



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Monongahela
National
Forest

Cheat Ranger District
P. O. Box 368
Parsons, WV 26287
Voice and TTY (304)478-3251
FAX 304-478-8692

File Code: 2320

Date: September 23, 1997

Mr. Rick Meadows, DLM
Huntington District Corps
502 H Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

Dear Mr. Meadows,

Following the public meeting on August 14, 1997, and after several days of reviewing the cabin and trailer dump sites in Dolly Sods North, I made the decision to further analyze how these sites would be cleaned up. Therefore, the decision of how to remove the cabins and trailer dump is taken out of the NEPA document being written by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Once all the cabin and trailer dump sites have been evaluated, there will be a public meeting to present alternatives to removing these structures. Some sites may be more easily cleaned up through use of motorized vehicles, whereas others may only lend themselves to removal by aircraft (i.e. helicopter). Stockpiling of material and burning is also an option.

These sites may also have some hazardous materials to contend with, such as asbestos roofing and/or flooring, and rodent droppings which could carry the hanta virus. For all these reasons, the complexity of removing the structures becomes greater. This led to my decision to take the handling of these sites out of the Dolly Sods North Environmental Assessment.

We currently have samples of roofing and flooring in to the State to be evaluated for asbestos. Once we receive the results, we will be better able to analyze the various sites to be cleaned up. I am tentatively planning to have the alternatives ready for public review by late November or early December.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the above telephone number and address.

Sincerely,

LIZ SCHUPPERT
District Ranger

cc: Wally Dean

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FS-6200-28b(4/88)



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Date: August 20, 1997

Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CEORH-PD-BD (Mr. A.B. Borda, Jr.)
Huntington District
502 8th Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

Dear Mr. Borda,

Following the public meeting on August 14, 1997 where the Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project Draft Environmental Assessment was discussed, I spoke at length with Nancy Vyas about why I am currently not able to make a decision on how the cabins and trailer dump will be removed from the area. There is little data at this time on the condition of travelways into the area, and the condition of the structures (whether there is asbestos roofing or asbestos backing on vinyl flooring; if hanta virus is a concern, etc.). Based on these concerns, I feel it is necessary for me to defer a decision until further information can be gathered.

Nancy spoke with their environmental attorney on Monday and the cabin and trailer dump site removal can be viewed as a separate action. This will not hold up the rest of the project, then. Nancy has suggested the following wording be placed in the current draft EA:

The FS plans to remove 3 hunting cabins and a trailer dump site located at DSN. Following removal, the areas will be searched for ordnance by UXO technicians. A work plan for removal of the cabins and the trailer dump site has not yet been developed; it is scheduled for completion by October, 1997. Following completion of the work plan, the FS will perform an analysis of environmental impacts. An opportunity for public review and comment will be provided. It is anticipated that the environmental impact analysis will be available in November, 1997.

The only comment I have is that it could give the impression that we will be doing an environmental impact statement, which will not be the case. I would expect our analysis would be in the form of an environmental assessment.





Mr. A.B. Borda, Jr.

Page 2

I appreciate the Corps patience as we have tried to develop a plan for dealing with the cabin and trailer dump removal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Schuppert".

LIZ SCHUPPERT
District Ranger

cc: Rick Meadows
Wally Dean
Nancy Vyas

