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*CECIL H. UNDERWOOD  
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April 24, 1997

Nancy Vyas, Project Manager  
New-Boid Enterprises  
7001 Mountain Park Drive, Suite C  
Fairmont, West Virginia 26551

Re: Fish and Wildlife Management Plan for Dolly Sods North

Dear Ms. Vyas:

This is in reply to your letter of April 21, 1997, which contained a request for information on the Wildlife Resource Section's current and long-range plans and proposals for the region. We understand the reason for this request is so the information can be accurately related in the Environmental Assessment for Ordinance Removal at Dolly Sods North located in Grant and Tucker counties, West Virginia.

We have proposed and are very much interested in the treatment of Red Creek with limestone fines. The upper reaches of Red Creek are seriously impacted by acid precipitation such that native fish populations and other aquatic life have been significantly reduced. The use of direct instream application of high grade limestone sand has been proven to mitigate the effects of acid precipitation. Therefore, it would be necessary to maintain vehicle access in this area in order to implement such management activity on this stream.

We are further interested in maintaining the open character of this area through the use of prescribed fire especially since the role of fire has been so important in the development of the ecological community which we know today. Such interest in prescribed burning would also be directed at the management of early successional habitat for many sensitive plant and animal species along with ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare and the enhancement of blueberries. This vegetation management would, in our opinion, help to maintain the very open character which has historically made the Dolly Sods area so popular and, in the eyes of many, a unique ecosystem.

We firmly believe that these activities can be implemented without affecting aesthetics of this area except perhaps on a very short term basis. We further believe that this management plan will provide an opportunity for future generations to study the effects of an area under management



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compared to the Dolly Sods Wilderness and the Dolly Sods Scenic Area --- which will be running the course of natural succession.

If we can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bernard F. Dowler, Chief  
Wildlife Resources Section

BFD/wlf

cc: Donald Phares, WVDNR  
Walter A. Lesser, WVDNR

Wallace E. Dean  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
502 8th Street  
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