



Finger Lakes National Forest

Schedule of Proposed Actions

July 1 to September 30, 2024

ABOUT THIS SCHEDULE

The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA) is to provide a status report and short summary of project proposals that are undergoing, or will undergo, environmental analysis by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Forest Service on the Finger Lakes National Forest. Issued quarterly, this SOPA is intended to provide the public with informal notice of proposed activities. The publishing of this SOPA is required by Forest Service regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

An effort will be made to seek public input (called "scoping") on proposed projects based on specific response to this SOPA. Scoping may be in the form of letters, email requests or phone calls that will include more specific information in order for the public to provide meaningful feedback that may be incorporated into the environmental analysis process. When required, legal notices announcing project information will be published in the *Ithaca Journal*, our newspaper of record.

The SOPA lists projects by name, location, and a brief description of the proposal. Also included is the scoping date (which indicates when public participation began or will begin), decision date, and the expected implementation date.

Analysis which supports any decision is documented in either an Environmental Assessment (EA), or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Proposals which have been "categorically excluded" (CE) from documentation in an EA or EIS are supported by project files, which may or may not include a Decision Memo. The analysis and decision documents are kept on file at the Hector Ranger District office and is available for your review.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

Your participation is important. Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on a project mailing list, either write or call using 1) the contacts listed at the end of the SOPA or; 2) the project contact included for the specific project of your interest. A generic statement of interest in all projects based on your review of this SOPA is not specific enough. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into project development.

Walk in Requests: Requests from the public occasionally require that the environmental analysis be completed with a short turnaround time. This means that the analyses may be conducted and decisions made without prior listing in this SOPA. Efforts for public input for such requests will be conducted as applicable in accordance to regulations. An example of a walk-in request would be a short-term special use permit for a recreation event on the forest.

VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE

For more information about planning or projects on the Finger Lakes National Forest you may visit our website at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/gmfl/landmanagement/projects>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on the projects described in this Schedule of Proposed Actions, contact:

John A. Sinclair
Forest Supervisor
Green Mountain & Finger Lakes
National Forests
Mendon, VT
802-747-6700

Jodie Vanselow, District Ranger
Hector Ranger District
Finger Lakes National Forest
5218 State Route 414
Hector, NY 14841
607-546-4470



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Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)
07/01/2024 to 09/30/2024
Finger Lakes 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
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Projects Occurring Nationwide					
Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System EIS *UPDATED*	- Land management planning	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 06/21/2024 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/2024	Expected:01/2025	01/2025	Jennifer McRae 202-791-8488 SM.FS.NFSWONGA@usda.gov
	Description: Amend all land management plans for units of the National Forest System to include consistent direction to conserve and steward existing and recruit future old-growth forest conditions and to monitor their condition across planning areas of NFS.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356				
Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. National Forests and Grasslands (128 units).					
Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A. EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Sarah Shoemaker 907-586-7886 sarahshoemaker@fs.fed.us
	Description: The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes revisions to its regulations at 36 CFR 228, Subpart A governing locatable minerals operations on National Forest System lands.A draft EIS & proposed rule should be available for review/comment in late 2020				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214				
Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. These regulations apply to all NFS lands open to mineral entry under the US mining laws. More Information is available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions .					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Finger Lakes National Forest		Hector Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region
Backbone Shrubland Planting CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2024	Expected:10/2024	04/2025	Dylan Welch 570-529-7115 Dylan.Welch@usda.gov
	Description: Restoring ecosystem resilience and biodiversity by planting native, woody, fruit bearing species in an area currently dominated by invasive species.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65925				
Location: UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Hector.					
Butcher Hill Hedgerow Removal Project CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Completed	Actual: 06/14/2024	06/2024	Gregory Flood 607-546-4470 gregory.flood@usda.gov
	Description: This project includes all aspects of hedgerow removal within the Butcher Hill pasture including removal of overstory trees, understory vegetation, stumps and rocks, and grading of the land.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63338				
Location: UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Seneca. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Lodi.					
Finger Lakes Mountain Biking Enhancement CE	- Recreation management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 09/2024	Expected:12/2024	03/2025	Matthew Lark 479-667-2191 ext 2171 matthew.lark@usda.gov
	Description: This project would enhance mountain biking opportunities by the adoption of some existing user-created trails, and authorized use changes on some existing system trails.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65926				
Location: UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler, Seneca. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Towns of Hector and Lodi.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Finger Lakes National Forest		Hector Ranger District			R9 - Eastern Region
Finger Lakes National Forest Wetland Creation CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 07/2024	Expected:10/2024	10/2025	Dylan Welch 218-663-8060 Dylan.Welch@usda.gov
Description: Creation of small, natural appearing wetlands in multiple locations where natural wetlands may have existed prior to artificial drainage by farmers. These wetlands would be fully functional and provide habitat and protection against flooding.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65927					
Location: UNIT - Hector Ranger District. STATE - New York. COUNTY - Schuyler. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Town of Hector.					

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