



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Northeastern
Research Station

Timber & Watershed Lab
P.O. Box 404, Nursery Bottom
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August 5, 2004

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed is information on a set of projects that are being considered for implementation during the next several years on the Fernow Experimental Forest. During this phase of environmental analysis, we are asking for your involvement in issue development. IN particular we are interested in issues related to the proposed actions found in the attached document. An issue can be thought of as a concern or a problem that would arise if the project was implemented as planned. Comments should be as specific as possible, and they can be made either orally or in writing. Members of the research work unit "Sustaining the Diversity and Productivity of Central Appalachian Forest Ecosystems" will review the comments received and will be responsible for preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS).

Resource information has been gathered during the last 50+ years of research on the Fernow Experimental Forest and more recently during the initial planning stages for this proposal. Preliminary analysis has been done to determine the feasibility of these projects and their consistency to the Land and Resource Management Plan Monongahela National Forest, and the Research work Unit Description.

If you have either written or contacted us regarding this analysis you will receive a copy of the Draft EIS when it is completed. You will be asked to review the Draft EIS and to provide any additional comments pertinent to the analysis. Your comments will be reviewed and made part of the Appendix of the Final EIS. At the completion of the comment period, a Record of Decision will be prepared. The Record of Decision will document the decision of the Project Leader, as well as include information on appeal rights.

For additional information, contact Dr. Mary Beth Adams at 304-478-2000. Please send or call in your comments by September 10, 2004, to Project Leader, Northeastern Research Station, P.O. Box 404, Parsons, WV 26287. A public meeting will be held at the Timber and Watershed Laboratory in parsons on August 25, 2004 from 4 to 6 p.m. to discuss the proposed actions, and is open to all interested persons.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Adams
Project Leader
USDA Forest Service

