The Shawnee Quarterly

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

If you would like to receive the *Shawnee Quarterly* by email, please send your name and email address, with "DECISION LIST" on the subject line, to:

COMMENTS-EASTERN-SHAWNEE@FS.FED.US

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:

Cedar Lake Gullies. This proposal would allow for the stabilization of active gullies in in the Cedar Lake watershed. Contact John DePuy: 618-658-2111, jdepuy@fs.fed.us

Kinkaid and Cedar Lake Shoreline Stabilization. This proposal would allow for stabilizing eroding shoreline areas. Contact John DePuy: 618-658-2111, jdepuy@fs.fed.us

Lusk Creek Canoe Launch. This proposal would develop a canoe launch area on Lusk Creek near the bridge on the Eddyville blacktop. Contact: Heather Carey 618-658-1330, hcarey@fs.fed.us

Management Note: The Shawnee Schedule of Proposed Actions was not updated electronically before March 31, 2015. Therefore, some hand-written changes have been made.

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.

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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Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2015 to 06/30/2015

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, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					**R9 - Eastern Region**
Ameren Powerline Reconstruction Project EA	- Special use management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 11/13/2014 Est. Objection Period Legal Notice 0~~1/2015~~ 03/2015	~~Expected:02/2015~~ 04/2015	~~02/2015~~ 05/2015	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.				
Phragmites Eradication EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	~~In Progress:~~ COMPLETED 3/11/15	~~Expected:04/2015~~ 3/11/15	05/2015 04/2015	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**

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**
9-Day Trail Ride Recreation Event CE	- Special use management	~~Developing Proposal~~ ~~Est. Scoping Start 01/2015~~ COMPLETED	~~Expected:02/2015~~ 2/12/15	~~03/2015~~ 04/2015	Robert Monroe 618-253-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: The 9-Day Trail Ride was under a special-use permit for the past five years, it is the largest recreation event on the Forest, and has been permitted for many years. **Web Link:** http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=46072				
	Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Gallatin, Hardin, Pope. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The event occurs on private land in Pope County.				
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 02/2015	Expected:09/2015	10/2015	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.				
Dennison Hollow Burn Expansion CE	- Special area management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	~~Developing Proposal~~ ~~Est. Scoping Start 01/2015~~ IN PROGRESS	Expected:~~02/2015~~ 05/2015	~~02/2015~~ 10/2015	Scott Crist 618-253-1034 scrist@fs.fed.us
	Description: The Dennison Hollow Burn Expansion would add 130 acres of private land to the burn and eliminate the need for 1.5 miles of fire line. **Web Link:** http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=46074				
	Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Saline. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Eagle ridge - eastern Saline 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**
Lee Mine Hardwood Restoration EA	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 08/24/2014 Est. Objection Period Legal Notice 02/2015	Expected: ~~03/2015~~ 09/2015	~~04/2015~~ 10/2015	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.				
Ramsey Branch Hardwood Restoration EA	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 10/31/2014 Est. Objection Period Legal Notice 01/2015	Expected: ~~02/2015~~ 06/2015	~~04/2015~~ 07/2015	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.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.				
TK Ranch Campground CE	- Recreation management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2015	Expected: ~~03/2015~~ 04/2015	~~03/2015~~ 05/2015	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: TK Ranch has requested a permit to operate a commercial equestrian facility with 48 campsites to provide camping for customers that would use Shawnee National Forest designated trails. **Web Link:** http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=46099				
	Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Pope. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Near One-Horse Gap Lake and the Nine-Day trail ride.				

Shawnee National Forest **Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)** **R9 - Eastern Region**

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**
Westside Openlands Burn Expansion CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2015	Expected:0~~2/2015~~ 04/2015	02/2015 10/2015	Rod McClanahan 618-658-2111 rmcclanahan@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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