

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Monongahela  
National  
Forest

Potomac Ranger District  
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File Code: 6700/1950

Date: July 17, 1997

Mr. David N. Schaffii  
Project Manager  
Department of the Army  
Huntsville Division, Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1600  
Huntsville, AL 35807-4301

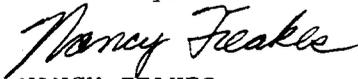
Dear Mr. Schaffii:

I reviewed a copy of a portion of your Action Memorandum Former West Virginia Maneuver Area Near Davis, West Virginia when I reviewed the draft EA for Dolly Sods North. I noted some errors in the information contained in the first page, and have included notes on those errors. I don't know the status of that document, and the importance of correct statements in the Background/description section, or if it is something that is worth changing. However, I thought I should give you the correct information for your use, anyway.

I would also like to inform you that as of next week, I will no longer be working on the Potomac Ranger District. Further contacts on this project can be made with Elizabeth Schuppert, District Ranger, Cheat and Potomac Ranger Districts, PO Box 368, Parsons, WV 26287 (304-478-3251-ext 104) or with her designee.

I would like to personally thank you and your staff for the assistance that you have provided us in this effort, and wish you well in the continuation of the project.

Sincerely,



NANCY FEAKES  
District Ranger

cc:R.Meadows

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ACTION MEMORANDUM  
FORMER WEST VIRGINIA MANEUVER AREA  
NEAR DAVIS, WEST VIRGINIA

I. PURPOSE: The purpose of this paper is to document the proposed ordnance and explosives (OE) removal action for Dolly Sods Wilderness and adjacent Dolly Sods North which were once part of the West Virginia Maneuver Area in central West Virginia.

II. SITE CONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND: This is a non-time-critical removal action to minimize a threat to the public due to the presence of OE.

A. Site Description

1. Removal Site Evaluation: During World War II this site was a part of the 2,181,000-acre West Virginia Maneuver Area. Due to the need for immediate training during World War II, the Secretary of War leased the area on 6 August 1943 from private companies and used it for less than two years for maneuvers and as an artillery and mortar target area for the Thirteenth Army Corps of the Third Army. Apparently it was also used for a few months by the Office of Scientific Research and Development to test fire rockets and projectiles. The site is now operated by the U.S. Forest Service and is open to the public at all times. It is frequently used for hiking, camping, picnics, and hunting. The site is described in terms of two areas - Dolly Sods Wilderness and Dolly Sods North. The southern portion has been designated by Congress as a "Wilderness" and is thus a federally protected public area known as Dolly Sods Wilderness. Dolly Sods North, which includes Blackbird Knob (a target site and now a popular recreation area), was privately owned until recent years when it was purchased by the Nature Conservancy and ~~sold~~ to the Forest Service in 1992 <sup>1993</sup>. Within the two areas, the Forest Service has documented approximately 44 miles of mapped trails and 176 camping areas. Other areas of concern are cabins, a trailer dump site, and Blackbird Knob. Although areas were searched and cleared after World War II by military Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams, at least three 81-mm mortar shells have been found in recent years by the public in Dolly Sods Wilderness and at least 4 in the vicinity of Blackbird Knob. It has been reported that 105-mm shells have also been found in both areas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a Feasibility Study in 1991 and concluded that a hazard to the public exists. During the Feasibility Study remains of 4.2", 57-mm, 60-mm, and 81-mm high explosives and smoke rounds were found.

*Dolly Sods Wilderness & adjacent lands were under federal ownership USFS mgmt even before 1930. They were not leased from private companies... but DSN area was...*

*Blackbird Knob  
Dolly Sods North*

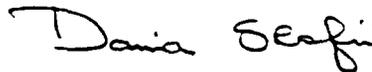
10 Jun 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR CELRH-DL-M, ATTN: Mr. Richard Meadows

SUBJECT: Revised Action memorandum for Ordnance and Explosives (OE) Removal Action at the Former west Virginia Maneuver Area, Dolly Sods Wilderness, Davis, West Virginia Project Number: G03WV001304

1. Attached is a revised copy of Action Memorandum for Dolly Sods Wilderness area. The changes have been incorporated per your request.
2. Point of Contact is the undersigned at (205)895-1443.

Encl



DAVID N. SHAFII

Project Manager, design Center  
For Ordnance and Explosives Team