

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)?

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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 Ordinance Removal Project Public Information Meeting
 March 24, 1997

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

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Adam Polinski 14	PO Box 1154 mgtn, WV 26507	Forest Watch Coalition
Dave Smaille 15	P.O. Box 509 Morgantown, 26507	EA PLEASE
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* wants EA

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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
9 Watts St.
Martinsburg, WV 26505
304-296-2320
http://wvnm.wvnet.edu/~rlanden/rick_1.htm

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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