



LEGAL NOTICE

The Shawnee National Forest invites the public to an open house to evaluate the proposed burning of tornado-damaged areas. The open house is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at the Vancil Community Center in Bowers Park, Ava, Illinois. The open house is scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. and will conclude around 7:00 p.m.

Shawnee National Forest personnel will give an informational presentation and remain available to answer questions and discuss and learn more about a Shawnee National Forest proposal to conduct prescribed burns on approximately 5400 acres of National Forest and private land. The proposed project areas are north of State Highway 3, southwest of Kinkaid Lake and east of Logan Hollow Road.

The Shawnee National Forest seeks to collaborate with local landowners to restore healthy ecosystems and to reduce excess dead wood caused, in part, by the September 2006 tornado, that resulted in scattered damage on both private and public land. Prescribed burning will restore forested conditions and consume vegetation that could fuel wildfires. The project area would be subdivided into smaller burn units to aid in project implementation. A number of precautions will be taken before, during and after the burns to ensure public safety and minimize negative impacts to private property, recreational opportunities and natural and cultural resources.

Public comment on this proposal will be accepted until February 1, 2008.

To reach Bowers Park from Illinois Route 4 turn south on S. 3rd Street (Ava Road) then turn left into Bowers Park. For further information, please contact Scott Crist, Project Leader, at (618) 687-1731 or Dan Lentz, District Ranger, at (618) 833-8576.