

The Public is Invited to Attend Meetings and Comment on the Springfield Plateau Regional Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have issued a Draft Springfield Plateau Regional Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for public review and comment. The plan describes options for restoring injured natural resources in the Springfield Plateau ecoregion. The Springfield Plateau lies in the western Ozark Highlands of southwestern Missouri. It comprises the major portions of Cedar, Dade, Jasper, Newton, Lawrence, and Green Counties, portions of Polk, Webster, Christian, and Barry Counties and minor portions of St. Clair, Hickory, Barton, McDonald, Stone, and Douglas Counties.

The objective of the plan is to compensate the public, through environmental restoration, for losses of natural resources that have been injured by releases of hazardous substances into the environment. Natural resource funds received must be used to restore, rehabilitate, replace and/or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resources.

Public Meetings

Public meetings are scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on:

- Jan. 25 at the Billingsley Student Center, 3950 East Newman Road, Missouri Southern State University, Joplin
- Jan. 26 at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery, 520 Park Street, Neosho
- Jan. 30 at the Library Center, 4653 S. Campbell Ave., Springfield

The meeting will focus on the plan and comments and questions the public may have with regard to the plan's implementation. The public meetings are a part of an ongoing effort by the department and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to ensure the public has input into restoration planning of injured natural resources. People requiring special services or accommodations to attend the meeting can make arrangements by calling Ramona Huckstep within 72 hours at 800-361-4827 or 573-522-1540. You can also call Huckstep if you have any questions regarding the public meetings. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals may reach Huckstep through Relay Missouri at 800-735-2966.

Public Comment

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service invites the public to review this plan. Written comments are encouraged and must be postmarked no later than Feb. 24, 2012. Comments and questions about the plan or requests for copies of the plan can be directed to:

Frances Klahr, Natural Resource Damages Coordinator
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
(573) 522-1347
Frances.klahr@dnr.mo.gov

John Weber, Restoration Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
101 Park DeVillie Dr. Suite A
Columbia, MO 65203
(573) 234-2132 (x177)
John_S_Weber@fws.gov

Copies of the Plan

Copies of the plan can be viewed online at <http://dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/sfund/nrda.htm> or www.fws.gov/midwest/nrda/motristate/.

In addition to obtaining a personal copy of the document at the addresses listed above, copies will also be available for on-site review at:

- Joplin Public Library, 300 S. Main Street, Joplin, Missouri; Neosho Public Library, 201 W. Spring Street, Neosho, Missouri
- Springfield Public Library, 4653 S. Campbell Ave, Springfield, Missouri
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 101 Park DeVille Dr. Suite A, Columbia, Missouri
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1730 E. Elm St., Jefferson City, Missouri.

Please feel free to forward on this information to others who might be interested in participating in this meeting or public comment period.

Thank you.

Ramona Huckstep, M.S., M.P.A.
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Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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