

# Finger Lakes National Forest

## *Schedule of Proposed Actions*



**October 1 to December 31, 2014**

### **ABOUT THIS SCHEDULE**

The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Actions (Schedule) is to provide a status report and short summary of project proposals that are undergoing, or will undergo, environmental analysis on the Finger Lakes National Forest. Issued quarterly, this Schedule is intended to provide the public with informal notice of proposed activities. The publishing of this Schedule is required by Forest Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

An effort will be made to seek public input (called "scoping") on proposed projects based on specific response to this Schedule. Scoping may be in the form of letters, email requests or phone calls that will include more specific information in order for the public to provide meaningful feedback that may be incorporated into the environmental analysis process. When required, legal notices announcing project decisions will be published in the *Ithaca Journal*, our newspaper of record.

The Schedule lists projects by name, location, and a brief description of the proposal. Also included is the scoping date (which indicates when public participation began or will begin), decision date, and the expected implementation date.

Analysis which supports any decision is documented in either an Environmental Assessment (EA), or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Proposals which have been "categorically excluded" from documentation in an EA or EIS are supported by project files, which may or may not include a Decision Memo. The analysis and decision documents are kept on file at the Hector Ranger District office and is available for your review.

### **HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED**

Your participation is important. Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on a project mailing list, either write or call using 1) the contacts listed at the end of the Schedule or; 2) the project contact included for the specific project of your interest. A generic statement of interest in all projects based on your review of this Schedule is not specific enough. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into project development.

Walk in Requests: Requests from the public occasionally require that the environmental analysis be completed with a short turnaround time. This means that the analyses may be conducted and decisions made without prior listing in this Schedule. Efforts for public input for such requests will be conducted as applicable in accordance to regulations. An example of a walk-in request would be a short-term special use permit for a recreation event on the forest.

### **VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE**

For more information about planning or projects on the Finger Lakes National Forest you may visit our website at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project\\_list.php?forest=110920](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_list.php?forest=110920)

# FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on the projects described in this Schedule of Proposed Actions, contact:

Dee Hines  
Acting Forest Supervisor  
Green Mountain & Finger Lakes  
National Forests  
231 North Main Street  
Rutland, VT 05701  
802-747-6700

Jodie Vanselow, District Ranger  
Hector Ranger District  
Finger Lakes National Forest  
5218 State Route 414  
Hector, NY 14841  
607-546-4470

This document available in large print upon request.



**U.S. Department of Agriculture**



**Forest Service**  
**Green Mountain and Finger Lakes**  
**National Forests**  
231 North Main Street  
Rutland, VT 05701

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD/TTY).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Bldg., 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-270-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

10/01/2014 to 12/31/2014

### Finger Lakes National Forest - Hector Ranger District

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
<b>Finger Lakes National Forest</b>		<b>Hector Ranger District</b>			<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Backbone Horse Camp Water Hydrant</b> CE	- Recreation management - Watershed management	Completed	Actual:08/12/2014	08/2014	Timothy Noon 607-546-4470x316 twnoon@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Create an improved and cleaner water source for stock users at Backbone Horse Camp and Trail by dredging and piping to a frost free hydrant.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43459">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43459</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Hector.					
<b>Finger Lakes Runners Club Special Use Authorization</b> CE	- Recreation management - Special area management	In Progress: Scoping Start 08/20/2014	Expected:10/2014	10/2014	Timothy Noon 607-546-4470 x316 twnoon@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Approve the renewal of a 5 year Special Use Permit for a long distance footrace on trails and roads within the Finger Lakes National Forest.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44204">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44204</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Hector.					
<b>Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression Project</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 11/2014	Expected:03/2015	05/2015	Timothy Noon 607-546-4470 x316 twnoon@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Application of biological and chemical control measures to control the spreading infestation of hemlock wooly adelgid and reduce the chances of widespread hemlock mortality in areas of high hemlock density across the Forest.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> To be determined.				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler, Seneca. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Lodi, Covert and Hector.					
<b>Smith Pond Dry Hydrant</b> CE	- Watershed management - Special use management	Completed	Actual:08/14/2014	08/2014	Timothy Noon 607-546-4470x316 twnoon@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Create a dry fire hydrant along Smith Road for use by local volunteer fire departments and Agency resources to aid in fire protection. The pond would also be dredged to install the hydrant and improve water quality.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43460">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43460</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Seneca. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Lodi.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Finger Lakes National Forest</b>		<b>Hector Ranger District</b>			<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Springer Spaniel Field Trial Special Use</b> CE	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 11/2014	Expected:12/2014	02/2015	Timothy Noon 607-546-4470 x316 twnoon@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Issue a special use permit to authorize the use of pastures and grasslands for the 2015 English Spaniels National Amateur Championship.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44857">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44857</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Seneca. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Lodi.					
<b>Wetland Creation and Restoration Project</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Completed	Actual:07/10/2014	08/2014	Diane Burbank 802-388-4362 x116 dburbank@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Construct shallow water depressions in the A-House West and Potomac North grasslands, and reshape existing pond in the Terry Berry grassland to re-create natural-appearing and functional wetland habitat.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41836">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41836</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler, Seneca. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Lodi.					
<b>Youth Pioneer Event Special Use</b> CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/30/2014	Expected:11/2014	12/2014	Timothy Noon 607-546-4470 x316 twnoon@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Issue a special use permit to authorize the Church of Latter Day Saints youth group to reenact the 19th century Mormon pilgrimage using National Forest trails.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44855">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=44855</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler, Seneca. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Hector and Lodi.					

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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



## Finger Lakes National Forest, Hector, New York

# Forest Happenings!!

Caring for the Land and Serving People

### Fall Happenings - 2014

*Imagine if trees gave off Wifi signals, we would be planting so many trees and we'd probably save the planet too. Too bad they only produce the oxygen we breathe – Author Unknown*

#### **A Fond Farewell...**



#### **Rebecca & Smokey 2014 Fishing Derby**

After 36 years with the Forest Service, the last 7 here on the Finger Lakes, I am retiring on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. My career in Natural Resources has been incredibly engaging and varied. This last leg on the FLNF has involved my most direct contact with our publics. I have learned a lot and have enjoyed working with partners, volunteers, and the general public. It's been stated before that the FLNF is a special place here in NY State. I firmly believe that! I encourage everyone to continue their involvement and commitment to making these public lands even better!

- Rebecca Wright, Forestry Technician

#### **Firewood Permits**

The NY State Quarantine area for transport of firewood has been extended to include the counties that surround Seneca and Schuyler. Firewood Permits are available for purchase. The 2 cord minimum still applies for \$20.00, or you may purchase up to 10 cords for \$10.00 per cord. Only dead and down timber may be removed. The annual permit is good until December 30, 2014. Make sure you have your permit in your possession and you are properly recording each load of firewood.

#### **Recreation**

##### *Camping*

The summer camping season was, as usual, very popular. We had high use both in our developed campgrounds like Blueberry Patch Campground and Potomac Group Campground and dispersed camping.

However, use at the Backbone Horse Camp was lower than usual. We attributed this to the wet summer and trail conditions.

Blueberry Patch Campground is generally open until the second weekend of Hunting Season, however due to staffing issues we may be closing Blueberry Patch earlier than normal this year, the same would apply to the Backbone Horse camp. If and when this decision is made, we will ensure a press release is issued to inform all users.

## *Special Use Permits*

### *Finger Lakes 50's Run...*

The Finger Lakes Runner's Club held their annual trail run on Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Registration was again full with 250 trail runners! The Potomac Group Campground was very busy over the weekend as the base for the runners, families and support staff. The FLRC was out in force before the race getting the trail system ready for their run. They rely on volunteers to do the signing, mowing, clearing, and setting up the start/finish line at the campground. After the race is over, they do a great job removing the trail markers and leaving the campground in better condition than they found it. This event is administered under a Special Use Permit that allows for large groups to use the Forest.

### *Youth Pioneer Event...*



Picture from last year's Youth Pioneer event.

Also under a Special Use Permit, the Church of Latter Day Saints once again held their Youth Pioneer Trek. The group re-enacts the Mormon Trek westward in the 1800's using the type of handcarts used at the time. This summer, we had two different Stakes make the trek, over different weekends. The event

is designed to give the youth groups a chance to experience a little of how their ancestors may have gone through when moving west to find their eventual home in Salt Lake City, UT.

The National Forest, with its large ownership and rough trail system makes a great location for groups like these!

### *Primitive Pursuits...*

The Forest is also used by Cornell Coop Extension's Primitive Pursuits Program. For many summers, youth from ages 6 to 16 have spent time on the Forest learning about the natural world and primitive or no trace camping techniques. This kind of program falls in line with the Forest Service's commitment to introducing the next generation to the importance of the natural environment.

## *Trails*

Many trails this summer were wet (and muddy) due to the unusual amounts of rainfall the region experienced.

### *NoTanTakto Trail...*

A section of NoTanTakto between Seneca and Townsend Roads was badly washed and very muddy. Using a mini-excavator, we put in as many water diversions as possible and closed it for a while. As the trail has dried out, we will be opening it again for use and fully expect it to be open for the winter snowmobile and ski season.

### *Finger Lakes Trail...*

Volunteers from the Finger Lakes Trail Conference built a new section of the Finger Lakes Trail. The section it replaced was shared by horse users. This new section falls in line with management objectives of the

trail to be a hiker/foot travel only trail. Horse users will continue to ride on the approved section of Interloken Trail as before.



The hard working trail crew, joined by two YCC interns (far right)

### ***Youth Conservation Corps***

For six weeks this summer we were lucky to host two interns from the VT YCC. With their help, we were able to accomplish many tasks. In support of the Range program, they assisted in fence surveys and forage surveys. For Wildlife, nesting boxes were GPS'd and they provided help in our newly established wetlands with seeding/mulching and planting native plants. In Recreation they worked on improvements to Blueberry Patch Campground and did extensive hand work on trails, mainly water bars and ditching. Another less desirable job they accomplished was to carry around 100 old boards from boardwalk replacement, out of the woods for disposal.



## **Wildlife**

### ***Wetlands***

We invite you to come out and take a look at our newly created wetlands. Although they were only recently dug, they are already beginning to attract many different species of wildlife and should really start to take shape over the coming months as soils settle and rainfall begins to mold them into a more natural layout.

They can be found in two separate locations here on the Forest, one found in Aman North grassland off Darling Road in Interlaken, and the other in Ahouse West grassland in Lodi off County Road 137.

These newly established wetlands were created with the help of the Allegheny National Forest construction and maintenance crew.

### **Prescribed Fire**

Hoping to get some fall prescribed burning done in some of our wildlife grasslands or shrublands this fall. The hopes are that prescribed fire will assist in keeping some areas in an early successional stage; areas that are otherwise difficult to maintain by mechanical means.

As of this going to print, the focus area for prescribed fire is a shrubland on the south end of the Forest east of Satterly Hill Road in Burdett.

## *Springer Spaniel Field Trial*

We have recently been approached by the English Springer Spaniel National Amateur Championship committee about hosting their field trial event here on the Forest in the fall of 2015. The proposed sites for this event are all of our Ahouse fields in the northwest section of the Forest. This could potentially attract many visitors not only to the Forest, but local businesses as well. Stay tuned for more on this as the planning process moves along.

## *Hunting Season*

With hunting seasons already upon us, be a bit more cognizant while out and about on the Forest, as hunting season brings a lot of visitors to the Forest. We encourage all hunters, especially during deer season to wear their blaze orange.

As always...anyone interested in volunteering with the wildlife program here on the Forest, please call or email Paul Widowski at 607-546-4470 or [pwidowski@fs.fed.us](mailto:pwidowski@fs.fed.us)

## **Range**

Abundant rainfall and moderate temperatures made for a good summer for grazing on the FLNF. All pastures were stocked to capacity and the first cows have already started coming off for the season.

Besides grazing, this fall is also seeing conclusion of many projects in our pastures. Over 1200 acres were mowed to maintain the pastures as open grasslands. Several miles of fence were also built, and we have

two new cattle troughs on the Forest. These troughs provide a controlled and cleaner water source for cattle than having total access to a pond.



With fall roundup already underway, and scheduled to be at full force by mid-October, we remind the public to be mindful of stray cattle and loading operations. Cattle loading can be a stressful time for cattle and managers if done improperly, so it's best to give extra space if you see cattle being moved toward a corral.

Also be extra careful to close trail gates in pastures if hiking or riding through as a whole summer of grazing in one location has left a few cows ready to hit the open trail when possible! This can be a safety concern for the cattle and the public.

## **Forest Health**

With the summer treatment of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestation at Caywood Point, we're looking at ways to counter infestations of the pest elsewhere on the FLNF. Infestations were found in many of our Ecological Special Areas, and this fall will see the beginning of an environmental analysis to be able to effectively treat these pests.

As usual we are on the lookout for signs of the Emerald Ash Borer insect which has not yet been found on the Forest, but is within 30 miles away. Please help us out by reporting any signs of the pest found on or near the FLNF, and by abiding by the firewood quarantine imposed by the state. More information on the Emerald Ash Borer in New York can be found here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html>

## **Law Enforcement**

As a reminder, all tree stands and ground blinds must be removed from the National Forest prior to January 1 and clearly identified with the owners name and address in legible english. In addition, no damage should be done to the tree in erecting this stands. Failure to remove stands prior to January 1 may result in their confiscation.

If you see any suspicious activities happening on the Forest, please contact Paul at (607) 546-4470 ext. 312.

## **Safety...*Fire Safety Tips for Fall***

When the weather turns cold most people spend more time inside their homes using fireplaces, furnaces, and heaters to keep warm. There's nothing quite as cozy as a fire, but it presents some safety hazards. Keep these tips in mind.

### *Service Your Furnace*

Before the cold autumn and winter weather sets in, be sure to call your heating and cooling company to service your furnace. A specialist should inspect the furnace to make

sure everything is in working order and that there are no leaks.

### *Use Fireplaces Safely*

Keep that fire in its proper place by using a fireplace screen to keep sparks from flying out of the fireplace. Never leave a burning fire unattended, and make sure a fire in a fireplace is completely out before going to bed.

### *Use Caution with Space Heaters*

A space heater can be an effective way to warm up a chilly room, but it's essential that you read the instructions on the unit before you use it. If your space heater requires venting, make sure you have vented it to the outdoors. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home; only use space heaters that are approved for this purpose. Always allow at least three feet of empty area around space heaters.

The Air Defenders reports that burning leaves produces dangerous and cancer-causing chemicals and urges homeowners to avoid disposing of leaves this way. If you decide to burn leaves, wear a protective mask. Burning leaves should only be attempted far away from a house or other structures on a homeowner's property. Always check the weather forecast before starting to burn leaves. This activity should not be attempted in windy conditions.

*From [www.safety.lovetoknow.com](http://www.safety.lovetoknow.com)*

## **Green Tip...**

### ***4 Tips for Composting Fall Leaves***

A yard of fallen leaves may seem like a mess. But hidden in all that decomposing foliage is the perfect organic matter for a great pile of compost. So this year, instead of putting fall leaves in a garbage bag and sending them to the dump, put them to use.

#### **1. Big or Small? Size Does Matter**

The size of a leaf pile can make a big difference in how fast leaves decompose. Keeping each pile around 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet will provide enough material for healthy compost without the pile being too large for its own good or too small to maintain heat.

The best place to site a pile is in a shaded area with good air flow and decent cover. If you have a lot of leaves to compost, simply make additional piles and add new leaves as they fall. The more compost the better!

#### **2. Enriching Your Pile**

Composting leaves in fall is especially easy, as there is a mix of fresh and dying material to balance the nutrient content.

Many composting guides say to add lawn fertilizer to a compost pile to help balance the high amount of carbon present in the decomposing leaves with nitrogen. Instead, you can achieve this balance by simply adding freshly fallen leaves to a pile of older ones in equal layers.

You can also add fresh material like food waste, grass clippings, and branches to supplement the dead leaves as needed. If

possible, try to use equal parts fresh and dead material. So, avoid the fertilizer and put old clippings and food waste to use along with the leaves.

But note that you shouldn't add animal products to the pile, and this includes grease, bones, and meat. These items will attract pests, and they take much longer to decompose. Also, never add plants that have been sprayed with weed killers (not that you would ever use those, right?).

#### **3. Enclosing Your Pile**

Creating a proper enclosure for your pile of leaves isn't strictly necessary, but it can help to expedite decomposition, maintain heat, provide protection from the elements, and promote a healthy compost.

You can buy an enclosure or make a simple box frame out of wood. At the very least, putting a tarp over the pile can be a quick fix for the compost. Just make sure to air it out.

#### **4. Maintaining Your Pile**

Proper maintenance of the leaf pile will ensure that it progresses into a great pile of compost. The pile should be moist but not soaked and warm but not hot. So, add water or provide shade if necessary.

Turn the pile to aerate it and mix it occasionally to encourage all parts to decompose. After a few week, once the pile starts to really break down, add less fresh material to allow it to finish its cycle.

Even during the depths of winter, the center of a compost pile can remain warm and active if properly maintained. And with

proper care, the compost should be ready by late spring.

### **The “Swiss” Invasion...**

In late August, a film crew from Swiss National Television visited the Forest to film a family who was involved in a Swiss Reality TV Show – loosely translated as “Same but Different”. The focus of this travel show is to take families from the same named town or cities (in this case Interlaken, NY and Interlaken, Switzerland) and have them swap lives/jobs. The family and crew spent a day on the Forest helping to clear woody debris from a drainage outlet in Teeter Pond which had become plugged by a family of beavers. Our Forestry Technician – John Cody, provided the supervision for the day and from everything that I have heard (and the selfie) – had a great and safe time!



So, who was the family that worked on the Forest that went to Switzerland? That would have to be the District Rangers, and from what she has shared - it was an experience!

### **Check out this Beauty!**

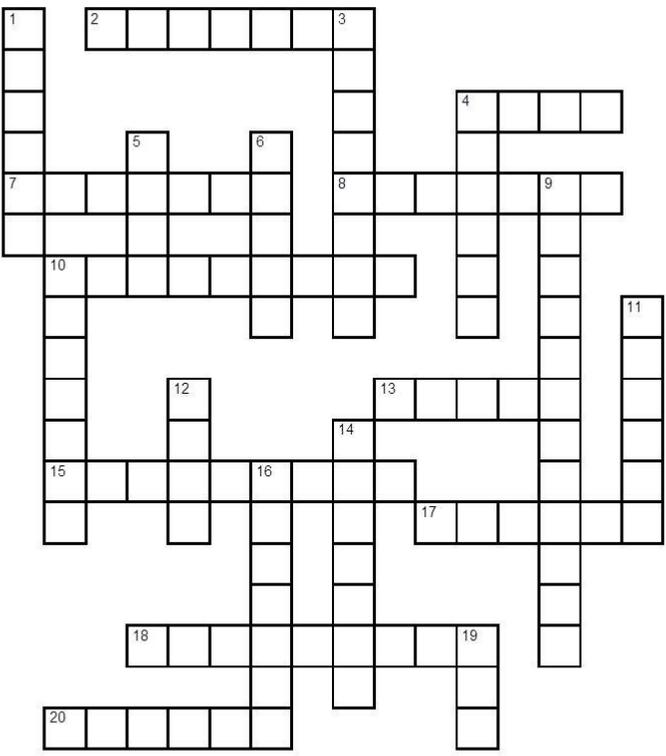


This beautiful “Red Oak” can be found at Caywood Point next to the Historic Queens Castle. This monster registered a 63” diameter, 17’ circumference and a height of 96’. Unfortunately it’s not a “champion” in the State of NY – as that goes to another Red Oak with twice the diameter, but it’s pretty cool to look at and in a beautiful setting as well.

### **From the Ranger...**

I don’t have much room, so the only thing I will share this time around, is a heartfelt thank you to Rebecca, not only for her length of service to our agency, but for all that she has done to make the Forest what it is and for all that she has taught me while I’ve been here. You will be missed – but luckily I know where you live! Best wishes as you start the next adventure! - Jodie

# Just For Fun! Just For Kids!



## Autumn Crossword



**Across**

2. Big orange vegetable that grows on a vine.
4. Another word for autumn.
7. The month in the middle of fall.
8. Many birds do this in autumn.
10. A scary celebration in autumn.
13. The food that the farmer grows.
15. It protects the crops from birds.
17. These turn color in fall.
18. The first month of autumn.
20. Another word for cool.

**Down**

1. A fall color.
3. The last month of autumn.
4. Someone who harvests crops.
5. Fall weather.
6. A fall color.
9. A feast in fall.
10. Gather all of the crops.
11. Red fruit.
12. A yellow vegetable that comes from a tall plant.
14. Kids wear this on October 31st.
16. The opposite of city.
19. A fall color.

