



PROJECT PLANNING

Hiawatha National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions

Vol. 11, No. 2

April 2004

ABOUT THIS SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS (SOPA) REPORT

This report provides information on upcoming projects to citizens concerned with management of the Hiawatha National Forest (HNF). Issued quarterly, this report is intended to inform interested members of the public early in the project planning process, so that all comments can be incorporated into final decisions. The report is not intended to be a substitute for other public involvement efforts, but rather to compliment those efforts in order to assure that all those interested may have an opportunity to comment.

This SOPA report lists site-specific projects for which decisions will be documented according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1970. Each project is listed by Ranger District and includes name, location, and a brief description of the project, approximate time frames for soliciting comments (scoping), and primary decision points. A chart listing all projects that have been identified can be found following the listing of new projects. These projects are updated to reflect changes that have occurred since the last report.

This [SOPA report](#) is now posted on the internet. The website is:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hiawatha>.

Information on NEPA related documents such as scoping letters, decision notices, and decision memos can also be accessed on the web site.

The listed time frames are estimates only and are subject to change. If you have interest in a project please contact the project team leader at the appropriate Ranger District so you can be included in all mailings. If you have any information that has a bearing on the decisions being considered, we encourage you to let us know. Addresses and telephone numbers are listed with each Ranger District's projects.

Occasionally, we receive walk-in requests from the public needing shorter analysis time. Although such projects may not always be described in these SOPA reports, scoping efforts will still be completed prior to final decisions.

HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST NEPA UPDATES

Project Mailing Lists: Many of you are on our mailing lists to receive information on new projects that we propose (scoping letters). The number of people on these lists has grown significantly over the last few years. We appreciate the interest in projects on the HNF, however, our mailing and reproduction costs have also increased. In these scoping letters we request that you respond back to us if you would like to remain on the mailing list for that project. If we don't hear from you, we remove your name from that project mailing list. We do this in order to reduce our mailing and reproduction costs, especially for environmental assessments, and to send information to those who are interested in

the project. You can be assured that you will receive all mailings for a specific project, preferably by sending us your comments, or by contacting us by phone or email. If you do not respond to a specific project and your name is removed from that project mailing list, you will still receive information on future projects, because we retain your name on our master list for scoping on all projects. In addition, all scoping letters and decisions are posted on our internet site. Please remember that revision of 36CFR 215 now requires you to comment on a project during the official 30-day comment period we advertise in the newspapers in order to retain your standing to appeal a decision. If you have any questions or want to be added or removed from our mailing list, contact: Steve Bateman at 906-786-4062, ext. 335, TDD 906 789-3337, Email sbateman@fs.fed.us; Mary Maercklein at 906-474-6442, ext. 117, TDD 906-474-6570, Email mmaercklein@fs.fed.us; or Lyn Hyslop at 906-643-7900, ext. 152, TDD 906-643-7611, or Email: lhyslop@fs.fed.us.

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 on a proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, 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 (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted

only in very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified number of days.

The dates listed in this SOPA Report are approximate.

Decisions: There was 1 decision for the Westside of the HNF this past quarter: Alger/Delta Co-op Electric Assoc. Upgrade Project.

There were no decisions on the Eastside of the HNF this past quarter.

Decisions scheduled for this quarter on the Westside of the HNF include: Ogontz Project, Thunderbird Project Set EA, Ensign Road Project, and SBC Fiber Optic Cable Project, and Alger/Delta Replacement Project.

Decisions scheduled for this quarter on the Eastside of the HNF include: Red Pine Blowdown, Hazardous Fuel Project, Smithers Scientific Services Inc. SPU Modification EA, and East Red Pine II.

Appeals and Litigation: Bay Project EA and Lake Superior Highlands Project EA were appealed in January 2004. They were both upheld by the Appeal Deciding Officer, Tom Schmidt in March 2004. Hovey Lake Road Culvert Replacement Project was not appealed.

Forest Plan Revision: The HNF is continuing to move forward in revising its Forest Plan. The Notice of Intent (NOI) was

published September 18, 2003 and launched the 60-day formal comment period.

The HNF received approximately 90 comments during this time. Comments from the public are important to the forest plan revision process because they are used to help determine issues and to develop the alternatives to the Forest Plan.

The HNF's interdisciplinary team is currently working on developing the issues, alternatives, standards and guidelines, and goals and objectives.

Once the issues have been determined, they will be the subject of the next issue of the Forest Plan Revision newsletter, which should be send out in April 2004.

For more information on Forest Plan revision, check out the HNF website!
http://www.fs.fed.us/r9hiawatha/revision/rev_welcome.html.

If you wish to be on the HNF's Forest Plan revision mailing list, you may contact us using any of the following methods:
E-mail: r9_Hiawatha_revision@fsfed.us.
Phone: 906-786-4062
Mail: Hiawatha National Forest
Attn: Forest Plan Revision
2727 N. Lincoln Rd.
Escanaba, MI 49829

NEW PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR NEPA DOCUMENTS

On June 4, 2003 the Federal Register published The Final Rule for 36 CFR 215 Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures for National Forest System Projects and Activities. This rule revises the notice, comment, and appeal procedures for projects and activities implementing land and resource management plans on National

Forest System lands. The final rule changes the procedures to clarify and reduce the complexity of certain provisions, to improve efficiency of processing appeals, to encourage early and effective public participation in the environmental analysis of projects and activities, and to ensure consistency with the provisions of the statutory authority.

Changes address:

- Emergency situations
- Notice and comment procedures and time periods
- Substantive comments
- Who may appeal
- Deciding Officer
- Content of an appeal
- The formal disposition process

These revised regulations apply to all projects and will be announced in legal advertisements in the papers-of-record, as projects evolve.

These 36 CFR 215 Rules and Regulations may be found at
www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html

NEW NATIONAL DATABASE FOR SOPA REPORT UPDATES

As you will notice, our Quarterly Report has a new name, Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA), and the table in the back has a different look. This is because the Forest Service is developing a national database to track key planning information and automatically generate SOPAs in a consistent manner. The attached SOPA table is an interim part of that effort. We hope to have a standardized SOPA format and public access to the database in the late fall/winter.

MAP LINKS: [EAST SIDE](#)
[WEST SIDE](#)

NEW PROJECTS

RAPID RIVER/MANISTIQUE RANGER DISTRICT

RAPID RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

8181 U.S. Hwy. 2
Rapid River, MI 49878
(906) 474-6442
TDD: (906) 474-6570

Email comments to: comments-eastern-hiawatha-rapid-river

MANISTIQUE RANGER DISTRICT

499 East Lakeshore Dr.
Manistique, MI 49854
(906) 341-5666
TDD: (906) 341-3514

Email project comments to: comments-eastern-hiawatha-manistique

Project Name: Alger Delta Replacement
Project

Project Description: Due to continuous power outages from storms Alger Delta Co-op Electric Assoc. would like to replace a segment of their overhead line on the Stonington Peninsula in the Martin's Bay area with buried line. Their present right-of-way is in a wet swampy area and runs from K-32 east through the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ then north through the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ all in Section 5 of T39N, R20W; then diagonally through the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4 of T39N, R20W. They would like to do this project during freeze up conditions.

County: Delta

Team Leader: Jim Phillips

jphillips@fs.fed.us

Scoping Starts: May 2004

Scoping Comments Due: May 2004

Decision Date: May 2004

MUNISING RANGER DISTRICT

400 East Munising Ave.

Munising, MI 49862

(906) 387-2512

TDD: (906) 387-3371

Email project comments: comments-eastern-hiawatha-munising

NO NEW PROJECTS

EASTSIDE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

ST. IGNACE RANGER DISTRICT

1798 West US 2
St. Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-7900
TDD: (906) 643-7611

Email project comments: comments-eastern-hiawatha-st-ignace

SAULT STE. MARIE DISTRICT

4000 I-75 Business Spur
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-5300
TDD: (906) 635-9154

Email project comments: comments-eastern-hiawatha-sault-ste-marie

Project Name: Red Pine Blowdown
Project Description: Salvage of red pine trees blown down during November 2003 wind event.
County: Chippewa
Team Leader: Martha Sjogren
msjogren@fs.fed.us
Scoping Starts: April 2004
Scoping Comments Due: April 2004
Decision Date: April 2004

Project Name: Bissel Pine
Project Description: Red pine stand impacted by insect and disease problems. Plan to clearcut current stand and plant red pine.
County: Mackinac
Team Leader: Martha Sjogren
msjogren@fs.fed.us
Scoping Starts: April 2004
Scoping Comments Due: May 2004
Decision Date: July 2004

Project Name: Hazardous Fuels Project
Project Description: This activity would maintain fuel breaks by removing jack pine that have encroached into openings, using a tractor with brush hog.
County: Mackinac
Team Leader: John Maciok
jmaciok@fsfedus
Scoping Starts: February 2004
Decision Date: April 2004

Project Name: Silver Creek Fish Habitat Project
Project Description: This activity would include placing wood structures along approximately ¼ mile of Silver Creek. Each structure would be constructed of 2-3 root wads anchored to streambed and stream bank.
County: Mackinac
Team Leader: Chuck Bassett
cbassett@fs.fed.us
Scoping Starts: April 2004
Scoping Comments Due: May 2004
Decision Date: June 2004

Project Name: Private Road Easement 1 Project
Project Description: Private landowner is requesting a special use permit to construct a road across national forest land for a year around access to private property.
County: Mackinac
Team Leader: Joe Hart
jhart2@fs.fed.us
Scoping Starts: 09/2003
Scoping Comments Due: 10/2003
DecisionDate:05/2004

Project Name: Hiawatha Telephone Co. SPU Project
Project Description: This activity would bury a fiber optic cable using a trenching machine to improve telephone and internet service in rural Upper Peninsula of Michigan.
County: Chippewa
Team Leader: Joe Hart
jhart2@fs.fed.us
Scoping Starts: 04/2004
Scoping comments Due: 05/2004
Decision: 07/2004

NEPA

Hiawatha National Forest
2727 North Lincoln Road
Escanaba, MI 49829

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