

Finger Lakes National Forest *Schedule of Proposed Actions*



April 1 – June 30, 2011

ABOUT THIS SCHEDULE

The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Actions is to provide a status report and short summary of 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. Reference should be made to past or future Schedules for additional information. Early notice will allow the public to indicate and express their interest and concerns about specific proposals. The publishing of this Schedule is required by Forest Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Scoping letters asking for public input on individual proposals will continue to be mailed to interested individuals, or in some cases, the public will be notified via this Schedule. Legal notices announcing project decisions will continue to be published in the *Ithaca Journal*.

The Schedule of Proposed Actions 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), a 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 Ranger District Office and are 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 the project mailing list, write or call the Supervisor's Office or Ranger District Office. 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 necessitate that analysis be completed with a short turnaround time. This means that NEPA analyses may be conducted and decisions made without prior announcement in this NEPA quarterly update. Scoping efforts for such requests will be conducted as applicable in accordance to regulations. As decisions are made, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in the *Ithaca Journal*. Examples of walk-in requests include short-term special use permits for a recreation event on the forest.



VISIT US ONLINE AT: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/greenmountain/htm/fingerlakes/f_home.htm



Finger Lakes National Forest Forest Happenings!!

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Spring Happenings

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade. ~Charles Dickens

Two New Faces!

We have two new faces on the District that we are excited to tell you about!

Paul Widowski, is our new permanent Wildlife Biologist. Paul was working on the Green Mountain National Forest on the Rochester Ranger District, and we somehow convinced him to transfer to the Finger Lakes – who wouldn't want to work in such a great place! He is a great addition to the District and brings great enthusiasm to the work that he does – chances are if your out and about you'll meet him in the woods.

Mary Burton, is our new Program Support Assistant. Her most recent government experience was working with Rural Development. She also brings a wealth of administrative skills and will be a great help in keeping the District up and running and working on developing Conservation Education programs.

State & Private Forestry Intern

This summer we will be hosting a summer intern, *Sarah Schoenberg*, working with the Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, focusing on a variety of tasks from Pheromone trapping of forest insects in different forest patch sizes (15-20 sites,

every two weeks), conducting an Ash inventory focusing on stressed ash for potential EAB infestation to Deer browse impact monitoring on the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge. Sarah worked for the District last year helping out with a wide variety of tasks, so it will be nice for us to see her back this summer.

Trail

Snowmobile trails are now closed (March 15th). The Twin Lakes Snowmobile Club did a nice job of signing and grooming trails this winter with many skiers enjoying using them without breaking tracks. Please thank the members of the club when you see them for a job well done, again this winter. What a great winter it was for snowmobiling!

Trails are closed to horses through May 1st because of wet, muddy conditions. Users are asked to avoid the trails that tend to be muddy until they become drier in late spring. With springtime rain and winds, please call the Hector Ranger Station (607) 546-4470, to report fallen trees blocking the trails.

Caywood Point

Construction that began last autumn at Caywood Point for an access trail to the waterfront will resume this spring. Slate Hill Construction will finish the project this year. Access to the area will remain closed, in anticipation of the construction traffic expected to accomplish the project. Keep your eyes out for announcement regarding

a “Grand Opening” Celebration to be scheduled to occur this summer – hopefully early July!

Campgrounds

Blueberry Patch Campground will reopen for camping May 15.

Camping is available at the Backbone Horse Camp, and thru the National Recreation Reservation Service for the Potomac Group Campground. Reservations can be made for the Potomac Group Campground at the following www.ReserveAmerica.com or by calling 1-877-444-6777. The Backbone Horse Camp will open to horse users only on Memorial Day Weekend.

Wildlife

With spring comes an abundance of critters that begin to reappear back on the forest. The FLNF plays an important role in the life cycles of a variety of animals from amphibians to song birds. Some come from as far away as South America, while others over winter in the muddy bottoms of local ponds and lakes. With spring’s new life, comes the beginning of field season for the wildlife staff.



In April we will again be stocking some of the Forests most popular fishing ponds (Ballard, Foster and Potomac) with brook trout. And that leads us into the much anticipated...

19th Annual Youth Fishing Derby

Mark your calendars! This year’s Youth Fishing Derby will be held on May 14. We hope to have another successful event, with fun prizes and food for the kids. This year’s derby will make it the 19th consecutive year that the Forest has sponsored the event. The derby is open to kids up to age 12. Pre-registration is encouraged you can do so by contacting Paul Widowski at 607-546-4470. We are always looking for folks to help out with the fishing derby, in a variety of areas as well.

Grazing

Preparations are underway for cattle to be put on pastures beginning May 15th. If you are interested in grazing livestock, contact Hector Grazing Association Manager, Charlie Baldwin at 607-387-9822.

Upcoming Events

Youth Fishing Derby: Saturday, May 14

Caywood Point Grand Opening: June ??

Hector Fair: July 28 - 30

Empire Farm Days: August 9 - 11

Forest Field Days: Saturday, September 24
(New Location – Caywood Point)

From the Ranger

All the signs are here that spring is just around the corner, yeah! We will again have another busy field season, with a lot of exciting things happening, but we’re ready for it. I’m especially pleased to see Forest Field Days back – and in a new location! Happy Spring - Jodie



Finger Lakes National Forest Forest Happenings!!

Caring for the Land and Serving People

JUST FOR FUN! JUST FOR KIDS!

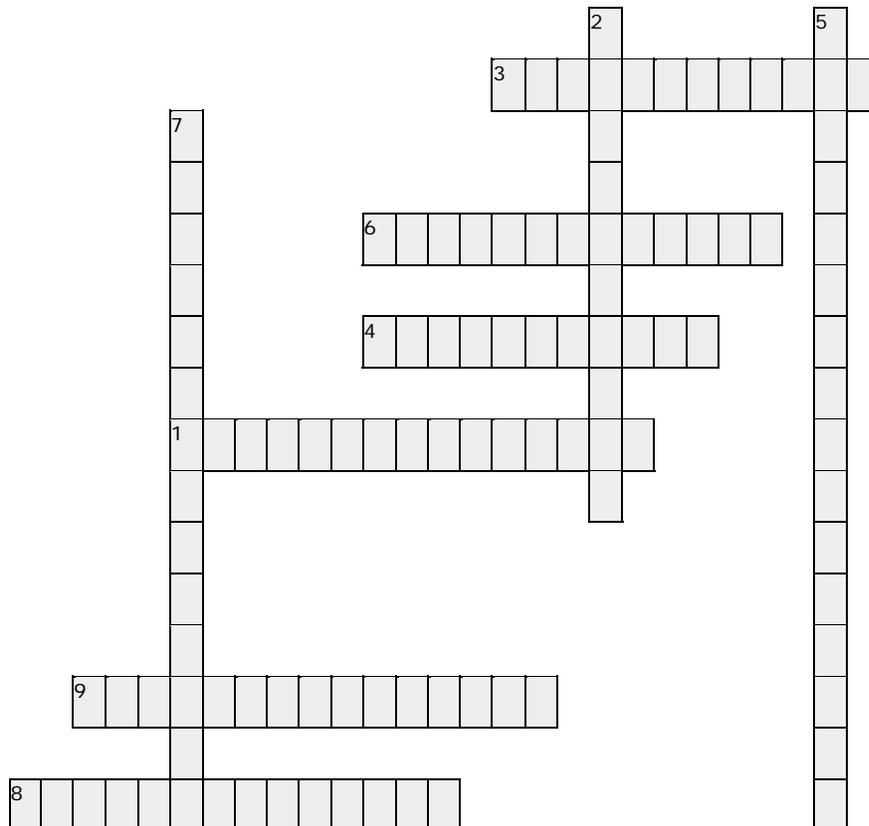
Use the clues to figure out the trails on the Finger Lakes National Forest!

Horizontal:

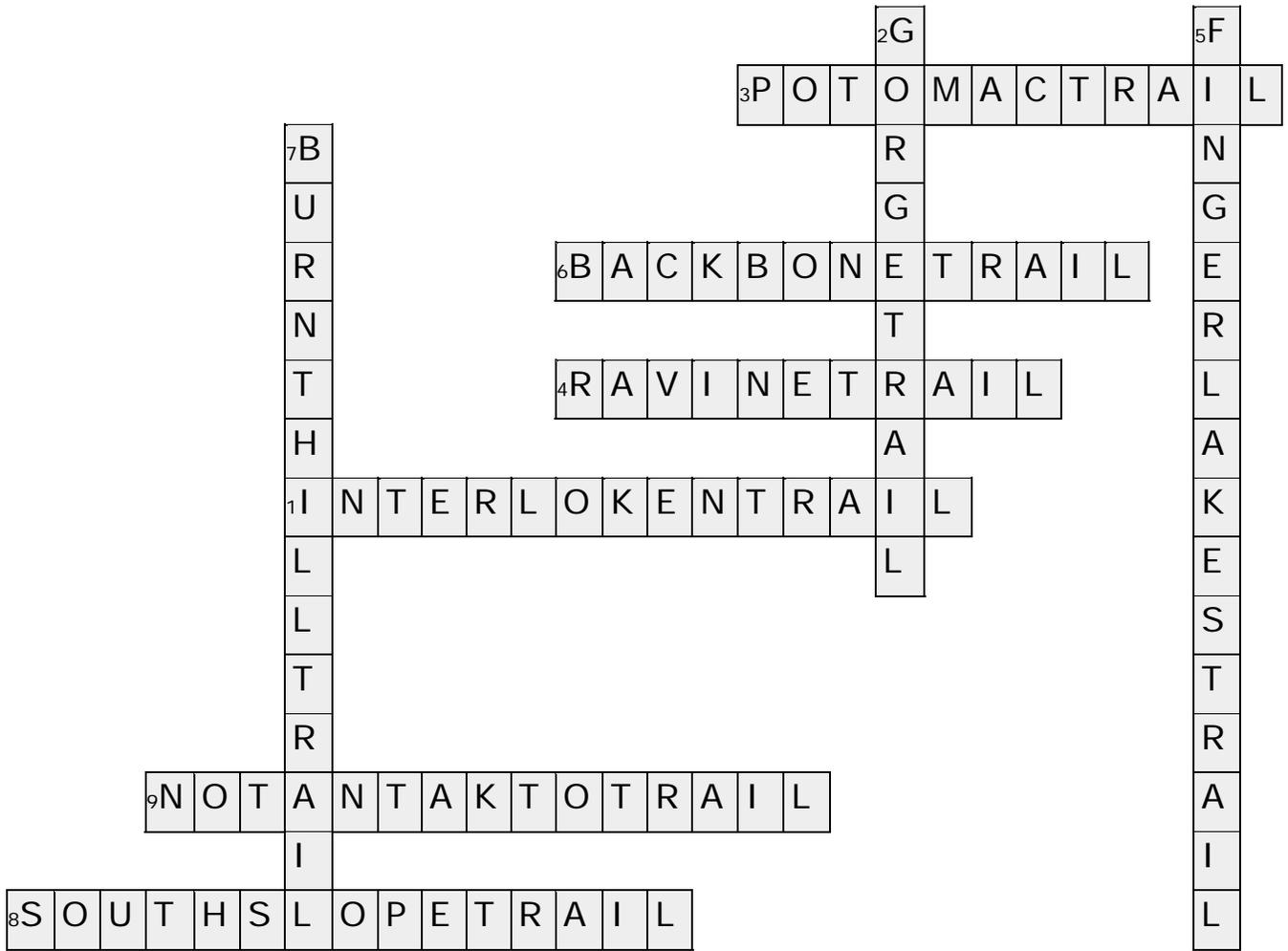
- 12 miles one way. Traverses the forest from north to south
- 2.25 miles one way. You can learn cross-country skiing and is a popular game bird hunting area.
- 0.75 miles one way. Connects with the Interloken Trail at the Burnt Hill Road
- 5.5 miles one way. Begins at the Backbone Horse campground.
- 0.75 miles one way. Located at the south end of the Forest this trail intersects the Interloken Trail.
- 4.5 miles one way. This trail goes north into Seneca County and crosses the Interloken Trail at Seneca Road.

Vertical:

- 1.25 miles one way. Located on the southern portion of the Forest. Intersects the Interloken Trail. Has a pond named after it.
- 4.0 miles one way. This main trail is 559 miles long and connects the Catskills with the Allegheny Mountains.
- 2.5 miles one way. Located on the southern end of the Forest



Answer Key





Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2011 to 06/30/2011

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
Projects Occurring Nationwide					
Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: A Cooperative Approach EIS	- 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
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/wv/eis/				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Nationwide.				
Land Management Planning Rule 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
	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 05/2011	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.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forests Hector Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Engel Hay Harvesting Special Use CE	- Special area management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2011	Expected:06/2011	08/2011	David Bosch 802-747-6746 dbosch@fs.fed.us
	Description: Hay harvesting in existing fields on two tracts of NFS land in Grassland for Wildlife MA. One field is in Military Lot (ML) 8 on the north side of Searsburg Rd. opposite the end of Grove Rd; the second is in ML 13 on the west side of Wardner Corner.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=33891				
	Location: UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. Military Lot 8 on the north side of Searsburg Road opposite the end of Grove Road, and in ML 13 on the west side of Wardner Corners Road.				

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on the projects described in this update, contact:

 Colleen Madrid
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, N.Y. 14841
607-546-4470



Dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Service

This report is 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

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status (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 the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD/TTY).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Bldg., 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-270-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.