



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Allegheny National Forest
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News Release

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Allegheny National Forest Proposes Buckthorn Treatment Project

Marienville, Pa. (December 9, 2015) – The Allegheny National Forest is proposing to treat glossy and common buckthorn infestations located across the Marienville Ranger District. Buckthorn was originally cultivated and sold to plant for wildlife habitat, hedges and



windbreaks. However, these highly invasive, fast-growing shrubs have invaded watersheds, hardwood forests and now threaten forest health and native plant communities by out-competing native plants-- including tree seedlings--for nutrients, light, and moisture. Buckthorn thickets can grow up to 25 feet tall and impede hunters, hikers and wildlife moving through the forest.

The Allegheny National Forest is proposing to reduce or eliminate existing buckthorn infestations by manual or mechanical cutting and

herbicide treatments. The ANF also proposes to treat other non-native invasive plant species within or near buckthorn treatment areas to prevent these species from taking over treated areas. Information about the project, including a scoping document and maps can be found on the ANF's website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/allegheny/landmanagement/projects>.

"I am interested in hearing your concerns, issues or your suggestions regarding this project," said District Ranger Rob Fallon. "Your comments will help determine whether we need to refine the proposed action or develop alternative ways to accomplish our objectives," he added. Fallon also said there will be an additional public comment period once the environmental assessment is released.

Comments may be submitted by December 31, 2015 using any of these methods:

- **Mail:** Robert T. Fallon, District Ranger, Marienville Ranger District, 131 Smokey Lane, Marienville, PA 16239
- **Fax:** 814.927.2285
- **E-mail:** comments-eastern-allegheny-marienville@fs.fed.us. Please enter the project name (*Marienville Buckthorn Treatment*) on the subject line and include your name and physical mailing address with your comments
- **Hand-delivered comments** will be accepted weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Marienville Ranger District.

All comments, including the names and addresses of commenters, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public review.

For additional information about this project, please contact Kevin Treese at 814.927.5759 or ktreese@fs.fed.us.

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