



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

White Mountain National Forest
Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset
Ranger District

Route 175, RFD #3, Box 15
Plymouth, NH 03264
Comm: (603) 536-1315
TTY: (603) 536-3281

File Code: 1950

Date: March 7, 2003

Dear Interested Party,

NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
USDA Forest Service, White Mountain National Forest
Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset Ranger District
Grafton County, New Hampshire
Tripoli East Vegetation Project EA 2

This letter is to let you know that I am considering selecting Alternative 4 from the enclosed Tripoli East Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment (EA) version 2, and to inform you of the opportunity to comment on this project and EA in accordance with 36CFR215*. A final decision is not being made at this time. Your comments will help in making the final decision.

I signed a Decision Notice based on the original Tripoli East Vegetation Management Project Environmental Assessment (5/15/02) in May of last year. My decision was formally appealed in June, and the Regional Forester reversed my decision in July, because the analysis of cumulative effects was not considered to be adequate. The attached EA (version 2) documents additional analysis that was conducted on the project's cumulative effects, and includes updates to incorporate new information received since May of 2002. There has been no change in the activities originally proposed for inclusion in the project, only in the documentation.

Comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the appearance of a legal notice in the Manchester Union Leader (Manchester, NH). Expected date of publication of the notice is March 10, 2003. The comment period is extended to the close of business on the next federal working day when the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday. To be considered, comments may be provided orally or in writing (phone, FAX, or e-mail) and must be received (phone, e-mail), postmarked, or facsimile imprinted no later than closing date of the comment period. Indicate clearly in your response that your comments are in reference to the Tripoli East Vegetation Management EA. Comments should be directed to:

Tripoli East Vegetation Management Project
Pemigewasset Ranger District,
White Mountain National Forest
RFD 3, Box 15, Plymouth, NH 03264.
Phone: 603-536-1315 (Voice)
603-536-3281 (TTY),
603-536-5147 (FAX),
E-mail swingate01@fs.fed.us.



Please take the time to review this Environmental Assessment. If you decide to comment, your comments need to be submitted to me, the Responsible Official, as indicated above, and you must include the following information:

- 1) Your name, address, and, if possible, telephone number. If you submit E-mail comments, please include your postal address and phone number;
- 2) The title of the project you are submitting comments on; and
- 3) Site-specific facts or comments, along with supporting reasons that you believe I should consider in reaching a decision. Comments should directly address the activities proposed for the Tripoli East Vegetation Management project and/or the analysis provided in the Tripoli East Vegetation Management Project EA.

For example, “Even-aged management in stand X is inappropriate, because it does not meet Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for MA 2.1” or “Timber harvesting in stand X does not meet the stated purpose and need of this project” are site-specific comments.

“Timber harvesting is an inappropriate use of National Forest land,” is not a site-specific comment. Such a comment is beyond the scope of individual projects and should be addressed at the national level.

Comments received in response to this solicitation will become a matter of public record. To preserve one’s appeal rights under 36CFR215*, comments or an otherwise expressed interest in a particular project must be made prior to the close of the comment period.

Copies of the resulting decision will be mailed to people who have submitted comments prior to the close of the comment period, and to people who have requested a copy.

The EA and associated documentation is available on the White Mountain National Forest website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/white/> under Current Projects. Your views on this project are important. If you need more information on this project, please contact Sue Wingate at (603) 536-1315.

Sincerely,

JOHN J. SERFASS
District Ranger

* 36CFR215, Regulations governing Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures for Forest System Projects and Activities

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. However, those who submit such comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36CFR215. Additionally, pursuant to 7CFR1.27(d), any person may request that a submission be withheld from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that confidentiality is granted in only very limited circumstances. The Forest Service will inform the requester of its decision regarding a request for confidentiality. Where the request is denied, the submission will be returned, and the requester notified that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.

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