



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
502 EIGHTH STREET
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701-2070

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

April 28, 1997

Programs and Project Management Division
Project Management Branch

Ms. Nancy Feaks
Potomac Ranger District
U.S. Forest Service
HC59 Box 240
Petersburg, WV 26847

Dear Ms. Feaks:

In order to complete the Environmental Assessment (EA) for ordnance removal at Dolly Sods North, the National Environmental Policy Act requires that we address several issues for which we need additional information from the Forest Service (FS). These issues include the following.

- (1) Cumulative Impacts - In this section we must discuss any potential (planned or proposed) or scheduled activities which may occur in the region (Dolly Sods Wilderness Area/Scenic Area/North Area) in the next 5 years. Please provide a list and a brief discussion of any such activities, including, but not limited to:
 - WV Division of Natural Resources' (DNR) proposal to improve water quality in local streams in order to enhance fisheries;
 - any DNR wildlife management plans;
 - any DNR proposals to maintain open areas;
 - FS evaluation of roadless areas; and,
 - FS development of plan/use prescription for Dolly Sods North and the Region.

- (2) Impact of Ordnance Removal on Future Use Designation of Dolly Sods North - Please explain alternatives under consideration for use designation, especially addressing these points:
 - The process timetable for determination of use designation; and,
 - the effect that the ordnance removal may have on selection. This aspect should include both the effects of the procedures used (i.e., the same as the Wilderness Area) as well as the effects of having the ordnance removed from publicly used areas.

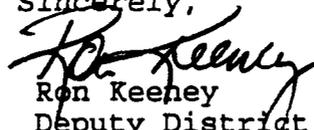
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- (3) Plan for removal of trash from the trailer dump site and for removal of hunting cabins - The Corps of Engineers (COE) will provide UXO technicians to assure safe handling of ordnance found during removal of trash and materials from the trailer dump site and from the hunting cabin sites. However, the COE will not demolish/remove cabins or remove trash; that is the responsibility of the FS. The EA must include a description of the FS plan:
- will motorized vehicles be used for trash/cabin removal? What types? How many trips? Approximate weight of vehicles? Routes to be followed to each site;
 - where will materials removed from site be disposed; and
 - will cabins be demolished?
- (4) Impact on Recreational Use of DSN considering both DSW and DSN will be cleared during part of the same 6-Month Period - In the EA for DSW, we stated that clearance of DSW would push users to the DSN area. Where will they go now? How many users will this affect?

To facilitate completion of the EA and subsequently, the award of the DSN removal contract, please respond to these questions by 12 May 1997. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Rick Meadows at (304) 529-5388.

Sincerely,



Ron Keeney
Deputy District Engineer for
Programs and Project Management