

**Appendix A**  
**Public Involvement and**  
**Recipients of the DEIS**

**Table of Contents**

	Page No.
Introduction .....	A-1
Scoping .....	A-1
Interim Open Houses .....	A-2
Newsletters .....	A-3
Website .....	A-3
Interim Meetings and Communication .....	A-4
Cooperation and Coordination .....	A-5
Recipients of the DEIS .....	A-7

## INTRODUCTION

Encompassing more than 919,000 acres of federal ownership in 10 counties of the Potomac Highlands region of West Virginia, the Monongahela National Forest is the fourth largest National Forest (Forest) in the 20 northeastern states and the largest expanse of public land in the State. Located within the proximity of major population centers of the region, including Washington D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh, the Forest has been called a “special place” by those familiar with its many attributes. Despite being heavily affected by humans over the last two hundred years, the Forest retains a sense of remoteness and solitude. Rugged topography, fast-moving streams, and small communities interspersed with pastoral farmland combine to create a sense of stepping back in time. The public involvement for the Revised Forest Plan was conducted with this diverse audience in mind.

The planning regulations, 36 CFR 219.6, state “Because the land and resource management planning process determines how the lands of the National Forest System are to be managed, the public is encouraged to participate throughout the planning process.”

They go on to state that “The intent of public participation is to:

- 1) Broaden the information base on which land and resource management planning decision are made;
- 2) Ensure that the Forest Service understands the needs, concerns, and values of the public;
- 3) Inform the public of Forest Service land and resource planning activities; and
- 4) Provide the public with an understanding of Forest Service programs and proposed actions.” (36 CFR 219.6(a)).

In addition, the planning regulations also state that “Public participation activities...shall be used early and often throughout the development of the plans” (36 CFR 219.6(c)).

The public involvement strategy for the Monongahela National Forest was designed to meet the requirements of the planning regulations. The Forest strived to have a very open planning process, with the goal of “no surprises” for our public. The following information provides an overview of how the Forest made the Forest Plan revision process available to the public and provided opportunities for the public to be actively involved.

## SCOPING

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement was published in the Federal Register on May 3, 2002, to begin a 90-day formal comment period on our Forest Plan Revision. The NOI described 5 preliminary issues, including:

- Ecosystem health,
- Watershed health,
- Vegetation management,
- Visitor opportunities and access, and
- Land allocations.

The NOI also included dates, locations, and times of scheduled initial public meeting. Six public open houses were held during the comment period. The following table provides the dates and locations of each open house.

**Table A-1. Location and Dates of Open Houses during 90-Day Scoping Period**

Date	Location
June 15, 2002	Seneca Rocks Discovery Center, Seneca Rocks, WV
June 17, 2002	Graceland Inn and Conference Center, Elkins, WV
June 18, 2002	Richwood Public Library, Richwood, WV
June 20, 2002	McClintic Public Library, Marlinton, WV
June 24, 2002	Blackwater Falls State Park, Davis, WV
June 25, 2002	White Sulphur Springs City Hall, White Sulphur Springs, WV

The Forest received a total of 705 responses during the 90-day comment period. Content analysis was applied to the comments the Forest received. The analysis provided an unbiased and impartial summary of the comments.

Responses were received from 30 states and the District of Columbia. Over half (61%) of the responses were from people or agencies residing in West Virginia. Ten or more responses received separately but containing identical text are considered an organized response campaign. Organized campaigns represent 412 responses out of the total 705 responses, which is about 58%.

The comments received helped the Forest further define the preliminary issues published in the NOI. These issues, referred to as need for change topics, were refined and carried through the NEPA process and documented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The need for change topics are:

- Backcountry recreation opportunities, including recommended wilderness
- Vegetation diversity and restoration opportunities
- Suitable timberlands and available timber supply
- Soil and water concerns

## INTERIM OPEN HOUSES

In February and March 2004, the Forest held a series of open houses to share the progress that had been made on the revised Forest Plan. Forest resource specialists were available to provide information on the status of the planning process, answer questions, and take input. At the top of each hour, a 15-minute presentation was given, entitled *Forest Plan Revision Overview*. The Forest also introduced an updated timeline and provided information on how people could become involved in the revision process. An estimated 254 people attended the open houses. Table A-2 provides the dates and locations of each open house.

**Table A-2. Location and Dates of Open Houses in February/March 2004**

Date	Location
February 21	Davis and Elkins College, Elkins, WV
February 23	Holiday Inn, Morgantown, WV
February 25	Public Library, Petersburg, WV
February 26	Pocahontas County High School, WV
February 27	Richwood City Hall, Richwood, WV
March 20	Gaston Caperton State Training Center, Charleston, WV

## NEWSLETTERS

Five newsletters have been composed and distributed, starting in December 2003. Table A-3 summarizes the newsletter contents and the number of people who were sent the newsletters.

**Table A-3. Summary of Newsletter Distribution**

Issue	Date	Content Description	E-mail Addresses	Hard Copies	Total Distribution
1	12/03	Revision topics, timeline, revision process, opportunities to participate, key contacts, mailing list update	0	822	822
2	1/04	Open house schedule, draft documents available in hard copy and on the website	0	809	809
3	2/04	Concepts for draft alternatives, ideas under consideration for the alternatives, planning definitions	23	824	847
4	6/04	Draft documents available in hard copy and on the website, availability of social assessment, and a description of information notebooks found at each District	143	1,178	1,321
5	2/05	Alternative descriptions, availability of forest-wide management direction and management prescriptions, a description of the draft Forest Plan and DEIS with updated timeline, and a mailing list update	187	1,139	1,326
6	5/05	Mailing list update			
7	7/05	Impending release of DEIS and Proposed Plan, information on formal comment period, open house schedule, blank comment form			
8	9/05	DEIS and Proposed Plan released for comment, open house reminder, update on comments received and where to send them			
9	9/06	Impending release of FEIS and Revised Plan, summary of comments			

## WEBSITE

A website dedicated to Forest Plan revision was posted on the Monongahela National Forest website. The website provided background information on the planning process, newsletters, and draft/final document available for review. Links were developed that allowed people to provide comments anytime while the draft Forest Plan and DEIS were being developed.

Documents found under “Plan Revision Background” included:

- Forest Planning Overview Factsheet
- Frequently Asked Questions
- General Forest Issues

- Maps
- Common Acronyms
- Glossary of Terms
- Participation Timeline
- Products Timeline

Draft Documents that have been posted included:

- Alternative Descriptions
- Draft Niche Statement
- Draft Species Viability Evaluation Documents
- Draft Timber Suitability Assessment
- Draft Roadless Area and Wilderness Evaluation
- Roadless Inventory Map
- Draft Alternative Maps
- Draft Forest-wide Direction

Documents associated with the release of the Draft EIS and Proposed Plan included:

- Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Forest Plan Revision
- Appendices of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Forest Plan Revision
- Maps of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Forest Plan Revision
- Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Forest Plan Revision
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan Reviewer's Guide

Documents for the Final EIS and Appendices, 2006 Plan, and Record of Decision will be posted as well.

## INTERIM MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS

**Table A-4. Location and Dates of Open Houses in September 2005 for DEIS and Proposed Forest Plan**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
September 17	Davis and Elkins College, Elkins, WV
September 19	Richwood City Hall, Richwood, WV
September 20	Pocahontas County High School, WV
September 21	Marriott Towncenter, Charleston, WV
September 26	Public Library, Petersburg, WV

Since the open houses in February and March of 2004, the Forest has had hundreds of informal communications in the form of phone calls, e-mails, letters and small meetings. Forest personnel met with groups such as Trout Unlimited, West Virginia Wilderness Coalition, The Ruffed Grouse Society, West Virginia Forestry Association, The Nature Conservancy, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, U.S. Congressional staffs, West Virginia Mountain Bike Association, and with several county and state agencies, including the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The purpose of the meetings was to answer questions, discuss concerns over draft documents, discuss timelines, and receive input. All of

these communications were aimed at allowing for an open planning process. The communications are documented in the project file.

## COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

The planning regulations require coordination with other federal, state, tribal, county, local governments and agencies (36 CFR 219.7). This was accomplished through phone calls, letters, e-mails, and meetings. The following is a list of these agencies, governments, and elected officials that we have contacted.

### Federal Agencies

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Forest Service - Allegheny National Forest
- USDA Forest Service - Fernow Experimental Forest
- USDA Forest Service - George Washington and Jefferson National Forests
- USDA Forest Service - Northeastern Research Station
- USDA Forest Service - Rocky Mountain Research Station
- USDA Forest Service - State and Private Forestry
- USDA Forest Service - Wayne National Forest
- US Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service - Joint Venture
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service - White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery
- USDI National Park Service
- USDI Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement

### Congressional Delegation

- Representative Shelley Capito
- Representative Alan Mollohan
- Representative Nick Rahall II
- Senator Robert Byrd
- Senator John Rockefeller IV

### Tribal Governments

It should be noted that there are no tribal trust or ceded lands within the Forest or the State of West Virginia. However, we recognize the importance of the deep historical relationship that American Indian Nations have with the region and have requested input from these groups.

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Cayuga Indian Nation
- Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- Delaware Nation
- Delaware Tribe
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Oneida Indian Nation of New York
- Onondaga Nation
- Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
- Seneca Nation of Indians, Cattaragus Reservation
- Shawnee Tribe

- Tonawanda Band of Senecas
- Tuscarora Nation

**State of West Virginia**

- Blackwater Falls State Park
- West Virginia Department of Abandoned Mines and Reclamation
- West Virginia Department of Agriculture
- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
- West Virginia Department of Public Safety
- West Virginia Department of Transportation
- West Virginia Division of Forestry
- West Virginia Division of Highways
- West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
- West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Water Resources Division
- West Virginia Division of Tourism
- West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey
- West Virginia State Rail Authority

**West Virginia State Legislature**

- Ray Canterbury
- Thomas Campbell
- Bill Hartman
- Walt Helmick
- Harold Michael
- Sarah Minear
- Michael Ross
- Stan Shaver
- Randy White

**Counties and Local Governments**

- Bolair Public Service District
- City of Elkins
- City of Richwood
- City of Thomas
- Greenbrier County Commissioners
- Hamrick Public Service District
- Nicholas County Commissioners
- Pocahontas County Commissioners
- Pendleton County Commissioners
- Pendleton County Economic Development Authority
- Pendleton County Public Service District
- Pendleton County Board of Education
- Preston County Commissioners
- Randolph County Commissioners
- Randolph County Housing Authority
- Tucker County Commissioners
- Tucker County Development Authority
- Upshur County Development Authority
- Webster County Commissioners

## RECIPIENTS OF THE DEIS

### Federal Agencies

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Allegheny National Forest
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Federal Highway Administration
- George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
- Ohio River Basins Commission
- Rural Utilities Services (RUS)
- US Army Engineer, Great Lakes and Ohio Division
- US Coast Guard (USCG)
- USDA APHIS PPD/EAD
- USDA National Agricultural Library Head, Acquisitions & Serials Branch
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Office of Civil Rights
- USDA West Virginia University, Extension Office
- US Department of Energy
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- USDI Fish & Wildlife Service
- USDI Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

### State of West Virginia

- WV Department of Agriculture
- WV Dept. of Environmental Protection
- WV Division of Natural Resources
- WV Division of Tourism
- WV Forestry Association
- WV Geological Survey
- WV Legislature
- WVU Division of Forestry

### Counties and Local Governments

- Pendleton County Economic Development Authority
- Randolph County Planning Commission
- Richwood Area Chamber of Commerce
- Tucker County Chamber of Commerce
- Tucker County Development Authority
- Tucker County Planning Commission
- Upshur County Development Authority
- Webster County Commission

### Interest Groups, Businesses, Organizations

- Appalachian Forest Heritage Area
- Appalachian Geophysical, LLC
- Berry Energy Inc.
- Best Forestry Concepts, Inc.
- Brushy Hollow Water Association
- Buffalo Coal Company, Inc.
- Campaign for America's Wilderness
- Charleston Gazette
- Coastal Lumber Company
- Columbia Gas Transmission
- Columbia Natural Resources, LLC
- Cuny Law School
- Davis & Elkins College
- Friends of Allegheny Wilderness
- Friends of Blackwater
- Friends of the Cheat
- Gillespie Forestry Services
- Greenbrier River Watershed Association
- Heartwood
- IMBA
- Inner Quest, Inc
- Mountain State and Mule Council, Inc.
- Mountaineer Audubon
- Ohio-West Virginia YMCA
- Potomac Headwaters RC&D
- Pyles, Haviland, Turner & Smith, LLP
- Sierra Club
- Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone
- The Highlands Group, Inc.
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Parsons Advocate
- The Pocahontas Times
- The Rock House
- The Ruffed Grouse Society
- The Wilderness Society
- Timberline Resort
- Timberline Resort Realty
- Triple R. Research, Inc.
- Trout Unlimited
- Trus Joist
- Trust for Public Land
- Western Spirit Cycling
- West Virginia Mountain Bike Association
- West Virginia Public Broadcasting
- West Virginia Rivers Coalition
- West Virginia Wilderness Coalition

**Individuals****A**

Alderson, George  
Allison, Cyla  
Ambrose, Marlene  
Andrick, Randy  
Arbogast, Gary  
Armstrong, French

**B**

Baber, Bob Henry  
Bamford, Sherman  
Beetham, George E.  
Berdine, Ashton  
Bernstein, Louis  
Bittner, Robert  
Bolyard, Carl  
Bone, Kathy J.  
Bonney Jr., Keith  
Bott, David  
Boyce, L. Marvin  
Bumgardner, Mark E.  
Burgess, Kevin

**C**

Calandrella, Harry  
Calcamp, Elva  
Calhoun, Scott  
Camisa, Louis, H.  
Campbell, Kevin  
Casto, Gory  
Cech, Franklin  
Clements, Deke  
Cochrane, Robert L.  
Cook, Gregory  
Cook, Charles N.  
Creel, Paul  
Crickard, John and Donna  
Crowder, Joe  
Crowe, April  
Curry, Dave

**D**

Dadisman, Larry B.  
Degges, Elizabeth  
Dillon, Edna  
Dojick, David  
Dolly, C. M.  
Dotson, Jennifer  
Douglas, Charles

Douglas, Stratford M.  
Dunlap, Gary

**E**

Ebbert, Evelyn & George  
Erb, Chally

**F**

Frazee, Pete

**G**

Gasper, Donald  
Geddie, John  
Geiser, Ruth  
Gifford, Frank  
Glasscock, Allan C.  
Glasscock, James  
Gooden, Dave  
Gratgo Lewis, Connie  
Griffith, Reta

**H**

Handley, Robert  
Hanna, Roger  
Hansen, Evan  
Himelrick, John  
Hotopp, Ken  
Hunt, Paula

**J**

Jiles, Stacy  
Johnson, Kirk  
Johnson, Kenneth J.  
Jones, Bob  
Jones, Linda  
Judson, Vaughn  
Judy, Jane

**K**

Kachmarek, Ed  
Kayrouz, Jennifer  
Keller, Matt  
Kelly, Calvin  
Kerens, Glenn  
Kerr, Bill  
Kershner, Susan  
Kimble, Brison  
Kowalsky, William  
Krouse, John

**L**

LaBare, Dennis  
LaCivita, Lisa  
Lehmann, Daniel  
Lesser, Walt  
Little, Beth  
Ludwick, Dan

**M**

Maletz, R.  
Manchester, John  
Markwell, John  
Marshall, Dr. & Mrs. Robert W.  
Maxwell, Robert E.  
McGinnis, Helen  
McIntyre, Jim  
McKeoun, Jo  
Mengele, Mark  
Merithew, Pat and Chuck  
Merrifield, John  
Mitchell, Glen  
Moran, Isaac  
Morse, Larry  
Mullennex, Roy  
Muse, Mark

**N**

Neal, Chris  
Nichols, Charles  
Nolan, J. R.

**O**

Oatney, Michael K.  
Oberly, Charles  
Odom, Richard  
O'Hara, Frank  
Orr, Larry  
Ortt, Marilyn  
Ours Jr., G. R.

**P**

Parker, Dan  
Parri, John L.  
Patsche, Carl M.  
Pennington, Dick D.  
Peuleche', Tolly  
Pickens, Harold  
Pingley, David  
Powell, John T.  
Prickett, John  
Prouty, Perrie 'Lee

**R**

Rebinski, John  
Richardson, Albert  
Richter, G. Paul  
Roach, Juanita  
Roberts, Paulette  
Ruckman, James

**S**

Sears, Casey  
Secrist, Neal  
Shaw, E. K.  
Shoenfeld, Peter  
Short, Tobin  
Simmons, Keith  
Sims, Greg  
Singer, Armand  
Smithson, Gene  
Snodgrass, Randall D.  
Snyder, Marlene  
Spencer, Huling  
Spencer, Michael E.  
Spicer, Marvin P.  
Stern, Kurt  
Stevens, William Blaine  
Sturgill, Jack

**T**

Taylor, Ralph  
Thompson, Patrick  
Tolin, William  
Toothman, Chris

**V**

Vincent, Joe

**W**

Wadsworth, Jim  
Wagner, Donald  
Warner, Jerry  
Welcker, Carolyn  
Welsh, G. R.  
Whipkey, Ronald  
White, Joseph  
Wilkinson, Jay  
Willett, Charlie  
Williams, Stephen  
Wilson, Paul  
Wilts, Sally  
Wimmer, Mary

Woods, Denny

**Y**

Yagel, Arthur

Yeager, Steve