



# The Shawnee Quarterly

The Shawnee National Forest NEPA Newsletter  
with the Schedule of Proposed Actions  
April, 2014

“The Shawnee Quarterly” is the Shawnee National Forest’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) newsletter. The Quarterly is published four times a year: January, April, July and October. It provides planning information on the management and use of the Forest and includes a copy of the Forest’s Schedule of Proposed Actions.

The Schedule of Proposed Actions lists actions proposed or in progress that require consideration under NEPA prior to implementation. The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Actions is to provide early, informal notice of proposed projects so that you can be aware of Forest activities, indicate your interest in specific projects, and be involved early in the environmental analysis and documentation process. The schedule also provides information associated with the status of environmental analysis or planning of ongoing projects.

New projects are listed with the **\*NEW LISTING\*** identifier in the title box on the Schedule of Proposed Actions. You can become part of the decision-making process by commenting on all projects that interest you. Projects are sorted in tables by nation-wide projects, the Supervisor’s Office (for Forest-wide projects), or by the Ranger District where the action is proposed. The name of a contact is provided with each project and comments or questions should be directed to this contact person.

## **SCOPING FOR PROJECTS EXPECTED TO BE CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDED:**

Projects listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions followed by “CE” are expected to be categorically excluded from analysis under NEPA. In an effort to conserve resources by avoiding duplicative mass-mailings, and commensurate with their expected scope and intensity, the Forest announces scoping for these projects in this Quarterly newsletter. Sufficient details of proposals are provided to enable

As directed by the 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act, projects and activities that are categorically excluded from analysis under the NEPA are not subject to post-decisional appeal or pre-decisional objection. Accordingly, the Forest Service will no longer offer notice, comment and appeal opportunities for categorically excluded projects. We will, however, continue offering public involvement opportunities for categorically excluded projects.

comments on the projects. If you wish to receive further information on any project, please contact the individual listed.

**New projects** listed in this month’s Schedule of Proposed Actions that are expected to be categorically excluded include:

**Special Use Permits:** Sharp Rock Falls Boat Launch; Broken Wheel and Rose O’ Sharon Outfitter-Guide Special-Use Permits; T.C. Road Permit. **Project Contact: Angela Kelley, 618-658-2111, [ajkelley@fs.fed.us](mailto:ajkelley@fs.fed.us)**

**Note:** Many of our routine projects, such as trail maintenance and recreation site maintenance do not require a decision memo and do not require that the Forest maintain a NEPA file. These types of projects will continue and some new projects could be announced in this Quarterly newsletter, but they will no longer appear in the Schedule of Proposed Actions.

There are no routine projects to scope this quarter.

**How you can become involved:** Read through the list of proposed projects. To comment on a project or be placed on the project mailing list, call or write the contact person. You may also comment during the scoping or comment periods on environmental assessments (EA) or environmental impact statements (EIS). Thank you for reviewing this list of projects and planned or recent decisions. We appreciate your interest in the management of the Shawnee National Forest.

## **GO PAPERLESS!**

If you would like to receive these notices by email, please send your email address with "DECISION LIST" on the subject line to:

**COMMENTS-EASTERN-SHAWNEE@FS.FED.US**

### **PRIVACY OF YOUR COMMENTS**

Comments received in response to solicitation as part of the NEPA process, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record of a proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act permits such confidentiality.

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#### **To File an Employment Complaint**

If you wish to file an employment complaint, you must contact your agency's EEO Counselor (PDF) within 45 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act, event, or in the case of a personnel action. Additional information can be found online: at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_file.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_file.html).

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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

#### **Persons with Disabilities**

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).



## Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2014 to 06/30/2014

### Shawnee National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
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<b>Shawnee National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)</b>	<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
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<b>Ameren Power Special-Use Permit Amendment</b> CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/05/2013	Expected:04/2014	05/2014	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> This is a proposal for Ameren Power Generating Company to reconstruct seven-miles of an existing permitted electric transmission line system, to include lines, poles, and supporting structures.					
<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41796">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41796</a>					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Township 10 South, Range 3 West Section 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, & 27. Their permitted right-of-way across Forest land is located between Grand Tower and Makanda.					

<b>Hamburg Hill Trail of Tears Enhancements</b> CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/05/2013	Expected:03/2014	05/2014	Mary McCorvie 618-253-1045 mmccorvie@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> This project will provide Trailhead improvements and historic and environmental restoration for a trailhead at the top of Hamburg Hill on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.					
<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41798">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41798</a>					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - Section 32 and 33, Township 12 South, Range 2. Hamburg Hill is located in Union County just west of Jonesboro.					

<b>Shawnee National Forest</b>	<b>Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>	<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
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<b>Ameren Utility Expansion</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2014	Expected:05/2014	05/2014	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> Ameren has an easement for a power corridor on Forest land just south of Lake of Egypt. It is about 1.2 miles long and 125 feet wide. The proposal is to widen the corridor by 12.5 feet on both sides. To widen, vegetation will need to be removed.					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Johnson. LEGAL - Section 9 and 16, Township 11 South, Range 3 East, Goreville Quad. The proposed expansion is located at Goreville Quad #23, Section 9 and 16, Township 11 South, Range 3 East in Johnson County, Illinois.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Ramsey Branch Hardwood Restoration</b> EA	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Notice of Initiation 12/16/2013 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 03/2014	Expected:05/2014	09/2014	Tom Neal (618) 658-2111 tneal@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The proposed actions encourage resilient forest conditions through silvicultural treatments including commercial thinning that will enhance the diversity of native vegetation on about 53 acres.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/shawnee/landmanagement/projects">http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/shawnee/landmanagement/projects</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Pope. LEGAL - T12S, R6E, Sec 5. The Ramsey Branch project area is about 1 mile east of Eddyville, IL.					
<b>T.C. Road Permit</b> CE  *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2014	Expected:05/2014	05/2014	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The proposal is to issue a new permit, for the use and maintenance of a 1,000 foot by 20 foot or 0.46 acre, right-of-way across Forest land. The road already exists but the property sold and the old permit was not transferable.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. SENE Section 5, Township 11 South, Range 9 East.				

<b>Shawnee National Forest Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Broken Wheel and Rose O' Sharon Outfitter/Guide Special-Use Permits</b> CE  *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 03/20/2014	04/2014	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The decision would authorize a temporary special-use permit for one year for both Broken Wheel Ranch and Rose O' Sharon Equine Farm, Inc. to continue conducting equestrian outfitter/guide activities on the Shawnee National Forest				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/shawnee/landmanagement/projects">http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/shawnee/landmanagement/projects</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Near Cedar Lake and Bald Knob Wilderness.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Shawnee National Forest</b>	<b>Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>			<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>	
<b>Phragmites Eradication</b> EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Elizabeth Shimp 618-658-2111 eshimp@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Site-specific management of Phragmites australis - Forest-wideranging from 0 .1 to 2 acre in size, totaling less than ten acres. Management would include a Glyphosate (aquatic)-based herbicide treatment				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37233">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37233</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson, Johnson, Pope, Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Several sites across the Forest.				
<b>Sharp Rock Falls Boat Launch</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2014	Expected:05/2014	05/2014	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The proposal is to renew the existing special-use permit, which would allow for the continued use of the one acre boat launch and parking lot.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44238">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44238</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - NWSW, Section 7, Township 8 South, Range 3 West, 3rd PM, Jackson County, Illinois. The right-of way is located in the NWSW, Section 7, Township 8 South, Range 3 West, 3rd PM, Jackson County, Illinois.				

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This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.