

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Monongahela
National
Forest

Potomac Ranger District
HC 59, Box 240
Petersburg, WV 26847
VOICE and TTY 304-257-4488
FAX 304-257-2482

"CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE"

Reply to: 2320/6740

Date: September 12, 1996

Mr. Rick Meadows
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

RECEIVED
16 Sept 96

Dear Rick:

It has been almost a month since our meeting in Elkins between the Forest Service, the Corps of Engineers and HFA, discussing the start-up of the contract for removal of UXO in the Dolly Sods Wilderness. I am concerned about the delay in the start-up of this contract; my understanding at the meeting was that HFA would start work early this month.

As you are probably aware, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) has raised the sensitivity of all levels of the Forest Service to the UXO safety issue in the Dolly Sods area in the past year. As a result of their inquiry, officials at our Regional Office and Washington Office levels as well as on the Monongahela National Forest are extremely concerned about the safety of the publics and employees who use this area. We worked hard during the inquiry to convince OIG and others that the COE and their contractors would be able to start and complete the removal on schedule. Continued delays are jeopardizing the trust we have been able to build with our publics, OIG, and our counterparts at other levels of the Forest Service relative to our ability to successfully deal with this issue.

From the Forest Service viewpoint, it is imperative that work on this contract begin this month. We would like for HFA to start their on-the-ground removal of UXO as soon as possible.

We have removed the blowdown and begun repair of the road damage that Hurricane Fran brought to us last weekend, and all roads to the Dolly Sods area are again open. We stand ready to work with you and HFA to complete this UXO removal action as swiftly as it can reasonably be done. Please send us your newest time line right away so that we can adjust our schedules to work with you.

If you have any questions or want to discuss the schedule, please call me.

Sincerely,



NANCY FEAKES
District Ranger

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