



# The Shawnee Quarterly

The Shawnee National Forest NEPA Newsletter  
with the Schedule of Proposed Actions  
January 2012

“**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.

**American Land Holdings of Illinois, LLC Land Exchange Proposal.** We propose to exchange 384 acres of National Forest System land in Gallatin County for three non-Federal land tracts. These tracts are located in Pope and Jackson Counties, and total 831 acres. Project Contact: Ron Scott, 618-253-7114, or [ronscott@fs.fed.us](mailto:ronscott@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 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:

**One Horse Gap Trailhead** We propose to designate a trailhead for hiker and equestrian use located near the River To River Trail about one mile south of the One Horse Gap area. Project contact: Robert Monroe, 618-658-2111, or [robertmonroe@fs.fed.us](mailto:robertmonroe@fs.fed.us)

**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 projects anticipated at this time.

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***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.



## Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

01/01/2012 to 03/31/2012

### 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	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/19/2008 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/2011	Expected:03/2012	01/2013	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: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 05/13/2011 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 11/2011	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>American Land Holdings of Illinois, LLC Land Exchange Proposal</b> EA  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Land ownership management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 12/2011	Expected:10/2012	11/2012	Ron Scott 618-253-1038 ronscott@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> We propose to exchange 384 acres of National Forest System land in Gallatin County for three non-Federal land tracts. These tracts are located in Pope and Jackson Counties, and total 831 acres.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37754">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37754</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Gallatin, Jackson, Pope. National Forest System land in Gallatin County for non-Federal lands located in Pope County and Jackson County.					

Shawnee National Forest	<b>Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>				<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>One Horse Gap Trailhead</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Recreation management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2012	Expected:02/2012	03/2012	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Designate a trailhead for hiker and equestrian use located near the River To River Trail approximately one mile south of the One Horse Gap area.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Pope. LEGAL - Herod Quadrangle, Township 12 South, Ranger 7 East, Section 5, 3rd Principal, Pope County, Il. Located on Forest land just off Country Road 154 near the northwest corner of the annual 9-Day Encampment area, commonly called Chigger Camp.				
<b>Openlands Prescribed Burn Expansion Project</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/06/2011	Expected:01/2012	01/2012	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 -.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Williams Hill Communication Site</b> CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/06/2011	Expected:03/2012	04/2012	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.				

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>Ameren Timber Haul Road</b> CE	- Special use management	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 10/07/2011	Expected:03/2012	04/2012	Marlene Rivero 618-658-2111 mrivero@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Ameren has requested a special use permit to use a temporary road that goes about 1/4 of a mile across Forest Service property. The road will be used to haul timber from private land.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - T10S R4W Section 12 and 13. On the south end of Fountain Bluff in Jackson County.				
<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 (formely Verizon Telephone. Inc.).				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Alexander, Jackson, Union. Various loction throughout the Mississippi Bluffs RD.				
<b>Lick Creek Special Use Private Road</b> CE	- Special use management	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 10/07/2011	Expected:01/2012	01/2012	Marlene Rivero 618-658-2111 mrivero@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Applicant wants to build a 1/4 mile road across Forest Service property to access private property.				
	<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - T11S R1E Sec 22 SESW1/4. Near Lick Creek.				

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>Phragmites Eradication Environmental Assessment</b> EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 10/07/2011 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 02/2012	Expected:02/2012	02/2012	Ronald Moore 618-833-8576 ronaldmoore@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Site-specific management of Phragmites australis - in seven areas within the Mississippi River Floodplain ranging from 0.1 to 0.5 acre in size, totaling less than five acres. Management would include a Glyphosate (aquatic)-based herbicide treatment				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37233">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37233</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson, Union. Mississippi River floodplain in Jackson and Union Counties.					
<b>Prescribed Fire for Improvement of Wildlife Habitat and Urban Interface</b> EA	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Fuels management	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/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=6197">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=6197</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	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/06/2011	Expected:01/2012	04/2012	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.				

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