

# Finger Lakes National Forest

## *Schedule of Proposed Actions*



**April 1 to June 30, 2013**

### **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](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)

04/01/2013 to 06/30/2013

### 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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Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forests Hector Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region	
<b>A-House West Wetland Creation</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 12/2013	Expected:04/2014	08/2014	Paul Widowski 607-546-4470 x312 pwidowski@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> Construct two shallow water depressions up to three feet deep in the southeastern portion of the A-House West grassland to re-create natural-appearing and functional wetland habitat.					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Seneca. Town of Lodi.					
<b>Breakneck Brook Large Woody Debris Restoration</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 05/2013	Expected:08/2013	09/2013	Daniel McKinley 802-767-4261 dmckinley@fs.fed.us
<b>Description:</b> Place large woody debris into Breakneck Brook to restore aquatic habitat functions. Trees and rootwads would be placed and anchored with a small tracked excavator.					
<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41826">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41826</a>					
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. Town of Hector.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forests Hector Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Burnt Hill Competitive Horse Ride Special Use</b> CE  <b>*NEW LISTING*</b>	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2013	Expected:06/2013	06/2013	Rebecca Wright 607-546-4470 ext.313 rwright@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Issuance of a Special Use Permit to allow a bi-annual competitive horse ride on the existing National Forest Horse Trail System. The permit would be for a five year period.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41825">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41825</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler, Seneca. Towns of Hector and Lodi.					
<b>Caywood Point Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression and Prevention Project</b> CE	- Recreation management - Special area management - Research and Development	Completed	Actual: 01/30/2013	05/2013	William Brendecke 607-546-4470 x311 wbrendecke@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Apply chemical (insecticide) to control the existing hemlock wooly adelgid that are affecting hemlock trees within the Caywood Point Recreation and Education Special Area.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=40701">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=40701</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Seneca. Town of Lodi, Seneca County.					
<b>Dugue Road/Aman North Wetland Creation</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 03/01/2013	Expected:04/2013	08/2013	Paul Widowski 607-546-4470 x312 pwidowski@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Construct a series of shallow water depressions up to three feet deep to create naturally-appearing wetland habitat in the southwestern quarter of the Dogue parcel (5 depressions) and in portions of the Aman North grassland (5 depressions).				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=40334">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=40334</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler, Seneca. Towns of Hector and Covert, Schuyler and Seneca Counties.					
<b>Early Successional Wildlife Habitat Improvement</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 11/29/2012	01/2013	Paul Widowski 607-546-4470 x312 pwidowski@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Cut and leave mature aspen on about 4 acres to create early successional aspen habitat for wildlife. The site is located near the Potomac ponds in the northeast portion of Compartment 35, Stand 103.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=40335">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=40335</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. Town of Hector, Schuyler County.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
<b>Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forests Hector Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)</b>					<b>R9 - Eastern Region</b>
<b>Engel Hay Harvesting Special Use</b> CE	- Special area management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	David Bosch 802-747-6746 dbosch@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> 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.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=33891">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=33891</a>				
<b>Location:</b> 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.					
<b>Finger Lakes Riparian Planting</b> CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Watershed management	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 02/08/2013	Expected:03/2013	04/2013	Nancy Burt 802-747-6742 nburts@fs.fed.us
	<b>Description:</b> Plant a mix of trees and shrubs in riparian areas in the Woodard, Tunison, Ballard, and South Stevens pastures to enhance the riparian habitat. The areas will be fenced to exclude livestock prior to planting.				
	<b>Web Link:</b> <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=40341">http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=40341</a>				
<b>Location:</b> UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler, Seneca. Town of Covert, Seneca and Schuyler Counties.					

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## Finger Lakes National Forest, Hector, New York

# Forest Happenings!!

Caring for the Land and Serving People

## Spring Happenings

*If you do not sow in the spring you will  
not reap in the autumn!*



### *Firewood Permits Still Popular*

Firewood Permits are available for purchase. The 2 cord minimum still applies for \$20.00, or you may purchase up to 10 cords for \$10.00 per cord. Only dead and down timber may be removed. The annual permit is good until December 30, 2013.

Make sure you have your permit in your possession and you are properly recording each load of firewood.

To avoid the spread of non-native and invasive insects that might be living in your firewood, do not transport your firewood outside the local area. Schuyler County has been quarantined by the State of NY. Wood cut within Schuyler County cannot be transported out of the county.

### *Camping*

Blueberry Patch Campground will reopen May 18<sup>th</sup>. Tenting and RVs up to 23 feet will be available for \$10.00 a day.

Backbone Horse Camp will become "Horse User Only" on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> thru Columbus Holiday weekend.

Potomac Group Campground is available by reservation only, pre-paying through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Both Blueberry Patch and Potomac campgrounds had improvements done this past fall that included fire rings, a group grill, benches and picnic tables.

As always, the National Forest is open to camping, unless posted closed. Any pastures with livestock present are closed to camping. You can camp using no-trace techniques if you prefer that over a developed campground.

### *Progress with Butternuts*

In early February, Regional Geneticist Paul Berrang came to the Forest to collect twigs (called scion) from Butternut trees that had been identified with little or no Butternut Canker present. The scions must be collected while the tree is dormant.

The scions were grafted onto Black Walnut root stock and grown as a first step to possibly identifying strains that could be resistant to the canker disease.



Paul Berrang preparing a sling shot to get ropes into the top of a Butternut tree and cut out a branch to then cut scion from.

In cooperation with private landowners, we have been able to find trees that will represent a broader genetic diversity for re-introducing Butternut in the future.



Forestry Technician Rebecca Wright (left) with private landowner John Wertis in Trumansburg.

The butternut work is planned as an ongoing, multiyear project. If you think you have trees on your property you'd like to include, we would be interested to hear from you!

We are happy to report (as seen in the photo below) that the scion grafts appear to be working!



Future plans are to plant some of these grafted seedlings in the newly planned seed orchard that will be located on the Forest.

### *Trails*

We have seen better winter conditions for skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling but there were several weekends with good conditions for winter fun.

The normal winter wind events usually drop trees across trails in some areas. As soon as conditions warrant many of our volunteers will be out scouting the trails and cleaning up downed trees. Don't hesitate to call our office and report downed trees or other trail conditions.

*Finger Lakes Trail:* A short relocation of the Finger Lakes Trail is planned for this summer. The new segment takes hikers off an existing section of the Interloken Trail that is also used by horse riders. Volunteers from the Cayuga Trail Club will be doing the work. This is in compliance to both the Finger Lakes NF Land and Resource Management Plan and criteria for the Finger Lakes Trail ("North Country Trail") to be a "footpath" only.

## *Range*

Preparations for the 2013 grazing season are under way. Cows start heading out for their summer pasture after May 15<sup>th</sup>.

A number of plans are in the works, from mowing and broad cast herbicide spraying to fence maintenance and removal. There is never a dull moment on the pastures in the summer.

## *Wildlife Happenings*

*Wetland Creation:* The wetland work that we precluded to in an earlier edition has begun to evolve into something more tangible. The project summary is currently out for public scoping (as of this report), in hopes that the public will provide us with some useful feedback that we can use to help shape this project.

These small, seasonal wetlands that are proposed will benefit not only wildlife, but may also benefit adjacent landowners. Wetlands similar to these have been known to act as “modern storm water drainage ponds” which can help minimize the potential for flooding. We hope to start implementation on this project sometime this August.

*Grassland Habitat:* Our wildlife staff is also in the planning process of restoring a grassland habitat in order to benefit the Henslow’s sparrow. This sparrow is suffering from population decline throughout its range, primarily due to loss of habitat. We are proposing to remove hedgerows (more like rows of trees) from a ***Finger Lakes National Forest Happenings!!***

pasture, that when restored will provide ideal nesting habitat for the Henslow’s sparrow along with many other grassland dependent species.

Henslow’s, along with a few other grassland bird species, prefer large contiguous open acres of grassland habitat for nesting during the spring and summer months. This pasture is located in an area that has several other large openlands that have attracted rare grassland birds in the past. There will be more to come on this project in the next few months.

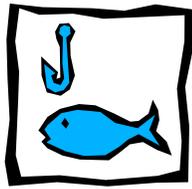
We hope to have this project out for public scoping sometime this May.

As always...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](mailto:pwidowski@fs.fed.us)

## *From the Ranger...*

Seems like the Spring Forest Happenings is always a bit smaller than our Summer, Fall and Winter – don’t take that as we aren’t doing anything, in fact Spring is all about prepping for the upcoming field season.

And what a busy year this is going to be with a lot of great things happening on the ground – too many to get into with the little room I have left. Don’t worry, you’ll learn more in the next installment - - hopefully we’ll have a new employee announcement as well. As always, if you ever want to learn more about what’s happening on the Forest stop on in or give us a call. – Jodie



CALLING ALL KIDS.....

# The Finger Lakes National Forest presents the 18th ANNUAL YOUTH FISHING DERBY

**WHEN: Saturday, May 11th 0900—12:00**

**WHERE: Potomac Pond, Potomac Road, Hector, NY**

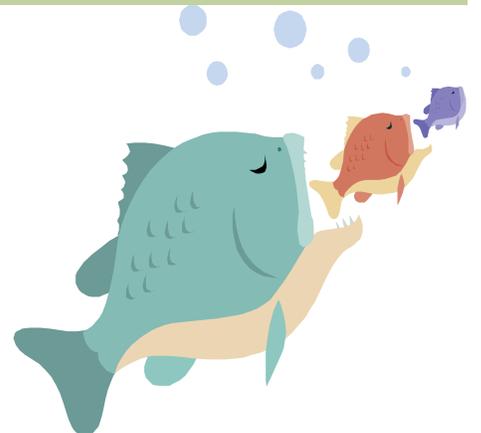
Kids ages 2—12 are eligible. Prizes! Food! Fun!

Pre-registration required.

Call now! 607-546-4470



**Finger Lakes National Forest  
5218 State Route 414  
Hector, NY 14841 (607) 546-4470  
607 546-4470**



# ***JUST FOR KIDS - - JUST FOR FUN!***

## **Raining Cloud Craft**



### **What you'll need:**

- Tissue paper (various shades of blue)
- Contact paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Cotton balls
- Construction paper
- Thin cardboard (we cut apart a cereal box for ours)
- Googly eyes
- String or yarn
- Tape
- Hole punch

## **How to make your Water Rainbow:**

- Cut a big cloud shape out of thin cardboard.
- Use a hole punch to punch three holes in the bottom of the cloud.
- Cut three pieces of string and tie a piece of string to each hole. The raindrops will hang down from these strings and it's easier to do this step now than when it's covered with cotton balls.
- Cover the cardboard with white glue and stick on the cotton balls until the whole surface is covered.
- Cut a red smile out of construction paper and glue it and two large googly eyes to the cloud. Set it aside to dry.
- Cut out three large tear drop shapes out of thin cardboard and remove interior portion (see photo above).
- Trace the template onto black construction paper. Make three raindrops.
- Cut a piece of contact paper that is bigger than the raindrop. Peel off the back and stick the template to it.
- Cut the tissue paper into small squares (approx. 1"x1").
- Use the tissue paper to fill in the raindrop. It will stick right to the contact paper. Overlap the squares as you go and it's ok if the tissue paper goes outside of the construction paper template line.
- Cut a second piece of contact paper, peel the back off and carefully stick it on top of the first, covering the tissue paper filled raindrop.
- Cut out the raindrop.
- Repeat for all the raindrops.
- Tape the raindrops to the strings hanging off the cloud.
- Hang your finished craft in the window.