



It has been just over a year since the last issue of the "Planning Journal" and a lot has happened in that year.

In this issue, we will bring you up to date on what has happened in Forest planning this past year and give you a projection of what will be happening on Mark Twain National Forest in the near future.

Forest Plan Revision Coming Soon

We received approval for Mark Twain National Forest to begin revising its Land And Resource Management Plan. Plan revision was on hold for several years waiting for development of new planning regulations.

We are in the process of evaluating our Forest Plan to determine what needs to be changed. We do this by comparing the existing resource conditions and management situation to the desired future condition described in the Forest Plan, reviewing Forest Plan monitoring reports, and identifying new information, policies and laws that could affect forest management.

Since we work with the Plan on a daily basis, we have an idea, from our perspective, of what is and is not working well. But we also need to know, from your perspective, what is good about the Plan and what needs to be changed and why? Your input is critical to helping us determine what changes are necessary and what actions need to be taken.

Using your input and what our employees tell us, we will develop a proposed action that spells out exactly what issues need to be reviewed in Plan revision.

The proposed action will be published in the Notice of Intent (NOI). The Notice of Intent is a legal notice informing the public that Forest Plan revision has begun and marks the official start of Forest Plan revision.

The Notice of Intent is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register in the spring of 2002.

Once the Notice of Intent is published, the public's

involvement has just started. As we work through Plan revision, we want you to continue to work with us. Only by becoming involved in the revision process can we address your concerns. Watch for additional issues of the Planning Journal and check the Forest web site for current information. (www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain/)

What's Happening on Mark Twain National Forest?

To help keep the public informed about what is happening on the National Forest, we are hosting a series of presentations called "What's Happening on Mark Twain National Forest?"

At these meetings a panel of Forest officers and resource specialists will make presentations providing update on the different aspects of forest resource management including Forest Plan revision. After the presentations, there will be a short question and answer period. Forest officers and resource specialists will be available after the panel for one on one discussion.

The first meeting will be at 7:00 P.M. Thursday January 17, 2002 at the Settle Inn, 3050 Green Mountain Drive, Branson, Missouri.

The second meeting will be at 7:00 P.M. Tuesday January 22, 2002 at Houston Senior Center, 301 South Grand, Houston, Missouri.

The third meeting will be at 7:00 P.M. Tuesday February 5, 2002 at the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Rd., Kirkwood, Missouri.

These meetings are a great opportunity for you to meet and talk with Forest managers and resource specialists. We hope to see you at one of these meetings.

If you are planning to attend one of our meetings and have a special need, such as signing or special amplified hearing equipment, contact: Charles Gill 573-341-7406 or cgill@fs.fed.us at least one week prior to the meeting you will attend.

Forest Plan Amended

While we have been waiting for permission to go forward with plan revision we identified several areas that could not wait for the plan to be revised. Those areas involved threatened and endangered species management, areas of influence for Indiana bat caves, and recreation, heritage resources, and fisheries

The amendment for threatened and endangered species management updated the standard and guidelines for habitat management of gray bats, bald eagles and Indiana bats.

The amendment for the areas of influence for Indiana bat caves changed the management direction for some National Forest lands around Indiana bat hibernacula (caves) and areas where reproductively active females have been found. A reproductively active female bat is one that is pregnant or lactating (nursing young). Forest Supervisor Randy Moore signed these amendments this past year.

The implementation of these two amendments puts the Forest Plan in compliance with and the Reasonable and Prudent Measures and Terms and Conditions of the US Fish & Wildlife Service Biological Opinion (BO) dated June 23, 1999.

The amendment for recreation, heritage resources, and fisheries will be completed soon.

Personnel Changes

There have been some changes in the planning section of Mark Twain National Forest. Rich Hall has been promoted to Planning Staff Officer and Laura Watts is now our Planning Team Leader. Garry Houf, resource specialist for the team, has retired and we are in the process recruiting his replacement.

Let's Hear From You

We need to hear from you. Don't wait for a public meeting or a specific issue or project. Write to:

Forest Supervisor
Attn: Planning
401 Fairgrounds Road
Rolla, Missouri 65401
or e-mail us at:

[mailroom_r9 mark twain@fs.fed.us](mailto:mailroom_r9_mark_twain@fs.fed.us)

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