



The Shawnee Quarterly

The Shawnee National Forest Newsletter with the Schedule of Proposed Actions October 2008

“**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 the proposed projects so that you can be aware of Forest activities, indicate your interest in specific projects, and become involved early in the environmental analysis and documentation process. The schedule also provides information associated with the current 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.

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.

Comments will be accepted for three weeks following publication of the Quarterly.

Some categorically excluded decisions are subject to notice, comment and appeal under the appeal regulations (36 CFR 215). These types of projects, mostly prescribed burning, will be scoped separately and included in the Schedule of Proposed Actions.

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

Big Muddy Boat Ramp Reforestation.

This project will involve the reforestation of 26 acres with native seedlings. The area is adjacent to an existing boat ramp near the Big Muddy Levee. Contact Ronald Moore, 618-833-8576, ronaldmoore@fs.fed.us

Management Note: Many of our routine projects like 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 do not need to be routinely noticed in the quarterly. These types of projects will continue and some new projects may be scoped in this Quarterly Newsletter but will no longer appear in the Schedule of Proposed Actions.

Johnson Creek Road Realignment. This project involves leveling and rocking a portion of the Johnson Creek Campground Road so that two-way traffic may access the campground safely. This is a temporary realignment until permanent reconstruction of a slumped section is completed. Contact Ronald Moore, 618-833-8576, ronaldmoore@fs.fed.us

Lake Glendale Recreation Area Maintenance.

Replace about three miles of the water system and replace the antiquated sewage treatment system. The project would involve removal of existing lines, trenching for new lines and constructing four to five engineered, low-mound septic systems. These mounds would replace two treatment lagoon systems nearing their useful life. We anticipate less than one acre of total ground disturbance for all of these septic systems combined.

Renewal of existing land-use permits. This includes right of way for access and powerline, waterline and telephone line permits. Permits scheduled for re-issuance include the following:

| Permitee | County |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| McClure Water District | Alexander |
| D. Flanders, (ROW) | Gallatin |
| Union Association Church Camp | Pope |
| J. Hanks, (ROW) | Pope |
| Collier Cemetery (ROW) | Pope |
| Collier Cemetery (Cemetery) | Pope |
| Parkinson Cemetery | Pope |
| L. Cossey (ROW) | Pope |
| V. Hertter, (ROW) | Pope |
| Saline Valley Conservancy Dist. | Hardin/Gallatin |
| S. Hogg, (ROW) | Pope |
| B. Finnie, (ROW) | Hardin |
| J. Haney, (ROW) | Pope |
| Mt. Pleasant Church | Pope |
| Tf Capital, LLC | Pope |
| Shawnee Telephone | Pope |
| State of Illinois Transportation | Pope |
| Contact Marlene B. Rivero, Jonesboro, 618-833-8576 or Robert Monroe, Vienna, 618-658-2111 or Ron Scott, Harrisburg, 618-253-7114 | |

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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Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

10/01/2008 to 12/31/2008

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 |
| Non-Native Invasive Species Management EA | - Vegetation management (other than forest products) | In Progress: Scoping Start 04/29/2008 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 02/2009 | Expected:06/2009 | 02/2009 | Steve Hupe 618-253-7114 shupe@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Forest-wide assessment of the management of non-native invasive species. Potential treatments include pulling, hand-torching, controlled burns, and herbicides. | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Williamson. Forest-wide. | | | | |
| Southern Illinois Electric Coop Permit Renewal CE | - Special use management | In Progress: Scoping Start 07/05/2008 | Expected:12/2008 | 01/2009 | Marlene Rivero 618-833-8576 mrivero@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Renew and combine several permits into one permit within the district or across the district boundaries, as appropriate for efficient management. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/projects/ | | | | |
| Location: UNIT - Shawnee National Forest All Units. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Alexander, Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Williamson. Forest-wide. | | | | | |
| Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | | | R9 - Eastern Region |
| Cave Hill, Dennison Hollow, Stoneface, and Simpson Barrens Vegetation Management EA | - Fuels management - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Special area management | In Progress: Scoping Start 01/08/2008 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 11/2008 | Expected:12/2008 | 02/2009 | Elizabeth Shimp 618-658-2111 eshimp@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Prescribe burn a total of about 3600 acres around 4 natural areas and adjacent lands for vegetation management (other than forest products) and animal habitat improvement. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/projects/ | | | | |
| Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Johnson, Saline. Three areas within Saline County and one in Johnson County. | | | | | |

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| Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | | | R9 - Eastern Region |
| Dutchman Lake Water Main Extension CE | - Special use management | In Progress: Scoping Start 07/03/2008 | Expected:11/2008 | 11/2008 | Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: The Lake Egypt Water District is proposing a water main extension that would cross Forest land. The pipes would be 6" and 4" PVC pipes to serve additional customers near Dutchman Lake. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/projects/ | | | | |
| Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Johnson. LEGAL - T11S R3E sections 29&32 and T12S R 3E sections 4,5,8,9,17&20. Along existing county road near Dutchman Lake. | | | | | |
| Harris Branch - Restoration of Hardwoods in Pine Stands EA | - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Forest products | In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 03/11/2007 | Expected:12/2008 | 01/2009 | Tom Neal (618) 658-2111 tneal@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Thinning of pine stands using commercial sale and prescribed fire to restore hardwoods in non-native pine stands. Note: This project has been renamed from Cadiz to Harris Branch to better describe its location. | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin. LEGAL - T11S, R8E, Section 24. Karbers Ridge, Cadiz Area. | | | | |
| Lusk Creek Canoe Launch EA | - Facility management - Recreation management | On Hold | N/A | N/A | Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Construct a small parking lot and stream access ramp for launching small watercraft. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/environmental/nepa/sopa/ | | | | |
| Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Pope. LEGAL - T12S R6E Sec 16. Eddyville Blacktop adjacent to the Eddyville Bridge over Lusk Creek. | | | | | |
| Private Property Access Road CE | - Special use management | In Progress: Scoping Start 07/05/2008 | Expected:11/2008 | 12/2008 | Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: James Hamel has requested an access drive for about 200 feet across Forest land. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/projects/ | | | | |
| Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin. LEGAL - T11S R10E section 34. Hardin County. | | | | | |

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | | | R9 - Eastern Region |
| Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative - Electric line installation. CE | - Special use management | In Progress: Scoping Start 07/05/2008 | Expected:12/2008 | 01/2009 | Robert Monroe 618-658-2111 robertmonroe@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: SEIEC proposes to install new electric lines across FS land to private property, and upgrade and replace a three distribution lines to the village of Glendale. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/projects/ | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Hidden Springs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Hardin, Pope. LEGAL - T14S, R6E, Section 19 in the SW1/4, NW1/4, and T11S, R9E, Section 9, NW <, S/W <, and T13S, R5E, Section 16 N/W <, NW <. Pope and Hardin County. | | | | |

| Project Name | Project Purpose | Planning Status | Decision | Expected Implementation | Project Contact |
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| Shawnee National Forest Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | | | R9 - Eastern Region |
| Atwood Ridge, Ozark Hill Prairie and Opposum Trot Trail Natural Area Management EA | - Fuels management - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants | In Progress: Scoping Start 01/08/2008 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 12/2008 | Expected:01/2009 | 02/2009 | Steve Widowski 618-833-8576 swidowski@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: The project includes prescribed burning about 3,000 acres and 100-200 acres of selective tree and shrub removal in barrens and dry woodland communities. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/projects/ | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Alexander, Union. Atwood Ridge, Ozark Hill Prairie and Opposum Trot Trail Natural Area and surrounding areas. | | | | |
| Big Muddy Boat Ramp Reforestation CE *NEW LISTING* | - Vegetation management (other than forest products) | Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 10/2008 | Expected:11/2008 | 03/2009 | Ronald Moore 618-833-8576 ronaldmoore@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: This project will involve the contract reforestation of 26 acres adjoining an existing boat ramp adjacent to the Big Muddy Levee with native seedlings. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/projects/ | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - T11S, R3W, sec 17. Parcel runs from Route 3 eastward between Big Muddy River and the levee road for approx. = mile. | | | | |

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| Shawnee National Forest Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | | | R9 - Eastern Region |
| Buttermilk Hill / Talbott Hollow Blowdown Project EA | - Fuels management - Vegetation management (other than forest products) | In Progress: 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 06/24/2008 | Expected:12/2008 | 02/2009 | Scott Crist 618-687-1731 scrist@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: To reduce fire risk and restore healthy ecosystems, the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District of the Shawnee National Forest proposes to burn about 5400 acres of Forest land and private land in the Buttermilk Hill/Talbott Hollow Blowdown Project. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/projects/scoping/2008/butter-talb/ | | | | |
| Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. Bounded on the south by State Highway 3, bounded on the east by Kinkaid Lake, bounded on the north by Gum Ridge Rd and Dry Hill Rd, bounded on the west by Logan Hollow Rd. | | | | | |
| Hutchins Creek Habitat Improvement Modification CE | - Watershed management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants | In Progress: Scoping Start 04/05/2008 | Expected:11/2008 | 12/2009 | Michael Welker 618-253-1020 mtwelker@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: The project includes modifications to existing stream habitat improvement structures on Hutchins Creek in Union County. Minor modifications will be made to existing structures to help facilitate natural vegetation and stabilization of stream banks. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/projects/ | | | | |
| Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Union. LEGAL - R3W, T11S. S36. Hutchins Creek adjacent to Qualls Tract in Union County. | | | | | |
| Lincoln Memorial Interpretation Site Improvements CE | - Facility management - Heritage resource management - Recreation management | Completed | Actual: 04/03/2008 | 09/2008 | Dan Lentz 618-833-8576 dlentz@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Improve the existing memorial site to include one new short path, two new life-size statues, and foundation/wall/walkway work around the existing memorial | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/ | | | | |
| Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Union. Lincoln Memorial Interpretation Site - Jonesboro, IL. | | | | | |

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| Shawnee National Forest Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | | | R9 - Eastern Region |
| Prescribed Fire for Improvement of Wildlife Habitat and Urban Interface EA | - Fuels management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants | On Hold | N/A | N/A | Scott Crist 618-687-1731 scrist@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Five separate prescribed burning projects, totaling about 23,400 acres (about 4,800 acres each). The projects are spread across the District. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/environmental/nepa/sopa/ | | | | |
| Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson, Johnson, Pulaski, Union, Williamson. Lands administered by the ranger district. | | | | | |
| Skeeter Park/Worthen Bayou Wetlands CE | - Watershed management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants | In Progress: Scoping Start 10/12/2007 | Expected:11/2008 | 12/2008 | Steve Widowski 618-833-8576 swidowski@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: The project includes construction of 2 small earthen levees and water control structures in 2 existing drainage ditches to restore a more natural hydrologic condition on approximately 30 acres of bottomland forest in southwestern Jackson County | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/projects/projects/ | | | | |
| Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Jackson. LEGAL - T9S R3W sec 17, 19, 20, 29. On east and west sides of Rt. 3, about 2 miles north of Gorham turn off. | | | | | |
| Verizon North, Inc. Renew Permit CE | - Special use management | In Progress: Scoping Start 01/04/2007 | Expected:12/2008 | 01/2009 | Marlene Rivero 618-833-8576 mrivero@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Issue a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization with Verizon Telephone. Inc. | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. STATE - Illinois. COUNTY - Alexander, Jackson, Union. Various location throughout the Mississippi Bluffs RD. | | | | |

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