



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

September 22, 1997

Colonel Dana Robertson  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
502 Eighth Street  
Huntington, West Virginia 25701

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Dear Colonel Robertson:

This is in response to your August 21, 1997 request for review of the Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq) (ESA). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District (District) proposes to remove unexploded ordnance from the Dolly Sods North project area on the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk to the public from unexploded ordnance.

The measures described in the EA under Section 6.2.2, Zoological/Wildlife/Aquatic Resources will preclude any adverse affects from the proposed action on the endangered Virginia northern flying squirrel, Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus and the threatened Cheat Mountain salamander, Plethodon nettingi.

The proposed action entails searching 20 feet along each side of the entire length of all trails using hand-held metal detectors. If metal is indicated the area will be excavated by hand to a depth of one foot. Camps sites will be searched and excavated by hand to a 4-foot depth where metal is detected. Small undergrowth, grasses, and fallen trees will be cleared only if necessary to search an area and only if the areas is accessible by recreational users. Safety measures dictate that any ordnance discovered will be detonated in place.

The following measures will be implemented to preclude incidental take of the Virginia northern flying squirrel and the Cheat Mountain salamander.

OPTIONAL FORM #9 (7-90)

### FAX TRANSMITTAL

To: Col. Robertson	From: Bill Tolin-USA	# of pages: 3
DATE/TIME: CNE	PHONE: 304-636-6586	

Virginia northern flying squirrel - Special detonation techniques will be used in areas of potential habitat. The techniques include sandbag covers to reduce noise and flying shrapnel.

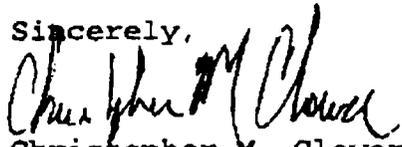
Cheat Mountain salamander - If the site is located in potential habitat for the salamander, following metal detection and prior to excavation, leaf litter and top soil will be carefully removed from the site and preserved. If any salamanders are found, they will be captured and stored for subsequent release. Following excavation, and detonation, (if required), the top soil, leaf litter, and any captured salamanders will be returned to the disturbed area.

Based upon the proposed implementation of the above-listed measures, the Service concurs with the District's finding that the proposed ordinance and waste removal action at the Dolly Sods North is not likely to adversely affect *G. s. fuscus* and *P. nettingi*.

This concludes the need for further action on this project as required under Section 7 of the ESA. Should this project be modified or new information becomes available or "take" occurs consultation should be reinitiated. Such action may include implementation of additional measures to minimize harm to the species.

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

Sincerely,

  
Christopher M. Clower  
Supervisor

cc:  
WVDNR - Dowler  
USFS - Schuppert  
USFS - Meyers  
Readers file  
Project file  
PAFO Densmore  
ES:WVFO:WATolin:skd  
Filename:DOLLYSOD.N2