



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
841 Chestnut Building  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-4431

SEP 04 1997

Mr. James Everman  
Chief, Planning Division  
Environmental Analysis Branch  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Huntington  
502 Eighth Street  
Huntington, WV 25701

**RE: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Dolly Sods North Ordinance Removal Project,  
Monongahela National Forest, WV**

Dear Mr. Everman:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, EPA has reviewed the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above referenced project. The proposed project consists of removing unexploded ordinance from the Dolly Sods North area of the Monongahela National Forest, WV. The tract is part of the West Virginia Maneuver area used during World War II to train soldiers to fire artillery and mortars. Unexploded ordinances have been found in the area in recent years and have been determined to pose an imminent and present danger to the public welfare.

Four alternatives including the no action alternative were evaluated in the EA. We concur with your analysis and findings. Our review has determined that Alternative 2, the preferred alternative, will provide for the removal of ordinances to protect the public welfare and will have no significant adverse environmental impacts. Mitigation measures will be implemented to protect any threatened or endangered species that may be present. Use of motorized vehicles will be limited to that required for demolition of the three hunting cabins. In addition technical assistance will be provided by the Forest Service to the Corps of Engineers to assure protection of resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project. Any further information should be directed to Marria O'Malley Walsh at (717) 628-9685.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Forren".

John Forren, Program Manager  
NEPA & Wetlands Regulatory Review

Customer Service Hotline: 1-800-438-2474

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