



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Mark Twain National Forest

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File Code: 1950-2/2670/1920

Date: June 25, 2004

Dear Interested Citizen:

We are seeking your comments regarding a non-significant Forest Plan amendment that we are proposing for the protection and management of the Indiana bat, a Federally listed Endangered Species. An active maternity roost tree was found on the Poplar Bluff Ranger District in May 2004. The following actions are needed to address this recent discovery.

### **Proposed Action**

We propose to amend the Forest Plan to comply with the programmatic Biological Opinion by establishing an Area of Influence (AOI) and management objectives for the recently discovered Indiana bat maternity roost tree on the Poplar Bluff Ranger District. We propose to change the current 4.1 Management Area for the Compartments 28 and 29 to 3.5 Management Area prescription, and incorporate appropriate wording in the Forest Plan. See enclosed scoping packet for more details.

### **Decision to Be Made**

As Forest Supervisor, I will decide whether or not to amend the Forest Plan and change the management prescription for the Browns Hollow Area of Influence from a 4.1 Management Area to a 3.5 Management Area, and whether to add vegetative objectives for maternity colonies to the Plan. My programmatic decision will be subject to administrative appeal regulations 36 CFR 217.

### **Opportunity to Comment**

In addition to providing you with information about the project proposal, this letter invites you to provide input in our decision-making process. For us to have ample time to evaluate your comments and include them in our analysis, we need your comments no later than July 26, 2004. Analysis information will be available on the Internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/project.htm>. Please contact Becky Bryan at (573) 341-7436, if you have questions or need further information. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Hall (for)  
RONNIE RAUM  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

