Falls (T37N, R3E, S1&12).	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : January, 2004 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : April, 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Mark Theisen, 715-362-1346 <u>Project Status</u> : Proposal issued for 30-day notice and comment on 02/03/2004

EAGLE RIVER/FLORENCE DISTRICT

Project Number	Description and Location of Proposed Action	Dates, Contacts and Project Status
EF36	<u>Butternut Lake Archeological Study</u> : This proposal would conduct investigations using test excavations to confirm evidence of prehistoric human use and activity. <u>Location</u> : T41N, R12E, section 27	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : March 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : April 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Mark Bruhy 715-362-1361 mbruhy@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Initial Scoping and analysis.
EF37	<u>Gorge Pit expansion</u> : This proposal would expand a gravel pit for use by the agency and local governments. <u>Location</u> : T41N, R14E, section 30.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : August 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : April 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Shirley Frank 715-528-4464 x62 sfrank@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : developing proposed action.
EF38	<u>Requests for Access to Private Land</u> : Four applicants have requested special use authorizations to access private land from across National Forest. Access would be from existing and newly constructed road. New road would range from 200 to 800 feet. <u>Location</u> : T38N R14E, S36, Florence County; T42N, R11E, S7, Vilas County; T38N, R14E, S9,17, Forest County, T39N, R13E, S17, Forest Cty.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : April 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : April 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Joan Stanfield-Smith 715-362-1316 jstanfieldsmith@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Initial scoping and analysis.
EF39	<u>Tipler Fuels Reduction</u> : This project would reduce fuels in red pine plantations near private lands. Fuels would be treated by thinning, chipping or removing slash. <u>Location</u> : T41N, R16E, S25; T41N, R15E, S25, Florence County.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : April 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : April 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Mark Flunker 715-528-4464 x21 mflunker@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : developing proposal.
EF40	<u>Rainbow Trail Prescribed Burn</u> . This project would reduce fuels in a field of brush, grasses and small saplings using fire. <u>Location</u> : T41N, R16E, S25; T41N, R15E, S25.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : April 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : April 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Mark Flunker 715-528-4464 x21 mflunker@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : developing proposal.
EF41	<u>Hidden Lakes Trail Footbridge</u> . This proposal would construct a footbridge to serve non-motorized recreation trail users. The project is located near the outlet of Butternut Lake over the N Branch of the Pine River. <u>Location</u> : T40N, R12E, S27, Forest County.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : April 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : April 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Jeff Herret 715-479-2827 jherret@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : developing proposal

GREAT DIVIDE DISTRICT

Project Number	Description and Location of Proposed Action	Dates, Contacts and Project Status
GD18	<u>Glidden Administrative Site Driveway</u> : The purpose of this project is to address a safety issue by relocating the current employee entrance to a new location that provides better site distance. <u>Location</u> : Glidden office approximately 1 mile north of the town of Glidden.	<u>Public Involvement Began</u> : 06/26/2002 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : December 2003 <u>Contact Person</u> : Debra Sigmund 715-634-4821 dsigmund@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Preparing Decision Memo
GD28	<u>Highway B Red Pine Thinning</u> : Sawyer County requested the removal of one row of red pine on each side of Highway B within the ROW. Removal of the pine is needed to provide more sunlight and address safety hazards to motorists (icy, shaded area). <u>Location</u> : T40N, R6W, S25, Sawyer County.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : November, 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : December 2003 <u>Contact Person</u> : Debra Sigmund 715-634-4821 dsigmund@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Tribal consultation and public scoping.

LAKWOOD-LAONA DISTRICT

Project Number	Description and Location of Proposed Action	Dates, Contacts and Project Status
LL01	<u>Easement Application to Private Land</u> . Three adjoining landowners have requested permanent access to property surrounded by National Forest System land via existing roads. Two of the landowners held permits that recently expired. <u>Location</u> : T38N, R14E, Sec 22, NW ¼, Forest County, Wisconsin	<u>Public Involvement Began</u> : December 2001 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : December 2003 <u>Contact Person</u> : Darrell Richards 715-674-4481 derichards@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Analysis
LL09	<u>ANR Pipeline Improvement Project (to be renamed)</u> : A proposal to rehabilitate sections of an existing natural gas pipeline corridor, close, open and re-route some areas to motorized vehicle use within the existing corridor, and construct outdoor toilets and handicapped accessible ramps. <u>Location</u> : Far eastern edge of T31-33N, R17E	<u>Public Involvement Began</u> : 01/15/2001 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : May, 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Cristi Corey-Luse 715-634-4821 cmcorey@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Preparing Environmental Assessment
LL16	<u>Boulder Vegetation Management EIS</u> : This project would manage the forest using timber harvest, road construction, road closure, wildlife opening maintenance, and other actions. <u>Location</u> : T31N, R14E, S1, 12; T31N, R15E, S 1-36.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : June 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : December 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Paul Sweeney 715-276-6333 pfsweeney@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Developing proposed action.
LL17	<u>Lakewood/Laona Plantation Thinning</u> : The district proposes to manage stand health and vigor in conifer plantations using commercial thinning. <u>Location</u> : Various locations mapped throughout the Lakewood and Laona districts.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : April 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : May 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Paul Sweeney 715-276-6333 pfsweeney@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Proposed action and initial scoping.

Project Number	Description and Location of Proposed Action	Dates, Contacts and Project Status
LL18	<u>Fish Habitat Restoration</u> : This proposal would restore fish habitat in twelve lakes. It would include tree drops, fish cribs and single-log structures to create hiding and spawning habitat. Activities would occur over five years. <u>Location</u> : Throughout district in Forest Langlade and Oconto Counties.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : March 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : May 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Tom Moris 715-674-4481 tmoris@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Initial scoping and Analysis
LL21	<u>FR 2139 maintenance and reconstruction</u> : This proposal would perform maintenance and realignment activities on 10-15 miles of road FR 2139. <u>Location</u> : T34N, R15E, S2,10; T35N, R15E, S 25,35,36.	<u>Public Involvement Began</u> : September 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : April 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Dwayne Reppert 715-762-5129 dreppert@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Preparing EA

MEDFORD-PARK FALLS DISTRICT

Project Number	Description and Location of Proposed Action	Dates, Contacts and Project Status
MP14	<u>FR 144 maintenance</u> : This proposal would perform maintenance activities on 10-12 miles of road FR 144. <u>Location</u> : T39N, R3E, S3; T40N, R3E, S 16-18,21,27,28,34; T40N, R2E, S 12,13.	<u>Public Involvement Began</u> : September 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : April 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Dwayne Reppert 715-762-5129 dreppert@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Initial scoping and analysis

WASHBURN DISTRICT

Project Number	Description and Location of Proposed Action	Dates, Contacts and Project Status
WB75	<u>2004 Washburn Wildlife Burns</u> : This proposal would use prescribed fire to improve habitat for wildlife and to restore "barrens" structure. <u>Location</u> : T49N, R7W, sections 23,24,26 & 27; T48N, R7W, sections 19-22, 27 & 28.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : August 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : Spring 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Scott Posner 715-373-2667 sposner@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Initial Scoping and Analysis
WB76	<u>Pine Lake Fish Habitat Improvement</u> : This proposal would allow fish structures to be installed in Pine Lake. <u>Location</u> : T48N, R7W, section 10.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : May 2004 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : Fall 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Scott Posner 715-373-2667 sposner@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Initial Scoping and Analysis
WB77	<u>Renewal of Special Use Permit – Drummond Sanitation District</u> : Town of Drummond has requested the renewal of a permit to operate existing sewage lagoon on NFS lands. <u>Location</u> : T45N, R7W, Sections 28 and 33	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : November, 2003 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : June, 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Joan Cervenka 715-762-5174 jcervenka@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : Initial Scoping and Analysis
WB78	<u>Oak Mortality Salvage</u> : two-lined chestnut borer has attacked two distinct oak forest areas on the district. This has resulted in severe mortality. The district proposes to salvage the dead oak. <u>Location</u> : T45N, R8W, and T48N, R6W, Bayfield County.	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : March 2004 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : May 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Phil Freeman 715-373-2667 pfreeman@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : developing proposal
WB79	<u>Two Lake Campground Reconstruction</u> . The district proposes to reconstruct the Two Lake Campground to bring the facility into compliance with accessibility standards and guidelines, address public health and safety issues, and to protect the environment around the site. <u>Location</u> . T44N, R7W, S13, 14; Bayfield County	<u>Public Involvement to Begin</u> : March 2004 <u>Estimated Decision Date</u> : Fall 2004 <u>Contact Person</u> : Teresa Maday 715-373-2667 tmaday@fs.fed.us <u>Project Status</u> : developing proposal