



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mark Twain National Forest
Doniphan – Eleven Point
Ranger District

Rout 1, Box 1908
Winona, Missouri 65588
(573) 325-6421 TTY (573) 325-4529
FAX (573) 325-4325

File Code: 1950/1570

Date: October 3, 2003

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed for your comment is a proposed action for 30-day comment involving National Forest land in T27N, R3W designated the NE Corner Projects area in Management Area (MA) 4.1-12. MA 4.1-12 emphasizes the management of shortleaf pine in the natural range where it is recognized as a dominant or characteristic member of a natural community. The natural community addressed in this proposed action lies east of Winona, MO. within an approximate 7500-acre area northeast of Sycamore Creek. Rocky Creek and Peck Ranch State Conservation Areas (Missouri Department of Conservation) border the NE Corner area on the north and east, respectively.

The proposed action involves the implementation of prescriptions that would address forest needs at the stand and landscape level. The proposed action involves stand regenerating even-aged methods (clearcut, seed tree seed cut, and shelterwood seed cut) and even-age intermediate (reducing competition for growing space) commercial thinning. Group selection is involved as an uneven-aged management method with commercial and non-commercial thinning between groups. Forest stands will be improved as to overall health, vegetative diversity, quality of habitat and variety of habitat through the application of prescribed burning, precommercial thinning, and old growth designation. Harvested stands will be regenerated through natural (using pre-existing regeneration) means or by planting to provide or supplement the new stand. Roads will be improved for safety and involve reconstruction. Temporary roads are often needed to access stands and these roads will be closed with a dirt mound, gate or large boulders and erosion control measures applied as appropriate and/or required. Skid trail needs are also considered.

I, Jerry Bird, District Ranger of the Doniphan/Eleven Point Ranger District of the Mark Twain National Forest, am the responsible official for this project proposed action. I want to consider your comments before I make a final decision. Comments must be postmarked or received within 30 days of the date the legal notice is published in the Current Wave newspaper of Eminence Missouri. Substantive comments are most useful; they are comments that are within the scope of the proposed action, are specific to the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action and include supporting reasons for me to consider (36 CFR 215.2).

Individuals and organizations desiring eligibility to appeal must provide:

1. Name and physical mailing address;
2. Title of the proposed action (this proposed action is the NE Corner Projects);
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.



Only those who submit timely and substantive comments will be accepted as appellants; identification of the individual or organization that authored the comment(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility.

The decision notice will be mailed to those who have commented during the public involvement process for this project, and to those who request the decision notice. For more information about this project, please contact David Doss, District NEPA Coordinator at (573) 996-2153. The NE Corner Proposed Action for 30-Day Comment document (including maps and spreadsheets) will also be available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/project.htm>.

Please mail written comments to: Jerry Bird, District Ranger, Doniphan/Eleven Point Ranger District, 1104 Walnut Street, Doniphan, Missouri 63935. That is also the address to reach me; my telephone number is (573) 996-2153. Send any fax comments to (573) 996-7745 and submit any e-mail comments to: comments-eastern-mark-twain-eleven-point@fs.fed.us. The office hours (for those delivering comments by hand) are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. Oral comments must be provided at my office during normal business hours. Acceptable formats for electronic comments are: text or HTML e-mail, Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), or formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications.

We appreciate your interest in the Mark Twain National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jerry Bird

JERRY BIRD
District Ranger

Enclosures