



Forest Service

Allegheny National Forest

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News Release

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Allegheny National Forest Reviewing Stream Restoration Project Proposal

Marienville Pa. (March 17, 2015) – The Allegheny National Forest’s Marienville Ranger District is reviewing a proposal to improve aquatic habitat diversity, stabilize eroding stream banks, and restore floodplain function along portions of the East Branch Spring Creek. This project would also protect a section of ATV trail that experienced erosion and loss of surfacing last year during extreme floods.

The East Branch Spring Creek Large Wood Restoration project was developed collaboratively with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and other partners and is located in Highland Township, Elk County, Pennsylvania. The creek is a high-quality coldwater fishery with naturally reproducing brook trout populations. To improve the aquatic habitat, the proposed project would add large woody materials (trees and logs with root wads attached) to various locations on a mile of the stream. Large wood is important for the creation of deep pools for fish, storage of organic material and sediment, and dissipation of flood energy. This project will help reverse some of the negative impacts that persist from the late 1800’s through the turn of the century that cleared all the timber along this stream. “This project will help return natural amounts of large wood to the stream that would increase and improve brook trout habitat,” said District Ranger Rob Fallon.

Information and maps are available at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46399>. The Marienville Ranger District is seeking comments about this project, which should be submitted by April 13, 2015. Comments may be submitted by:

- Mail: Robert T. Fallon, District Ranger, Marienville Ranger District, 131 Smokey Lane, Marienville, PA 16239
- Fax: 814.927.2285
- Email: comments-eastern-allegheny-marienville@fs.fed.us. Please enter the project name (*East Branch Spring Creek Large Wood Restoration Project*) on the subject line and include your name and physical mailing address with your comments
- Hand-delivered and verbal comments can be accepted between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm at the Marienville Ranger District or by calling 814-927-5700

For more information about this project, please contact Kevin Treese, Marienville Planning Team Leader at 814.927.5759 or ktreese@fs.fed.us.

The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with 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 has 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie located throughout 20 Midwestern and Eastern states. We're spread from Maine to Minnesota and from Maryland to Missouri. For more information, visit 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. 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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