

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
DOLLY SODS NORTH ORDNANCE REMOVAL PROJECT**

1. I have conducted an environmental assessment, in the overall public interest concerning implementation of the Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project. The purpose of this project is to reduce the risk to the public, wildlife, and to the environment from the uncontrolled detonation of unexploded ordnance.

The project is authorized as part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) as described in Section 160, Environmental Restoration of Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). One of the goals of this program is the "correction of other environmental damage (such as detection and disposal of unexploded ordnance) which creates an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or the environment." The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) was designated as the executive agent for the Department of Defense in implementing the program. The program for disposal of unexploded ordnance is administered by the Ordnance and Technical Program Division of the USACOE, Huntsville Division, Huntsville, Alabama. The Environmental Assessment is administered by the Huntington District, USACOE, Huntington, West Virginia.

2. An assessment was conducted by the Huntington District to evaluate the potential environmental, cultural, and social well-being impacts of the proposed ordnance removal action within Dolly Sods North. Consideration was given to public safety, environmental effects, cultural effects, area use and preservation, local public opinion, and compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. The proposed alternative actions and mitigation plans were evaluated regarding potential impacts, either beneficial or adverse. The project was also reviewed to confirm that it met the needs of the public for which it was proposed.

3. Several alternatives were considered in the very early stages of the project, such as searching and clearing the entire area, but they have been deemed too aggressive. For the last several months, the four alternatives listed below have been considered by the Forest Service (FS), the managers of Dolly Sods North and the USACOE to be appropriate for the area.

Alternative 1 - Clearing travelways and Forest Service-designated trails as well as publicly used areas such as the area around Blackbird Knob (216.3 acres), using motorized vehicles and other techniques to reduce cost.



Alternative 2 - (Preferred alternative) - Clearing travelways and Forest Service-designated trails as well as publically used areas such as areas surrounding Blackbird Knob (216.3 acres), following wilderness techniques as defined for ordnance removal at Dolly Sods Wilderness.

Alternative 3 - Clearing trails, travelways and Forest Service-designated trails only (114.3 acres) following wilderness techniques as defined for ordnance removal at Dolly Sods Wilderness.

Alternative 4 - No Action - No search for ordnance; if users of Dolly Sods find ordnance, it is disposed of when found. (This practice is currently followed.)

Under both alternatives 1 and 2, the USACOE will search and remove ordnance from areas around three hunting cabins and a trailer dump site. Plans call for the FS to remediate the areas. The FS planned to utilize motorized vehicles to carry equipment, supplies and personnel to each site, and to carry debris off the site for disposal in an approved landfill. During two public information meetings held to apprise stakeholders and cooperating agencies about the plan, members of the public voiced concerns about the impacts of motorized vehicles using travelways, as well as their effect on future use designation for the area. As a result of this concern, the FS will perform a NEPA review to assess the impacts of use of motorized vehicles. That review will be managed by the Cheat/Potomac District Ranger and should be completed by late 1997. The USACOE will not search and clear areas around the hunting cabins or trailer dump site until the NEPA review has been completed and concerns related to use of motorized vehicles have been resolved.

4. An evaluation of the impacts of the selected alternative produced the following conclusions:

a. Environmental Considerations. The Huntington District has taken reasonable measures to assemble and present the known or foreseeable environmental impacts of the project. The Environmental Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Army Regulations (AR) 200-2. The environmental considerations include potential impacts in the following issue areas.

1. botanical resource,
2. cultural resources,
3. environmental resources, air quality, water quality, soils, noise,
4. public safety
5. socioeconomic resources, and
6. zoological/wildlife resources.

Detailed procedures have been developed to mitigate all potentially adverse effects of the project. As a result, it has been concluded by experts contributing to the Environmental Assessment that adverse effects resulting from project implementation will be insignificant. Furthermore, in a review by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, it is concluded that "... the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect" endangered, threatened, and sensitive species.

b. Social Well-Being Considerations. Analyses of cultural, social, and economic issues were conducted. The project will have a positive impact on cultural resources, as a survey has been conducted to identify potential sites of significance prior to removal of ordnance, and sites identified during ordnance removal will be evaluated by a trained cultural resources Forest Service representative. Such an evaluation would not be undertaken if the project were not to occur.

The ordnance removal project represents a positive impact. Ordnance presents a significant risk to public safety. Its presence and potential for harm are not readily recognizable by the public. Clearance of ordnance from trails and campsites will ensure that Dolly Sods North users will have a safer area. Access to one of the most popular areas in the east will be maintained.

From an economic perspective, the project will have no short-term impact. In the longer term, the ordnance removal project will have a positive economic impact. With ordnance removed from trails and campsites, the United States Forest Service will be able to allocate its maintenance funds in a fashion that would otherwise not be possible.

For example, with ordnance removed from trails and campsites, crews will be able to work on trail maintenance projects without attempting to locate ordnance first. Work will proceed more quickly, and therefore, limited funds for such activities will be better utilized.

c. Coordination With Resource Agencies. In accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Endangered Species Act, there has been coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Other agencies consulted include the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Dolly Sods North is part of the Monongahela National Forest. It is managed by the USDA Forest Service. Since the inception of the project in 1991, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has closely coordinated all activities with responsible Forest Service officials.

d. Other Pertinent Compliance. No prime or unique farmland under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) would be involved. The project is also in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, (Section 106 - 36 CFR 800), Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), and Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands).

e. Other Public Interest Considerations. No opposition to the ordnance removal project has been expressed by the state or local governments or organized environmental groups, and there are no unresolved issues regarding the implementation of the project.

5. I find the Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project has been planned in accordance with current authorization as described in the Environmental Assessment. The project is consonant with national policy, statutes, and administrative directives. This determination is based on thorough analysis and evaluation of the project and alternative courses of action. In conclusion, I find the proposed Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the human and/or natural environment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

DANA ROBERTSON  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

CONCURRENCE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

CHARLES L. MYERS  
Supervisor  
Monongahela National Forest

## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Huntington District, to evaluate the potential impacts of ordnance removal from an area known as Dolly Sods North. Dolly Sods North is an area recently acquired by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) and is located north of and adjacent to the Dolly Sods Wilderness. It is proposed that this action be carried out in concert with ordnance removal at the Wilderness area.

Dolly Sods North is part of the Monongahela National Forest. Dolly Sods North has not been assigned a management prescription or use designation by the FS. Currently the FS allows recreational use of Dolly Sods North (hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and other use consistent with practices appropriate for the Monongahela National Forest), but does not promote such use, and has not designated the area for such use. It is managed by the FS as part of its Potomac Ranger District, by the ranger of the Cheat/Potomac Districts, at Parsons and Petersburg, WV. The 6,168.5-acre tract is located almost wholly in Tucker County in West Virginia (a very small portion along the eastern edge is in Grant County). The area is north of and adjacent to the 10,215-acre Dolly Sods Wilderness.

Both tracts comprised part of the 2,181,000-acre West Virginia Maneuver Area during World War II. The area was used to train soldiers to fire artillery and mortars. Even though the area was searched and cleared by military explosive ordnance teams after the war, at least 21 pieces of ordnance have been found in both areas in recent years. One individual has been severely wounded and several near misses have occurred (except for the early instance, ordnance found has not exploded). The latest incident occurred in 1996, when a piece of live ordnance was found about 300 feet from Bear Rocks parking lot, a popular visitors' area in Dolly Sods North. Unexploded munitions present an imminent and present danger to the public welfare. Therefore, the Department of Defense (DOD) intends to search for and remove unexploded ordnance. The COE has been designated as the organization responsible for environmental restoration of formerly used defense sites, such as Dolly Sods North and Dolly Sods Wilderness.

In 1995 a decision was made that removal of unexploded ordnance from Dolly Sods Wilderness was necessary. An EA was completed, and work was scheduled for 1996-97. Recently, additional funding became available to extend the ordnance removal activity to include Dolly Sods North. It is proposed that this action be carried out following ordnance removal at the Dolly Sods Wilderness. The COE plans to follow the same work plan that was developed for Dolly Sods Wilderness.

The information presented in the "Dolly Sods Wilderness Ordnance Removal Project Environmental Assessment-Final," September 8, 1995, also applies to Dolly Sods North. Since the areas are similar in climate, terrain and ecosystems, the environmental consequences and mitigation activities will be similar. As noted by the FS Potomac District Ranger, "We believe that the effects that were disclosed in the EA that was written for the Dolly Sods Wilderness proposal are accurate predictions and descriptions of effects that would occur for similar alternatives in Dolly Sods North." As a result, information in this EA frequently refers to that presented in the EA for Dolly Sods Wilderness. Consideration is given to public safety, environmental effects, local public opinion, and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations. The proposed alternative actions and mitigation plans are evaluated regarding potential environmental impacts, either beneficial or adverse.

### **1.2 Purpose of the Project**

Unexploded munitions present an imminent and present danger to the public welfare. Therefore, the DOD, through the COE, intends to remove unexploded ordnance. The COE has been designated as the organization

responsible for environmental restoration of formerly used defense sites, such as Dolly Sods North and Dolly Sods Wilderness. This is part of an ongoing, nationwide program.

### **1.3 Alternatives**

A feasibility study was conducted in 1991 to characterize the nature and extent of ordnance present. Approximately 281 acres in the old West Virginia Maneuver Area considered most likely to have been used as targets or to contain undershots or overshots were searched. (All of the 1991 search areas were within Dolly Sods Wilderness.) In that study a surface sweep (within 6 inches of the surface) was conducted on the 281 acres; seven rounds of unexploded ordnance were found. A subsurface sweep (deeper than 6 inches below the surface) was conducted on 10.5 acres; six rounds were unearthed. A total of 13 rounds of ordnance were found.

Ordnance found included 57-mm armor piercing, 60-mm high explosive, and 81-mm white phosphorus rounds. Records indicate that 105-mm and 155-mm artillery shells were fired in the area so there is a reasonable expectation that they may also be present.

Based on findings from the feasibility study, the DOD determined that it is an unacceptable risk to allow the area to remain as potentially dangerous sites. The COE has attempted to determine the level of remediation which is appropriate for the ordnance contamination and to identify the locations where this remediation would be of the greatest benefit.

Several alternatives were considered in the very early stages of the project, such as searching and clearing the entire area, but they have been deemed too aggressive. For the last several months, the four alternatives listed below have been considered by the managers (the FS) of Dolly Sods North and the COE to be appropriate for the area.

- Alternative 1-Clearing travelways and Forest Service-designated trails as well as publicly used areas such as the area around Blackbird Knob (216.3 acres), using motorized vehicles and other techniques to reduce costs:
  - Searching 20 feet on each side of 23 miles of old roads and travelways and FS-designated hiking trails, to a depth of 1 foot, and detonating in place any ordnance found (114.3 acres).
  - Searching the area around Blackbird Knob (a known target area) to a depth of 1 foot and detonating in place any ordnance found (98.9 acres).
  - Searching 75 FS-inventoried campsites to a depth of 4 feet and detonating in place any ordnance found (1.1 acres).
  - Searching the area around three hunting cabins to a depth of 4 feet and detonating in place any ordnance found (1.5 acres). Removing hunting cabins and restoring the area to natural condition. (This would be performed pending National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review by the FS to assess environmental impacts.)
  - Searching an old trailer dump site to a depth of 4 feet and detonating in place any ordnance found (0.5 acre). Removing trash and other materials and restoring the area to natural condition. (This would be performed pending NEPA review by the FS to assess environmental impacts.)
  - Accessing areas to be searched and transporting equipment and materials by using motorized vehicles on travelways, and using other motorized equipment as appropriate, such as handtools.

- Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative)-Clearing travelways and Forest Service-designated trails as well as publicly used areas such as areas surrounding Blackbird Knob (216.3 acres), following wilderness techniques as defined for ordnance removal at Dolly Sods Wilderness:
  - Searching 20 feet on each side of 23 miles of old roads and travelways, and FS-designated hiking trails, to a depth of 1 foot, and detonating in place any ordnance found (114.3 acres).
  - Searching the area around Blackbird Knob (a known target area) to a depth of 1 foot and detonating in place any ordnance found (98.9 acres).
  - Searching 75 FS-inventoried campsites to a depth of 4 feet and detonating in place any ordnance found (1.1 acres).
  - Searching the area around three hunting cabins to a depth of 4 feet and detonating in place any ordnance found (1.5 acres). Removing hunting cabins and restoring the area to natural condition. (This would be performed pending NEPA review by the FS to assess environmental impacts.)
  - Searching an old trailer dump site to a depth of 4 feet and detonating in place any ordnance found (0.5 acre). Removing trash and other materials and restoring the area to natural condition. (This would be performed pending NEPA review by the FS to assess environmental impacts.)
  - Completing all work following plans and procedures developed for ordnance removal at Dolly Sods Wilderness, including special procedures for protection of zoological, botanical, and cultural, and recreation resources. No motorized vehicles or equipment would be used during removal activities. This is the preferred alternative.
- Alternative 3-Clearing trails, travelways and Forest Service-designated trails only (114.3 acres), following wilderness techniques as defined for ordnance removal at Dolly Sods Wilderness:
  - Searching 20 feet on each side of old roads and travelways and FS-designated hiking trails, to a depth of 1 foot, and detonating in place any ordnance found. There would be no search of Blackbird Knob, campsites, the three hunting cabin sites or the trailer dump site.
  - Completing all work following plans and procedures developed for ordnance removal at Dolly Sods Wilderness, including special procedures for protection of zoological, botanical, and cultural and recreation resources. No motorized vehicles or equipment would be used.
- Alternative 4-ŕ Action:
  - No search for ordnance; if users of Dolly Sods North find ordnance, it is disposed of when found. (This practice is currently followed.)

Under both alternatives 1 and 2, the COE will search and remove ordnance from areas around three hunting cabins and a trailer dump site. Plans call for the FS to remediate the areas. The FS planned to utilize motorized vehicles to carry equipment, supplies and personnel to each site, and to carry debris off the site for disposal in an approved landfill. During two public information meetings held to apprise stakeholders and cooperating agencies about the plan, members of the public voiced concerns about the impacts of motorized vehicle use on travelways, as well as on future use designation for the area. As a result of this concern, the FS will perform a NEPA review to assess the impacts of use of motorized vehicles. That review will be managed by the Cheat/Potomac District Ranger and should be completed by late 1997. The COE will not search and clear

areas around the hunting cabins or trailer dump site until the NEPA review has been completed and concerns related to use of motorized vehicles have been resolved.

#### **1.4 Work Plan for the Preferred Alternative**

Ordnance removal at Dolly Sods North is scheduled for the autumn of 1997. Work will be conducted by unexploded ordnance (UXO) specialists under contract to the COE. The detailed work plan for ordnance removal has been approved. (Although written for the Dolly Sods Wilderness area, the same work plan will be used during any ordnance removal in Dolly Sods North.) The FS provided input to the plan regarding issues related to forest management and Wilderness area management practices. The FS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS), the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR), and the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) provided input related to botanical and zoological species of concern and environmental protection issues. The "Action Memorandum; Former West Virginia Maneuver Area Near Davis, West Virginia" (The Work Plan) is included as Appendix III.

Dolly Sods North does not have an extensive or maintained trail system and supports only a small number of campsites. The Blackbird Knob Trail in the southern portion of Dolly Sods North is the best-known trail, and a campsite near Red Creek is well-used. There is a system of old, unmaintained four-wheel drive roads in the central and northern portion of the area; they are used by hikers and mountain bikers and, occasionally, by horseback riders.

Teams of experienced UXO specialists will sweep areas using hand-held magnetometers. Positive signals considered to be potential ordnance will be excavated by hand, to a depth of 1 foot on trails and at Blackbird Knob, and to 4 feet at campsites, and around the hunting cabins, and at the trailer dump site. (Search of the hunting cabins and the trailer dump site would be performed pending NEPA review by the FS to assess environmental impacts.) When specialists believe ordnance may be present, procedures will be followed to protect threatened or endangered species or historic or prehistoric artifacts. The endangered Cheat Mountain salamander is a federally listed endangered zoological species which may exist at Dolly Sods North. To protect them, the UXO specialists will be trained to recognize their habitat and to search for and capture them. If any salamanders are found, they will be carefully removed, along with associated leaf litter and top soil, before any excavation.

After excavating where metal is indicated, if no ordnance is found, any metal fragments will be returned to the hole, it will be filled with excavated material and tamped by foot. Litter from the excavated area will be saved and replaced to minimize disturbance to zoological species. If Cheat Mountain salamanders have been found and removed before excavation, after the excavation is refilled or ordnance is detonated, salamanders and associated ground litter will be returned to the original location.

If ordnance is found, in most cases it will be detonated in place. If found in waterways, it will be moved prior to detonation, unless considered unsafe. Based upon location, the ordnance may be covered with earth or sandbags to dampen the noise and disturbance of earth. Noise will be limited to daylight hours. The size of the crater created by the explosion will depend on the surrounding material, amount of cover material, and size of the ordnance. Treatment of the crater following explosion of the ordnance will be a function of its size, location and the ecosystem. It may be filled with local materials, and covered with mulch and leaves. It may be left as is. In areas close to streams where erosion may result, a sediment filter will be placed to capture silt prior to entry into streams. From experience gained in the 1991 feasibility study, it is anticipated that few craters will be noticeable.

Pending completion of a NEPA review to assess impacts, the FS may include in the project the search and removal of ordnance from areas around three hunting cabins and a trailer dump site. Use of motorized vehicles or equipment by the FS to remediate the areas will be determined as part of the NEPA review. If approved, equipment use will be limited to that required for demolition of three hunting cabins and for removal of waste materials from the hunting cabins and trailer dump site to an approved landfill. Some burning of trash and building materials at the demolition sites may occur if considered safe by UXO experts.

To minimize the impact of the work on recreational users, work will be discontinued during times of high use of Dolly Sods North, such as weekends, major holidays and firearms deer hunting season, if work continues that long. Due to adverse weather conditions, work cannot be accomplished in winter months. It is anticipated that work will be completed during summer and autumn of 1997. Every effort will be made to complete the project as quickly as possible.

In addition to COE representatives, the FS will monitor quality control to assure protection of resources. An individual knowledgeable about the Dolly Sods North area will be assigned to represent the FS's management philosophy while providing technical assistance to the COE and UXO professionals as necessary.

**1.5 Adverse Impacts of Selected Alternative/Mitigation Action**

Adverse impacts will be the same as those identified in the EA for Dolly Sods Wilderness, and agreed upon by the FS, the F&WS, other regulatory agencies and citizens' groups. A good model of potential adverse impacts resulting from ordnance remediation is the Engineering Report of the 1991 feasibility study. The study was done in the same area, during the same season, following the same procedures. Impacts should be similar in nature, but fewer, due to the reduced area (216 acres for Dolly Sods North versus 281 acres in Dolly Sods Wilderness, as detailed in the feasibility study). Impacts will be the result of a walk-through and search of 216 acres of surface, excavation to search for ordnance and detonation of any ordnance found.

Neither the COE nor the FS conducted a formal analysis of the impacts from the 1991 feasibility study. However, the FS reported "minor impacts and disturbances to the vegetation and soils." There was no measurable change to air quality or water quality.

A summary of environmental impacts and associated mitigation plans is presented in Table 1-1. A significant effort was invested by citizens' groups, wilderness experts, nationally renowned botanical and zoological experts, scientists and engineers during the development of the EA for Dolly Sods Wilderness to identify potential adverse effects of ordnance removal activities and to develop credible plans to mitigate all adverse impacts. For each adverse impact, a specific mitigation plan has been developed by the COE working in cooperation with the FS and the F&WS. These plans will apply to work at Dolly Sods North as well.

<b>TABLE I-1</b> <b>Summary of Environmental Consequences and Associated Mitigation</b> <b>for Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative)</b>		
<b>Resource</b>	<b>Action and Effect</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>
Botanical	Walk through 216 acres*; disturb vegetation through excavation and detonation (will not adversely impact threatened or endangered species, or species of concern); vegetation will return within 1 year. No brush cutting except to access ordnance. No significant impact.	In areas in which ordnance is found, evaluate for threatened or endangered species or species of concern. This will contribute to scientific database; a positive impact.  Transplant sensitive species to suitable habitat or reseed with local indigenous species or commercial seed mixtures, as directed by the FS. Species will be appropriate for site.

<p>Zoological/Wildlife</p>	<p>Walk through 216 acres*; mobile species will move during project, then return. Immobile species may suffer incidental taking. No short-term or long-term effects on wildlife.</p>	<p>In areas in which ordnance is found, evaluate for threatened, endangered, or species of concern. This will contribute to scientific database, a positive impact.</p> <p>Collect and hold Cheat Mountain salamander prior to excavation and detonation, then replace.</p> <p>During detonation of ordnance, if found in the habitat of the Virginia northern flying squirrel, noise-deadening techniques will be used.</p>
<p>Recreation</p>	<p>Walk through 216 acres*; no visual impact. Use of individual trails and surrounding areas in a 1,000-foot radius will be limited for recreation for up to 3 months during ordnance removal. Ordnance removal crews will be present during autumn months, periods of heavy use.</p> <p>Long-term public safety will be improved.</p> <p>Evidence of human use (ordnance) will be removed. This will be a positive impact.</p> <p>New topographic maps will be created by the Corps of Engineers based on detailed aerial photography of the Wilderness area and the area to the north. These maps will be available to users; a positive impact.</p>	<p>Disturbed areas will be remediated for esthetics. Visitors to Dolly Sods North will be provided with information regarding alternative use areas.</p> <p>Work will be discontinued during heaviest use periods, including holiday weekends and firearms deer hunting season.</p>

TABLE 1-1 (Continued) Summary of Environmental Consequences and Associated Mitigation		
Resource	Action and Effect	Mitigation Measures
Wetlands	No waterways will be altered. Ordnance found and detonated in wetlands may cause craters to be formed; original configuration will return within 2 years.	Ordnance found in waterways will be removed then detonated, unless deemed unsafe.
Environmental air/water/soils/noise	No air emissions.  No aqueous or solid waste emissions.  If ordnance is located in waterways, it will be moved and detonated away from stream. Noise from detonations of ordnance may be heard. All equipment is noise-free, so no contribution to ambient noise will be made. No significant impact.	Soil erosion and stream sedimentation will be controlled through proven techniques.  Noise will be dampened by covering ordnance with sandbags. Work hours will be limited to daylight, 8 to 10 hours per day.
Cultural	Project will include survey to document locations of cultural resources. Survey will contribute to archaeological database, a positive impact.	Archaeologist to conduct complete literature review of historic logging activities and develop comparative file to evaluate potential significance of historic remains; on-site investigation by a trained archaeologist to identify cultural remains as necessary.
Socioeconomic	Use levels of Dolly Sods North may decline for up to 3 months, during ordnance removal. However, UXO work crews will contribute to area economy. No net impact in the near-term. Long-term impact is positive. Maintenance of trails and campsites can be conducted without first searching for ordnance. Funds can be allocated directly for maintenance rather than for ordnance searches.	UXO teams will work in isolated areas and will limit access to one area at a time. Other areas will remain open to users.
Public Safety	Safety for users will be enhanced, as most users stay on trails and in campsite areas; a positive impact. However, risk remains for those who leave trails and campsites, such as hunters. High risk will remain in the event of a forest fire.	Fire control will be implemented by UXO crews and FS employees. Warning signs will be erected.

\* If hunting cabins and trailer dump site are cleared, the total project area is 216.3 acres. If hunting cabins and trailer dump site are not included, the total project area is 214.3 acres.

Like the Wilderness area, Dolly Sods North is also a place of special beauty. It is the intent of the COE to preserve and protect the character of the area. The ordnance removal project will have no significant impact on Dolly Sods North ecosystems; in fact, it will have several positive impacts. Three significant ones include:

- New detailed topographical maps will be created by the COE, based on aerial surveys of the Wilderness area and Dolly Sods North. These maps will be available to FS managers and users.
- A cultural resources survey has been completed, contributing to the knowledge base about historic use of the area.

- **Public safety will be enhanced. Closure of Dolly Sods North for public use will not be an issue of consideration.**