



Finger Lakes National Forest, Hector, New York

Forest Happenings!!

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Spring Happenings

*Spring is the time of year where
Everything comes alive; a time
of renewal !*

Welcome Back - Chris Zimmer!

We are very happy to welcome Chris Zimmer, Assistant District Ranger back to the office. Chris began a 120 day detail as an Acting District Ranger on the Hoosier National Forest (NF) back in December. According to the Hoosier NF Forest Supervisor, Melany Glossa, Chris did an outstanding job and was a great asset to the Forest. We of course already knew that and are happy to have him back home!

2012 National Making Tracks Award

The Finger Lakes National Forest received the 2012 National Making Tracks Award for Partnership Achievement, from the National Wild Turkey Federation earlier this year. This award recognizes the accomplishments in strengthening and expanding the partnership between the Forest Service and the National Wild Turkey Federation. Paul Widowski, Wildlife Biologist attended the National Wild Turkey Federation Meeting held in

Nashville, TN to accept this award on behalf of the Forest.

Trails



As unusually warm and snowless as it was this past winter, please remember that the Horse Trails are closed to horse riding from March 15th to May 15th.

Plans to build a new (short) section of the Finger Lakes Trail is under way. The Finger Lakes Trail Reroute will eventually take hikers off a current section that is also used by horse riders. Appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents are being processed this year, with the actual reroute being built next summer, under a cooperative agreement with the North Country Trail Association and Finger Lakes Trail Conference. Horse riders will see no difference in the route, which will become an extension of the Interloken Trail.



Caywood Point

The Forest Service gate at State Rt. 414 will be open around April 1st. (no fooling!) Cars and trucks can drive to the lower parking lot. This meets our long time objective to provide a safer alternative for the public to enjoy this area. The hiking trail down to the lake provides a great opportunity to spend some time exploring the area.

Working with the Seneca Falls Women’s History Museum, we hope to offer some interpretive programs around the historic “Queen’s Castle” on the point in the future.

Campgrounds

Blueberry Patch Campground will be opening around May 15. The fee for campers will not change from last year and will be \$10.00 a night.

As part of a National Recreation Fee Waivers program, the Forest will be offering free camping on June 8&9 and September 28&29, and November 9&10.

The Backbone Horse Camp will be open to horse users only from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day weekend.

The Potomac Group campground is for groups of 8 or larger and by reservation only. Reservations can be made for the Potomac Group Campground at the website www.ReserveAmerica.com or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Wildlife

Thanks to additional funding that the Forest received through the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership (GLBFHP) grant there will be lots of riparian-based work going through the planning and implementation stages in the coming months.



As mentioned, these projects are still in the planning process, but will likely be located within watersheds traversing both public and private lands in Seneca and Schuyler County.

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) has been a key partner in establishing additional funding sources, such as this grant, that have been employed here on the Forest for managing upland and riparian wildlife habitat.

Grassland nesting birds will be heading back this direction soon. They’ll likely return to nesting grounds earlier than most years due to the mild winter that has occurred throughout most of the eastern United States.

We will again be conducting grassland nesting bird surveys in many of our

pastures and grasslands. This is done prior to any mechanical maintenance being approved to ensure the safety of any nesting birds.

Annual Fishing Derby

The Finger Lakes National Forest Annual Youth Fishing Derby will be held on **Saturday, May 12th from 9-12pm**. We look forward to having another great turnout this year. Look for advertisements in the local media.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the wildlife program here on the Forest, please call or email Paul Widowski at 607-546-4470 or pwidowski@fs.fed.us

Range

Forest users should be aware that our seasonal Forest residents (aka Cattle) will be arriving back on the Forests beginning May 15th for the next five months. Please report any cattle that appear to be outside of the pastures please contact:

**Hector Cooperative Grazing Association
Manager, Mark Welch at...**

**Office: 607-387-9822
Cell: 607-206-2360**

As in years past, more work will occur in the pastures such as, fence repairs and construction throughout the grazing season. New fencing is scheduled to be constructed in Woodard Pasture and new fencing gates installed in Hawes Pasture.

Additional cattle pond work is also scheduled for this season.

We will again be broadcast spraying over 90 acres of pasture/grasslands this summer, in an attempt to control invasive Knapweed and Thistle.



Prescribed Fire

As we are pulling this Forest Happenings together the District is buzzing with a crew of Wildland Firefighters here to help accomplish prescribed burning on the Forest. If the weather cooperates we are hoping to burn almost 200 acres this year. Prescribed Fire is one of the management tools we use here to help maintain wildlife openings, shrublands and is used to help reduce hazardous fuels.

From the Ranger...

As I write my little paragraph for this newsletter, I'm thinking that the next nice day I'm going to have to mow my lawn soon! And it's not even April yet! What a strange winter we have had – if you could even call it that. I'm also thinking of all the great things that are happening on the District and what a great job everyone is

doing – from the employees to our partners and volunteers! Thank you for all of your hard work.

The summer is going to be another busy one, and we will see more activity in terms of watershed restoration than we have seen in previous years.

In addition, we have added a couple of new events that the Forest will be participating in. Hopefully we will see you there.

Enjoy – Jodie

Upcoming Events Schedule

May 12th - - Annual Youth Fishing Derby @ Potomac Ponds

June 9th - - Interlaken Olde Home Days

June 16th - - Ovid Strawberry Festival

July 25-28th - - Hector Fair

August 25th - - Trumansburg Parade

September 29th - - Annual Forest Field Days @ Potomac Ponds

JUST FOR FUN! JUST FOR KIDS!

Search for Butterflies of the Finger Lakes National Forest

b y b
 q o q b f t k i g
 q e h f c c w d d h r x h
 o r g y z r b a k i e s e y i y s
 b r e e i z z l w m x a a p c c b b g
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- americancopper
 - blackswallowtail
 - brownelfin
 - cloudedsulphur
 - easterntailedblue
 - edwardshairstreak
 - frostedelfin
 - longdash
 - northernpearlyeye
 - spicebushswallowtail
 - articskipper
 - bogcopper
 - brozecopper
 - easternpineelfin
 - easterntigerswallowtail
 - europeanskiiper
 - indianskipper
 - northerncloudywing
 - orangesulphur
 - tawnyedgeskipper

JUST FOR FUN! JUST FOR KIDS!

Search for Butterflies of the Finger Lakes National Forest

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                b y b
            q o q b f t k i g
        q e h f c c w d d h r x h
    o r g y z r b a k i e s e y i y s
    b r e e i z z l w m x a a p c c b b g
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    v e p p e e z u c r e i t g i y k o g l t
    l o u p o y x z g k a u a e n k m e z a y u y
    f s r i c l r p n s n l t r o s q d e r r u r
    o n a o k g r u x i w g b w n l e n w c t e z n m
    u i f p s o a h n w a e d o t q g i a o i p h z c
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x x l k a a f p l f d l u l l g p e l d p s o j x i g
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k u n b s d w r s e o w p a w r d n d h r i n q u j s
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    h n r t u o o n e p g t b l p o r t r w e d v
    c f z q n l r h z e s e o e f f r z n m o
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            e b x q q v l u c
                c k i

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americancopper
 blackswallowtail
 brownelfin
 cloudedsulphur
 easterntailedblue
 edwardshairstreak
 frostedelfin
 longdash
 northernpearlyeye
 spicebushswallowtail

articskipper
 bogcopper
 brozecopper
 easternpineelfin
 easterntigerswallowtail
 europeanskipper
 indianskipper
 northerncloudywing
 orangesulphur
 tawnyedgeskipper

Finger Lakes National Forest

Schedule of Proposed Actions



April 1 to June 30, 2012

ABOUT THIS SCHEDULE

The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Actions (Schedule) is to provide a status report and short summary of project 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. The publishing of this Schedule is required by Forest Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

An effort will be made to seek public input (called "scoping") on proposed projects based on specific response to this Schedule. Scoping may be in the form of letters, email requests or phone calls that will include more specific information in order for the public to provide meaningful feedback that may be incorporated into the environmental analysis process. When required, legal notices announcing project decisions will be published in the *Ithaca Journal*, our newspaper of record.

The Schedule 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), 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 Hector Ranger District office and is 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 a project mailing list, either write or call using 1) the contacts listed at the end of the Schedule or; 2) the project contact included for the specific project of your interest. 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 require that the environmental analysis be completed with a short turnaround time. This means that the analyses may be conducted and decisions made without prior listing in this Schedule. Efforts for public input for such requests will be conducted as applicable in accordance to regulations. An example of a walk-in request would be a short-term special use permit for a recreation event on the forest.

VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE

For more information about planning or projects on the Finger Lakes National Forest you may visit our website at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_list.php?forest=110920

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on the projects described in this Schedule of Proposed Actions, contact:

Colleen Pelles 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, NY 14841
607-546-4470

Dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Service

This document 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

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Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2012 to 06/30/2012

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
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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 12/2011	Expected: 03/2012	01/2013	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/ww/eis/ Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. Nationwide.				
Land Management Planning Rule EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	Completed	Actual: 03/23/2012	12/2011	Brenda Halter-Glenn 202-260-9400 bhalterglenn@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	Completed	Actual: 12/13/2011	01/2012	Glen Stein 801-200-2703 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.				

Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forests, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest) R9 - Eastern Region

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forests, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					R9 - Eastern Region
North Zone Trail Relocations CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/01/2012 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 04/2012	Expected:08/2012	09/2012	Holly Knox 802-747-6718 hknox@fs.fed.us
	Description: The reroute parts of 4 separate trails (3 x-country ski routes that are part of the Catamount Trail system; 1 mountain bike trail) to provide for trails that are more sustainable, less prone to erosion, easier to maintain & improve safety.				
	Location: UNIT - Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forest All Units. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison, Washington, Windsor. Towns of Lincoln, Warren, Rochester and Goshen.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forests (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Butternut Seed Orchard CE	- Research and Development	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/08/2011 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 05/2012	Expected:06/2012	07/2012	Paul Widowski 607-546-4470 x312 pwidowski@fs.fed.us
	Description: Establish a butternut seed orchard within Grassland for Wildlife Management Area to develop disease resistant trees. Area occupied by the orchard is estimated to be 250 feet x 250 feet.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/mepa/mepa_project_exp.php?project=38006				
	Location: UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. Finger Lakes NF, Town of Hector.				
Engel Hay Harvesting Special Use CE	- Special area management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2012	Expected:06/2012	07/2012	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/mepa/mepa_project_exp.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.				

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