



United States Department of Agriculture

**Forest Service**

Allegheny National Forest  
4 Farm Colony Drive  
Warren, PA 16365

Web: [www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny/)



# News Release

Media Contact: Ruth Sutton

Voice: 814.728.6100

Cell: 814.596.7214

[rsutton@fs.fed.us](mailto:rsutton@fs.fed.us)

Release No.: FY161946

## Buckthorn Treatment Project Draft Decision Notice Signed

**Marienville, Pa.** (June 29, 2016) – The Allegheny National Forest’s Marienville Ranger District has released the draft decision notice for the Buckthorn Treatment Project. This project is designed to reduce or eliminate existing glossy and common buckthorn infestations on the district. “After careful review of the Environmental Assessment and all comments and input, I intend to select the proposed action for implementation,” said District Ranger Rob Fallon. “I feel this alternative meets management direction provided in the Forest Plan and is responsive to the specific purpose and need that I initially identified for this project.”

Fallon said the highly invasive, fast-growing shrubs have infested a variety of ecosystems across the Allegheny National Forest and threaten forest health and native plant communities by out-competing native plants and tree seedlings for nutrients, light, and moisture. In addition, buckthorn thickets can grow up to 25 feet tall and can impede hunters, hikers and wildlife moving through the forest. Buckthorn treatments will occur by manual or mechanical cutting and herbicide treatments. In addition, the ANF will treat other non-native invasive plant species within or near buckthorn infested areas to prevent these species from taking over treated areas.

The legal notice was published in the June 27 2016 issue of The Kane Republican, 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](mailto:objections-eastern-region@fs.fed.us) with “Buckthorn Treatment 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 Kevin Treese, Marienville Planning Team Leader at 814.927.5759 or [ktreese@fs.fed.us](mailto:ktreese@fs.fed.us).

###

The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service's Eastern Region includes 20 states in the Midwest and East, stretching from Maine, to Maryland, to Missouri, to Minnesota. There are 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie in the Eastern Region. For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/R9](http://www.fs.usda.gov/R9).

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. Public lands 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., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us).

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).*