



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

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# Final Environmental Impact Statement

## Fernow Experimental Forest

**Timber and Watershed Laboratory  
Research Work Unit NE-4353  
Parsons, WV**

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**Final Environmental Impact Statement  
Fernow Experimental Forest  
Tucker County, West Virginia**

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service Northeastern Research Station**

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**Summary:**

The USDA Forest Service proposes to continue existing research studies and initiate a new research study on the Fernow Experimental Forest, located near Parsons, WV. The Proposed Action analyzed in this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is designed to implement directions contained in the Monongahela National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the Research Work Unit Description, the General Plan for the Fernow Experimental Forest, and individual research study plans. The purpose and Need for this Project is to continue important long-term research, and to initiate new research. This direction would be achieved through research logging activities and prescribed burning on a total of around 960 acres over a 5 year period. Issues raised during scoping fall under the broad categories of Sediment Effects and Biodiversity, in particular Threatened and Endangered Species. This EIS describes two action alternatives which achieve the Purpose and Need and differ in area affected and mitigation activities. There is one No-Action Alternative, which proposes discontinuing any active research manipulations. Effects to two federally listed species, Running buffalo clover and Indiana bat are discussed in both the EIS and BA. Formal consultation is underway with the USFWS concerning the Indiana Bat and running buffalo clover. A record of decision will be prepared at the conclusion of formal consultation with the USFWS. Other issues raised by agencies and the public can be found in the appendix of the EIS. Some comments were used to help develop site specific mitigation measures to reduce effects from research activities.

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