

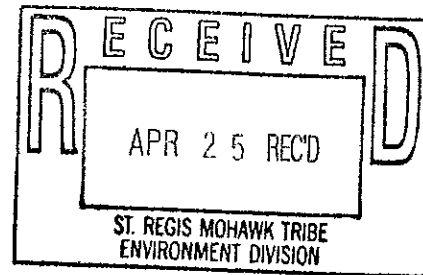


United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Eastern Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

Trust Services – Branch of Forestry

APR 12 2012



Honorable Mark Garrow
Honorable Randy Hart
Honorable Ronald W. LaFrance, Jr.
Chiefs, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, New York 13655

Dear Chiefs:

Enclosed are two copies of the approved Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environmental Assessment (EA), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and the Notice of Availability. The Tribe is to be commended for its desire to provide for sound management of its forestlands. We wish to thank you and the Tribal Council for the cooperation and assistance provided in developing these documents. Also, please convey our appreciation to Mr. Les Benedict, Assistant Director, Environment Division, for his assistance.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that the Notice of Availability for the EA and FONSI be posted for 30 days. Please post it in a public location, such as the Tribal Office.

If there are any questions, please contact either Larry Mahler, Forester, at (615) 564-6613, or Scott Meneely, Regional Forester, at (615) 564-6760.

Sincerely,

Director, Eastern Region

ACTING

Enclosures



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

AGENCY: BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

ACTION: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA)

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Eastern Regional Office has made a determination of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed federal action of implementing a forest management plan on the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's lands. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Forest Management Plan, dated April 2012, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability (NOA), that the EA and FONSI for the proposed federal action of approving the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Forest Management Plan (FMP) are available for public review. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe has written and adopted the above referenced EA dated April 2012. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EA. Based on the EA, it has been determined that the action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This NOA is to be posted for 30 days from the date received by the Tribe. The EA and FONSI will be available for review at the St. Regis Mohawk Environment Division Office, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, New York 13655. Copies may also be obtained from the BIA, Eastern Regional Office, Branch of Forestry, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, Tennessee 37214.

APPEALS: "Any person who may be adversely affected by this decision may appeal the decision to: Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, Tennessee 37214 in accordance with the regulations set forth at 25 CFR Part 2. The notice of appeal must be signed and mailed within thirty days of the date of this decision. The notice should clearly identify the decision being appealed, and a copy of the decision should be attached to the notice of appeal. Copies of the notice must be sent to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, MS 4140-MIB, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, as well as to my office and to all other interested parties known to the person appealing the decision. The notice of appeal to the Regional Director must also certify that the appealing party sent copies to each of these parties. The Regional Director will notify an appealing party of further appeal procedures. If no appeal is timely filed, this decision will become final for the Department of the Interior.

For further information please contact Scott Meneely, Regional Forester, or Larry Mahler, Forester, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6500.



Director, Eastern Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs

ACTING

APR 12 2012

Date



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Eastern Regional Office

545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700

Nashville, TN 37214

Trust Services – Branch of Forestry

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
For
ST. REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN
AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

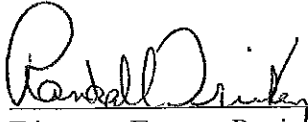
The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Forest Management Plan. Based on this Environmental Assessment (EA), it has been determined that the selected alternative, Alternative (AMA) 2, would not have significant effects on the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

AMA 2 proposes to implement an FMP that would provide for custodial management of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's 6,860 acres of forest land. This custodial forest management plan allows for suppression of wildfires, emergency fire stabilization and rehabilitation activities, protection of the forest from insect and disease outbreaks, protection from and prosecution of timber and fire trespass, and free use harvest of minor forest products by tribal members without a permit. Commercial timber harvest, use of prescribed fire, and forest development activities would not be permitted.

Under AMA 2 since there would be no timber sales, ground disturbing activities would not occur. Therefore, there would be no adverse impacts to soils (page 38). Likewise, there would be no adverse effects to water resources (page 39) or air quality (page 40). Forest vegetation would be allowed to grow generally undisturbed by forest management activities (page 43). Wildlife would be affected indirectly. As the forest grows and develops undisturbed over time there will be changes in its composition and structure which will influence the kinds of food and cover available to wildlife. Consequently, the composition of the wildlife community will change in accordance with developmental changes of the forest. Under AMA 2, there would be no actions that would adversely affect federally listed threatened and endangered species (page 43). Under AMA 2, there would be no effects on any historic sites, cultural or archeological sites.

Cumulative effects to soils and water resources may result from wildfire suppression efforts, timber trespass activities, free use harvesting by tribal members, or protection from insects and diseases (page 52).

Mitigation measures for actions undertaken by the implementation of Alternative 2 are discussed on pages 54 through 58 of the EA.



ACTING Director, Eastern Region

APR 12 2012

Date