



File Code: 1950/2080

Date: July 13, 2009

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ACTION

The Daniel Boone National Forest is facing an ecological crisis. Portions of your Forest, particularly along roads and trails, are being overgrown with plants that are not native to Kentucky. Many of these plants have accidentally been introduced to Kentucky and are now threatening our native ecosystems. For example, Japanese stilt grass spreads under the forest canopy displacing native species that are not able to compete with it. Oriental bittersweet is a shrub with a vine that climbs our native trees choking them to death. These are only two examples of the more than 70 species threatening the Forest.

Every acre lost to these invaders is a loss not only of our native plant species diversity, but also displaces wildlife food sources and habitats. These changes can also disrupt natural cycles and processes such as erosion and sedimentation, water cycles, soil nutrient cycles, and natural fire regimes.

In order to maintain our native ecosystems, the Daniel Boone National Forest proposes to treat non-native invasive plant species infestations on the Forest through a variety of methods such as hand pulling, mowing, controlled burning, or herbicide application to name just a few. The enclosed report fully describes our proposal and treatment methods. It is called a "Scoping Report" because we are seeking, or "scoping", your comments.

This proposal is presented very differently from others you may have reviewed from the Forest Service. It uses adaptive management which is a concept that allows managers to deal with uncertainty. Since new infestations of non-native invasive plants can occur at any time and in any place and since prompt treatment of newly discovered infestations is key to our success in treating them, our proposal uses two decision trees. These decision trees allow managers on the National Forest to act quickly and appropriately. Presentation of these decision trees in our proposed action also allow you to clearly see and comment on how your concerns will be addressed in this analysis.

We welcome your comments. It is also important to note that we are not currently proposing any treatments in our two congressionally designated wilderness areas. If you have feelings, positive or negative about including treatments in these special areas "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," we would appreciate your sharing them with us.



All Comments are due by 14 August 2009

It is best to submit your comments in writing to the Forest Service by:

US Mail to: Daniel Boone National Forest
Attn: David Taylor
1700 Bypass Road
Winchester, Kentucky 40391

Facsimile to: (859) 744-1568

E-Mail, in a common digital format to comments-southern-daniel-boone@fs.fed.us

Oral or hand-delivered comments must be received at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) in Winchester, Kentucky. For submitting oral comments by telephone, call (859) 745-3100 and identify the purpose of your call. The receptionist will connect you with someone who will document your comments.

Please include the following information with your comments:

1. Your name, address (include in any e-mail correspondence), and, if possible, telephone number,
2. The title of the project you are commenting on, and
3. Site-specific facts or comments concerning the proposal along with supporting information that you feel the Forest service should consider.

Your views on this proposal are important to us. If you need more information, or would like to meet with someone to discuss the proposal, feel free to contact David Taylor at 859-745-3100 (e-mail: dtaylor02@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

/s/ William R. Lorenz
WILLIAM R. LORENZ
Acting Forest Supervisor

Enclosure