



The Shawnee Quarterly

The Shawnee National Forest NEPA Newsletter with the Schedule of Proposed Actions July, 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 extensive 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 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:

Hick’s Dome Mineral Prospecting Permit - The proposal is to permit the Hicks Dome Prospecting Company to drill three boreholes at three discrete sites in the Hicks Dome area of Hardin County. Richard Blume-Weaver, 618-253-1018 - rblumeweaver@fs.fed.us

Wagon Creek Culvert Replacement - Johnson County has received funding to replace a culvert under the Creal Springs Road with a bridge. Justin Dewey, 618-687-1731, jpdevey@fs.fed.us

Kinkaid Lake Gullies 2 - This project proposes four gullies for stabilization near Kinkaid Lake. John DePuy, 618-658-2111, jdepuy@fs.fed.us

Management 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 will no longer appear in the Schedule of Proposed Actions.

No routine projects to scope this quarter.

Management Note:

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.

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.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410
Washington, DC 20250-9410

Or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

07/01/2014 to 09/30/2014

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
Shawnee National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					R9 - Eastern Region
Ameren Powerline Reconstruction Project EA	- Special use management	In Progress: Notice of Initiation 04/05/2013 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 08/2014	Expected:11/2014	12/2014	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: Ameren Power Generating Company needs a new permit to reconstruct seven-miles of an existing permitted electric transmission line system, to include lines, poles, and supporting structures. The line runs from Grand Tower to Makanda.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41796				
	Location: 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.				
Hamburg Hill Trail of Tears Enhancements CE	- Recreation management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Mary McCorvie 618-253-1045 mmccorvie@fs.fed.us
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41798				
	Location: 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.				
Non-Native Invasive Species Management EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 04/07/2014 01/18/2013 05/04/2011	05/2014	Matthew Lechner 618-253-1016 mlechner@fs.fed.us
	Description: Forest-wide assessment of the management of non-native invasive species. Potential treatments include pulling, hand-torching, controlled burns, and herbicides.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=22143				
	Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Williamson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Forest-wide.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Shawnee National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					R9 - Eastern Region
Phragmites Eradication EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Developing Proposal Est. Notice of Initiation 07/2014	Expected:09/2014	10/2014	Chad Deaton 618-833-8576 cdeaton@fs.fed.us
	Description: We plan to eradicate two invasive species; common reed (Phragmites) and reed canarygrass, while populations are relatively small and the chance for success is high.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37233				
Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson, Johnson, Pope, Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Several sites across the Forest.					

Shawnee National Forest	Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Ameren Utility Expansion CE	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: 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.				
	Location: 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.				
Hick's Dome Mineral Prospecting Permit CE *NEW LISTING*	- Minerals and Geology	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2014	Expected:08/2014	11/2014	Richard Blume-Weaver 618-253-1018 rblume- weaver@fs.fed.us
	Description: The proposal is to permit the Hicks Dome Prospecting Company to drill three boreholes at three discrete sites in the Hicks Dome area of Hardin County.				
	Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Near Hicks Dome in Hardin County.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Ramsey Branch Hardwood Restoration EA	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Objection Period Legal Notice 05/19/2014	Expected:07/2014	09/2014	Tom Neal (618) 658-2111 tneal@fs.fed.us
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/shawnee/landmanagement/projects				
Location: 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.					
T.C. Road Permit CE	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 05/28/2014	07/2014	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44220				
Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. SENE Section 5, Township 11 South, Range 9 East.					
Wagon Creek Culvert Replacement CE *NEW LISTING*	- Road management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2014	Expected:08/2014	09/2014	Justin Dewey 618-687-1731 jpdewey@fs.fed.us
	Description: Johnson County has received funding to replace a culvert under the Creal Springs Road with a bridge. The replacement work is expected to impact an area on the national forest over a width of 50%u2019 from centerline for a length of about 500 feet.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44864				
Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Johnson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Wagon Creek in Johnson County.					

Shawnee National Forest Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)	R9 - Eastern Region
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Shawnee National Forest Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Cedar Lake Shoreline Stabilization CE *NEW LISTING*	- Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2014	Expected:07/2014	09/2014	John DePuy 618-658-2111 jdepuy@fs.fed.us
	Description: This project will be a continuation of work done over the past several years to stabilize the eroding shorelines at Cedar Lake using the barge application method of stone riprap placement.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44683				
Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Cedar Lake.					
Kinkaid Lake Gullies 2 CE *NEW LISTING*	- Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2014	Expected:08/2014	09/2014	John DePuy 618-658-2111 jdepuy@fs.fed.us
	Description: This project proposes four gullies for stabilization near Kinkaid Lake.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44686				
Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Drainage that flow into Kinkaid lake in Jackson County.					
Sharp Rock Falls Boat Launch CE	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 05/28/2014	07/2014	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44238				
Location: 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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