



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Mark Twain National Forest  
Houston – Rolla – Cedar Creek  
Ranger District

108 S. Sam Houston Blvd.  
Houston, Missouri 65483  
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File Code: 1950-1

Date: January 15, 2004

Friends, Neighbors, and Interested Parties of the  
Crescent Project,

The Forest Service is proposing forest management activities in a portion of the Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District located west of the Gasconade River. These management activities will be covered in an Environmental Analysis (EA) named Crescent.

This letter and request for comments is the initial stage of public involvement in the analysis. You are being notified because you are an adjacent landowner to the project, or, you have commented on proposals on the Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District in the last year. The activities proposed are designed to implement the Mark Twain Forest Plan. Some of the action items that are proposed which would help the Crescent Project area meet the Desired Future Conditions identified in the Mark Twain Forest Plan are listed below:

- **Recreation Opportunities:** Providing dispersed recreation opportunities by maintaining river access sites, upgrading a horse trail, upgrading parking at river access sites, and increasing public accesses.
- **Improve Wildlife Habitat:** Wildlife habitat would be modified by; old growth designation, timber harvest (Shelterwood, Clearcut, Group Selection, Overstory Removal, Thinnings in Pine, Oak and Cedar), prescribed burning, mechanical treatment of openings, grazing, construction and maintenance of waterholes, firewood removal, planting of hardwoods in riparian areas, planting of warm season grasses, and noxious weed and fescue control with the use of herbicides.
- **Protect and Improve the Mayfield Spring Wet Meadow Special Area** by designating additional areas around the Spring.
- **Prescribed Burn:** Conduct prescribed burns in designated areas to reduce fuel loads in the Wildland/Urban interface and conduct prescribed burns to restore Ecosystem Integrity.
- **Improve Watershed Health:** Closing and rehabilitating old road corridors as well as general stream bank stabilization work.
- **Associated and connected actions:** Fire line construction, road work (obliteration, construction/re-construction).

**Note:** *One or several of these actions could occur near adjacent landowners property lines.*



If additional site specific information is desired on this project, it may be obtained in a number of ways:

- Telephone: Contact, Doyle Henken or Mark Hamel at the Houston Ranger District Office during business hours (8:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CST) at 417-967-4194
- In writing: Contact, Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District, 108 S. Sam Houston Blvd., Houston, Missouri 65483. Attention: Mark Hamel
- Facsimile requests: Address to: Mark Hamel, NEPA Coordinator at 417-967-2524
- E-mail requests: [mailroom\\_r9\\_mark\\_twain@fs.fed.us](mailto:mailroom_r9_mark_twain@fs.fed.us)

Please Specify Houston-NEPA-Crescent on your subject line.

- Web site viewing: View vicinity map, 9 project maps, Purpose of and Need for Action document, and this Letter at: [www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/project.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/projects/project.htm). Scroll down to Crescent project.

Attached you will find the following enclosure:

1. A vicinity map.
2. A document titled "Purpose of and Need for Action" which describes the Proposed Actions in detail.
3. A set of maps, showing the location of proposed treatments.
4. Public Comment Form.

Experience has shown that site-specific comments on a project proposal are more useful during the analysis than general comments that could apply anywhere across the Forest or on any National Forest System lands. Therefore we ask that your comments be as site specific as possible.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record of this 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 but under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), confidentiality may be granted in only 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 if 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.

The deadline for comments for this initial stage of the Crescent proposal is February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Once comments are received by the Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team), the ID Team will use these comments to identify issues and to develop alternatives to the Crescent Proposed Action. Then we will analyze the environmental effects of the different alternatives, including no action.

I will send our alternatives for 30-day review to those who are interested before a decision is made. After completion of the 30-day comment period, I will make a decision regarding the Crescent Project Area.

If you have any questions about the proposal or our analysis process, please contact the Houston District Office at the number above. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

/s/ John C. Bisbee  
JOHN C. BISBEE  
District Ranger

Enclosures: Vicinity Map, Purpose and Need for Action document, project maps package,  
Public comment form





