



The Shawnee Quarterly

The Shawnee National Forest NEPA Newsletter with the Schedule of Proposed Actions October, 2015

“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.

Ramsey Branch Hardwood Restoration Decision:

On September 23, 2015 Ranger Tim Pohlman signed the decision to implement the Ramsey Branch Hardwood Restoration project. The actions will encourage resilient forest conditions through silvicultural treatments including commercial thinning that will enhance the diversity of native vegetation on about 53 acres.

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:

C.M. Special-Use Permit Issuance. The decision would issue a new permit to allow for the construction, use and maintenance of a 600 foot by 20 foot road to access private property. Contact Bob Monroe 618-658-2111, robertmonroe@fs.fed.us

Camp Thirsty Stables Outfitting and Guiding Permit. We are contemplating issuing a permit near Eddyville, Illinois. Camp Thirsty Stables offers a three bedroom rental home to their customers; about ten overnight customers can be accommodated. Contact Bob Monroe 618-658-2111, robertmonroe@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 CRF 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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PLEASE NOTE:

On April 1, 2016 we will begin emailing the *Shawnee Quarterly* and all NEPA notices to our “All-Decisions” mailing list. Please help us prepare for this transition by sending us your name and email address, with “E-DELIVERY” on the subject line, to: COMMENTS-EASTERN-SHAWNEE@FS.FED.US

If you do not have email, please notify us at (618) 253-1016.





Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

10/01/2015 to 12/31/2015

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 Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) R9 - Eastern Region					
BV Waterline CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 08/13/2015	09/2015	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: The proposal is to issue a special-use permit to allow for installation, maintenance, and operation of a 1,300 foot by 2 foot or .06 acre right-of-way across Forest land for an underground water transmission pipeline.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47196				
Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin. LEGAL - Section 15, Township 11 South, Range 8 East. Hardin County, Karbers Ridge Quad,.					
C.M. Special-Use Permit Issuance CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 10/2015	Expected:10/2015	11/2015	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: The decision would issue a new permit to allow for the construction, use and maintenance of a 600 foot by 20 foot or 0.11 mile, right-of-way (ROW) across Forest land for ingress and egress to private property.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47806				
Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Gallatin. LEGAL - NWSE Section 32, Township 9 South, Range 8 East, 3rd P.M. About 2 miles south of Equality.					
Camp Thirsty Stables Outfitting and Guiding Permit CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management - Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 10/2015	Expected:11/2015	11/2015	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: We are contemplating issuing a permit near Eddyville, Illinois. Camp Thirsty Stables offers a three bedroom rental home to their customers, they can accommodate about ten overnight customers at one time.				
	Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Pope. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Near Eddyville, Illinois.				

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
Cretaceous Hills Ecological Restoration EIS	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 10/10/2014 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 11/2015	Expected:07/2016	08/2016	Amanda Kunzmann 618-658-2111 akunzmann@fs.fed.us
	Description: This project proposes about 3,000 acres of pine thinning, 15,000 acres of prescribed fire, treatment of invasive species, maintenance of barren habitats, development of vernal ponds and roadwork.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45129				
Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Massac, Pope. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Southeastern Pope and eastern Massac Counties About 7 miles south- southwest of Golconda, Illinois.					
Lee Mine Hardwood Restoration EA *UPDATED*	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 08/24/2014 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 11/2015	Expected:02/2016	02/2016	Tom Neal (618) 658-2111 tneal@fs.fed.us
	Description: The proposal includes: 1)Commercial timber sale to thin 681 acres of pine; 2)Timber-stand improvement on 681 acres of smaller, shade-tolerant species; 3>About 1500 acres of prescribed fire 4)Small wetland creation; 5)Road maintenance				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45123				
Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin. LEGAL - Not Applicable. About two miles south and east of Karbers Ridge, Illinois.					
Lusk Creek Canoe Launch EA *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/15/2015 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 11/2015	Expected:02/2016	04/2016	Heather Carey 618-658-1330 hcarey@fs.fed.us
	Description: This proposal would develop a canoe launch area on Lusk Creek near the bridge on the Eddyville blacktop.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47072				
Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Pope. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Near the Lusk Creek bridge on the Eddyville Blacktop.					

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 *UPDATED*	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 09/23/2015	11/2015	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.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43270				
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.					

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
Big Muddy River Bottoms Habitat Improvement II EA *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/18/2015 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 11/2015	Expected:02/2016	03/2016	Shannan Sharp 318-765-3554 sdsharp@fs.fed.us
	Description: The project would use herbicide to prevent re-sprouting of woody vegetation after timber stand improvement. It also proposes to increase the area of bottomland to be treated by 6500 acres, treat invasive species and adds prescribed fire.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=46967				
Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Oakwood Bottoms and surrounding area.					
Erosion Control EA *UPDATED*	- Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/15/2015 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 11/2015	Expected:02/2016	03/2016	John DePuy 618-658-2111 jdepuy@fs.fed.us
	Description: This project would stabilize gullies and headcuts along tributaries to Cedar Lake, Kinkaid Lake and Lake of Egypt.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47073				
Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson, Johnson, Williamson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Water Supply watershed streams.					

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
Johnson Creek Boat Launch Dredging Project EA *UPDATED*	- Watershed management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 07/12/2015	Expected:11/2015	06/2016	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: The project involves hydraulic dredging of sediment from a shallow cove to maintain an open channel where small boats can launch and reach further into Kinkaid Lake.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47209				
Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Kinkaid Lake watershed.					
Kinkaid Lake Shoreline Stabilization 2 CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Completed	Actual: 08/13/2015	11/2015	John DePuy 618-658-2111 jdepuy@fs.fed.us
	Description: This project proposes to allow stabilization of all Forest Service shoreline on Kinkaid Lake.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47071				
Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Kinkaid Lake shorelines.					
Westside Openlands Burn Expansion CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 04/08/2015	04/2015	Scott Crist 618-253-7114 scrist@fs.fed.us
	Description: Burn areas cover in existing NEPA will expanded to make more efficient use of existing fire breaks, such as creeks, lakes, roads, trails, and right-of-way corridors. This will make burning more efficient.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=46073				
Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Westside openlands - maps attached.					

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