



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Superior National Forest
Laurentian Ranger District

318 Forestry Rd.
Aurora, MN 55705
Phone: (218) 229-8800
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File Code: 1950-1

Date: February 12, 2007

The Superior National Forest's Laurentian Ranger District has completed the Preliminary Effects Analysis for the Whyte Forest Management Project. The Whyte Project proposes to implement the Superior National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and accomplish objectives such as creating young forest, enhancing riparian habitat through planting long-lived species, increasing the amount of jack pine and white pine, and managing a road system in the project area.

The Whyte Project Area is located north of Two Harbors, MN (Lake and St. Louis Counties) in Townships 56, 57, 58, and 59 North and Ranges 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 West.

This letter begins the official public comment period for the Whyte Forest Management Project. To that end, I have enclosed the Preliminary Effects Analysis which contains the Project's Purpose and Need, the Proposed Action, the Alternatives considered in detail, and the Environmental Effects of each alternative. There is sufficient information presented in the Preliminary Effects Analysis to understand the proposal, its alternatives, and what will happen in the project area under each of the alternatives.

In order to ensure I have the opportunity to consider your concerns before my decision on the project, it is critical they be raised at this time. Your comments, regarding the proposed alternatives and analysis, will be extremely helpful in assisting me in finalizing the analysis and in making my decision.

The Whyte Preliminary Effects Analysis, Unit Cards (site specific information), Biological Assessment, and Biological Evaluation are available electronically at: www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior. To access these documents, navigate to "Projects and Plans" then to the "Whyte Forest Management Project Preliminary Effects Analysis."

For regulatory information please refer to the Code of Federal Regulations 36 CFR 215 (Notice, Comment and Appeal Procedures, 36 CFR 219 (Planning), and 40 CFR 1500 (National Environmental Policy Act).

How to submit comments:

Federal Regulations require your comments to be filed within 30 days after publication in the Mesabi Daily News. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday, your comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. No comments will be accepted after the comment period ends.

In order for comments to be considered when making my final decision comments must be sent to:

- Written comments:

District Ranger
Subject: Whyte Forest Management Project
Laurentian Ranger District, Superior National Forest
318 Forestry Road
Aurora, MN 55705.



- Oral comments must be provided during normal business hours via telephone (218) 229-8832 or in person. The project leader is Susan Duffy.
- Faxed comments:
District Ranger,
Subject: Whyte Forest Management Project,
FAX: (218) 229-8821.
- Email comments: Acceptable formats for electronic comments are: text (.txt), MSWord 6.0 or higher (.doc), portable document format (.pdf), or rich text format (.rtf). E-mail to:
comments-eastern-superior-laurentian@fs.fed.us.
Subject: Whyte Forest Management Project.
- Hand-delivered comments:
Monday through Friday - 8:00 am – 4:30 pm local time.

All comments must include: (1) Name and address of the individual or organization; (2) Title of the project (Whyte Forest Management Project); (3) Specific comments on the proposal, along with supporting reasoning that I should consider in reaching my decision; and (4) signature or other verification of identity on request. I ask that your comments be as specific as possible. Comments received in response to this letter, including the names and addresses of those who comment, are part of the public record for this action and are available for public inspection.

If you wish to reference scientific literature in your comments, send a copy of the entire reference cited, and include your rationale as to how or why you feel it is pertinent to the Whyte project decision. This will allow me to fully evaluate your comments. If I do not receive a copy of the literature, I may not be able to utilize it for my decision.

What next:

All comments received during the 30-day comment period will be addressed by the interdisciplinary planning team. The team will update the effects analysis and consider other alternatives if necessary. When the analysis is complete, I will make a decision on how to proceed.

My final decision will be subject to appeal unless no comments are received during the 30-day comment period. You must provide comments during this period to have standing for an appeal. In addition, in order to have standing to appeal, each individual or representative of a group or organization submitting comments must sign their comments or provide for verification of identity according to the regulatory requirements.

I wish to thank you for your interest and participation in the management of the Laurentian Ranger District. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



JACK GREENLEE
Acting District Ranger