

File Code: 5430; 1950

Date: August 11, 2015

Dear interested individuals, governments and organizations,

Thank you for submitting scoping comments on the School Trust Land Exchange during the February-May 2015 scoping period for this project. We received over 1,600 comment letters from a wide variety of individuals, organizations, and governments, and hosted five open houses. I very much appreciate your input and participation in this project.

Upon review of your scoping comments, I have decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. We anticipate that a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS will be published in the Federal Register on August 28, 2015. A copy of the Notice of Intent and other information on the project is at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/superior/projects and navigate to the School Trust Land Exchange webpage. The scoping information on the webpage is the same as that available during the February-May 2015 scoping period.

The scoping comments we already received during the February-May 2015 scoping period are being considered as part of the project record and provide standing to object per requirements in the Forest Service objection regulations at 36 CFR 218. If you have any additional scoping comments on the School Trust Land Exchange, please submit them by September 30, 2015. The Notice of Intent provides information on how to submit scoping comments.

The next step in the environmental review process for the School Trust Land Exchange will be the publication of a Draft EIS, anticipated for early 2016. Upon publication of the Draft EIS, we will notify you and you will have an opportunity to comment on the document.

Again, I appreciate your interest and participation in this project. If you have any questions, please contact Peter Taylor at prtaylor@fs.fed.us or (218) 626-4368.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brenda Halter

BRENDA HALTER
Forest Supervisor

