



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Boston Mountain
Ranger District

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Ozark, AR 72949
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File Code: 1950-1
Date: June 15, 2016

Dear Reader:

The Boston Mountain Ranger District of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests is proposing a recreation management project on National Forest land on the Wedington Unit in Benton and Washington Counties, Arkansas (see vicinity map). This letter serves as notification of the project to local landowners and others who have an interest in forest recreation. If you do not have an interest in this project, you do not need to respond.

The Wedington Unit of the Ozark National Forest (figure 1) provides opportunities for public outdoor dispersed recreation including wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, and trail use for the growing major metropolitan areas of northwestern Arkansas. This urban forest provides large natural landscapes that contribute to the quality of many types of outdoor recreational activities.

The North Twin Trail Improvement Project has been proposed in order to provide a safe environment for the public to enjoy a recreational bicycling or hiking experience in a visually appealing and natural setting within an urban forest. Forest recreation promotes healthy lifestyles, connects people with the great outdoors, and serves as a way for people to gain an understanding of the importance of caring for their public lands.

The proposed area is within 15 minutes of the Fayetteville-Springdale-Bentonville metropolitan area. It includes the North Twin Special Interest Area (SIA) of approximately 1,219 acres, located along a 2.5 mile stretch of the Illinois River. It was designated primarily for its unique botanical, zoological, geological and scenic qualities. The Forest Service's main goals through its management plan for this area are to protect these qualities of the area while providing a healthy environment through which the public can enjoy these exceptional and exclusive attributes. There are 1.7 miles of trails within the SIA: the Wedington Twin Mountains Trail (2507 and 2507A – Spur). The Wedington Recreation Area is connected directly to the trail.

The actions proposed were developed from field reviews that determined management needs for this area based on the goals established by the Revised Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (hereafter referred to as the Forest Plan), and conditions encountered on the land. The interdisciplinary team proposing these actions consists of a recreation manager, wildlife biologist, engineering technician, forester, fire management officer, hydrologist, and archaeologist.



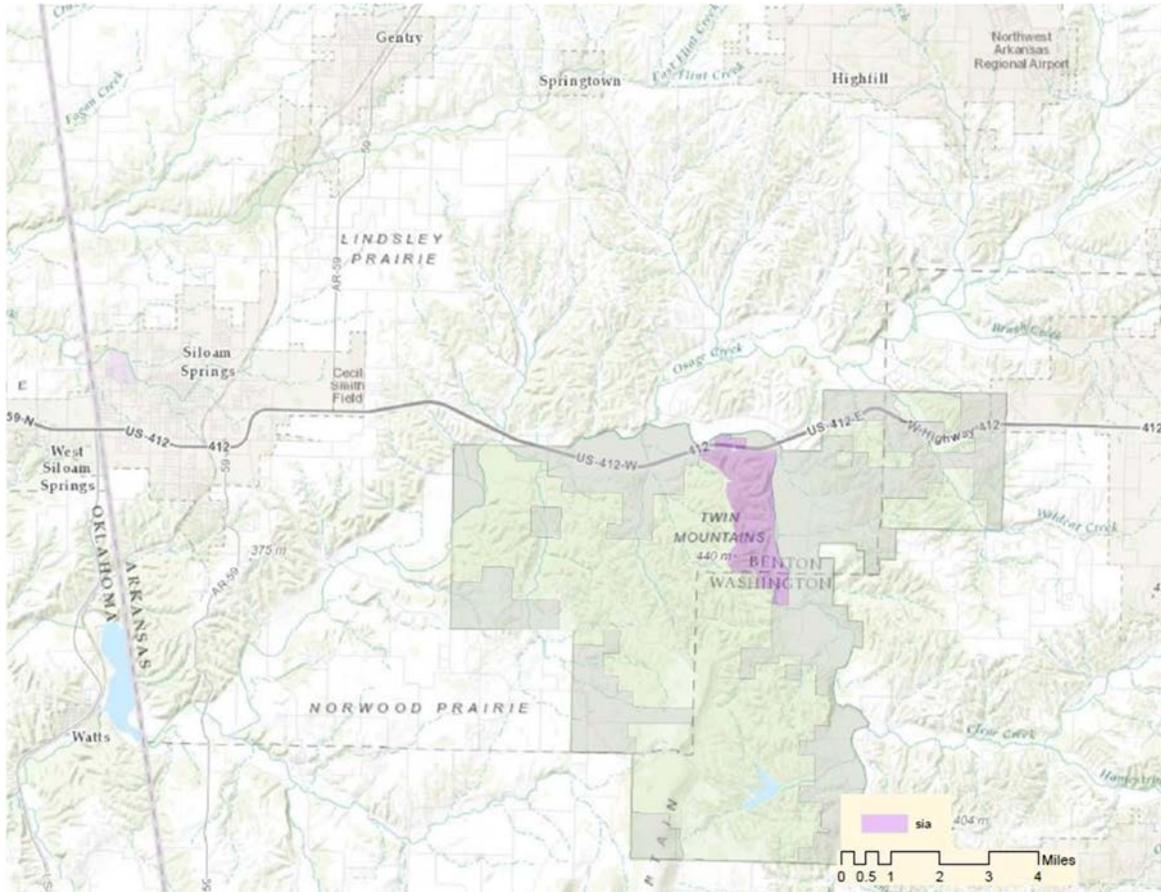


Figure 1. Vicinity Map

PURPOSE AND NEED

The existing trail is classified as a bicycle trail which also allows for hiking. It is one-way (no loops). The existing scheme is poorly designed and not sustainable. Portions of the trail are dangerous. Relocation of the trail would alleviate resource, user safety, and sustainability concerns. Adding trail and loops would offer a variety of experiences suitable to many different experience levels and attract a variety of users.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

The detailed map at the end of this document denotes the locations of the proposed actions for this project. Approximately 2.03 miles west of Lake Wedington would be designated as beginner trail, while 6.4 miles would be designated as intermediate trail. About 7.52 miles of trail in the North Twin SIA would be rerouted, while about 3.47 miles of trail would be decommissioned.

HOW TO COMMENT

I invite your comments on the proposed action. The Interdisciplinary Team will use your comments as they identify issues and develop alternatives to the proposal for my consideration. The team will summarize the disclosure of environmental effects in an environmental document which will be available to the general public on our website. The environmental document will be mailed to those who have commented on this proposal and to those who request a copy.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including 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 we will not be able to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

For your convenience you may use the enclosed comment form. Our mailing address is: U.S. Forest Service, 1803 N 18th Street, Ozark, AR 72949. You may also call, or email your comments to: comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bostonmtn@fs.fed.us. Please state "North Twin Trail Improvement Project" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail. If you have questions on this proposal or the analysis decision process, please call David Brickley or me at 479-667-2191.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM DUNK

District Ranger

NORTH TWIN TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Boston Mountain Ranger District, Ozark National Forest

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

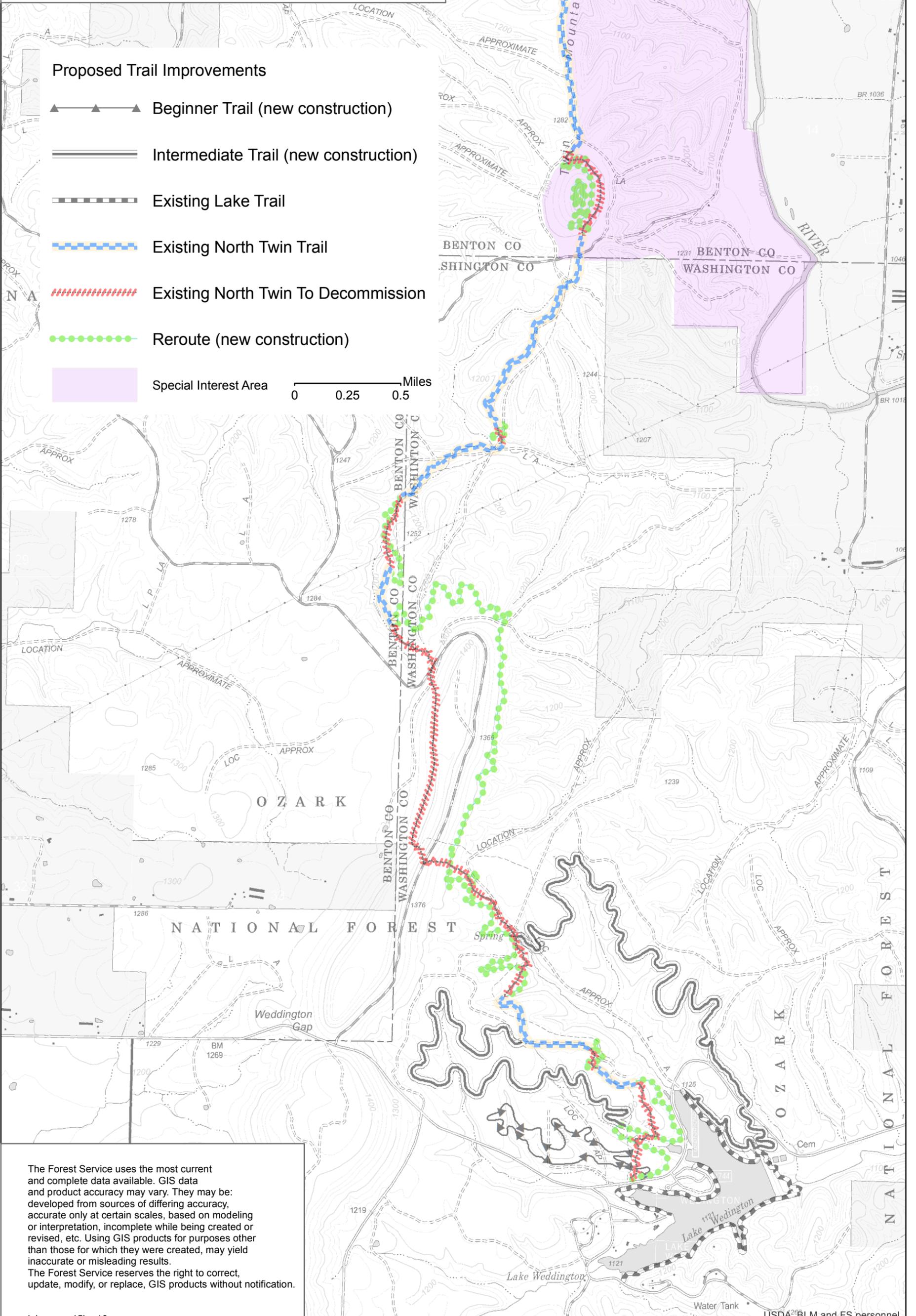
Comments:

Would you like us to contact you about your comments? _____

Please mail your completed comment form to Jobi Brown at 1803 North 18th Street, Ozark, AR 72949. Comments are also accepted verbally at 479-667-2191 or TTY 479-667-1931, or by email at comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-bostonmtn@fs.fed.us. Your input is important.



Ozark-St. Francis National Forests
 Boston Mountain Ranger District
 North Twin Trail Improvement Project



Proposed Trail Improvements

- ▲ —▲ —▲ Beginner Trail (new construction)
- ==== Intermediate Trail (new construction)
- Existing Lake Trail
- Existing North Twin Trail
- Existing North Twin To Decommission
- Reroute (new construction)

Special Interest Area 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

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