



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Allegheny National Forest
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News Release

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Allegheny National Forest Releases Draft Decision Notice for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression Project

Warren, Pa. (April 11, 2016) – The Allegheny National Forest has released the draft decision notice for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression Project environmental assessment. The EA was developed to assess integrated pest management practices to suppress, and manage hemlock woolly adelgid infestations on the Forest. “After careful review of the Environmental Assessment and all public comments and input, I intend to select the proposed action for implementation said Forest Supervisor Sherry Tune. “I feel this alternative meets management direction provided in the Forest Plan and it is responsive to the specific purpose and need that I initially identified for this project as well as the public comments and issues.”

The hemlock woolly adelgid is an invasive, nonnative insect that attacks and kills eastern hemlock trees. “The proposed action will use chemical and biological control treatments to manage these infestations in designated areas of the Forest, so we can conserve priority hemlock conservation areas in the face of this threat,” said Forest Silviculturist Andrea Hille.

The legal notice was published in the Warren Times Observer on March 30, 2016, which begins the 45-day objection period. Please note this project is subject to the 36 C.F.R. part 218 pre-decisional objection process. Only those who submit specific written comments regarding the proposed project during a designated public comment period established by the responsible official, are eligible to file and objection. Objections may be sent by regular mail or by private carrier or hand delivery to:

Administrative Review Staff; USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region
626 E. Wisconsin Avenue; Milwaukee, WI 53202

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays.

Electronic objections must be submitted via an email to objections-eastern-region@fs.fed.us, with “Allegheny Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Suppression Project” typed in the subject line. Electronic objections must be submitted in MS Word (.doc or .docx) or rich text format (.rtf).

For more information about this project, please contact Andrea Hille, Forest Silviculturist at 814.728.6100 or ahille@fs.fed.us.

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The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. The public lands that the Forest Service manages, contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S. and includes 100 million acres that are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/.

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