

PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD OPENS FOR NEW SHADY LAKE RECREATION AREA ENTRANCE ROAD

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, is seeking public comment on the proposed construction of a new entrance road to the Shady Lake Recreation Area in the Ouachita National Forest. The new entrance road would follow an existing gravel service road for approximately 1.2 miles. The entrance road would then follow new alignment for approximately 0.4 miles, and would tie into Caddo Road approximately 0.7 miles south of the Recreation Area. The proposed improvements are needed to reduce the potential for conflicts between private landowners and visitors to the Recreation Area.

The public scoping comment period will open on March 9, 2009 and close on April 7, 2009. During the 30-day public scoping period, all interested persons will be given the opportunity to review and provide comments on the proposed highway improvements. Public scoping is part of the process to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Once the EA has been completed, it will be released for a 30-day public comment period.

Additional information regarding the proposed improvements can be found at www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects-public-notice.aspx. Written comments may be submitted by mail to Lisa Landers, FHWA Environmental Protection Specialist, 21400 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling, VA 20166; or by email to Lisa.Landers@fhwa.dot.gov. To ensure that your comments are included in the process, they must be entered or post-marked by April 7, 2009. For more information, please contact Lisa Landers at (817) 978-0571.