



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Mark Twain National Forest

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File Code: 1950-1

Date: April 8, 2004

Dear Planning Participant:

Enclosed, for your comment, is a proposal for the Crooked Creek Analysis Area Project. The main goal of this project is to improve forest health and vigor in the analysis area by implementing treatments that are designed to reduce the effects of the widespread oak decline and mortality that is present in the area. At this time, approximately 17 % of the Crooked Creek Analysis Area is considered to be at high risk with significant numbers of dead and dying scarlet and black oaks. In addition to enhancing overall forest health, these treatments will have secondary benefits of improving wildlife habitat, reducing hazardous fuel loads, encouraging vegetative diversity, providing dispersed recreation opportunities, improving forest system roads, and protecting soil and water in the project area by closing non-system roads and cleaning-up illegal dumps. This proposal will also soon be available on our website at [http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/crooked\\_creek/crooked\\_creek.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/crooked_creek/crooked_creek.htm).

An environmental assessment (EA) has not been completed, and no decision has been made. I am requesting your comments on the Crooked Creek Analysis Area 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 and decision. Substantive comments will be used to identify issues, display environmental effects, or develop reasonable alternatives to the proposed action.

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

- 1) Name and physical mailing address;
- 2) Title of the proposed action (this proposed action is the **Proposed Action: Crooked Creek Analysis Area**);
- 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 *Rolla Daily News*, Rolla, Missouri.** Only those who submit timely and substantive comments during this 30-day comment period will be accepted as appellants of the subsequent decision. 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.

The decision will be mailed to those who have commented on this project, and to those who



request the decision. To obtain more information about this project, please contact James L. Turner, Integrated Resource Analyst, at (573) 729-6656.

Please send comments to: District Ranger, Salem Ranger District, P.O. Box 460, Salem, MO 65560. ATTN: **Proposed Action: Crooked Creek Analysis Area**. Send any fax comments to the Salem Ranger District at (573) 729-2867, and submit any e-mail comments to: [comments-eastern-mark-twain-salem@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-eastern-mark-twain-salem@fs.fed.us). **Please include the name of the proposed action (Crooked Creek Analysis Area) in the subject line of the e-mail.** Acceptable formats for electronic comments are: text or HTML e-mail, Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), or formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications.

Office hours at the Salem District Office (for those delivering comments by hand) are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday; oral comments must be provided at the Salem District Office during normal business hours.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ Ronnie Raum  
RONNIE RAUM  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures 4