

Green Mountain National Forest Robert Frost Trail Project

From: Knox, Holly -FS [<mailto:hknox@fs.fed.us>]

Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2013 10:29 AM

Subject: Forest Service Project opening for public comment

In accordance with notice, comment and appeal regulations (36 CFR 215), the USDA Forest Service is providing notice of opportunity to comment on proposed management activities on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) in the Town of Ripton, Addison County, Vermont. This is to notify you that a formal 30-day notice and comment period will soon open for the Robert Frost Trail Improvement Project. Comments will be accepted for a 30-day period following publication of this notice in the Rutland Herald. The publication date in the Rutland Herald is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period-do not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Only those individuals or organizations who submit comments during the formal 30-day notice and comment period may appeal the final decision (36 CFR 215.13). Comments that are most useful are those that are specific or have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. For appeal eligibility, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

A brief project description is available here:

The USDA Forest Service is proposing to construct a raised boardwalk within the existing trail footprint of the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail (Forest Trail (FT) 189) and a portion of the Robert Frost Wetland Trail (FT 190). This new boardwalk will address maintenance and safety concerns by replacing a dilapidated section of existing boardwalk. In addition, a new section of boardwalk will be constructed to replace a section of gravel trail existing within the floodplain that frequently suffers from washouts and erosion and to connect the existing boardwalk already located at the site to the new loop boardwalk. The Robert Frost site, located along Vermont Scenic Byway 125, includes a National Recreation Trail and one of only two designated accessible trails located on the GMNF. There is a need to improve accessibility and reduce the safety hazards and recreation concerns associated with unstable surfaces, a damaged bridge, and increasingly frequent gravel washouts on the trails. In addition, there is a need to mitigate resource concerns that include sedimentation of the stream and wetland complex resulting from the frequently occurring trail washouts within the graveled trail portions. The deck and curb on the boardwalk and bridge would be constructed of composite material (such as Trex decking) and would be designed to meet accessibility guidelines for width. The boardwalk support structure would be constructed of galvanized/painted steel and would be supported by helical pier anchors.

Dan McKinley, Acting District Ranger for Rochester and Middlebury Ranger Districts, is the Responsible Official for this project. Additional information regarding the proposal can be obtained from Holly Knox, Rochester Ranger District, 99 Ranger Road, Rochester, VT 05767, (802) 767-4261 ext. 530 or email at hknox@fs.fed.us.

Postal, hand-delivered, oral, electronic and facsimile comments on the proposal will be accepted at the Rochester Ranger District Office (listed above). The office hours for those submitting oral or hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding

holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), Word (.doc or .docx) or Portable Document Format (.pdf) to comments-eastern-green-mt-finger-lakes-rochester@fs.fed.us.

Thank you for your interest in the Green Mountain National Forest,

Holly

hollyknox

Recreation and Trail Coordinator

Rochester and Middlebury Ranger Districts

Green Mountain National Forest

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