



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Mark Twain National Forest  
Houston – Rolla – Cedar Creek  
Ranger District

108 S. Sam Houston Blvd.  
Houston, Missouri 65483  
(417) 967-4194 TTY (417) 967-9947  
FAX (417) 967-2524

---

File Code: 1950-1

Date: October 15, 2004

Friends, Neighbors, and Interested Parties  
of the Crescent Project,

The Forest Service is proposing forest management activities in a portion of the Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District located west of the Gasconade River. These management activities will be covered in an Environmental Assessment (EA) named Crescent. You are being notified because you are an adjacent landowner to the project who showed interest in our mailing in January, or, you have commented on proposals on the Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District in the last year. The activities proposed are designed to implement the Mark Twain Forest Plan. This project includes a variety of activities such as wildlife habitat improvement projects including old growth designation, timber harvesting, openlands management, and prescribed fire, watershed health improvements, and recreational access improvements. Projects are being proposed to maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and maintain a diverse, healthy, productive, and sustainable forest.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has not been completed, and no decision has been made. The proposals in this analysis are similar to projects we have been implementing for years on the Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District and the estimated effects are well known. I am requesting your comments on the Crescent proposal at this time because I believe that substantive comments received early in the analysis give me the greatest opportunity to consider them in the analysis (including the writing of environmental effects, EA Chapter 3) and decision. Substantive comments are required for appeal eligibility. These are comments that are within the scope of the proposed action, specific to the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for me to consider in the EA and my subsequent decision (36 CFR 215.2). Substantive comments will be used to identify key issues, display environmental effects or develop reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. An EA will be prepared; however, as permitted by our revised regulations for notice, comment, and appeal (36 CFR 215, published in the Federal Register Vol. 68, No. 107, pages 33581-33602), **there will be no further public comment period.**

**We ask that comments be as specific as possible.** Individuals and organizations desiring eligibility to appeal must provide the following information:

1. Name and physical mailing address;
2. Title of the proposed action: **Crescent Project**
3. Substantive comments on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that I should consider in reaching a decision; and
4. Signature or other verification of identity upon request.



**Comments must be postmarked or received within 30 days of the date the legal notice is published in the *Houston Herald* newspaper, Houston, Missouri.** Only those who submit timely and substantive comments during this 30-day comment period will be accepted as appellants of the subsequent decision. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner (*Contact Newspaper for Legal Notice printing date*). Identification of the individual or organization that authored the comment(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility. Each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify their identity upon request.

To obtain more information about this project, please contact Mark Hamel at (573) 341-7443. This proposal will also soon be available on our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/projects.htm>.

Please send all comments to John Bisbee, District Ranger, Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District, 108 S. Sam Houston Blvd., Houston, MO 65483. ATTN: Crescent Project. My telephone number is (417) 967-4194 at the Houston office. Send any fax comments to me at (417) 967-2524, and submit any e-mail comments to: [comments-eastern-marktwain@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-eastern-marktwain@fs.fed.us). Please include "Crescent Project" in the subject line. Acceptable formats for electronic comments are: text or HTML e-mail, Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), or formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications. The decision will be mailed to those who have commented on this project, and to those who request the decision.

Office hours (for those delivering comments by hand) are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday at the Houston District office. Oral comments must be provided at the office during normal business hours.

We appreciate your interest in the management of the Mark Twain National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ John C. Bisbee  
JOHN C. BISBEE  
District Ranger

Enclosures  
Crescent Analysis Chapters 1 and 2  
Appendix E of the Crescent Analysis  
Project Vicinity Map  
Set of 8 Project Maps  
Comment Response Sheet