



File Code: 1950

Date: March 2, 2009

Dear Interested Citizens:

The Dixie National Forest (DNF) is preparing an environmental assessment for a proposal to amend the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). This non significant amendment would eliminate macro-invertebrate biotic condition index (BCI) as a designated Management Indicator Species (MIS), eliminate the use of the BCI as a designated monitoring methodology, and include additional fish species as aquatic (MIS). This proposal is titled the Aquatic Monitoring Amendment Project. We feel that you may be interested in this proposed activity; therefore, we are informing you of the proposal and request any comments you may have.

Enclosed is a copy of the scoping document that describes the proposed action. As the analysis progresses, additional information may be located on the Dixie WWW web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/projects/projects.shtml>.

We are now seeking public input as directed under the National Environmental Policy Act (1969). To be constructive, you should specifically define how you believe the proposed action would positively or adversely affect natural resources, how this project may impact the way you use National Forest System lands, or other ownership lands within or surrounding this project area. Identifying your concerns will assist the analysis team in understanding the scope of effects of the proposed action. Comments may also contribute to the development of alternative actions when issues with the proposed action cannot be resolved.

HOW TO COMMENT

The Forest Service would appreciate your input on the proposed action. Your written comments should be specific and should be limited to the scope of the proposal. Comments should be sent to Aquatic Monitoring Amendment Project ID Team Lead, Escalante Ranger District, P.O. Box 246, Escalante, Utah 84726-0246. If you do not have any comments, but wish to remain on the mailing list for this proposal, or participate in the process please send a letter to the above address, or e-mail address listed below and request to be kept informed about the proposal. If the Forest Service does not hear from you, your name will be removed from any future mailing list(s) for this project. An e-mail comment mailbox is established for receiving comments electronically at: comments-intermtn-dixie-escalante@fs.fed.us. Please use the project name (Aquatic Monitoring Amendment Project) as the subject line in your e-mail comment message. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc). Hand delivered comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours (8 am to 4:30 pm, M-F). If submitting comments via FAX, send to (FAX: 435-826-5491).



PUBLIC RECORD

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), however, any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and, where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 10 days.

Comments received by April 4, 2009 would be most helpful. If you have questions, you may contact Ron Mortensen at 435-826-5433.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert G. MacWhorter
ROBERT G. MACWHORTER
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure