

Finger Lakes National Forest

Schedule of Proposed Action



July 1 to September 30, 2015

ABOUT THIS SCHEDULE

The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Action (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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

John A. Sinclair
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**

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Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

07/01/2015 to 09/30/2015

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
Finger Lakes National Forest		Hector Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region
Blueberry Patch North Wetland Restoration CE *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2015	Expected:09/2015	06/2016	Therese Quintana-Jones 802-747-6742 taquintanajones@fs.fed.us
	Description: Restore wetland function to a drained swamp white oak swamp north of Blueberry Patch Campground by dismantling a drainage ditch, burying non-native invasive plants, and restoring pit and mound topography.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47344				
Location: UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Hector.					
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression Project CE	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 04/01/2015	04/2015	Timothy Noon 607-546-4470 x316 twnoon@fs.fed.us
	Description: Application of biological and chemical control measures to control the spreading infestation of hemlock woolly adelgid and reduce the chances of widespread hemlock mortality in areas of high hemlock density across the Forest.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=45582				
Location: UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler, Seneca. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Lodi, Covert and Hector.					
Sawmill Creek Wetland Restoration CE *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2015	Expected:09/2015	06/2016	Diane Burbank 802-388-4362 x116 dburbank@fs.fed.us
	Description: Enhance wetland function and reduce erosion around a recovering wetland by re-establishing original wetland outlet and dimensions, dismantling old drainage ditches, and reducing flow through a failing culvert draining into a deeply eroding gully.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47345				
Location: UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Hector.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Finger Lakes National Forest		Hector Ranger District		R9 - Eastern Region	
Teeter and Foster Ponds Water Control Structure Replacement CE *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 08/2015	Expected:09/2015	10/2015	Jodie Vanselow 607-546-4470 jvanselow@fs.fed.us
	Description: Replace failing water control structures for Foster and Teeter ponds. This work may require the ponds to be drained, existing structures to be removed, new structures and piping installed, and the dams to be rebuilt.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=47324				
Location: UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Hector.					

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Finger Lakes National Forest, Hector, New York

Forest Happenings!!

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Summer Happenings - 2015

Watch your thoughts, they become your beliefs.

Watch you beliefs, they become your words.

Watch your words, they become your actions.

Watch your actions, they become your habits.

Watch your habits, they become your character.

~Vince Lombardi

Welcome... Sasha Paris



Sasha started working with us in early May as our Visitor Information Specialist. She's an environmental educator and science writer by training, with a passion for helping others discover the living world. Native to Ithaca, Sasha has worked as an interpretive ranger at Acadia National Park and in visitor services and education at several museums. She is especially fond of waterways and aquatic life.

With Sasha's Environmental Education and Interpretive skills, we are hoping to start offering more opportunities not only in the local schools, but on the Forest as well. So stay tuned!

Farewell...Rich Porter, John Cody & Paul Widowski

In the span of two months, the staff on the Finger Lakes National Forest, experienced a loss of three great employees, who have moved on in their careers.

- Rich Porter (former Support Services Specialist) has moved on to the Department of Veterans Affairs – Syracuse Office, Police Department as a Dispatcher.
- John Cody (former Forestry Technician) has moved on to the Natural Resource Conservation Service as a "Soil Conservationist" out of the West Wareham Field Office in West Wareham, Massachusetts.

Both Rich and John made an impact while they were here and will be greatly missed.

- In July, Paul Widowski, our Wildlife Biologist will be moving to the Shawnee National Forest as their Wildlife Biologist. A move that takes him back to his home state and closer to family.

Paul arrived on the Forest shortly after I got here, and has been a true asset. The changes you see happening over the last 5 years in the Grasslands for Grazing and Wildlife – have largely been influenced by processes he put in place. Paul's replacement will have some big shoes to fill.

Range

Warm weather with a good mix of rain and sun has made for excellent grass growth on Forest pastures. While checking gates early one morning, range staff noticed wind moving the grass in a “sheeting” pattern, much as it would in the tall grass prairies found in the Midwest. Continued cool and wet weather is creating abundant forage, although potentially higher in water content. The cool weather has also led to a later than usual incidence of ticks to be found if walking through grasslands, so watch out!



This summer will see very active contracts between Non Native Invasive Plant spraying, mowing, fence repair, trough repair, etc.

As always if you see cattle not in a pasture, call the Hector Ranger District to relay the information. Cow size, color, and location by roads and intersections is helpful. 607-546-4470 ext. 316

Timber and Forest Health

Forest health projects from planting along riparian areas to treating the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) are in full swing.

The spring riparian plantings of research elms led to publication with the Finger

Finger Lakes National Forest – Summer 2015 Forest Happenings!

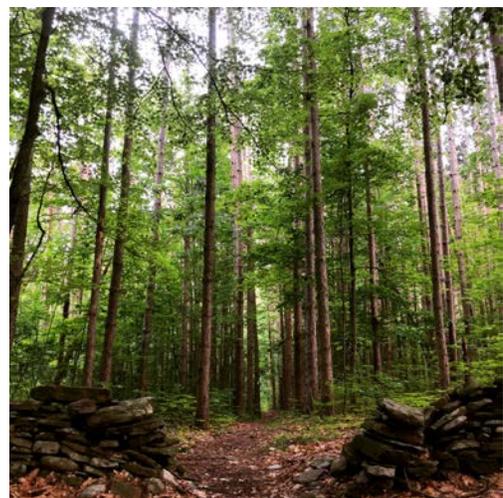
Lakes Community News websites and newspapers available here:

http://www.ithaca.com/news/hope-for-elms-in-riparian-corridors/article_004e2524-1143-11e5-ab95-07b0a95ff85e.html

Elms and associated plantings appear to be largely growing well after some late spring frosts.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid treatment is beginning to take place on the Forest with initial treatment planned for Hemlock trees in Ravine creek (along and adjacent to the Ravine Trail) and in Breakneck creek southwest of the cats elbow corners. At current it appears that cold winter temperatures also reduced HWA populations somewhat, giving us a little natural help in controlling the invasive insect.

Staff from the Green Mountain National Forest also assisted in assessing forest health conditions in pine plantations and mixed oak stands in preparation for a new environmental analysis planned for the Forest this fall. For more information on Forest Health and Timber management, contact Tim Noon 607-546-4470 ext. 316.



Recreation

Camping

Backbone Horse Camp is now open only to horse users until Monday October 12th (Columbus Day.) Campers are reminded to be courteous to hikers accessing the Backbone trail through the horse camp, and to promote proper land stewardship by packing in what you pack out.

Blueberry Patch Campground will be receiving a new fee tube in light of recent vandalism and theft. Campground fees are used directly on site to maintain accessibility, function, and safety of campgrounds as well as to improve visitor services. Campers are encouraged to report any suspicious activities in proximity of the fee tube to the Hector Ranger District office.

Trails

After a harsh winter, staff on the Forest received some greatly needed assistance from two trail crew members on the Green Mountain National Forest. These crew members were able to help strategize how to correct some of the worst problem areas on the Forest. Additionally they helped form a plan for a volunteer trails day planned for early August (date to be announced). If you are interested in volunteering for trail work, or have encountered trees across the trail or washed out trail, please call Tim Noon at 607-546-4470 ext. 316.

Wildlife

Northern long-eared bat

The US Fish & Wildlife Service determined threatened species status for the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This determination had an effective date of May 4, 2015.

Although bat populations in general in and around the Forest have significantly declined over the past several years, mainly due to white nose syndrome, the northern long-eared bat has occurred here on the Forest and additional mitigation measures will be put in place prior to implementation of any future projects. These new measures were developed to further minimize adverse impacts to the northern long-eared bat and to provide for beneficial management of bat habitat.



Grassland bird surveys will be wrapping up sometime in late June – early July. Not only do these surveys provide GPS locations for nesting Regional Forester Sensitive Species (RFSS) birds, they are also utilized as a management tool when planning future work in the pastures and grasslands.

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

20th Annual Youth Fishing Derby

On May 16th, the Finger Lakes National Forest (FLNF) hosted its 20th annual youth fishing derby at Potomac Pond. This year's event had over 90 kids registered and turned out to be an entertaining and joyous outing for kids and parents alike. Although the weather was a bit on the humid side, the rain stayed away and the fish were not bashful, making for ideal derby conditions.

There was no shortage of fish being brought to the measuring table, with one kid catching a total of 34 fish! Compared to recent derbies, this was by far one of the most successful in terms of total fish caught. Awards were given out for largest fish caught (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) for three different age groups ranging from 2 – 12 years old. There were also awards given out for most total fish caught and first fish caught. Not only did every kid that entered the derby walk away with a “goodie” bag and t-shirt just for participating, each kid also went home with a prize whether they won in their age group category or not. Lunch and a commemorative 20th annual cake were also served for the kids and their families, while Smokey Bear made an appearance and mingled with the crowd.



Although the staff at the Forest plays a big part, the continual success of this derby is credited to the local businesses, partners and volunteers, without their generosity and support this much anticipated annual event wouldn't be at all possible.

This year's support was incredible with over 25 sponsors, partners and volunteers who helped make the 20th anniversary of this event that much more special to the kids.

A special thank you is extended to the below sponsors and partners:
Runnings – Canandaigua, Bass Pro Shops – Auburn, Canoga Springs Rod & Gun Club, Lodi Rod & Gun Club, Interlaken Sportmen's Club, Finger Lakes Sports-O-Rama, North Seneca

Sportsmen & Rifle Club, Seneca County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs Inc., Waterloo Rifle & Pistol Club, Tops – Watkins Glen, Brewer's Sporting Goods, Dandy Mini Mart, Walmart – Watkins Glen, Brewer's Septic & Port-A-Jons, Cabela's – Cheektowaga, Field & Stream – Elmira, Seneca Meadows, American Legion Post 463 – Ovid, New York Conservation Officers Association, Hector Cooperative Grazing Association Inc., Cargill Salt – Watkins Glen, BJ's Wholesale Club – Geneva, Lions Club – Watkins Glen.

Safety... Be Bear Aware

Every spring, early summer Black Bears sightings are reported on the Forest. More often than not, these encounters occur in the back yards of individuals living adjacent to the Forest, as they are attracted to bird feeders, trash, pet food, etc. Here are a couple of tips if you do encounter a bear in your backyard.

- Make loud noises (for example shouting or banging pots and pans) to deter the bear from the area.
- Do not approach the bear
- After the bear leaves, be sure to keep trash in a secure container or locked out building, bring in bird feeders and pet food and remove any other potential attractants.

If your dog is attacked by a bear...

- DO NOT attempt to separate the bear and your dog.
- Make loud noises – similar to what's above.
- If available, spray the bear with a hose while remaining at a safe distance.

- Once the bear retreats, retrieve your dog, slowly back away, and leave the area.



From the Ranger...

Lots of cool things happening on the Forest again this summer, a beautiful place to visit any time rain or shine, and for us locals...it's been a wet one.



SWIMMING POOL OWNERS:

Help us monitor the invasive Asian Longhorned Beetle by participating in a pool filter survey.

Contact DEC to participate in the pool survey
JULY-AUGUST
email: foresthealth@dec.ny.gov

NEW YORK
STATE OF OPPORTUNITY.

Department of Environmental Conservation

The Asian longhorned beetle has destroyed tens of thousands of trees in New York City and Massachusetts. Now it threatens New York's forests.

For more information about the Asian Longhorned Beetle and the pool survey:
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7255.html>

www.dec.ny.gov

CONNECT WITH NYSDEC



Green / Sustainability Tip...

Reducing Solid Waste Habits At Home and at Work

One person's trash is another's treasure!



1. **Reduce the Amount of Packaging:** When choosing between two similar products, select the one with the least unnecessary packaging. Recognize and support store managers when they stock products with no packaging or reduced packaging. Let clerks know when it's not necessary to double wrap a purchase. Consider large or economy-sized items for household products that are used frequently, such as laundry soap, shampoo, baking soda, pet foods, and cat litter. These sizes usually have less packaging per unit of product. For food items, choose the largest size that can be used before spoiling. Whenever possible, select grocery, hardware, and household items that are available in bulk. Bulk merchandise also may be shared with friends or neighbors. Use durable cloth bags for groceries.
2. **Reduce your waste stream:** A sturdy mug or cup can be washed and used time and again. The same can be done with sturdy and washable utensils and tableware. Cloth napkins, sponges, or dishcloths can be used around the house. These can be washed over and over again. Recharged cartridges for printers, copiers, and fax machines are available. They not only reduce waste, but also typically save money. When possible, use rechargeable batteries to help reduce garbage and keep toxic metals found in some batteries out of the waste stream. Another alternative is to look for batteries with reduced toxic metals.
3. **Reduce Waste Toxicity:** Take actions that use non-hazardous or less hazardous components to accomplish the task at hand. Instead of using pesticides, for example, plant marigolds in your garden to ward off certain pests. If you do need to use products with hazardous components, use only the amounts needed. Leftover materials can be shared with neighbors or donated to a business, charity, or government agency, or, in the case of used motor oil, recycled at a participating service station. Never put leftover products with hazardous components in food or beverage containers or in the refrigerator.
4. **Reuse your paper, packaging, etc:** Reuse plastic grocery bags. Reuse scrap paper and envelopes. Use both sides of a piece of paper for writing notes before recycling it. Save and reuse gift boxes, ribbons, and larger pieces of wrapping and tissue paper. Save packaging, colored paper, egg cartons, and other items for reuse or for arts and crafts projects at day-care facilities, schools. Reuse newspaper, boxes, packaging "peanuts," and "bubble wrap" to ship packages. Brown paper bags are excellent for wrapping parcels. Turn used lumber into birdhouses, mailboxes, compost bins, or other woodworking projects. CAUTION: Do not reuse containers that originally held products such as motor oil or pesticides. These containers and their potentially harmful residues should be discarded (following manufacturers' instructions on the label) as soon as they are empty.

5. **Maintain and Repair Durable Products:** Consider long-lasting appliances and electronic equipment with good warranties. Check reports for products with a record of high consumer satisfaction and low breakdown rates. Also, look for those products that are easily repaired. Mend clothes instead of throwing them away. Where possible, repair worn shoes, boots, handbags, and briefcases. Keep appliances in good working order. Follow manufacturers' suggestions for proper operation and maintenance.
6. **Borrow, Rent, or Share Items Used Infrequently:** Rent or borrow seldom-used audiovisual equipment. Rent or borrow tools such as ladders, chain saws, floor buffers, rug cleaners, and garden tillers. In apartment buildings or co-ops, residents can pool resources and form "banks" to share tools or other equipment used or needed infrequently.
7. **Sell or Donate Goods:** Donate or resell items to thrift stores or other organizations in need. Donors sometimes receive tax deductions or even cash. Sell secondhand items at fairs, bazaars, swap meets, and garage sales. Give hand-me-down clothes to family members, neighboring families, or the needy. Consider acquiring used clothing at thrift or consignment shops.
8. **Choose Recyclable Products and Containers and Recycle Them:** Consider products made of materials that are collected for recycling locally; in many communities, this includes glass, aluminum, steel, some paper and cardboard, and certain plastics. Check with appropriate community officials, volunteer groups, or recycling businesses to determine what materials are collected for recycling. If a system is not in place to return a certain type of material, that material is not easily "recyclable." If a recycling program does not exist in your community, participate in establishing one. Call local salvage operators to see if they will accept or pick up materials for recycling. Work with community officials to determine the most cost-effective recycling options for your area.
9. **Select Products Made from Recycled Materials:** Look for items in packages and containers made of recycled materials. Many bottles, cans, paper wrappings, bags, cereal boxes, and other cartons and packages are made from recycled materials. Use products with recycled content whenever you can. For instance, many paper, glass, metal, and plastic products contain recovered materials. When checking products for recycled content, look for a statement that recycled materials were used and, if possible, choose the item with the largest percentage of recycled content, if known.
10. **Educate Others on Source Reduction and Recycling:** Consider writing to companies to encourage them to reduce unnecessary packaging and the use of hazardous components in products. In addition, let companies know when they've made positive changes. Encourage source reduction, recycling, and composting programs for yard trimmings in the community. Where appropriate, encourage the use of reusable, recycled, and recyclable materials in the workplace. Encourage the use of efficient, long-lasting equipment. Urge schools to provide environmental education and to teach about source reduction and recycling.

All of these solid waste saving tips came from <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/reduce/catbook/the12.htm> Please visit the site for additional tips.

Just For Fun! Just For Kids!

Watery Word Search

B A I S W I M G D S N C
A C R T A H I I W I T R
S V A U O S N D I R K A
S F K R N U N B I L G Y
S G A T P N O L E A E F
T O Z L O F W A G K N I
R R T E N I L P A E R S
E G O N D S R F R O G H
A E L U K H D U C K A I
M C A T T A I L G V D W

BASS
CARP
CATTAIL
CRAYFISH
DUCK

FROG
GORGE
LAKE
MINNOW
POND

STREAM
SUNFISH
SWIM
TROUT
TURTLE

Words may be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal