

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Proposed Field Adjustment to the Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project

On 6 November 1997, Huntington District (District) was notified by the USDA Forest Service, (USFS), Potomac Ranger District, that a field adjustment was recommended for the Dolly Sods North (DSN) search area. USFS recommended with Human Factors Applications, Inc. (HFA) concurrence that the search area be modified to include approximately 3.55H/8.77A acres in the following locations: (1) The trail (Green 1) from Bear Rocks Parking Area on FS75 to intersection with DSN boundary; (2) The trail (Green 2) south of Bear Rock Parking Area on FS75 to intersection with DSN boundary; (3) The trail (Green 3) from Red Creek Campground to inter-section with DSN boundary. All of these additions are located outside of the DSN boundary. In addition approximately 4.73H/11.69A will be added inside the DSN boundary in the following locations: (1) Blackbird Knob North trail (Red 1); (2) Middle trail (Red 2); and (3) Upper Stonecoal Run trail (Red 3). (See enclosures). Based on field evidence collected by HFA and USFS it appears that the Northeastern quarter and western boundary of DSN were practice target areas rather than Blackbird Knob, as previously theorized. (See enclosures). The environmental and physical conditions present in these two areas are similar to those found in the Blackbird Knob area. The same techniques for searching and removal of ordnance will be followed, as described in the HFA Work Plan and DSN Environmental Assessment, therefore the modified 35.05H/86.77A Blackbird Knob area will not be searched. (See enclosures). As a result, it is anticipated that there are no new impact related to the field adjustment.

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G03WV006504\_08.01\_0047



Prepared By: Wallace E. Dean 17 June 98  
Wallace E. Dean  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
Environmental Analysis Branch  
Huntington District COE

6/17/98  
Approved By: A. Benjamin Borda, Jr.  
A. Benjamin Borda, Jr.  
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch  
Huntington District COE

Approved By: Liz Schuppert  
Liz Schuppert June 19, 1998  
District Ranger, Potomac District  
Monogahelia National Forest



**HUMAN FACTORS APPLICATIONS, INC.**  
Buckingham Green, 4950 Route 202, Bldg. #1, Suite 2A  
Holicong, Pennsylvania 18928-0615

6 May 1998  
HFA Serial #027-853

US Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville  
CEHNC-OE-EM  
4820 University Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35816

ATTN: Mr. David Shafii

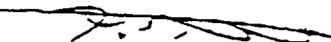
Subject: Contract DACA87-95-D-0027, Task Order #0019; Blackbird Knob Area

Dear Mr Shafii:

A parcel consisting of some 98.9 acres on and near Blackbird Knob is included on TO 0019. It is assumed that this area was an impact area during WWII. Mr. Don Smith and the undersigned visited Blackbird Knob on several occasions last year. The area was checked visually and with metal detectors. No UXO or fragments of UXO were located. It is the opinion of the undersigned who has extensive experience in artillery and mortar impact areas; that this area was never an impact area. To clear this area would be a waste of time and money. Resources could be more effectively expended in those areas where UXO is known to exist.

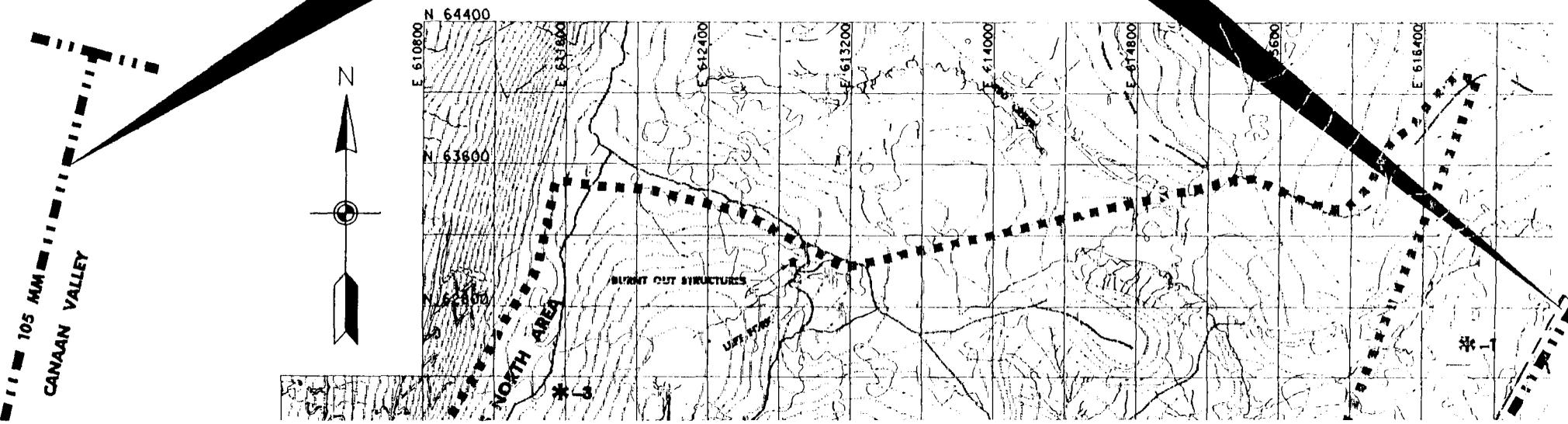
It is my recommendation that no clearance action should take place in the 98.9 acre parcel until an EECA is performed in that area.

Sincerely,



F. A. Kittle  
Project Manager

# GUN EMPLACEMENTS



- ■ ■ ■ NORTH AREA BOUNDARY
- \* TRAILS ADDED WITHIN NORTH AREA BOUNDARY
- \* TRAILS ADDED OUTSIDE BOUNDARY AREA
- ✂ TRAILS DELETED FROM SCOPE OF WORK
- 🏠 IDENTIFIED HUNTING CABINS TO BE REMOVED
- TARGET AREAS



**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Huntington District**

# DOLLY SOD, NORTH AREA MAPPING CHANGES

Description	Total Length	Area	Hectares / Acres
Trails deleted from USACE mapping	2800 M / 9186 FT	34,137.60 m <sup>2</sup>	3.41 / 8.43
Trails added to mapping-inside North Area	3880 M / 12,729 FT	47,304.96 m <sup>2</sup>	4.73 / 11.69
Trails added to mapping-outside North Area	2908 M / 9540 FT	35,454.34 m <sup>2</sup>	3.55 / 8.77
		<b>Total Added</b>	<b>8.28 / 20.46</b>
		<b>Total Deleted</b>	<b>3.41 / 8.43</b>
		<b>Difference to account for in scope change</b>	<b>4.87 / 12.03</b>
		<b>Existing Blackbird Knob Search area</b>	<b>39.92 / 98.80</b>
		<b>Blackbird search area after change</b>	<b>35.05 / 86.77</b>



## 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

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.

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.

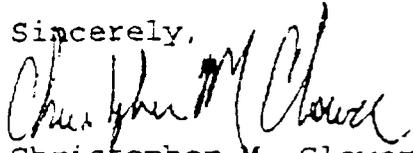
Cheat Mountain salamander - If the site is located in potential habitat for the salamander, following metal detection and prior to excavation, leaf litter and top soil will be carefully removed from the site and preserved. If any salamanders are found, they will be captured and stored for subsequent 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 ordnance 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



**Human Factors Applications**  
INCORPORATED  
ORDNANCE & EXPLOSIVE WASTE REMEDIATION

Buckingham Green  
4950 Route 202  
Building 1 · Suite 2A  
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e-mail: telizabeth@aol.com

September 19, 1997

HFA Serial #027-313

U.S. Army Engineering & Support Center, Huntsville  
CEHNC-OE-DC-A  
4820 University Square  
Huntsville, AL 35816

Attn: Mr. David Shaffii

Subj: DACA87-95-D-0027, Task Order 0019, Dolly Sods North Area, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Shaffii:

Enclosed are ten copies of the subject Work Plan and Site-Specific Safety & Health Plan. Distributions have been made in accordance with the Statement of Work.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at (301) 705-5044.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Winningham', written over a horizontal line.

Michael L. Winningham  
Safety Manager

cc:

Mr. Richard Meadows, CEORH-DL-M (2)  
Mr. N. Feakes, Potomac Ranger District (3)  
Mr. B. Durham, Supervisors Office, Monongahela National Forest (3)  
HFA Contact Administration (1 w/o enclosures)



## NEW-BOLD ENTERPRISES

7001 Mountain Park Drive, Suite C  
Fairmont, WV 26554  
Phone: (304) 366-0774  
FAX: (304) 366-0855

7528 Laurel Leaf Drive  
Potsdam, MD 20954  
Phone: (301) 983-1893  
FAX: (301) 983-8058

## FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER

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(304) 296-9161*

2 pages including cover

**To:** Mr. Rick Meadows  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**FAX #:** (304) 529-5715  
**From:** Nancy Vyas  
New-Bold Enterprises  
**Date:** August 21, 1997  
**Subject:** Notice of Extension for Public Comment

Attached is a copy of the public notice which will announce the extension of time for public comment on the Draft EA for Dolly Sods North.

## NOTICE OF EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District (COE), in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (FS), Potomac Ranger District, has developed a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Ordnance Removal at Dolly Sods North. The Draft EA is available for review by the public at these locations: West Virginia University Extension Offices at 201 Henry St., Elkins, WV, 115 1/2 Virginia Ave., Petersburg, WV, and 215 1st St., Parsons, WV; Elkins-Randolph Public Library, 416 Davis Ave., Elkins, WV; Moomau Public Library, 18 Mount View St., Petersburg, WV; Five Rivers Library, 301 Walnut St., Parsons, WV; Morgantown Public Library, 373 Spruce St., Morgantown, WV; and, the COE, Huntington District, 502 8th St., Huntington, WV.

Since issuing the Draft EA, the COE has modified its action. Ordnance will not be removed from areas around three hunting cabins and a trailer dump site. This work has been deleted from the project until the FS develops a work plan for removal of the hunting cabins and trailer dump site, and reviews the environmental impacts. The FS will notify the public pending such review.

The COE has extended the review and comment period for the Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project Draft EA to September 15, 1997. Direct all comments to: Chief, Environmental Branch, U.S. Army District, Huntington, 502 8th Street, Huntington, WV 25701-2070; commercial telephone (304) 529-5712, commercial fax (304) 529-5136.

# NEW-BOLD ENTERPRISES

7001 Mountain Park Drive, Suite C  
Drive  
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Phone: (304) 366-0774  
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FAX: (304) 366-0855

7628 Laurel Leaf  
Potomac, MD 20854  
Phone: (301) 983-  
FAX: (301) 983-8058

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April 21, 1997

VIA FAX: (304) 558-3147

Bernard F. Dowler, Chief  
Wildlife Resources Section  
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources  
Capitol Complex Bldg. 3 Room 812  
Charleston, WV 25305-0664

Re: Fish and Wildlife Management Plan for Dolly Sods North

Dear Mr. Dowler:

Under a contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, we are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Ordnance Removal at Dolly Sods North, Grant and Tucker Counties, West Virginia. As part of our NEPA analysis, we must identify and assess cumulative impacts for the region. This includes a discussion of planned or proposed activities by the Forest Service, the Division of Natural Resources, the Division of Environmental Protection, or any other agency involved in activities in the Dolly Sods region.

It would be most helpful if you would forward a copy of your agency's current and long-range plans and proposals for the region (Dolly Sods Wilderness, Dolly Sods North, and Dolly Sods Scenic Area) so that we can accurately relate the information in the EA.

Our time frame to complete the EA is short if ordnance removal is to occur this summer season. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if you could expedite our request. Please send information by fax to (301) 983-8058, or by mail to P.O. Box 3179, Morgantown, WV 26503-3179.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vyas, Project manger

cc: Wallace E. Dean, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, USACE, Huntington District  
Walter A. Lesser, Wildlife Biologist, WVDNR, Elkins Operations Center

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**To:** Mr. Wally Dean  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

**FAX #:** (304) 529-5136

**From:** Charles Bower  
New-Bold Enterprises

**Date:** March 28, 1997

**Subject:** Minutes and Attendees at March 24 1997 Public Information Meeting

Wally:

Attached are the Minutes and the List of Attendees from the March 24, 1997 public information meeting in Elkins.

Charles Bower

**Minutes of Public Information Meeting  
Dolly Sods North Unexploded Ordnance Clearance Plan  
7:00 p.m., March 24, 1997  
Elkins, West Virginia**

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Rick Meadows, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, Huntington, W. Va. He briefly explained the purpose of the meeting, which is to hear public questions and concerns about the proposed plan to search and clear certain portions of the Dolly Sods North Area of unexploded pieces of ordnance remaining in the area after training maneuvers of World War II. Meadows introduced Nancy Feakes, Potomac Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service; and Nancy Vyas, New-Bold Enterprises and project manager for development of the Environmental Assessment relating to the ordnance removal project. Attendees at the meeting and their respective affiliations are included as an attachment to this set of minutes.

Vyas introduced a slide presentation (the script of which is included as an attachment to this report). She noted that questions about the proposed plan would be welcome during the presentation. Questions raised during the presentation constitute all comments made during the meeting and, along with their pertinent answers, are summarized here.

Mr. Sconyers: How is the search conducted? How do crews access the area to be searched?

Ms. Feakes: Explained that access may be from the east from the Scenic Area along Forest Road 75; from the west through the Timberline area in the vicinity of Cabin Mountain; from the Wilderness Area along existing trails; and, possibly, from the north from the "A-frame road." Access will generally be by foot, although motorized access has not been ruled out.

Mr. Saville: Will Corps' use of "roads" (sic) and other trails affect any future Forest Service management designation for the North area?

Ms. Feakes: Any use at this time will not affect future designations. In fact, usage during ordnance removal may lead to some improvement in trail conditions if remediations are made after access. Any administrative use of existing travelways will not affect future designations (for management plans).

Mr. Polinski: Do we have assurances that this (no affects on future designations) will hold in the future?

Mr. Chandler: We have no way to guarantee what might occur in the future (in regard to management designations)

Mr. Saville: Actions and alternatives in the Environmental Assesement should address any possible "wilderness" designation (for the North area). "Roads" and motorized usage (during ordnance search and clearance) may affect this.

**Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project  
Minutes from March 24, 1997 Public Information Meeting**

Mr. Chandler: There is no precedent that I know of that would dictate this (overruling "wilderness" designation because of previous usage).

Mr. Sconyers: Were not Roaring Plains, Flat Rock, and other areas discarded from "wilderness" designations because of roads that were present?

Mr. Ostergren: Are there any plans to put a DNR ( WV Division of Natural Resources) fishing project in Dolly Sods North?

Ms. Feakes: No plans or proposals on any such projects have come to me.

Various speakers asked about effects of closing trails (or portions thereof), etc. on usage of the Dolly Sods North area:

Ms. Feakes and Mr. Meadows: Noted that the entire area would not be closed at one time. According to the Work Plan, only the portion of any given trail being searched would be closed along with a 2,000-foot radius around any unexploded ordnance found while it was being destroyed or moved.

Dr. Hollenhorst: Removal operations might affect the very heavy usage in Dolly Sods North on holidays, during blueberry season, and on weekends.

Mr. Ostergren: Disregarding the area around Blackbird Knob and the campsites, there would be less than one hundred acres to be searched. Why not eliminate any use of motorized vehicles since this affects such a small amount of area?

Mr. Meadows: This may be a question of economics. We do not know from our Huntsville office whether it is more cost effective to use only foot access or motorized access to get to certain areas.

Mr. Polinski: Why not use helicopters to bring in supplies, that is, to supply interior locations of the search area?

Mr. Polinski: Are there any exotics (plant species) up there?

Mr. Grafton: There are no records of Federal threatened or endangered species present in the North area. The North area is not nearly as impacted as to species as other areas.

Mr. Saville: What about the usage of motorized vehicles (for use of the ordnance search parties)?

**Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project  
Minutes from March 24, 1997 Public Information Meeting**

Ms. Vyas: As originally submitted to us, the work plan from which we have written our preliminary draft report did not include any use of motorized vehicles. Accordingly, any impacts we have studied and possible mitigation plans do not include motorized vehicles. If these are included in future plans, they will have to be analyzed as an additional alternative or otherwise included in the existing alternatives. In those cases, they will require another set of impact assessments and mitigation alternatives.

Ms. Feakes: We do not yet know whether motorized activity will be part of the ordnance removal plan. The Corps will have to study the alternatives of using or not using motorized vehicles to determine the economics involved. We know that certainly the entire trail area cannot be accessed by vehicles; just how much would be usable by any type of vehicle would have to be determined. Then as was mentioned earlier, the Corps would have to look at this with us before they decide whether motorized vehicles would be economical at all.

Mr. Sconyers: I believe that the mitigation analyses are being taken too lightly. There are several factors, including public access, recreational usage, etc., which have not been addressed sufficiently.

Ms. Vyas: We believe we have addressed or will be addressing all necessary factors. What we have so far is only a preliminary draft of the EA, written to the existing plan of work given us. The purpose of this meeting tonight is to hear what the public and other organizations think about the plan and its effects. If that plan should be changed, then we will study any additional issues that may come up. I think from what we have heard this evening that an additional alternative may have to be written into the EA to address any use of motorized vehicles. If any motorized vehicles are used even on part of the area, then we certainly have to study their effects and any necessary mitigation actions.

Unidentified: I would just like to make one statement. I think we should save the money and leave the area alone.

Unidentified: I think the Forest Service and the Corps should consider doing a comparison of fixing the roads (sic) after motorized searching versus fixing them even without using motorized vehicles.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project Public Information Meeting  
 March 24, 1997

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

NAME		ADDRESS	AFFILIATION (if any)
Nancy Vyas	1	7628 Laurel Leaf Dr. Potomac MD 20854	NBE
Nancy Feakes	2	HC 59, Box 240 Petersburg, WV 26847	USFS Potomac R.D.
SUZIE	3	109 Pine St. Petersburg, WV 26847	
Katherine Feakes	4	" "	
William A. Grafton	5	West Virginia Univ POB 6125 Morgantown	WVU
Rick Meadows	6	502 8th St Huntington WV 25701	Cof E, Huntington
Wallace E. Dean	7	502 8th Street Huntington, WV 25701	CEORH-PD-R
Steve Chandler	8	200 Supreme Street Elkins, W.V. 26241	USDA-Forest Service
Kate Goodrich	9	Rt 1 Box 172 Berkeley WV 26253	
LAIRD KILGIBT	10	P.O. Box 189 DAVIS, WV 26260	Granny Gear Productions
Elizabeth A. Gillegie	11	PO Box 313 DAVIS, WV 26260	GGP
Allan Glasscock	12	P.O. Box 653 Petersburg, WV 26847	WVDNR

Dolly Sods North Ordnance Removal Project Public Information Meeting  
 March, 1997

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

NAME	ADDRESS	AFFILIATION (if any)
* David Ostergren	13 Rt 5 Box 140 Morgantown WV 26505	West Virginia University
Adam Polinski	14 P.O. Box 1154 Martinsburg, WV 26507	Forest Watch Coalition
Dave Saniello	15 P.O. Box 509 Morgantown, WV 26507	EA PLEASE
* Bryan Wilfong	16 P.O. Box 21341, Buckhannon 26201	Individual EA Request
Chuck Merritt	17 Rt 1 Box 293 Kernersville, WV	Forest Watch Coalition Heartwood
Jim Ayersman	18 STUDENT 307 BROOKS AVE SABRATON, WV 26503	WEST VIRGINIA UNIV
* Steve Selin	19 1224 Fairlawn Ave. Morgantown, WV 26505	WVU
ROBERTO MARTIN	20 244 STRAIN ST MORGANTOWN WV 26505	WVU
* Rick Beauchesne	21 RR13, Box 86-7 Morgantown, WV 26505-8543	WVU
Charles Bower	22 P.O. Box 2179 Morgantown, WV 26503	NBE
* Jim Sconyers	Rt. 2 Box 84 Terra Alta, WV 26764	

\* wants EA

FAX COVER PAGE

Date: Fri Mar 28 17:49:46 GMT 1997

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From: NANCY R. FEAKES:R09F21D05A  
Date: ## 03/28/97 12:49 ##  
Wally Dean - please fill this request. Thanks.

Previous comments:  
From: Rick Landenberger:X400A  
Date: ## 03/27/97 14:14 ##  
From: C=US/ADMD=ATTMAIL/ORG=ATTMAIL/PN=Rick Landenberger/  
DD.ID=internet(b)wvu.edu(b)rlanden/

Content-Type: text  
Content-Length: 00000000311

From: Rick Landenberger:X400A  
Date: ## 03/27/97 14:14 ##  
Nancy,

Can I get a copy of the D.S. Wilderness UXO EA and Work Plan? You can send it to the address at the bottom.

Thanks in advance,

Rick

Rick Landenberger  
3 Watts St.  
Martinsburg, WV 26505  
304-296-2320  
[http://wvnm.wvnet.edu/~rlanden/rick\\_1.htm](http://wvnm.wvnet.edu/~rlanden/rick_1.htm)