



File Code: 1950-1

Date: April 21, 2008

Dear Interested Parties:

I am interested in your comments on the proposed activities in the Clara Project. The Clara Project Area is about seven miles northwest of Lutsen, Minnesota in the area around Clara, Crescent, and Tait Lakes. The location of the Clara Project is shown on the enclosed vicinity map.

The Clara Project proposed activities are intended to move the Clara Project Area from its existing condition toward the desired conditions described in the Forest Plan. The proposed activities would manage forest vegetation composition, structure, and spatial patterns using activities which include:

- Reducing fuel hazards in wild-land urban interfaces with harvest, mechanical fuel reduction, and prescribed burning treatments
- Creating young forest with final harvests
- Improving stand structure and within-stand diversity with intermediate harvests and interplanting
- Restoring stand conditions without harvest, such as:
 - Planting long-lived tree species to enhance riparian areas
 - Mechanically preparing sites to reforest areas
 - Conducting prescribed burns to reduce the future risk of wildfire and promote desired vegetation communities.
- Construction of temporary roads to access units and obliteration of the roads when activities are complete
- Construction of OML 1 road to access units, allow ATV access for hunting, and at the end of ten years, obliteration of the road.

Detailed information on the Clara Project is available on the Superior National Forest website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/superior/projects> under Clara Project or on request from the Tofte Ranger District. Available information includes the Clara Scoping Report, a list of proposed stands and treatments, Operational Standards and Guidelines, and a Proposed Action Map. The Scoping Report includes the purpose and need for the project, summaries of the proposed activities, project information, and a description of treatment types.

The scoping period will last until May 21, 2008. The purpose of scoping is to identify significant environmental issues deserving of further study and to de-emphasize insignificant issues. An issue is a point of debate with the potential effects of the proposed actions.



Your comments are most useful if they refer to a specific project location rather than general management direction for the Superior National Forest. Each stand proposed for treatment is identified by a compartment and stand number (i.e. 312.7) to help you in identifying specific treatment proposals.

You may submit your comments by writing, faxing, emailing, or calling. All comments received (including names and addresses) will become part of the project file and are public information. Please be sure to include your name, address, and the project title (Clara) regardless of how you submit comments.

Written comments sent via mail, FAX, or email must be addressed to:

John Wytanis, District Ranger.
ATTN: Clara Project
Tofte Ranger Station
P.O. Box 2159
7355 West Highway 61
Tofte, MN 55615
Fax: 218-663-8095

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), Word (.doc), or any software supported by Microsoft applications to: comments-eastern-superior-tofte@fs.fed.us. Oral comments must be provided at the Tofte Ranger District during normal business hours (8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday) via telephone (218) 663-8060, or in person at the above address.

The Forest Service is working to reduce our carbon footprint. We are doing this by making our documents available electronically and by managing our mailing list. To keep our mailing list manageable, we will remove your name from the project mailing list if we do not hear from you. If your name is on the project mailing list, you will be notified when the completed Environmental Assessment is on the web. If you can not access the web or prefer a hard copy you need to let us know.

For further information on this project, contact Becky Bartol, project leader at 218-663-8600.

Sincerely,

Rebecca J. Bartol for
JOHN WYTANIS
District Ranger

Enclosure