

11 June 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Proposed Field Adjustment to the Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project

On 6 November 1997, Huntington District (District) was notified by the USDA Forest Service, (USFS), Potomac Ranger District, that a field adjustment was recommended for the Dolly Sods North (DSN) search area. USFS recommended with Human Factors Applications, Inc. (HFA) concurrence that the search area be modified to include approximately 3.55H/8.77A acres in the following locations: (1) The trail (Green 1) from Bear Rocks Parking Area on FS75 to intersection with DSN boundary; (2) The trail (Green 2) south of Bear Rock Parking Area on FS75 to intersection with DSN boundary; (3) The trail (Green 3) from Red Creek Campground to inter-section with DSN boundary. All of these additions are located outside of the DSN boundary. In addition approximately 4.73H/11.69A will be added inside the DSN boundary in the following locations: (1) Blackbird Knob North trail (Red 1); (2) Middle trail (Red 2); and (3) Upper Stonecoal Run trail (Red 3). (See enclosures). Based on field evidence collected by HFA and USFS it appears that the Northeastern quarter and western boundary of DSN were practice target areas rather than Blackbird Knob, as previously theorized. (See enclosures). The environmental and physical conditions present in these two areas are similar to those found in the Blackbird Knob area. The same techniques for searching and removal of ordnance will be followed, as described in the HFA Work Plan and DSN Environmental Assessment, therefore the modified 35.05H/86.77A Blackbird Knob area will not be searched. (See enclosures). As a result, it is anticipated that there are no new impact related to the field adjustment.

Prepared By: Wallace E. Dean 17 June 98
 Wallace E. Dean
 Fish and Wildlife Biologist
 Environmental Analysis Branch
 Huntington District COE

6/17/98
 Approved By: A. Benjamin Borda, Jr.
 A. Benjamin Borda, Jr.
 Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch
 Huntington District COE

Approved By: Liz Schuppert
 Liz Schuppert
 District Ranger, Potomac District
 Monogahelia National Forest





HUMAN FACTORS APPLICATIONS, INC.
Buckingham Green, 4950 Route 202, Bldg. #1, Suite 2A
Holicong, Pennsylvania 18928-0615

6 May 1998
HFA Serial #027-853

US Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville
CEHNC-OE-EM
4820 University Drive
Huntsville, AL 35816

ATTN: Mr. David Shafii

Subject: Contract DACA87-95-D-0027, Task Order #0019; Blackbird Knob Area

Dear Mr Shafii:

A parcel consisting of some 98.9 acres on and near Blackbird Knob is included on TO 0019. It is assumed that this area was an impact area during WWII. Mr. Don Smith and the undersigned visited Blackbird Knob on several occasions last year. The area was checked visually and with metal detectors. No UXO or fragments of UXO were located. It is the opinion of the undersigned who has extensive experience in artillery and mortar impact areas; that this area was never an impact area. To clear this area would be a waste of time and money. Resources could be more effectively expended in those areas where UXO is known to exist.

It is my recommendation that no clearance action should take place in the 98.9 acre parcel until an EECA is performed in that area.

Sincerely,



F. A. Kittle
Project Manager

DOLLY SOD, NORTH AREA MAPPING CHANGES

Description	Total Length	Area	Hectares / Acres
Trails deleted from USACE mapping	2800 M / 9186 FT	34,137.60 m ²	3.41 / 8.43
Trails added to mapping-inside North Area	3880 M / 12,729 FT	47,304.96 m ²	4.73 / 11.69
Trails added to mapping-outside North Area	2908 M / 9540 FT	35,454.34 m ²	3.55 / 8.77
		Total Added	8.28 / 20.46
		Total Deleted	3.41 / 8.43
		Difference to account for in scope change	4.87 / 12.03
		Existing Blackbird Knob Search area	39.92 / 98.80
		Blackbird search area after change	35.05 / 86.77



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

West Virginia Field Office
Post Office Box 1278
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

September 22, 1997

Colonel Dana Robertson
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701

Dear Colonel Robertson:

This is in response to your August 21, 1997 request for review of the Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq) (ESA). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District (District) proposes to remove unexploded ordnance from the Dolly Sods North project area on the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk to the public from unexploded ordnance.

The measures described in the EA under Section 6.2.2, Zoological/Wildlife/Aquatic Resources will preclude any adverse affects from the proposed action on the endangered Virginia northern flying squirrel, Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus and the threatened Cheat Mountain salamander, Plethodon nettingi.

The proposed action entails searching 20 feet along each side of the entire length of all trails using hand-held metal detectors. If metal is indicated the area will be excavated by hand to a depth of one foot. Camps sites will be searched and excavated by hand to a 4-foot depth where metal is detected. Small undergrowth, grasses, and fallen trees will be cleared only if necessary to search an area and only if the areas is accessible by recreational users. Safety measures dictate that any ordnance discovered will be detonated in place.

The following measures will be implemented to preclude incidental take of the Virginia northern flying squirrel and the Cheat Mountain salamander.

Virginia northern flying squirrel - Special detonation techniques will be used in areas of potential habitat. The techniques include sandbag covers to reduce noise and flying shrapnel.

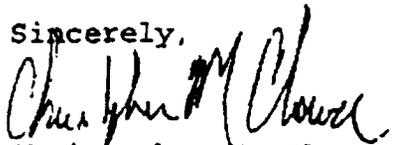
Cheat Mountain salamander - If the site is located in potential habitat for the salamander, following metal detection and prior to excavation, leaf litter and top soil will be carefully removed from the site and preserved. If any salamanders are found, they will be captured and stored for subsequent release. Following excavation, and detonation, (if required), the top soil, leaf litter, and any captured salamanders will be returned to the disturbed area.

Based upon the proposed implementation of the above-listed measures, the Service concurs with the District's finding that the proposed ordnance and waste removal action at the Dolly Sods North is not likely to adversely affect G. s. fuscus and P. nettingi.

This concludes the need for further action on this project as required under Section 7 of the ESA. Should this project be modified or new information becomes available or "take" occurs consultation should be reinitiated. Such action may include implementation of additional measures to minimize harm to the species.

If you have any questions, please contact William A. Tolin at 304-636-6586.

Sincerely,


Christopher M. Clower
Supervisor

11 June 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Proposed Field Adjustment to the Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project

On 6 November 1997, Huntington District (District) was notified by the USDA Forest Service, (USFS), Potomac Ranger District, that a field adjustment was recommended for the Dolly Sods North (DSN) search area. USFS recommended with Human Factors Applications, Inc. (HFA) concurrence that the search area be modified to include approximately 3.55H/8.77A acres in the following locations: (1) The trail (Green 1) from Bear Rocks Parking Area on FS75 to intersection with DSN boundary; (2) The trail (Green 2) south of Bear Rock Parking Area on FS75 to intersection with DSN boundary; (3) The trail (Green 3) from Red Creek Campground to intersection with DSN boundary. All of these additions are located outside of the DSN boundary. In addition approximately 4.73H/11.69A will be added inside the DSN boundary in the following locations: (1) Blackbird Knob North trail (Red 1); (2) Middle trail (Red 2); and (3) Upper Stonecoal Run trail (Red 3). (See enclosures). Based on field evidence collected by HFA and USFS it appears that the Northeastern quarter and western boundary of DSN were practice target areas rather than Blackbird Knob, as previously theorized. (See enclosures). The environmental and physical conditions present in these two areas are similar to those found in the Blackbird Knob area. The same techniques for searching and removal of ordnance will be followed, as described in the HFA Work Plan and DSN Environmental Assessment, therefore the modified 35.05H/86.77A Blackbird Knob area will not be searched. (See enclosures). As a result, it is anticipated that there are no new impact related to the field adjustment.

Prepared By: Wallace E. Dean 17 June 98
 Wallace E. Dean
 Fish and Wildlife Biologist
 Environmental Analysis Branch
 Huntington District COE

6/17/98
 Approved By: A. Benjamin Borda, Jr.
 A. Benjamin Borda, Jr.
 Chief, Environmental Analysis
 Branch
 Huntington District COE

Approved By: Liz Schuppert
 Liz Schuppert
 District Ranger, Potomac District
 Monogahelia National Forest



HUMAN FACTORS APPLICATIONS, INC.
Buckingham Green, 4950 Route 202, Bldg. #1, Suite 2A
Holicong, Pennsylvania 18928-0615

6 May 1998
HFA Serial #027-853

US Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville
CEHNC-OE-EM
4820 University Drive
Huntsville, AL 35816

ATTN: Mr. David Shafii

Subject: Contract DACA87-95-D-0027, Task Order #0019; Blackbird Knob Area

Dear Mr Shafii:

A parcel consisting of some 98.9 acres on and near Blackbird Knob is included on TO 0019. It is assumed that this area was an impact area during WWII. Mr. Don Smith and the undersigned visited Blackbird Knob on several occasions last year. The area was checked visually and with metal detectors. No UXO or fragments of UXO were located. It is the opinion of the undersigned who has extensive experience in artillery and mortar impact areas; that this area was never an impact area. To clear this area would be a waste of time and money. Resources could be more effectively expended in those areas where UXO is known to exist.

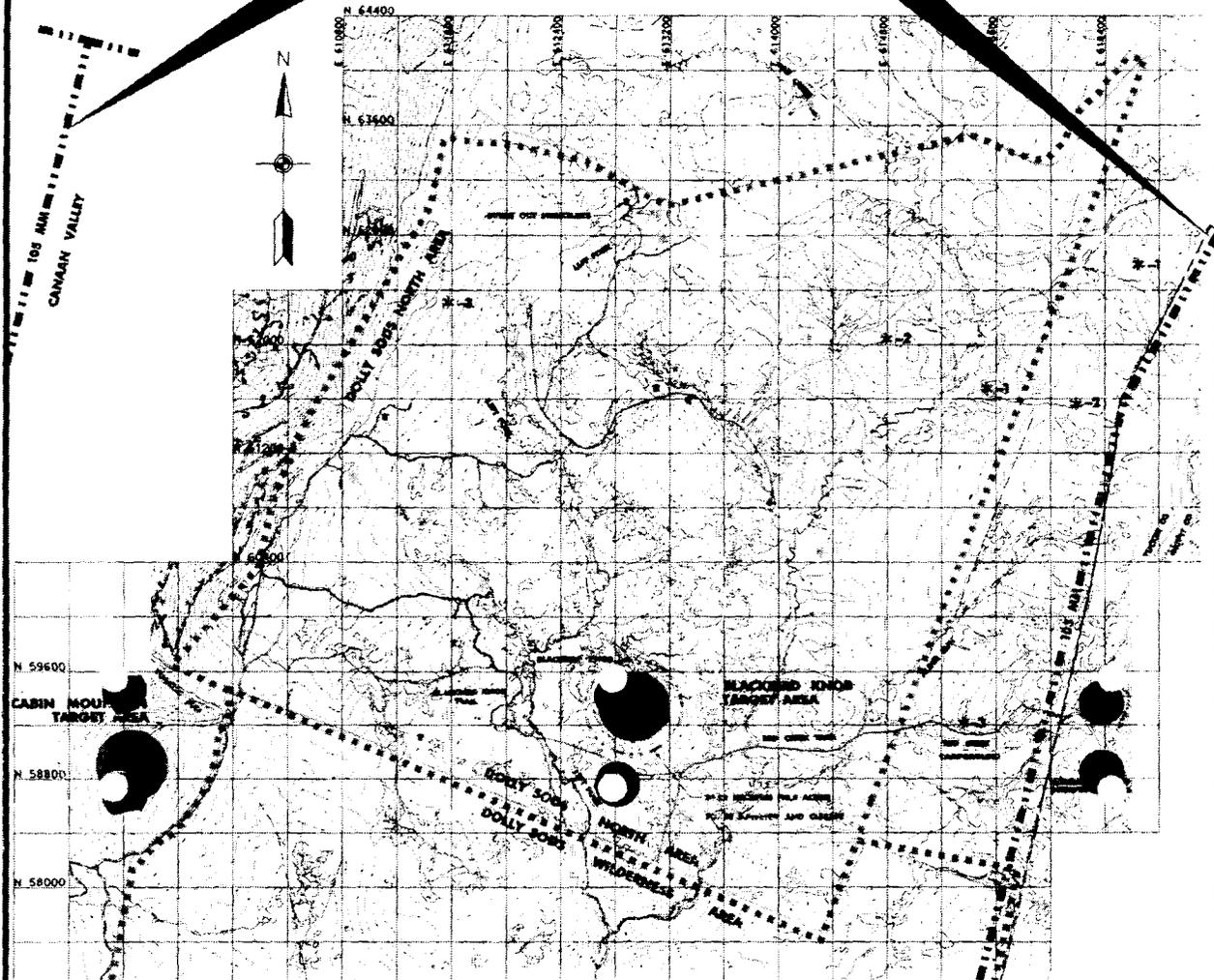
It is my recommendation that no clearance action should take place in the 98.9 acre parcel until an EECA is performed in that area.

Sincerely,

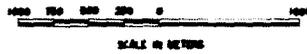


F. A. Kittle
Project Manager

GUN EMPLACEMENTS



DOLLY SODS NORTH AREA



LEGEND

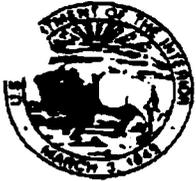
- DOLLY SODS WILDERNESS AREA BOUNDARY
- - - - - NORTH AREA BOUNDARY
- * TRAILS ADDED WITHIN NORTH AREA BOUNDARY
- * TRAILS ADDED OUTSIDE BOUNDARY AREA
- TRAILS REMOVED FROM SCOPE OF WORK
- ↑ IDENTIFIED ABANDONED CABINS TO BE REMOVED
- TARGET AREA



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Huntington District**

DOLLY SOD, NORTH AREA MAPPING CHANGES

Description	Total Length	Area	Hectares / Acres
Trails deleted from USACE mapping	2800 M / 9186 FT	34,137.60 m ²	3.41 / 8.43
Trails added to mapping-inside North Area	3880 M / 12,729 FT	47,304.96 m ²	4.73 / 11.69
Trails added to mapping-outside North Area	2908 M / 9540 FT	35,454.34 m ²	3.55 / 8.77
		Total Added	8.28 / 20.46
		Total Deleted	3.41 / 8.43
		Difference to account for in scope change	4.87 / 12.03
		Existing Blackbird Knob Search area	39.92 / 98.80
		Blackbird search area after change	35.05 / 86.77



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

West Virginia Field Office
Post Office Box 1278
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

September 22, 1997

Colonel Dana Robertson
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701

Dear Colonel Robertson:

This is in response to your August 21, 1997 request for review of the Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq) (ESA). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District (District) proposes to remove unexploded ordnance from the Dolly Sods North project area on the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk to the public from unexploded ordnance.

The measures described in the EA under Section 6.2.2, Zoological/Wildlife/Aquatic Resources will preclude any adverse effects from the proposed action on the endangered Virginia northern flying squirrel, Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus and the threatened Cheat Mountain salamander, Plethodon nettingi.

The proposed action entails searching 20 feet along each side of the entire length of all trails using hand-held metal detectors. If metal is indicated the area will be excavated by hand to a depth of one foot. Camp sites will be searched and excavated by hand to a 4-foot depth where metal is detected. Small undergrowth, grasses, and fallen trees will be cleared only if necessary to search an area and only if the area is accessible by recreational users. Safety measures dictate that any ordnance discovered will be detonated in place.

The following measures will be implemented to preclude incidental take of the Virginia northern flying squirrel and the Cheat Mountain salamander.

Virginia northern flying squirrel - Special detonation techniques will be used in areas of potential habitat. The techniques include sandbag covers to reduce noise and flying shrapnel.

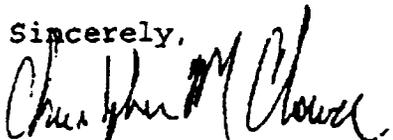
Cheat Mountain salamander - If the site is located in potential habitat for the salamander, following metal detection and prior to excavation, leaf litter and top soil will be carefully removed from the site and preserved. If any salamanders are found, they will be captured and stored for subsequent release. Following excavation, and detonation, (if required), the top soil, leaf litter, and any captured salamanders will be returned to the disturbed area.

Based upon the proposed implementation of the above-listed measures, the Service concurs with the District's finding that the proposed ordnance and waste removal action at the Dolly Sods North is not likely to adversely affect *G. s. fuscus* and *P. nettingi*.

This concludes the need for further action on this project as required under Section 7 of the ESA. Should this project be modified or new information becomes available or "take" occurs consultation should be reinitiated. Such action may include implementation of additional measures to minimize harm to the species.

If you have any questions, please contact William A. Tolin at 304-636-6586.

Sincerely,


Christopher M. Clower
Supervisor