

21 August 1995

Mr. Ben Borda
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District
528 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701

Re: Dolly Sods Wilderness Ordnance Removal Project

Dear Ben:

Thank you for arranging to have the USACOE consultant speak at a meeting in Huntington to citizens interested in the ordnance removal project planned for Dolly Sods.

As private citizens (not on behalf of any group), it is our belief that the Corps should choose a "no action" alternative. Wilderness is not just for people. We concur with other agencies that have expressed the opinion that the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area is overused and should be closed to the public. With so many people visiting Dolly Sods (especially on weekends), much of what we consider to be wilderness values have been lost. While people could be at risk from unexploded ordnance, the flora and fauna are already suffering. As much as we love Dolly Sods, the intrinsic wilderness values of the place should come before our own needs.

Since the money for the project has come to the Corps via CERCLA, we suggest that it be spent in a way that directly affects people--cleaning up a Superfund site that places people in a low income area at imminent risk. The Corps shouldn't have any difficulty in finding a place to spend the money. When CERCLA was enacted in 1980 and signed into law by President Jimmy Carter, there were over 30,000 abandoned toxic-waste sites in the United States--an average of 600 per state in the lower 48 (Mark Dowie, 1995, Losing Ground, MIT, Cambridge, MS).

Because of unique scientific values of the area, scientists who wish to continue research at Dolly Sods should be given permits to study the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Janet Fout
126 Shockey Drive
Huntington, WV 25701
522-7857

Eric Fout



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