



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
502 EIGHTH STREET
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701-2070

May 23, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Planning, Programs and Project Management Division
Project Management Branch

Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Huntington District is responsible for the environmental investigation and cleanup programs in the Dolly Sods Region, which is located between Canaan Valley and Seneca Rocks within the Monongahela National Forest in Grant, Randolph and Tucker counties of West Virginia.

The Dolly Sods Region offers some of the best hiking opportunities in the eastern United States. During 1943-44, however, the region was part of the West Virginia Maneuver Area, and at that time offered the U.S. Department of the Army an opportunity to conduct artillery and mortar practice as training for World War II. Although The Army conducted ordnance clearances immediately following the war, potential hazards still exist in the Dolly Sods Region.

To further reduce the risk posed by unexploded ordnance (UXO) to the public, the USACE cleared all Dolly Sods Region designated trails and inventoried campsites of ordnance during 1997-98. Since 1998, no UXO has been discovered along these designated trails or at inventoried campsites, but UXO has been found in the area.

To promote public awareness of UXO in the Dolly Sods Region, a partnership agreement has been established by the USACE Huntington District, U.S. Forest Service, West Virginia Division of Forestry, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Alabama. These agencies will make visitors and local residents aware of the risks to human health and the environment from the hazards of the unexploded ordnance resulting from past Department of Defense operations in this area.

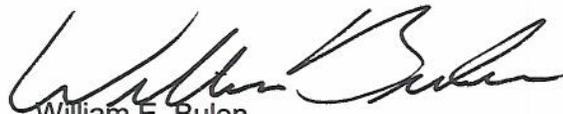
One of the most important tools developed during 2004 and 2005 is a detailed map of the Dolly Sods Region which includes hiking trails that were cleared of UXO. It is important to note that until now there was not a current detailed map of the area showing trails. Such a map is of great importance to visitors of the area. It will ensure that visitors know which areas have been cleared. Printable maps of the area will be posted on the new USACE Dolly Sods website (being developed during 2005), and will be located within the Huntington District's website <http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil>. The maps include important information such as the "3 Important Rules of UXO Safety" which are "Spot, Walk Away and Call." Hard copies of these maps have been printed, and will be made available to the public at visitor centers, campgrounds, and information portals in 2005.

Another step towards UXO education includes a new brochure created and distributed to interested parties. Two variations of the brochure were produced during 2004, and finalized during 2005. A children's version includes the character "Wally the Woodchuck," who was specifically created to convey the UXO safety message to children. The adult version includes the same important safety message but in a more straight-forward and mature manner.

The key message is safety, and to promote that message, copies of both the children's and adult's brochures are included for your distribution. The new trail maps will be delivered to you by separate correspondence.

If you have questions regarding the Dolly Sods Region, please call Richard Meadows, Project Manager, at 304-399-5388 or call 800-822-8413.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Bulen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "B".

William E. Bulen
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosures