



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

October 11, 1996

Colonel Richard W. Jemiola
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Dear Colonel Jemiola:

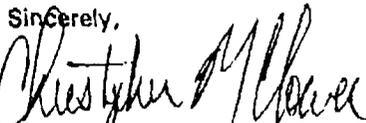
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Draft Dolly Sods Work Plan, Ordnance Removal Action which describes the procedures for the search and removal of ordnance in the Dolly Sods Wilderness on Potomac Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest. The document was hand delivered on September 26, 1996 for our review and comment.

Of primary interest to the Service are the measures to protect the threatened Cheat Mountain salamander, Plethodon nettingi as outlined in Chapter 8 of the Environmental Protection Plan. The Service believes that implementation of the procedures and measures described will adequately protect the salamander. Accordingly, we anticipate no adverse affects to it or any other Federally listed species and species of concern.

Specific comment:

Paragraph 8.1.3.3. An area with a radius of 40 feet of detonation sites is to be searched for salamanders. The Service in consultation with the Forest Service determined this to be unnecessarily large and recommends a 15-foot radius. Reference our April 8, 1996 letter to Ms. Nancy Feakes, District Ranger, Potomac Ranger District (enclosed) and paragraphs 8.1.1.5 and 8.1.2.2 of the Work Plan.

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

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Clower
Supervisor

CC:
WVDAIR -

OPTIONAL FORM 98 (7-90)

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