

ALERT!!

Public Meeting to Discuss Ordinance (bomb) Removal in Dolly Sods North
Elkins, October 24
7:00 pm
County Courthouse Annex Meeting Room
Elkins

It looks like the Forest Service will allow/encourage the Army Corp of Engineers to use 4x4 vehicles to do the ordinance removal in the Dolly Sods this coming summer. The plan is to use the "existing road system" which appears to include the Blackbird Knob Trail for motorized access. This appears to be an attempt to establish motorized road use of the area, thereby disqualifying it for consideration as wilderness or 6.2. Getting these vehicles in will require road construction and vegetation removal, including on Blackbird Knob Trail.

The Forest Service is also not planning on doing an Environmental Impact Statement, claiming that the one developed for the the wilderness area ordinance removal suffices. This logic is flawed, since by using motorized vehicles and improving roads they are not practicing the same "low impact" removal procedures as employed in the wilderness area.

Please attend this meeting and let Nancy Feakes, the District Ranger, know that this is totally unacceptable. Roadless areas in the Monongahela River watershed can be counted on one hand, and one doesn't need to use every finger. Higher levels of development may well be appropriate in city parks, but surely not atop the Alleghenies.

200.1e
G03WV006504_08.10_0007

