



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

10/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

Ottawa 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
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Projects Occurring Nationwide					
Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A. EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Sarah Shoemaker 907-586-7886 sarahshoemaker@fs.fed.us
Description: The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes revisions to its regulations at 36 CFR 228, Subpart A governing locatable minerals operations on National Forest System lands. A draft EIS & proposed rule should be available for review/comment in late 2020					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214					
Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land. EIS *UPDATED*	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 02/11/2022 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/2023	Expected:09/2023	01/2024	Laura Conway 406-802-4317 laura.conway@usda.gov
Description: Programmatic Supplemental EIS for the Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60450					
Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The direction in the SEIS will apply to use of aerially delivered fire retardant on all National Forest System land.					

Ottawa National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)

R9 - Eastern Region

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Ottawa National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)					R9 - Eastern Region
Grosbeck Vegetation Management Project EA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulations, Directives, Orders - Heritage resource management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Watershed management - Road management 	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2023	Expected:01/2024	01/2024	Mitchell Ives 906-884-2085 ex. 8842038 mitchell.ives@usda.gov
<p>Description: Vegetation management project to align existing condition with the desired condition outlined in the Forest Plan.</p> <p>Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63842</p> <p>Location: UNIT - Bessemer Ranger District, Watersmeet Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Gogebic. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project area is located between the towns of Marneisco and Watersmeet Michigan. To the north of the project area is Lake Gogebic. To the south is the Michigan/Wisconsin state line.</p>					
Merit/AEG Fiber Optic Special Use CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special use management 	In Progress: Scoping Start 02/01/2023	Expected:08/2023	08/2023	Michelle Holland 906-358-4021 michelle.m.holland@usda.gov
<p>Description: Installation of buried fiber optic line in the cleared ROW of existing road corridors, to deliver high-speed internet to rural areas. General project areas include Iron River, Watersmeet, Bergland, Wakefield, and north Bessemer.</p> <p>Location: UNIT - Bergland Ranger District, Bessemer Ranger District, Iron River Ranger District, Watersmeet Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Iron. LEGAL - Not Applicable. General project areas include Iron River, Watersmeet, Bergland, Wakefield, and north Bessemer.</p>					

Ottawa National Forest Bessemer Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)

R9 - Eastern Region

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Ottawa National Forest	Bessemer Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Voyager Quad Chairlift Removal CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management - Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 08/31/2023	Expected:10/2023	11/2023	Randi Ellsworth 906-358-4008 randi.ellsworth@usda.gov
	Description: Removal of ski lift portion on National Forest System Lands.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64783				
Location: UNIT - Bessemer Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Gogebic. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Gogebic County.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Ottawa National Forest	Iron River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
2130 M Trail Association - Special use road request CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 03/06/2020	Expected:04/2022	05/2022	Michelle Holland 906-358-4021 mholland@fs.fed.us
	Description: proposal for a special use road permit that covers Forest Road 2130-M for use and maintenance to access private property. Approximately 0.45 miles of road.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57237				
Location: UNIT - Iron River Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Iron. LEGAL - T46N, R35W, Sec. 26, SSW, SESW. Forest Road 2130-M on the east side of Perch Lake.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Ottawa National Forest	Kenton Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Lake Superior Performance Rally Special Use Permit Reauthorization Project EA	- Recreation management - Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/31/2023 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 08/2023	Expected:12/2023	10/2024	Amanda Stear 906-884-2085 x8842016 Amanda.Stear@usda.gov
	Description: The Ottawa is proposing to authorize use of approximately 89 miles of road under federal jurisdiction for the next ten year period of the Lake Superior Performance Rally, an annual, one-night motorized recreational event.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64133				
Location: UNIT - Kenton Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Baraga, Houghton, Iron, Ontonagon. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project area is located on roads designated for motorized use on the Kenton and Ontonagon Ranger Districts.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Ottawa National Forest Ontonagon Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region	
2023 American Transmission Company Maintenance Project CE	- Forest products - Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 02/02/2023	Expected:08/2023	09/2023	Shawn Brown 906-366-0076 shawn.brown@usda.gov
	Description: Project 1: Remove two wooden structures and wire guidewires and replace with steel towers. Project 2: Vegetation Maintenance project by expanding the clearing within their right-of-way to 100 feet. Approximately 5 acres of timber will be removed.				
	Location: UNIT - Ontonagon Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Ontonagon. LEGAL - T50N, R38W, Section 16, NENESW, SENESW, E1/2SESW, Section 21, NWNESE, SENESW, E1/2SWSW, Section 28, W1/2NWNW, Ontonagon County, Michigan. Along transmission lines coming from Victoria Power Plant and up to and across the Victoria Dam Road to Tower 5. Project is west of the town of Rockland, MI.				
Courtney Lake trail improvement project CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 07/27/2023	Expected:12/2023	06/2024	Austin Walworth 906-852-3500 x85240 austin.walworth@usda.gov
	Description: Creation of an additional trailhead and new trail segment to better accommodate users, equestrian and others, of the multi-use trail system associated with the Courtney Lake campground.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64547				
Hash Creek Special Use Permit Proposal EA	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/02/2023	Expected:10/2023	11/2023	Marlanea French pombier 906-285-6893 marlanea.french-pombier@usda.gov
	Description: Vehicle access on an existing non-system road for approximately 0.61 miles (3,220ft or 1.49 acres). Access requires brushing and tree removal for 0.19 miles of road construction (Plan amendment) to avoid sensitive soils and hydrological features.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61064				
	Location: UNIT - Ontonagon Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Ontonagon. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Access is located in T49N R38W Section 3, Ontonagon County, MI.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Ottawa National Forest Ontonagon Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region	
North Country Trail Lookout Mountain Segment Reroute CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/15/2023	Expected:01/2024	10/2024	Amber Tembreull 906-884-2085 Amber.Tembreull@usda.gov
	Description: Construct new North Country Trail (NCT) segment accessing Lookout Mountain on the Ottawa National Forest which will reconnect to rerouted NCT segment on adjacent private land.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64359				
Location: UNIT - Ontonagon Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Ontonagon. LEGAL - Not Applicable. North Country Trail, Lookout Mountain overlooking Victoria Reservoir.					
North Victoria Vegetation Management Project EA	- Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Watershed management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/16/2023 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 04/2023	Expected:02/2024	05/2024	Christopher Kovala 906-852-3500 christopher.ovala@usda.gov
	Description: This project includes vegetation and old growth management, transportation system modifications, and recreation and wildlife improvements on the Ontonagon Ranger District.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63753				
Location: UNIT - Ontonagon Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Ontonagon. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The North Victoria VMP is located in the Bergland and Ontonagon Ranger Districts, in Ontonagon County, Michigan. The project area is approximately 5 miles west of Rockland, Michigan.					

Ottawa National Forest Watersmeet Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region	
2024 American Transmission Company Utility Pole Maintenance Project CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 09/2023	Expected:11/2023	11/2023	Shawn Brown 906-366-0076 shawn.brown@usda.gov
	Description: Two part project, motor vehicle access to American Transmission permitted right-of-way in order to replace two wooden Utility Poles. This project is located in two locations.				
	Location: UNIT - Watersmeet Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Gogebic. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Location 1: T44N, R39W, S1/2SW, Section 33. Location 2: T45N, R39W, SENE, SESE, Section 4.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Ottawa National Forest Watersmeet Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Bluff Creek Restoration Project CE	- Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/15/2023	Expected:07/2023	07/2023	Amanda Stear 906-884-2085 x8842016 Amanda.Stear@usda.gov
<p>Description: The goals of the proposed project are to restore channel processes to a 2,000 linear foot stretch of Bluff Creek and enable fish passage through the Choate Road crossing and into the upstream reaches of Bluff Creek and its tributaries.</p> <p>Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64128</p>					
<p>Location: UNIT - Watersmeet Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Ontonagon. LEGAL - Section 1, T46N, R40W, and Section 6, T46N, R39W. It is located at the intersection of Bluff Creek and Choate Road in Ontonagon County, Michigan.</p>					
J.W. Toumey Nursery Modernization Project CE	- Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/12/2023	Expected:10/2023	01/2024	Amanda Stear 906-884-2085 x8842016 Amanda.Stear@usda.gov
<p>Description: The purpose of this project is to modernize the JW Toumey Nursery to meet the reforestation and restoration demands of the 21st Century associated with climate change response, tribal food sovereignty, and watershed protection.</p> <p>Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64272</p>					
<p>Location: UNIT - Watersmeet Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Gogebic. LEGAL - Not Applicable. J.W. Toumey Nursery is located within Sections 22 & 27 of Township 45N, Range 39W in Watersmeet, MI in Gogebic County, 1.5 miles NE of the intersection of US-2 and US-45, on Old US-2.</p>					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Ottawa National Forest	Watersmeet Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Watersmeet Wild Rice Access Project CE *UPDATED*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulations, Directives, Orders - Heritage resource management - Road management - Environmental Justice 	In Progress: Scoping Start 02/01/2023	Expected:08/2023	08/2023	Mitchell Ives 906-884-2085 ex. 8842038 mitchell.ives@usda.gov
<p>Description: Construction and reconstruction of roads, trails, a board walk and canoe access points to improve tribal access to wild rice resources in four spots on the Watersmeet district.</p> <p>Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63625</p> <p>Location: UNIT - Watersmeet Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Gogebic. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Brush Lake, Mallard Lake, Sucker Lake and The Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River are all located in Watersmeet Township in Gogebic County Michigan.</p>					

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