



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mark Twain National Forest
Doniphan – Eleven Point
Ranger District

1104 Walnut Street
Doniphan, Missouri 63935
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File Code: 1950/2070/5140

Date: January 9, 2004

Dear Interested Publics:

I am asking for your comments to identify any extraordinary circumstances, issues, and concerns that I should consider about the following proposed action to develop semi-open wildlife habitat. This proposed action would begin a process to restore native shortleaf pine and oak-pine woodland ecosystem on the Doniphan/Eleven Point Ranger District. This proposed action would also accomplish forest fuel reductions on the same acres that would be restored. This would enhance the establishment of herbaceous and grass vegetation species associated with the desired open woodland conditions.

Areas included in this proposed action are all National Forest land currently being managed as open woodland, or are adjacent to areas previously managed as open woodland. Over the past 15 years, thinning and prescribed burning has stimulated growth of native grasses and wildflowers. The number and variety of understory plant species have increased dramatically in these areas. By continuing the use of prescribed fire, we will maintain suitable habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species, improve biodiversity on the district, restore degraded or lost ecosystems and reduce fuel. This proposal also would take advantage of natural boundaries and roads to decrease the amount of constructed fireline and the associated soil disturbance.

I would like to hear your specific comments and suggestions concerning this proposal that involves National Forest lands only. You may send a letter to me at: District Ranger, Doniphan/Eleven Point Ranger District, 1104 Walnut Street, Doniphan, MO 63935, or you may FAX your comments to me at 573-996-7745 or you may E-mail your comments to: mailroom_r9_mark_twain@fs.fed.us. The subject line should read: NEPA Doniphan. You may also call Ben Wyatt at 573-325-4233 or Tim Perren at 573-996-2153. Your comments will be used to determine the existence and /or extent of impacts to extraordinary circumstances, issues, and concerns, and/or alternatives to the proposed action. Please have your comments in by close of business January 23, 2004.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jerry Bird

JERRY BIRD
District Ranger
Enclosures (maps & table)



PLEASE NOTE: Comments received in response to a solicitation, 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 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 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 by the close of business on October 15, 1997.

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