



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

07/01/2025 to 09/30/2025

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				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. These regulations apply to all NFS lands open to mineral entry under the US mining laws. More Information is available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions .				

Ottawa National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)

R9 - Eastern Region

Prescribed Fire and Hazardous Fuel Management Project EA *NEW LISTING*	- Regulations, Directives, Orders - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 09/2025	Expected: 07/2026	08/2026	Leigh Neitzel 906-285-9783
	Description: Forest-wide project to identify priority hazardous fuel reduction and prescribed fire units to create resilient ecosystems, reduce fuel loading, increase desirable plant species, such as wild blueberry.				
	Location: UNIT - Ottawa National Forest All Units. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Ontonagon. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This project includes the entire Forest except Wilderness areas, candidate research areas and areas inaccessible to equipment and personnel.				

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
2025 South Zone Special Use Permit Project Proposal CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/12/2024	Expected:07/2025	08/2025	Shawn Brown 906-366-0076 shawn.brown@usda.gov
	Description: To use and maintain Forest Roads and Private Roads to access private property by the use of Motor Vehicles.				
	Location: UNIT - Iron River Ranger District, Watersmeet Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Gogebic, Iron. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Silver Creek is located at T45N, R35W, Section 12, Iron County; Duck Creek is located T44N, R39W, Section 8, Gogebic County.				
Grosbeck Vegetation Management Project EA *UPDATED*	- Regulations, Directives, Orders - Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Watershed management - Minerals and Geology - Road management	Completed	Actual: 04/11/2025	05/2025	Leigh Neitzel 906-285-9783 leigh.neitzel@usda.gov
	Description: This project proposes to address gaps between the existing conditions and the range of desired conditions described in the Forest Plan through a variety of proposed activities, including vegetation management, hazardous fuel reduction and others.				
	Web Link: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/ottawa/projects/63842				
Location: UNIT - Bessemer Ranger District, Watersmeet Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Gogebic. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project area is located between the towns of Marenisco and Watersmeet, Michigan, north of the Michigan-Wisconsin state boundary and mostly south of US Highway 2.					

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
Merit/AEG Fiber Optic Special Use CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 02/01/2023	Expected:01/2024	02/2024	Michelle Holland 906-358-4021 michelle.m.holland@usda.gov
	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.				
	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.				
Silver Branch Vegetation Management Project EA *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Fuels management - Watershed management - Road management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 05/30/2025	Expected:05/2026	06/2026	Christopher Kovala 906-852-3500 christopher.kovala@usda.gov
	Description: This project includes vegetation management, transportation system modifications, and recreation, fisheries and wildlife improvements on the Watersmeet and Kenton Ranger Districts.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=68075				
Location: UNIT - Kenton Ranger District, Watersmeet Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Gogebic. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The Silver Branch VMP is located in the Watersmeet/Kenton Ranger Districts, in Iron/Houghton/Baraga Counties, Michigan. The project area extends approximately 10 miles north and south of Sidnaw, MI.					

Ottawa National Forest	Bergland Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
South Branch Ontonagon River Canoe Landing CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	Completed	Actual: 05/01/2025	11/2025	Austin Walworth 906-852-3500 x85240 austin.walworth@usda.gov
	Description: The South Branch Ontonagon River is popular with canoeists and kayakers. Currently there are limited sites to access the river especially for users desiring shorter distances between existing landings.				
	Web Link: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/ottawa/projects/67094				
	Location: UNIT - Bergland Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Ontonagon. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Bergland District.				

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
Black River Recreation Area Improvement Project EA *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Facility management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/15/2025 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 06/2025	Expected:02/2026	02/2026	Leigh Neitzel 906-285-9783 leigh.neitzel@usda.gov
	Description: This project intends to improve safety, repair damaged and aging infrastructure, and increase access throughout the Black River Recreation Area.				
	Web Link: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/ottawa/projects/66654				
	Location: UNIT - Bessemer Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Gogebic. LEGAL - (Township [T], North [N], Range [R], West [W], Sections [Sec]) T49N R46W Sec 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 20, 21, 28, 29. The Project is located along Black River National Forest Scenic Byway north of the Town of Bessemer. It includes 3 developed recreation sites near the mouth of the Black River and all waterfall sites.				

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: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/ottawa/projects/archive/57237				
	Location: UNIT - Iron River Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Iron. LEGAL - T46N, R35W, Sec. 26, SWSW, SESW. Forest Road 2130-M on the east side of Perch Lake.				

Ottawa National Forest Kenton Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
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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
2025 North Zone Fiber Optic Installation Project CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 06/10/2025	07/2025	Shawn Brown 906-366-0076 shawn.brown@usda.gov
	Description: Using Industry Standard methods, bury Fiber Optic Cable along roadways(M64 North and FR2200)				
	Location: UNIT - Kenton Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Houghton, Ontonagon. LEGAL - T50N, R42W, NW1/4NW1/4, Section 28 and T48N, R35W, W1/2NW1/4, Section 33. On East side of State Highway M64 on the Bergland RD and East side of FR2200 on the Kenton RD.				
2025 North Zone Special Use Permit Project Proposal CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/12/2024	Expected:07/2025	08/2025	Shawn Brown 906-285-6913 shawn.brown@usda.gov
	Description: Use of a Private road on National Forest System lands by motor vehicles to access private property.				
	Location: UNIT - Kenton Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Iron. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This project is located at T46N, R35W, Section 17, Iron County, just south of Lake ST. Kathryn off campground off of Ponozzo Rd.				
Upper Dam Removal and Restoration CE	- Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/01/2023	Expected:02/2025	05/2025	Ryan Beatty 906-285-6897 Ryan.Beatty@usda.gov
	Description: Upper dam is located on the East Branch Ontonagon River. Upper dam consists of old timber, metal pipes, as well as tree material placed by beavers. This project proposes to remove the dam to restore the area to natural conditions and allow for				
	Web Link: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/ottawa/projects/65278				
	Location: UNIT - Kenton Ranger District. STATE - Michigan. COUNTY - Houghton. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Kenton Ranger District.				

Ottawa National Forest Ontonagon Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)	R9 - Eastern Region
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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 Victoria Vegetation Management Project EA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recreation management- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants- Forest products- Vegetation management (other than forest products)- Watershed management- Road management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 05/09/2024	Expected:03/2025	03/2025	Christopher Kovala 906-852-3500 christopher.kovala@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: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/ottawa/projects/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.					

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