



The Shawnee Quarterly

The Shawnee National Forest NEPA Newsletter
with the Schedule of Proposed Actions
January 2011

“**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 nationwide 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.

FOREST TO EXPLORE ECOSYSTEM-ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH POPE AND MASSAC COUNTIES

This year, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), we will be exploring opportunities to advance

forest ecosystem health and sustainability, forest-interior habitat, natural area management, biodiversity, and recreational opportunities in south Pope and Massac Counties. Activities under consideration include fuel reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, invasive species control, and hardwood restoration.

A major part of the State of Illinois’ Eastern Shawnee Conservation Opportunity Area, the area is a focus of the state’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. Priority resources in the Forest and state plans are high-quality streams, glades, barrens, Neotropical migratory birds and large tracts of oak-hickory forest. With two major forest-interior habitat areas totaling about 6900 acres, it contains the Burke Branch Roadless Area and ten designated natural areas.

Early in 2011, the Forest and IDNR will meet with local residents and interested citizens to discuss mutual concerns and identify potential opportunities in the area to implement the Forest Plan and the state’s Wildlife Conservation Plan. For further information contact Richard Blume-Weaver at 618-253-1018 or rblume-weaver@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



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

01/01/2011 to 03/31/2011

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
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Projects Occurring Nationwide

Land Management Planning Rule EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 12/18/2009 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/2010	Expected:11/2011	12/2011	Larry Hayden 202-205-1559 lhayden@fs.fed.us
Description: The Department of Agriculture proposes to promulgate a new planning rule, which will set out the process for development, revision, and amendment of National Forest System land management plans.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule					
Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Agency-wide Rule.					
Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Lands. EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 08/27/2010 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 01/2011	Expected:12/2011	01/2012	Glen Stein 208-869-5405 gstein@fs.fed.us
Description: The Forest Service will prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement for the continued nationwide aerial application of fire retardant on National Forest System lands.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html					
Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Nationwide.					

Shawnee National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)

R9 - Eastern Region

Non-Native Invasive Species Management EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 09/22/2010	Expected:02/2011	03/2011	Matthew Lechner 618-253-1016 mlechner@fs.fed.us
Description: Forest-wide assessment of the management of non-native invasive species. Potential treatments include pulling, hand-torching, controlled burns, and herbicides.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=22143					
Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Williamson. Forest-wide.					

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
Access Road Special Use Permit CE	- Special use management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Marlene Rivero 618-833-8576 mrivero@fs.fed.us
	Description: Access haul road needed for private property owner to access his cistern with water.				
	Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - T11S, R1W, Sec. 6, in part of the NENW corner. Access road located on the East edge of a 28.41 acre Forest Service parcel off of Bee Tree road.				
Dial and Ederle Tracts Reforestation Project CE	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 12/09/2010	02/2011	Ronald Moore 618-833-8576 ronaldmoore@fs.fed.us
	Description: Reforestation of recently aquired farm fields with native tree species to reduce forest fragmentation. Reforestation (hand or machine planting), prescribed burning, and brush cutting are anticipated.				
	Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - Dial: T11S, R3W, sec. 25 & 36; Ederle: T11S, R3W, sec. 31. Dial and Ederle properties recently bought in Hutchins Creek watershed.				
Natural Gas Pipeline Special Use Permit Renewal CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/05/2010	Expected:01/2011	01/2011	Marlene Rivero 618-833-8576 mrivero@fs.fed.us
	Description: Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term of 30 years to replace an existing or expired special use authorization.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/				
	Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - T9S, R3West, Section 20, Jackson Co Illinois. East side of Route 3 North east of the Village of Gorham in the Skeeter Park/Worthen Bayou area in Jackson County of the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District.				
Prescribed Fire for Improvement of Wildlife Habitat and Urban Interface EA	- Fuels management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Scott Crist 618-687-1731 scrist@fs.fed.us
	Description: Five separate prescribed burning projects, totaling about 23,400 acres (about 4,800 acres each). The projects are spread across the District.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/environmental/nepa/sopa/				
	Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson, Johnson, Pulaski, Union, Williamson. Lands administered by the ranger district.				

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
Verizon North, Inc. Renew Permit CE	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Marlene Rivero 618-833-8576 mrivero@fs.fed.us
	Description: Issue a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization with Verizon Telephone. Inc.				
	Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Alexander, Jackson, Union. Various location throughout the Mississippi Bluffs RD.				

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This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

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.

Comments will be accepted for three weeks following publication of the Quarterly.

New projects listed in this month's Schedule of Proposed Actions that are expected to be categorically excluded include:

No new Projects this quarter.

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 new Projects 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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