



File Code: 1950

Date: December 9, 2014

Dear Friends:

A draft environmental assessment (EA) to amend the original EA for the Louisiana Purchase Baseline Trail has been prepared and is posted online. This document is also available for review at the St. Francis Ranger District Office located within the Mississippi River State Park Visitor Information Center in Marianna or upon request. The Proposed Action Alternative is the preferred alternative.

This project is subject to the pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B [<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-08-08/html/2012-19302.htm>]. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments as defined by §218.2 regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection. A 30 day designated opportunity to comment will begin following publication of a legal notice in the newspaper of record, *The Helena Daily World*, Helena-West Helena, AR; this time period will not be extended. The publication date for the legal notice will be December 12, 2014. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit written comments on a proposed project or activity. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner and each individual or representative from each entity submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request §218.24(b)(8). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after a designated opportunity to comment [§218.8(c)].

Your written comments must be submitted to me either by mail at the address provided in the letter head, in person at the District Office, by facsimile or electronically (e-mail). Please state "Louisiana Purchase Baseline Trail EA Amendment" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail. Our District Office is located inside the Mississippi River State Park Visitor Information Center; for those submitting hand-delivered comments, our office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Comments can be faxed to (870) 295-3382, and electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-stfrancis@fs.fed.us.

Please note that comments received in response to this solicitation, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection.



If you have any questions please give me a call at (870) 295-5278.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Mary Maercklein*

MARY MAERCKLEIN
St. Francis Deputy District Ranger

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