



The Shawnee Quarterly

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

October, 2013

“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 nation-wide 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.

Management Note: A recent court ruling (Sequoia Forest- keeper v. Tidwell) requires that actions that can be categorically excluded using categories found at 36 C.F.R. 220.6(e) be subject to public notice, comment, and opportunity for administrative appeal. Therefore, each decision that requires a decision memo will now be noticed in The Southern Illinoisan for public scoping and comments. An additional legal notice will be published upon making a decision and will include the appeal process for the decision.

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. With the recent court ruling the quarterly newsletter will not be the sole source of scoping information but we will continue to use the quarterly newsletter as a tool to increase project awareness.

New projects listed in this month’s Schedule of Proposed Actions that are expected to be categorically excluded include:

Egyptian Electric Right-of-Way - The Egyptian Electric Cooperative is proposing to add one mile of underground electric line across National Forest System land to three new customers’ private properties. Project Contact: Justin Dewey, 618-687-1731, jpdewey@fs.fed.us

LOW WATER CROSSING REPLACEMENTS - The Forest is proposing to replace five road crossings of small streams with improved crossings designed to enhance the passage of aquatic organisms and reduce fragmentation of stream habitat. Project Contact: Matthew Lechner, 618-253-1016, mlechner@fs.fed.us

Management Note: We completed a couple of categorical exclusions this quarter in between the July Quarterly and the October Quarterly. These projects are listed on the Schedule of Proposed Actions as “New listing” but the

Project Status is listed as complete. These projects are cleared for implementation and include Stream Habitat Improvement Project and Oakwood Moist Unit Mastication Project. Contact Rod McClanahan, (618-658-1317, rmcclanahan@fs.fed.us) with questions.

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 routine projects to scope at this time.

Management Note:

If you would like to receive these notices by email, please send your email address with "DECISION LIST" on the subject line to:

COMMENTS-EASTERN-SHAWNEE@FS.FED.US

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.

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Washington, DC 20250-9410

Or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

10/01/2013 to 12/31/2013

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
Shawnee National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					R9 - Eastern Region
Ameren Power Special-Use Permit Amendment CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/05/2013 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 10/2013	Expected:12/2013	01/2014	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: This is a proposal for Ameren Power Generating Company to reconstruct seven-miles of an existing permitted electric transmission line system, to include lines, poles, and supporting structures.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41796				
Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Township 10 South, Range 3 West Section 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, & 27. Their permitted right-of-way across Forest land is located between Grand Tower and Makanda.					
CULVERT OR LOW WATER CROSSING REPLACEMENTS CE *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 09/22/2013	Expected:11/2013	05/2014	Matthew Lechner 618-253-1016 mlechner@fs.fed.us
	Description: The Forest is proposing to replace five crossings of small streams by Roads with improved crossing structures designed to enhance the passage of aquatic organisms and thus reduce fragmentation of stream habitat.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=42867				
Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin, Pope, Union. LEGAL - T8S, R4W, SECTION11 (JACKSON CO.) T12S, R7E, SECTION 8 (POPE CO.) T11S, R3W SECTIONS 4, 9, AND 21 (UNION CO.). Johnson Creek crossing of Forest Road 768; Grande Pierre Creek crossing of Forest Road 126 (Dutton Chapel Road); and three small stream crossings of Forest Road 345 (Snake Road).					
Egyptain Electric-Right-of-Way_Special-Use Permit-Ammend CE	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 08/11/2013	09/2013	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: This amendment would allow for electricity to be provided to private property. The line would be buried along the south side of the existing road, trenching, about 6 inches wide for 600 feet.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41795				
Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson, Union. LEGAL - Section 6, Township 11 South, Range 1 West, NWNW corner and Section 31, Township 10 South, Range 1 West, SESE corner, 3rd P.M. Jackson and Union Counties.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Shawnee National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					R9 - Eastern Region
Hamburg Hill Trail of Tears Enhancements CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/05/2013 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 11/2013	Expected:12/2013	01/2014	Mary McCorvie 618-253-1045 mmccorvie@fs.fed.us
	Description: This project will provide Trailhead improvements and historic and environmental restoration for a trailhead at the top of Hamburg Hill on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41798				
Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - Section 32 and 33, Township 12 South, Range 2. Hamburg Hill is located in Union County just west of Jonesboro.					
Kinkaid Gully Stabilization CE	- Watershed management	Completed	Actual: 09/19/2013	10/2013	John DePuy 618-658-2111 jdepuy@fs.fed.us
	Description: Four gullies are proposed for stabilization near Johnson Creek campground and in the Buttermilk Hill area in the Lake Kinkaid watershed.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41801				
Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. Near Johnson Creek Campground and in the Buttermilk Hill area in Jackson County.					
Kinkaid Shoreline Stabilization CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Completed	Actual: 05/09/2013	07/2013	Kameron Sam 618-658-2111 kcsam@fs.fed.us
	Description: The project is expected to stabilize about 2,500 linear feet of the most severely eroding shoreline areas using the stone revetment on filter fabric technique as used previously with great success.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41799				
Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Along the shoreline of Lake Kinkaid in Jackson County.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Shawnee National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					R9 - Eastern Region
Stream Habitat Improvement Project CE *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Completed	Actual: 09/19/2013	09/2013	Rod McClanahan 618-658-1317 rmccланahan@fs.fed.us
	Description: About five miles of stream habitat improvement will be implemented each year. Specifically, for each mile of stream habitat improvement, four to five trees per mile will be directionally-felled into the creek.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=42715				
Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin, Jackson, Massac, Pope, Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Bay Creek, Big Grande Pierre Creek, Lusk Creek, Big Creek, Hutchins Creek and Cedar Creek.					

Shawnee National Forest	Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Condro Prescribed Fire CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 10/11/2012	Expected:10/2013	11/2013	Scott Crist 618-687-1731 scrist@fs.fed.us
	Description: Burn about 100 acres of Forest Service land in conjunction with about 200 acres of private land in south Pope County. This burn would be in cooperation with the Southeastern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=39714				
Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Pope. LEGAL - T15S, R6E, Sec 4. East of Burke Branch NA between Burke Creek and Barren Creek.					
Openlands Prescribed Burn Expansion Project CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 09/24/2012	Expected:11/2013	12/2013	Rod McClanahan 618-658-2111 rmccланahan@fs.fed.us
	Description: 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.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=35178				
Location: 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
Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Williams Hill Communication Site CE	- Special use management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Richard Blume-Weaver 618-253-1018 rblume-weaver@fs.fed.us
	Description: Renew leases for existing communications facilities and update/revise the existing Communications Site Plan.				
	Location: 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
Shawnee National Forest Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Ameren: Natural Gas Odorization Station Expansion CE	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 08/11/2013	09/2013	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: Ameren seeks to amend their existing permit to allow for an expansion of an odorizer building on a natural gas line (8 feet wide by 8 feet long and installation of a 2 inch above-ground pipe for natural gas regulation).				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=42306				
Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Section 20, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, 3rd PM. Near Fountain Bluff.					
Egyptian Electric Right-of-Way CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 09/22/2013	Expected:10/2013	11/2013	Justin Dewey 618-687-1731 jpdewey@fs.fed.us
	Description: The Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association is proposing to add one mile of underground electric line across National Forest System land to three new customers' private properties.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=42782				
	Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - E1/2NE, Section (Sec) 35, Township (T) 8 South (S), Range (R) 4 West (W), and the S1/2NW, Sec. 36, T8S, R4W, in Jackson County, Illinois. At the intersection of Forest Road and JoHelen Lane in the Buttermilk Hill area.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Shawnee National Forest Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Holy Boulders Special-Use Permit CE	- Special use management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us
	Description: This is a proposal for a new special-use permit, to the Access Fund, authorizing a right-of-way to develop a parking area/trailhead off of Macedonia Road and convert an old roadbed into a hiking-only trail for access to private property.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41786				
Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - Section 26, NWSE, Township 10 South, Range 3 West, Third Principal Meridian, County of Jackson, State of Illinois. Jackson County.					
Oakwood Moist Unit Mastication Project CE *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Completed	Actual: 09/18/2013	10/2013	Rod McClanahan 618-658-1317 rmccclanahan@fs.fed.us
	Description: We are proposing to masticate (grind up branches) on 15 acres of debris in areas where TSI has been performed in order to create moist soil units in Oakwood Bottoms Greentree Reservoir.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=42708				
Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - T9S, R3W, Sections 32, 33 and 34 T10S, R3W, Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 20 and 21 Gorham USFS Quad. Oakwood Greentree Reservoir.					
Phragmites Eradication EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Developing Proposal Est. Notice of Initiation 10/2013	Expected:09/2014	11/2014	Elizabeth Shimp 618-658-2111 eshimp@fs.fed.us
	Description: Site-specific management of Phragmites australis - Forest-wideranging from 0.1 to 2 acre in size, totaling less than ten acres. Management would include a Glyphosate (aquatic)-based herbicide treatment				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37233				
Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson, Johnson, Pope, Union. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Several sites across the Forest.					

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