



# The Shawnee Quarterly

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

## **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.

## **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:

**Openlands Prescribed Burn Expansion Project** – To expand the area around existing openlands on which we can apply prescribed fire in order to be able to use existing natural or constructed features for fire-control lines (such as streams or roads). For additional information, contact Rod McClanahan at 618-658-2111 or email [rmccclanahan@fs.fed.us](mailto:rmccclanahan@fs.fed.us).

**Williams Hill Communication Site** – To renew leases for existing communication facilities and update/revise the existing Communications Site Plan. For additional information, contact Ron Scot 618-253-7114 or email [rscott@fs.fed.us](mailto:rscott@fs.fed.us).

**Rich’s Cave Gating Project** – To construct a high-security-type fence around a large sinkhole that also encompasses the rear entrance to Rich’s Cave. For additional information, contact Rod McClanahan at 618-658-2111 or email [rmccclanahan@fs.fed.us](mailto:rmccclanahan@fs.fed.us).



## Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2011 to 06/30/2011

### 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
<b>Projects Occurring Nationwide</b>					
<b>Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: A Cooperative Approach</b> EIS *NEW LISTING*	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/19/2008 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/2011	Expected:10/2011	10/2011	Noel Schneeberger 610-557-4121 nschneeberger@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The USDA Forest Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are analyzing a range of strategies for controlling gypsy moth damage to forests and trees in the United States.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.na.fs.fed.us/wv/eis/">http://www.na.fs.fed.us/wv/eis/</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Nationwide.				
<b>Land Management Planning Rule</b> EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 02/25/2011 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 11/2011	Expected:12/2011	12/2011	Larry Hayden 202-205-1559 lhayden@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> 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.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule">http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Agency-wide Rule.				
<b>Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Lands.</b> EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 08/27/2010 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 05/2011	Expected:12/2011	01/2012	Glen Stein 208-869-5405 gstein@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> The Forest Service will prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement for the continued nationwide aerial application of fire retardant on National Forest System lands.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html">http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/retardant/index.html</a>				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Nationwide.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Shawnee National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Non-Native Invasive Species Management</b> EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 09/22/2010	Expected:05/2011	06/2011	Matthew Lechner 618-253-1016 mlechner@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Forest-wide assessment of the management of non-native invasive species. Potential treatments include pulling, hand-torching, controlled burns, and herbicides.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=22143">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=22143</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Williamson. Forest-wide.					

<b>Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Openlands Prescribed Burn Expansion Project</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2011	Expected:09/2011	09/2011	Rod McClanahan 618-658-2111 rmccclanahan@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> To expand the area surrounding and/or adjacent to existing openland areas so as to take advantage of existing natural or man-made fire control lines, and to expand the restorative benefits of dormant season burning to adjacent woodlands.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin, Johnson, Pope. Openland Tracts in Pope, Johnson and Hardin Counties -.				
<b>Williams Hill Communication Site</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2011	Expected:06/2011	07/2011	Ron Scott 618-253-1038 ronscott@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Renew leases for existing communications facilities and update/revise the existing Communications Site Plan.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Pope. Williams Hill near Herod, IL.				

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

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Shawnee National Forest Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Frontier Communications - Renew Permit</b> CE	- Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Marlene Rivero 618-833-8576 mrivero@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Issue a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization with Frontier Communications (formerly Verizon Telephone. Inc.).				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Alexander, Jackson, Union. Various location throughout the Mississippi Bluffs RD.				
<b>Natural Gas Pipeline Special Use Permit Renewal</b> CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/05/2010	Expected:05/2011	06/2011	Marlene Rivero 618-833-8576 mrivero@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term of 30 years to replace an existing or expired special use authorization.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/">http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/</a>				
<b>Location:</b> 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.					
<b>Prescribed Fire for Improvement of Wildlife Habitat and Urban Interface</b> EA	- Fuels management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Scott Crist 618-687-1731 scrist@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Five separate prescribed burning projects, totaling about 23,400 acres (about 4,800 acres each). The projects are spread across the District.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/environmental/nepa/sopa/">http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/environmental/nepa/sopa/</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson, Johnson, Pulaski, Union, Williamson. Lands administered by the ranger district.					
<b>Richs Cave Gating Project</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2011	Expected:05/2011	06/2011	Rod McClanahan 618-658-2111 rmccclanahan@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> We proposes to construct a high security-type fence around a large sinkhole that also encompasses the back entrance to Richs Cave.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Union. Richs Cave is located in Union County, IL, north of Anna, Illinois.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
--------------	-----------------	-----------------	----------	-------------------------	-----------------

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

**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 the Quarterly Newsletter but will no longer appear in the Schedule of Proposed Actions.

**Panther Den Wilderness Trails** – To relocate or construct sections of the Den Trail, River-to-River Trail, and Panther Den Loop Trail in the Panther Den Wilderness.

**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.

***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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.