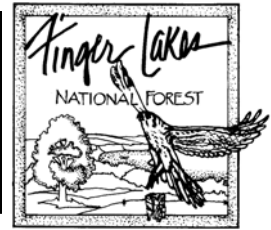


Finger Lakes National Forest *Schedule of Proposed Actions*



January 1 – March 31, 2011

ABOUT THIS SCHEDULE

The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Actions is to provide a status report and short summary of 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. Reference should be made to past or future Schedules for additional information. Early notice will allow the public to indicate and express their interest and concerns about specific proposals. The publishing of this Schedule is required by Forest Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Scoping letters asking for public input on individual proposals will continue to be mailed to interested individuals, or in some cases, the public will be notified via this Schedule. Legal notices announcing project decisions will continue to be published in the *Ithaca Journal*.

The Schedule of Proposed Actions 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), a 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 Ranger District Office and are 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 the project mailing list, write or call the Supervisor's Office or Ranger District Office. 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 necessitate that analysis be completed with a short turnaround time. This means that NEPA analyses may be conducted and decisions made without prior announcement in this NEPA quarterly update. Scoping efforts for such requests will be conducted as applicable in accordance to regulations. As decisions are made, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in the *Ithaca Journal*. Examples of walk-in requests include short-term special use permits for a recreation event on the forest.



VISIT US ONLINE AT: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/greenmountain/htm/fingerlakes/f_home.htm



Finger Lakes National Forest

Forest Happenings!!

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Winter Happenings, 2011

I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show. ~Andrew Wyeth

Office Reception Area New Look

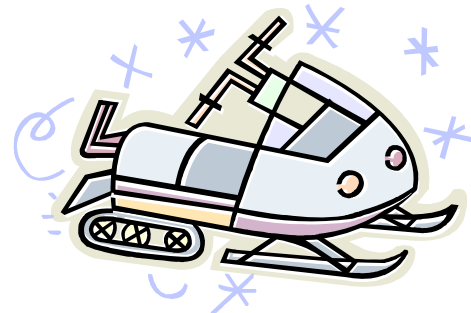
If you're in the area, please stop on in and check out the revamped reception area. Our detailer, Alicia Pasquerillo, from the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire has been working hard to give the Visitor Center an updated look and feel, and most importantly provide more of what visitors are looking for.

In addition, we will be offering a new selection of items for purchase, thru the Eastern National Forest Interpretive Association (ENFIA) in the new year. Proceeds from the sale of these items, go directly back to the Forest to provide additional funds centered around Interpretation and Education.

Snowmobile Season

Many winter enthusiasts are anxiously waiting for a good snow fall so they can get out on their snowmobiles. Snowmobile trails are open December 15 - March 15 as long as there is adequate snow cover. The Forest has about 13 miles of snowmobile trails that are groomed and maintained in cooperation with the Twin Lakes Snowmobile Club (www.twinlakessnowmobile.com).

Users must stay on designated trails, if you encounter trees that are blocking the trails, please notify the Hector Ranger Station. As always, watch out for icy conditions, ride safe and be courteous to other riders!



Trails

With the hopes of a good winter snowfall, comes plenty of other winter opportunities to snowshoe and cross-country ski. Use caution when crossing ponds - as ice may be thin! Maps and brochures are available at our kiosks, stop in the office or give us a call and we can send you one.

Caywood Point

Construction on the Caywood Point access trail began in late fall. Slate Hill Construction has buttoned up the work zone for the winter and will return in the Spring to finish the project. Access to the area will be closed, once the project begins again in the Spring, in anticipation of the construction traffic expected to accomplish the project. Please use caution if visiting Caywood Point over the winter. And keep your eyes out for announcements regarding a "Grand Opening" Celebration scheduled to occur this summer!

Campgrounds

Blueberry Patch Campground is closed to camping until May 15.

Camping is available at the Backbone Horse Camp, and thru the National Recreation Reservation Service for the Potomac Group Campground. Reservations can be made for the Potomac Group Campground at the following www.ReserveAmerica.com or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Wildlife

This is the time of year we visit the nesting boxes on the Forest. Wood Duck, Kestrel and Bluebirds have moved out for the winter, so we can move in to check and clean the boxes so their ready for their return in the Spring.



Early Successional Aspen Stand Enhancement Project

Approximately 7 acres of mature aspen are expected to be felled in the next couple of months in order to create early successional habitat for the benefit of wildlife species dependent on this type of habitat – such as ruffed grouse and American woodcock.

The area to be cut is located adjacent to a portion of the Potomac Trail west of Potomac Road. This project will create a young aspen stand, important considering that young forests are declining in terms of acreages in the northeastern United States.

Deer Season

The opening weekend of deer season on the Finger Lakes NF appeared to be a successful year for many hunters. According to data collected over the past few seasons here on the forest, the deer hunting and harvest information continues to be improving. Many factors contribute to the success, or lack thereof, of New York deer hunters, but this past fall's statistics are probably a result of a noticeably healthier deer herd on and around the forest, and ideal hunting weather for opening weekend.



We were able to age 20 deer and interact with over 80 hunters. A big thank you to all the hunters who continue to utilize their public lands in a safe and law-abiding manner.

From the Ranger

I'm excited to let you all know that we have added a new section to this newsletter, one focused on kids titled "Just for Kids! Just for Fun!". Our emphasis will be on providing activities for kids to do that will help them connect with nature and learn more about the National Forest. Hopefully, adults will learn a thing or two, or have fun themselves in doing the activities!

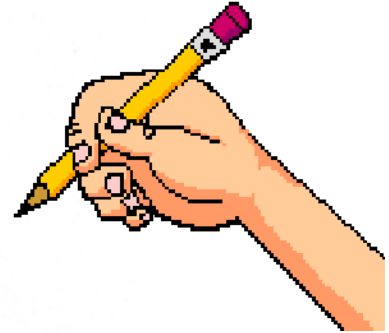
Enjoy!

-Jodie Vanselow, District Ranger

Winter in the National Forest

See if you can find all the words!

F S T I L B I D R K K X G E E L F E B H
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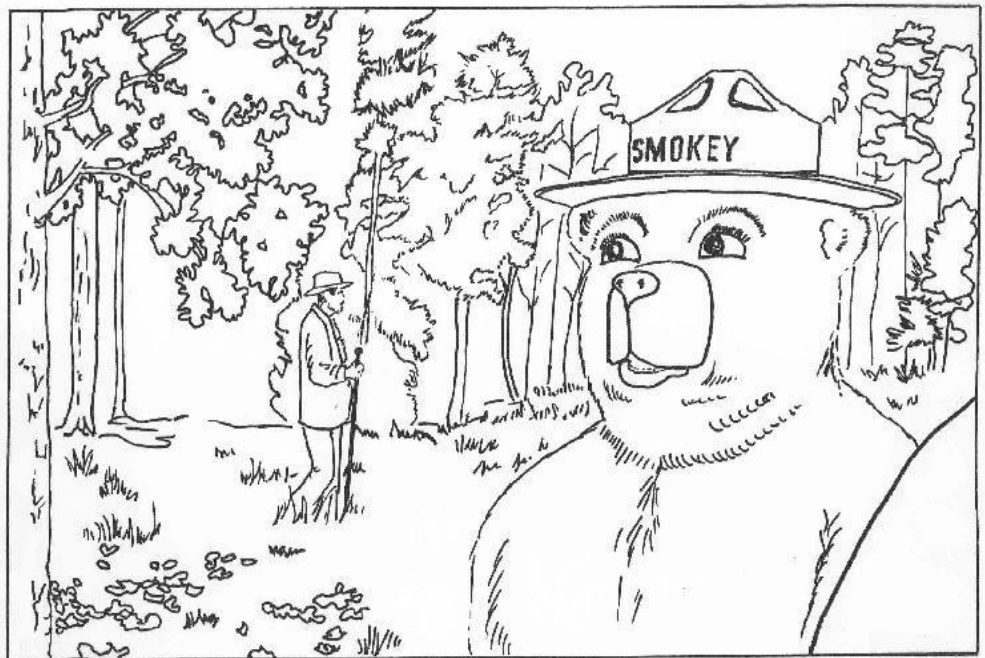


- ANIMALTRACKS
- SKI
- HIKING
- PHOTOGRAPHY

- SNOWMOBILE
- WILDLIFE
- CAMPING
- SMOKEYBEAR

- SNOWSHOE
- HUNTING
- FIREWOOD
- RANGER

Color



SMOKEY ASKS ALL HUNTERS
 TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL IN THE WOODS



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

01/01/2011 to 03/31/2011

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
Projects Occurring Nationwide					
Land Management Planning Rule EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 12/18/2009 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/2010	Expected:11/2011	12/2011	Larry Hayden 202-205-1559 lhayden@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	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 08/27/2010 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 01/2011	Expected:12/2011	01/2012	Glen Stein 208-869-5405 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.				

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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
Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forests, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					R9 - Eastern Region
GMNF Invasive Plant Control Project EA	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 10/19/2010	11/2010	Jay Strand 802-767-4261 jstrand@fs.fed.us
	Description: Control non-native invasive plants throughout the Green Mountain National Forest using mechanical, manual, chemical, biological, or experimental methods, prescribed fire, or a combination of these.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=26620				
Location: UNIT - Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forest All Units. STATE - Vermont. COUNTY - Addison, Bennington, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Windsor. LEGAL - Throughout the Forest. Green Mountain National Forest.					

Green Mountain And Finger Lakes National Forests Hector Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Early Successional Aspen Stand Improvement Project CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 11/10/2010	12/2010	Debra Smith 607-546-4470 ext 321 debraasmith@fs.fed.us
	Description: Increase amount of regenerating aspen for benefit of early successional wildlife species (such as ruffed grouse) by cutting about 7 acres of mature aspen in Compartment 31 Stand 11.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_content.php?project=31778				
Location: UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. East of Potomac Rd, west of Chicken Coop Rd, and near the Potomac Trail. Compartment 31 Stand 11, Schuyler county, Hector Ranger District, New York.					
Engel Hay Harvesting Special Use CE	- Special area management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 03/2011	Expected:06/2011	08/2011	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/nepa/project_content.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.					

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on the projects described in this update, contact:

 Colleen 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, N.Y. 14841
607-546-4470



Dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Service

This report is 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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