

**Allegheny National Forest  
Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA)**

**RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Note: Under the Comment Column, you may see the words “No site-specific question or suggestion provided” – this means that what was written was an opinion and no question or suggestion was provided for the area. It does not mean that the opinion did not have merit or was not heard.**

| <b>BRADFORD RANGER DISTRICT SITES</b>  |  |  |
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| Person   | Comment  | USFS Response  |
| <b>DEWDROP</b>   |  |  |
| <b><u>Form Letter</u></b><br>Babo, Richard<br>Barnes, Howard<br>Barnes, James<br>Baur, Donna<br>Burfield, Linda M.<br>Burfield, Ronald K.<br>Crandall, Dawn<br>Erie County Sheriff’s<br>S.C.U.B.A Search & Rescue<br>Team<br>Erie Skin Divers<br>Fay, Philip<br>Lev, Sam<br>Maxwell, Alan J.<br>Maxwell, Mary<br>Mayewski, Susan<br>McKenna, Kevin T.<br>Miner, Sharon<br>Noonan, Janet<br>Noonan, Mark<br>Phielys, Sandra<br>Phillips, Wane<br>Riddle, Debbie & Doug<br>Rzokcuwy, Phyllis | Closing both of these areas (Dewdrop Campground and Kinzua Beach) will eliminate Kinzua Dam water access for swimmers, boaters, and campers that travel many distances to enjoy this beautiful area of the Allegheny National Forest | There will still be a number of water access points to the Allegheny Reservoir for swimmers, boaters, and campers on the Forest such as Elijah Run boat launch, Kinzua Wolf Run Marina, Kinzua Beach, Dunkle Corners, Roper Hollow boat launch, and Webbs Ferry boat launch. |

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| <p>Sailor, Francine<br/>Smith, Sandra<br/>Stimpson, Ronald E &amp; Candace<br/>Trabert, Beverly A.<br/>Zaunegger, Brenda<br/>17 unreadable names</p> |   |   |
| <p>Hornamn, John (PA House of Representatives, 3<sup>rd</sup> Leg. District)</p>   | <p>If the outbuildings (toilet and shower facilities) are in fact in poor repair and need to be removed, the campground could be turned into a primitive site.</p>  | <p>This is an option and was included in the final recommendations.</p>   |
| <p>Devlin, Linda<br/>Allegheny NF Vacation Bureau<br/><br/>Hancharick, Amber<br/>Kane Area Development Center</p>                                    | <p>The planned modifications are reasonable, but new SST should be installed. Pay showers exist a short distance at the Wolf Run Marina.</p>  | <p>Although the primary recommendation was to remove all buildings and recreation features because of their poor condition and the money it would take to reconstruct them, it was also noted we will attempt to utilize partners or private businesses to reconstruct and operate the site in the future. This is the reason that we will leave the roads, utility lines, water, and wastewater structures in place. The option of new SSTs can be considered in the future as we move forward with these efforts.</p> |
| <p>Lunden, Deborah L.<br/>McKean County Planning Commission</p>  | <p>It is probably not necessary to have both Kiasutha and Dew Drop camping areas. However, we suggest that you decommission Kiasutha rather than Dew Drop because the latter is closest to the Kinzua Marina and Beach where tourists could be directed easily for additional recreational opportunities.</p>   | <p>It has been recognized that both sites are not necessary. However, Kiasutha has recently undergone renovation and has more updated amenities than Dewdrop. Although the recommendation was to decommission the site, it was still decided to leave the roads, utility lines, water, and waster water structures and attempt to have partners operate the site. If this option does not work out, the site could be converted to a primitive camping site in the future.</p>  |
| <p>Manion, Mike &amp; Michelle</p>   | <p>1. There is a focus to support and invest in Willow Bay at the expense of other sites north of the Bridge. We strongly recommend that the same strategy be put in place for a site south of the Bridge. There are two different paths folks will take to get to the reservoir. The north east side and the south west side service two distinct geographic areas. 2. Dewdrop should be favored over Kiasutha since Red Bridge is so close to Kiasutha. 3. Dewdrop is the only full service (showers and flush toilets) site in close proximity to all of the sites called out as Signature Sites</p> | <p>1. Red Bridge is the focus south of the Bridge and has recently had several renovations to update the site. 2. &amp; 3. Although Dewdrop is in close proximity to Signature Sites, Kiasutha is only a short distance further. Although the recommendation was to decommission the site, it was still decided to leave the roads, utility lines, water, and waster water structures and attempt to have partners such as the counties,</p>  |

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|  | (Info Point, Beach, Marina) and other major scenic locations, the Dam, Jakes Rock and Rimrock. This location is key and should be promoted rather than abandoned. It is probably one of the best located sites at the Reservoir but is still identified for decommission...As a last option, we would be willing to convert Dewdrop to a primitive camping experience...What has been done to reduce maintenance costs? Can summer interns shed labor costs. Why does grass need to be cut? Are camp hosts paid? | concessionaires, or private businesses reconstruct and operate the site. If this option does not work out, the site could be converted to a primitive camping site in the future.          |
| Putnam, Virginia H.  | The facilities (toilets & showers) are still in good condition. If the infrastructures are badly need of repair, why not if need be make it a primitive site.  | Using the site as a primitive camping site is an option and was included in the final recommendations.   |
| Rounds, Stacy  | I don't understand why every site has to be wheelchair accessible and how electricity has to be added to every site.   | This was not suggested or recommended. Newly constructed facilities are required to follow ADA standards. Electric does not have to be provided at every site and was not recommended.     |
| Salmen, Tim  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Simpson, Raymond & Virginia                                | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Smith, John & Sandy  | If need be, raise the fees by a couple of dollars.   | Fees are periodically reassessed in accordance with policy. Although fees are an important aspect of our management capability, fees alone could not generate enough funds to cover costs. |
| Stahlsmith, Zakary   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Wells, Jill A.   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Wells, John "Casey"  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| <b>DUNKLE CORNERS</b>                                      |  |  |
| Abplanalp, Robert  | Maybe you could have the townships and or sportsmen clubs take over the maintenance.   | This can be considered in the future before any actions are taken. The initial recommendation of decommission has been changed to leaving the site open as it has been in the past.        |
| <b>ELIJAH RUN BOAT LAUNCH</b>                              |  |  |
| Lunden, Deborah L.<br>McKean County Planning<br>Commission | We do not see the need to keep Elijah Run Boat Launch active if Dew Drop is kept open, as the two are quite close to each other.   | The initial recommendation for Dewdrop has not changed; therefore, we have determined to keep Elijah Run Boat Launch open to provide boating access to the Reservoir.                      |
| <b>JAKES ROCKS OVERLOOK</b>                                |  |  |
| Lunden, Deborah L.<br>McKean County Planning<br>Commission | ...removing the flush toilets and water system from Jakes Rocks will do nothing to promote visitation or an enjoyable experience at this site. In fact, it will have a detrimental effect. Most people   | Jacks Rocks Overlook had approximately \$27,000 in operations and maintenance costs, \$64,000 in deferred maintenance costs, and an  |

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|  | do not want to use a primitive pit toilet and this action could decrease return visits to the site. It hosts a spectacular view of the Kinzua Dam and Reservoir and should be aggressively marketed to increase usage.  | average daily occupancy of 17.9%. This was compared to Rimrock Overlook, which also provides a spectacular view of the Reservoir and has no flush toilets or water system. Rimrock has approximately, \$7,000 in operations and maintenance costs, \$7,000 in deferred maintenance costs, and an average daily occupancy of 28.1%. Based on this comparison, there is no data to support that not having flush toilets or a water system will reduce visitation. The reduced costs will improve our ability to operate and maintain the site. Finally, it was recommended that we will look for partners to operate and maintain this site in the future to possibly improve the services. |
| <b>KIASUTHA</b>  |   |  |
| Benninger, Donna J. & Burrell A.   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Brundage, Steve & Kathleen   | Some suggestions that may help generate money include: 1. A toll for all users of the area...2.Letters generated to our State Legislatures for increased funding to the area...3.A boating permit fee for all boaters using the reservoir...4. Increased fees for campsite rentals.                         | 1. Tolls cannot be charged for entrance into National Forests. 2. Forest Service employees cannot lobby under provisions of the Hatch Act. 3. Boating fees and usage on waters managed by the State, such as the Allegheny Reservoir, are determined by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. 4. Fees are periodically reassessed in accordance with policy. Although fees are an important aspect of our management capability, fees alone could not generate enough funds to cover costs.   |
| Devlin, Linda<br>Allegheny NF Vacation Bureau<br><br>Hancharick, Amber<br>Kane Area Development Center | This is an important site that meets the niche theme of connecting people to land and water. We recommend that the Forest Service explore alternatives in operation. It is possible that an independent contractor could provide the water and sewage needs at a lower cost than using full-time employees. | As stated in the recommendations, we will look for partners/private businesses to redesign/construct/operate/maintain the site in the future.  |
| Groh, Bill   | The remaining loops should remain more primitive with a little blacktop repair if possible. Offer specialists an opportunity to do repairs such as: offer a free site to a roofer for a week while he re-shingles the restrooms. Maybe the shingles could be donated by                                     | All options for addressing deferred maintenance at the site will be considered. Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |

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|  | him or other campers. Same could be done with lumber siding that needs repairs. Churches do these repairs with volunteers, why not try. I'm sure there are contractors that also camp there or organize donated materials and advertise a community work day.  |   |
| King-Rose, Nancy   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Munsee, Julie L.   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Munsee, Rachel   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Munsee, Sylvia   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Taylor, Philip & Barbara                                   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Walters, Ron & Kathy                                       | Increase fees for use...Adoption of a campground by organizations to assist with upkeep, Lease parks to private enterprise.  | Fees are periodically reassessed in accordance with policy. Although fees are an important aspect of our management capability, fees alone could not generate enough funds to cover costs. We are also looking at other third party operators as suggested. |
| Welch-Kern, Catherine                                      | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| <b>KINZUA BEACH</b>  |  |   |
| Hosmer, Mary   | Would it be possible for the operator of the Kinzua Wolf Run Marina to also operate KPIC and Kinzua Beach, and the Forest Service could get out of all three.  | At this time we are considering all partnership opportunities to reconstruct, operate, and maintain these sites.  |
| Johnson, Kirk  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Kovach, C.J.   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Hancharick, Amber<br>Kane Area Development Center          | Alternative development at this site should be explored with private concessionaires.  | We are currently exploring such alternatives.   |
| Lunden, Deborah L.<br>McKean County Planning<br>Commission | Kinzua Beach and Kinzua Point Information Center are identified as "Signature Sites" where costly improvements are needed to provide even basic water and waste water treatment facilities. However, they are not located conveniently to any type of modern overnight accommodations (hotels, motels, etc.). To make this area a true "visitor destination" it must be taken to the next level, by provide a lodging facility with amenities such as high-speed internet access and cell phone service. To just reconstruct the area as a beach is not a good investment of funds as shown by the recent very low attendance counts. You have to offer more and better services to the traveling public to get them to stop and stay in the region. | We are currently exploring ideas and opportunities for additional services such as lodging and communication services to make these sites attractive and meet the demand of our visitors.   |
| Yeager, Ronald J.  | I suggest you replace the gravel with sand and then notify the public. The cost of a load of sand once or twice a summer would   | Although this will not change the recommendation due to the issues with water and   |

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|  | certainly offset the admission fees of the public again using the facility.  | wastewater facilities, as well as other facilities with deferred maintenance, this comment will be taken into account for future options at the beach.   |
| <b>KINZUA POINT INFORMATION CENTER</b>   |  |  |
| Devlin, Linda<br>Allegheny NF Vacation Bureau<br><br>Hancharick, Amber<br>Kane Area Development Center | Further outreach should be made with universities that offer tourism management and recreational studies to form a private/public partnership to staff and improve services at this site. Private/public partnerships could be pursued to utilize portions of this building for an outfitter/guide service.                | The initial and final recommendations identify KPIC as a Signature Site. We will continue to work on improving this site through a variety of ways and will consider the input provided as we move forward.  |
| <b>OLD POWERHOUSE</b>  |  |  |
| Devlin, Linda<br>Allegheny NF Vacation Bureau<br><br>Hancharick, Amber<br>Kane Area Development Center | We recommend that partnerships be sought with the Oil Heritage Region and local oil/gas industry for funding to help expand the interpretation at this historic site.  | The initial recommendation was to Change the Operator of this site and to partner with the Oil Heritage Region to eliminate costs. This recommendation has stayed the same and we are currently pursuing partnerships consistent with this recommendation. |
| Lunden, Deborah L.<br>McKean County Planning Commission  | ...should remain in tact...could be used to not only convey the historic aspects of oil and gas extraction in the region, but explain the modern day resurgence of this industry. Forming a partnership with the Oil Heritage Region and/or the local oil and gas industry to help with funding would be a recommendation. | The initial recommendation was to Change the Operator of this site and to partner with the Oil Heritage Region to eliminate costs. This recommendation will stay the same and we are currently pursuing partnerships consistent with this recommendation.  |
| <b>ROPER HOLLOW BOAT LAUNCH</b>  |  |  |
| Hoskins, Robert<br>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  | ...if this launch is closed it is my opinion that boat-to-camping will drop significantly in the main arm of the lake. This launch is directly across from Hopewell and Handsome Lake.   | The recommendation to decommission this site has been changed to leaving the site open as it has been in the past.   |
| Lunden, Deborah L.<br>McKean County Planning Commission  | We disagree that Roper Hollow Boat Launch should be decommissioned as this would mean that the only boat launch on the western side of the Reservoir from Route 59 to the New York State line would be all the way down to Webbs Ferry. Certainly not very convenient for residents of, or visitors in, Warren County.     |  |
| Sedon, Dave<br>Glade Township Supervisor   | Roper is the only boat launch accessible to water during the hunting season when the water level drops.  |  |
| <b>SUGAR BAY</b>   |  |  |
| Abplanalp, Robert  | Maybe you could have the townships and or sportsmen clubs take over the maintenance.   | The recommendation for this site has been changed from decommission to no change. The  |

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| <p>Devlin, Linda<br/>Allegheny NF Vacation Bureau</p> <p>Hancharick, Amber<br/>Kane Area Development Center</p> | <p>We strongly recommend that this site be kept active. Sugar Bay currently serves as a fishing site, picnic area, wildlife observation area and a small boat launch site. It currently does receive light use, but it provides access to the largest bay on the Allegheny Reservoir. As it currently has a low cost factor, we recommend it remain active with the possibility of the installation of SSTs.</p>  | <p>site will be operated and maintained as it has been in the past.</p>   |
| <p>Lunden, Deborah L.<br/>McKean County Planning Commission</p>   | <p>Sugar Bay is a very popular fishing and small boat launching area. There should not be much maintenance costs involved in keeping this site available to the public.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>TRACY RIDGE CAMPGROUND</b></p>  |   |   |
| <p>Barker, Ronald C. III</p>  | <p>Loop D is always closed (at least I've never seen it used) and there are several other camp sights which are never used. Why not just eliminate loop D, remove the least desirable camp sights from the other loops and recalculate your occupation percentage.</p>  | <p>This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.</p> |
| <p>Bradwell, D. Neil &amp; Emily S.</p>   | <p>(Tracy Ridge campground does not currently have 120 usable sites. I did not count, but I would estimate that at least 1/3 of the sites are closed)...I suggest an alternative approach: 1. Try to recover the funding from congress that has been lost due to inflation through good negotiation tactics. 2. Raise fees for overnight areas modestly so that users bear more of the cost. 3. Tailor campgrounds to better serve the above mentioned niche groups in separate areas so everyone can enjoy there time camping. 4. Don't fully decommission and destroy any areas. With increased fuel costs effecting peoples recreation habits over the next 5 years or so we may well see a significant change in usage habits...With these things in mind I suggest that Tracy Ridge be kept open. There should be some changes however to reduce the ongoing maintenance costs. I believe if the area was billed as a special nature reserve style campground it would attract a low impact set of campers. This, or course, would require some changes to the campground, the rules, signage, and corresponding fines for violaters. 1. The number of sites could be further cut in half by eliminating every other camp site. 2. Although I hate to say it, the loops with outdated toilets could be closed for the time being. 3. The campground should be designated as a no amplified music/radio, no chainsaws or generators, and no alcoholic beverages so that it attracts the right kind of people.</p> | <p>This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.</p> |

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| Brown, Tom                     | Close only one or two loops, allow some increased public/volunteer participation. There are many people who would become involved in “adopting” Tracy Ridge Campground. They want to see Tracy Ridge become more than just a campground “business” – they want to see it as a vibrant, viable, “QUIET” recreation area and many would participate in organized things like “clean-up, fix-up weekends, etc.   | This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.  |
| Daugherty, Ray & Carol         | ...Furthermore, reductions in cost could be made. For example, it could be a Carry-in, Carry-out facility where campers take care of they own garbage. As picnic tables break down, they would not have to be replaced. Wilderness campers are not dependent upon tables. And, we believe if Tracy were advertised as a Wilderness campground, more such campers would come.  | Using the site as a primitive site is an option and was included in the final recommendations. This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations. |
| Hale, Jeff & Michaele          | Would the Forest Service allow the present campground manager’s (allegheny site management) offer a seasonal site rental such as May through October to individual campers with fully self contained campers and utilize one of the back loop’s either C or E for a reasonable fee. And since loops A & B have new toilet facilities they could be used for weekly or weekend campers and overflow campers from Willow Bay during holiday weekends. This could resolve issues with the out dated toilets in the back loops and still keep this campground open. | This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.  |
| Johnson, Kirk                  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for your comments.  |
| Morehouse, Kay                 | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Popiel, Sandee                 | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Sovick, Bill, Brandi, and Ally | ...my family would be willing to pay a yearly fee be able to actually rent a lot that we could keep our camper there and not have to haul it back and forth and also just keep open the front 2 loops if you get enough people who will be willing to pay a yearly fee the profit may be larger than Tracy Ridge is bringing in now. Also the renters would be responsible for keeping their lot. There would be a waste management fee included in the rent and also to take care of the restrooms.  | This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.  |
| Stiles, Larry & Cindy          | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Welch-Kern, Catherine          | Is there a possibility of closing the gates, securing the vault-toilet facilities and wells, with a possibility of reopening it in the future?  | The recommendation to decommission the site has not been changed. However, the final recommendations were changed to converting the site to a primitive camping site.   |

| <b>TIMBERDOODLE FLATS</b>                               |  |  |
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| Devlin, Linda<br>Allegheny NF Vacation Bureau           | Timberdoodle Flats is the only universal accessible trail on the north part of the Forest that offers a solid interpretive message while meeting the very important Forest Service goal of wildlife management. This site should be maintained and promoted by the Forest Service...Partnerships could be sought with Ducks Unlimited, or the Ruffed Grouse Society for maintenance.   | The Timberdoole Flats interpretative trailhead recommendation has been reviewed and changed. The trailhead and trail will remain open. We are currently looking at options for partnerships and efficiencies to improve the trailhead and trail.   |
| Hancharick, Amber<br>Kane Area Development Center       | I question the disrepair of the interpretive trail - #6 is the only site that needs work.  |  |
| Hosmer, Mary  | ...instead of the upkeep of the interpretative stations, perhaps numbered posts could be installed, and cross-referenced with a brochure for public use. This could be similar to the Seneca Trail at the Buckaloons Campgrounds on Route 6 near Warren. The map/brochure is available to download on the Allegheny website.   |  |
| Koehler, Terence M. & Betty J.                          | ...should remain in tact...Timberdoodle Flats is utilized by the Bradford Area School District for environmental education purposes.   |  |
| Lunden, Deborah L.<br>McKean County Planning Commission |  |  |
| <b>WILLOW BAY CAMPGROUND</b>                            |  |  |
| Lunden, Deborah L.<br>McKean County Planning Commission | Willow Bay Recreation Area should also be considered a "Signature Site" as it is located near a large population (Bradford area) and also captures traffic from New York State (via I-86) and the Allegany State Park. Improvements there should include extending the existing ATV trail to the campground. This would make it more attractive to motorized sport users and increase the number of campers using the site. The study done by the ANF to expand the number of miles of existing ATV trail should be implemented and strong consideration given to finding a viable connection route to the Willow Bay campground. The local Tuna Valley Trail Association has been very successful in developing a trails system in and around the Bradford area, connecting to the Allegheny National Forest already...They would be a willing partner to assist with this task. Trails definitely connect people to the land, which is part of the recreation niche theme. | Willow Bay Campground was recommended to remain open and will continue to be an important campground on the Reservoir. Kinzua Beach, Kinzua Point Information Center, and Kinzua Wolf Run Marina were identified as "Signature Sites" because of their significance on the Reservoir, their close proximity to one another and the opportunity to reinvigorate them to be visitor destinations, and the goal of highlighting them as a priority for the Forest Service to focus funding and partnership efforts. |

## MARIENVILLE RANGER DISTRICT SITES

| Person   | Comment   | USFS Response   |
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| <b>BEAVER MEADOWS</b>  |   |   |
| Blatchley, Ronald & Frances  | How about turning Beaver Meadows into a ‘green’ campground? Tents only (maybe pop-up trailers), no generators, no chainsaws, no motorized recreational vehicles of any kind, 24 hour quiet hours. Maintenance limited to keeping bathrooms clean and hauling out trash. Lawn mowing 2-3 times a season. Test new ‘green’ camping technology...the campground host could have a campsite that is solar powered. It would include a water heater and a 12 volt electrical system. Campers would be invited to use the 12 volt system to recharge cell phones or small batteries to light their campsites. Perhaps even a 12 volt outlet at each campsite. | This campground as it is currently used, although a great place to camp and visit, provides an experience that not enough people are looking for on the ANF, and which is available at other locations on the ANF. It is not a question of quality as much as it is providing too much of something that people want less. See the response to the next comment ... if it is determined that Beaver Meadows has a future as a campground on the ATV trail network, this would change how the campground is used. Regardless, some of the “green” suggestions listed by this commenter may certainly be considered in future management of the site. |
| Benner, Robert<br>Meeder, William<br>Borghett, Ernest Joseph<br>Pleslusky, Robert<br>Meeder, Carol | Would you please consider converting the Beaver Meadows Campground to an ATV campground and connect to the existing ATV trail system?   | The ANF will conduct a feasibility study to assess potential and options for connecting the ATV trail network to Beaver Meadows, and utilizing and /or converting this existing infrastructure to service ATV users, as well as current users. If this proves feasible, the ANF will develop a project proposal and initiate NEPA to involve the public and analyze the effects. If this does not prove feasible, the ANF will proceed with decommissioning this campground.  |
| Brown, Clint & Betty   | If you want to save money, do not place \$24.00 ton limestone on six driveways. If you want to make money harvest timber trees!!  | The limestone placement this past summer at Beaver Meadows addressed some soil erosion concerns and was funded using a stewardship contract, which allows the ANF to exchange goods (timber) for services (stabilizing erosive areas). In this case, dead and down timber within the Beaver Meadows campground was sold and harvested, and the income from that sale was used for the very specific work of stabilizing the erosive sites. The regulations for use of   |

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|                     |   | stewardship contracts prohibit their use for general recreation maintenance or construction; but, in this case, they could be used within the campground to address an erosion and sedimentation concern.  |
| Castellucci, Jean   | We would further enjoy the area if you could stock the lake with fish. More people would use the day area if (1) they could fish (2) there was a playground for children (3)picnic areas (more) with charcoal pits.                                   | The ANF, working with partners, did drawdown Beaver Meadows reservoir in the past to manage vegetation and provide more open water for fishing. The ANF will continue to explore new partnerships to manage this resource. The Forest Service has moved away from providing playground equipment at all but the most developed sites. To meet current safety standards for such equipment would require additional investment without return; and this kind of activity is provided by local or state parks. We will consider the suggestion for picnic tables in our future management of the day use area. |
| Castellucci, Jim    | Stock lake with fish. There is no need to blacktop parking lots so we can ride in the mud! Grooming trails is not necessary; save money and time and let them go. Reduce our trail fees, we are barely about to get out with economic slump we're in! | Beaver Meadows reservoir has been stocked in the past. Because of the vegetation growth endemic to this reservoir, stocking was discontinued. As stated above, the ANF will continue to explore new partnerships to manage the reservoir, possibly including stocking. The hiking trails around Beaver Meadows are not groomed, but do need periodic maintenance (particularly the floating boardwalk). I believe the comments regarding grooming and trail fees are directed at our motorized trail system, which was not addressed in the Recreation Facilities Analysis.                                  |
| Chilson, William R. | Close the back loop of Beaver Meadows and operate just the front loop along with the day-use area.  | This was given a great deal of consideration. The back loop is already closed for part of the camping season. As noted in the Marienville Ranger White Paper in June, Beaver Meadows provides the kind of camping experience that the Forest Service is known for providing – basic services, quiet, private sites, in the woods with water nearby. Yet, as also noted in the June   |

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|                                       |  | <p>paper, use figures show that, even in July, the busiest month of the season, all of the campers utilizing Beaver Meadows and Loleta could stay in the Loleta Campground, and it would still only account for about 70% of capacity. This has been the trend for several years, and would seem to indicate that one Forest Service campground in the vicinity of Marienville can more than meet the demand. As a result, we have recommended that Beaver Meadows, dependent on the feasibility study, either remain as a campground connected to the ATV trail system, or that it be decommissioned altogether.</p>   |
| Cook, Shelley A.                      | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Cyphert, Charlene                     | <p>It is true...we have spent many a night being the only people in the campground so I can understand the problem but to me it seems how much can it cost to keep this campground open?...We and others carry water back from the spring outside of town. You could post the location of the spring for the campers. The garbage could be picked up less often in the cooler months and the mowing has been decreased a lot in the past few years anyway. I would think you could get rid of the first (single) toilet. Maybe close the upper loop in off season. Up the fees a little and do away with the senior discount. When will the decisions be finalized? Is there someplace we can call to see about next year?</p> | <p>Beaver Meadows Campground will continue to operate in 2009. The feasibility study will determine if the campground will continue to operate beyond 2009. The day use area (access to the trail network and the reservoir) will remain, regardless of what happens with the campground, and the first (single) toilet services the day use area. The ANF does not manage, nor does it test springs for drinking water safety, so we would not direct the public to water sources we do not certify and protect as potable and safe for public consumption. The fee structure could be adjusted, but it is unlikely this will attract more use. And we would not do away with a senior discount on any of our pay sites. Thank you for your suggestions.</p> |
| DeBarr, Bonnie                        | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Gallagher, Denise<br>Stuckert, Robert | If the DCNR, RFA, ANF truly care about the environment, why allow ATVs to tear up the land?  | <p>The ANF provides opportunities, with 104 miles of ATV trails, for ATV riders to use the Forest in a controlled manner, with varying degrees of challenge. This is a legitimate form of National Forest recreation, and users pay for the trail system they utilize. Under a special authority provided through the Recreation Enhancement Act, fees from ATV trail permits pay for routine</p>   |

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|                          |  | <p>maintenance, periodic reconstruction, and forest protection patrols on the ATV trails.</p> <p>Recreational ATV use is not allowed anywhere else on the ANF; and our law enforcement and forest protection officers work diligently to identify and eradicate illegal ATV trails and to deter illegal ATV use. With the exception of one private campground, ATV riders who wish to camp with direct access to the trail system may do so at no expense under the dispersed recreation regulations for the ANF. There is a cost to the ANF to manage this dispersed camping, and we are considering the establishment of a developed campground with fees to cover those costs and better manage this use.</p> |
| Ging, Jeanine            | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Green, Robert            | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Harvey, Todd & Guest     | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Herrle, Richard          | Would it not be possible to maintain toilets and disconnect electricity and water (keep the pump) to leave the site open to tent camping only?   | The toilets at Beaver Meadows are concrete vaults and are pumped periodically. There is no electric service in Beaver Meadows. The public is invited to tent camp anywhere on the ANF, except where it is expressly prohibited or it is restricted to designated sites. Currently at Beaver Meadows, camping of any kind is restricted to the designated pay sites.  |
| Johnson, Tyson           | Why not close the upper loop and with the recovered funds, cut the grass in the activity area and perhaps do some mechanical weed cutting in the lake and see if the visitation increases? | <p>Re: closing upper loop - See the response to the Chilson comment.</p> <p>Re: weed cutting – See the response to the Jim Castelluci comment</p>  |
| Klingensmith, Robert     | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Kosar, Jennifer & family | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| McCullough, Carol & Fred | What is needed is more campgrounds like Beaver Meadows (and Hearts Content) and fewer with electrical outlets and ATV trails.  | Unfortunately, the use figures do not bear this out with regard to campgrounds. In recent years, use at Beaver Meadows has dipped to 20% of capacity, and use at Heart’s Content has dipped to 30% of capacity. There are currently no   |

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|                            |   | developed fee campgrounds on the ANF with direct access to ATV trails.  |
| Moore, Diana               | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Petchar, Jim               | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Pyrdek, Rita & Joseph      | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Rowan, Jean E.             | Why not keep half of Beaver Meadows Campground open, letting the other half return to its natural state?  | See the response to the Chilson comment.  |
| Saper, Robert & family     | Suggestion – set up a donation to save this beautiful facility.   | Thank you for this suggestion. The Forest Service cannot solicit donations from the public.   |
| Scott, Edwin & Linda       | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Schwank, Donald & Meredith | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Tarosky, Greg              | It is a great place because it is primitive, quiet, and beautiful. BMC is also one of the places we like to put our canoe in because no motors are allowed. ...why would you close such a beautiful place? [sic] Someone said it was because of the grass cutting fee – if so stop cutting.                                 | The ANF has already reduced the area and frequency of mowing. The day use area (access to the trail network and the reservoir) will remain, regardless of what happens with the campground.   |
| Wanosik, Margery & Matt    | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Wargo, Brian               | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| <b>BUZZARD SWAMP</b>       |   |   |
| Petchar, Jim               | While the main lot may be larger than necessary, why incur any cost relative to reclaiming it? Leave it as a cost saving factor. It is my understanding that the draw down (of the main pond over July 4 weekend) occurred to create the growth of vegetation for the migratory bird population (geese?). Is that the case? | This recommendation has been altered; there will be no change to the Buzzard Swamp parking area. This parking area may not be fully utilized during much of the year; but it is at or beyond capacity during hunting season and during the annual Forest County Youth Field Day. The PA Game Commission maintains the parking lot as part of their shared interest in managing the Buzzard Swamp area, so there is little if any cost savings to the ANF by reducing the lot, and such a change would reduce parking capacity below what is needed during peak use. |
| Castellucci, Jim           | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Rowan, Jean E.             | ...same thing with the parking lot at Buzzard Swamp – letting half of it, on its own, reforest itself gradually by blocking off that area with boulders or such to prevent parking there. Why go to the cost (when money is so tight) of doing what nature will do for you?   | When we decommission roads and parking areas, we generally consider a range of options from simply blocking them off to completely obliterating the improvements to promote faster and more thorough reclamation and revegetation. In this case, the ANF has elected to forego any  |

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|                           |   | recommendation to change the Buzzard Swamp parking area, so it is no longer an issue.   |
| <b>LOLETA</b>             |   |   |
| Brown, Thomas E.          | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Bortot, Gary              | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Cyphert, Charlene         | Will you keep the electric?   | Yes.  |
| Gravina, Dave, and family | Please leave the water and vault toilets in the upper loop. Consider putting a hand pump at the well head on the hill above site 3 if you must but give us a chance to avoid carrying water. Dredging out the "swimming area" would fill the campground every weekend, regardless of fees.  | The ANF has decided to retain all existing facilities and monitor use at Loleta Campground for at least the next 5 years. The swimming area at Loleta is periodically dredged, and it needs to be dredged again |
| Jervis, David L.          | <p>Someone should do a full analysis comparing the cost of continuing the present water system against the additional and replacement hand-pump systems that would be necessary to replace it, including both capital and operating costs. As with the water system, there are no comparative figures for how much it would cost to replace the function proposed to be discontinued - - in this case, the costs of building and operating the necessary alternative pit toilets to serve the Loleta day-use area...I'd recommend an immediate \$4/day boost in camping fees, then in 2010 start making annual or biennial fee changes according to the Consumer Price Index, so as to keep your prices current.</p> <p>Let me offer some...camping management options for Loleta...</p> <p>(A) If the Forest Service decides to operate Loleta itself, it would seem cost-effective to contract out the mowing and trimming. To complement that, perhaps the USFS could give 2 or 3 free seasonal campsites to volunteer hosts who would be tasked to clean and supply the toilets and bathhouse, clean firepits, and generally police the area, along with host duties like handling reservations and collecting fees.</p> <p>(B) If you continue to have a concessionaire operate Loleta...the concessionaire will need to have enough profitable campgrounds elsewhere in the forest that they could afford to run Loleta on a break-even basis...I worry that there may not be enough profit potential in future campground concession contracts for a concessionaire to</p> | This will be done during the NEPA analysis that will be completed before any changes take place.  |

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|   | be able to handle a break-even facility like Loleta.  |   |
| Keane, Patrick  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Milikan, Mike, Ramona, & family   | I would like to see the bathhouse torn down. It would be better to raise camping fees to maintain the pit toilets, beach, and campgrounds.  | This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.  |
| Minogue, Jennifer   | You have a great system of trails & excellent campgrounds, but you have to advertise – radio/tv/hunting mags/nature mags/fishing/cycling etc. etc.  | Area visitor bureaus do highlight the presence of ANF recreation opportunities in their marketing efforts.  |
| Oplinger, Jason   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Oplinger, Julia   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Petchar, Jim  | Within the District Ranger Rationale, diminishing use is cited as one of the reasons for the recommendation. What do you think will happen to the usage numbers if the proposed changes are made? I would like to know how the purported \$35,000 is spent to maintain the water system and the sewerage/leech bed system. It doesn't seem it would cost that much. | The ANF has decided to retain all existing facilities and monitor use at Loleta Campground for at least the next 5 years.   |
| Petition signed by:<br>Meikan, Ramona<br>Nedemyer, Kimberly<br>Yoest, Jim<br>Yoest, Germaine<br>Oplinger, Jason<br>Oplinger, Julia<br>Ewing, Gary<br>Chutz, Donald R.<br>Yoest, Beth<br>Hibbe, Merle<br>5 illegible names | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Rabinowitz, Joni  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Ross, Chuck and Eleanor   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Rowan, Jean E.  | Shouldn't perhaps some of the money that lumber and gas industries are getting from the Allegheny National Forest be funneled back into the forest and the budget for operations and maintenance?   | The ANF does not receive any revenue from the development of privately-owned oil and gas reserves. Please see the response to the Rossi and Cota-Robles comments in the ANF-General comment category for an explanation on regulations affecting the use of revenue generated by activities on the ANF. |
| Spohn, Jan  | Perhaps a bit more aggressive 'marketing' would fill up the ANF   | The Forest Service does not actively market the   |

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|  | campground. Why not a blog written by a local resident outlining the perks of each camping area, including cost effectiveness of a camping vacation over a long trip?   | recreation resources found on National Forests. For the ANF, area visitor bureaus and marketing efforts may highlight proximity to the ANF and its variety of recreation opportunities. The ANF will be making changes to its website in the near future that should make it more user friendly. The Forest Service would not endorse or discourage a local blog – many user groups already communicate information on recreation experiences and their preferences in this manner.   |
| Yoest, Jim<br>Yoest, Germaine  | If need be increase the camping and day use fee.  | This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.  |
| Oest, Rachel   | ...if any changes are to be made, increase the camping fee.   | This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.  |
| <b>TWIN LAKES</b>  |   |   |
| Bly, Richard   | A few years ago a new ranger station was built outside Marienville PA and another one is planned for Route 321 north...I believe the Forest Service needs to spend money on the users of the National Forest and not necessarily the employees. Building a new ranger station/information center does nothing to attract tourists to our area – keeping Twin Lakes open does. | Congress appropriates money to the Forest Service by Budget Line Items. The money used to construct new offices is funded from a different Budget Line Item than the money used to fund the recreation program that could be used on developed recreation sites.  |
| Carlson, Roger, Patty, and Danielle  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Fleming, Mary Jo<br>Hefright, Thomas E. & B.<br>Jeannine<br>Geiser, Jeanette E. & Francis H. | Investing in the facility by adding more electric sites and upgrading playground areas would benefit the facility more than financially stalling it by eliminating services currently provided.   | The RFA recommendations are intended to provide the ANF with enough budgetary flexibility to address the kind of long term maintenance needs and site improvements you have listed here. The funds available for recreation management on the ANF must be distributed to manage developed recreation (the areas addressed in RFA), dispersed recreation, forest protection patrols, recreation planning and administration, trails management, scenery management, and recreation support for other resource projects. Additions to the developed recreation sites will not help the ANF decrease |

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|                            |  | the operations and maintenance costs. The RFA recommendations focus on consolidating what the ANF manages, so it can more effectively operate and maintain the remaining sites to the appropriate level of service for public health and safety.   |
| Gibbs, Rebecca C. (Feikls) | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Koss, Christine            | Would be willing to pay more. Scouts or other groups could help with site maintenance.   | Fees are periodically reassessed in accordance with policy. Although fees are an important aspect of our management capability, fees alone could not generate enough funds to cover costs.   |
| Mercer, Robert             | From what we understand Twin Lakes has a usage percent of 40% or better. I think that is pretty high considering today's economy...So why close Twin Lakes? Why not consider to close the fee area that you chose up there and see how that goes first? Maybe by adding a few little changes to Twin Lakes, which has seen little updates, but is still lovely, would improve attendance. Maybe more playground equipment, better sand, basketball hoops, etc. This isn't a very expensive idea, but would probably draw or attract more people. | This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.   |
| Morelli, Mr. & Mrs. Livio  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Rettger, Jim * Cheryl      | If some of the tax dollars could be used to add more electric sites as well as add sand to the beach and upgrading play areas for the children, I feel Twin Lakes would be filled to capacity on more than just weekends. Is it feasible to lower the road to eliminate the height restriction on the main road into Twin Lakes?   | This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.   |
| Rezmerski, Mark & Mary Ann | Some ideas to fund the park would be to select cut some of the timber in the immediate area. Also gas or oil leases on the outskirts of the park which are far enough away as not to be an eyesore.  | The ANF does not receive any revenue from the development of privately-owned oil and gas reserves. Please see the response to the Rossi and Cota-Robles comments in the next category (ANF-General) for an explanation on regulations affecting the use of revenue generated by activities on the ANF. |

## GENERAL COMMENTS

| Person  | Comment  | USFS Response  |
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| Acklin, Frank   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Adams-Weyent, Brenda                                  | I disagree about removing water and wastewater facilities at selected sites. It is not clear in your documentation if you are proposing to fully remove the water and wastewater systems, or just shut them down. Some components of these systems may be in poor repair and need to be decommissioned. But removing the functioning facilities precludes that you cannot see any future worth of these facilities. What if a valid concessionaire steps forward to revitalize and/or reprogram a reduced service recreation area? Sites with water and wastewater systems may have a lot more attraction to private entrepreneurs than primitive sites. It is difficult to predict the future and I think it is foolhardy to assume you will never need these facilities again.   | We agree with this comment for some water and wastewater facilities, such as those that are still functional yet need some repairs to properly function. This was taken into account in the recommendations. The District Ranger White Papers identify the extent to which water and wastewater facilities will be decommissioned. These papers are also posted on the Forest website.   |
| Atwood, Ed<br>Tionesta Valley Snowmobile Club         | ...expressed curiosity as to why many (if not all) ANF recreation facilities were not using composting toilets...Why aren't the Ranger Stations covered in the RFA...  | 1. The use of composting toilets will be considered as we move forward with implementation of the recommendations and site-specific analysis. 2. Ranger Stations are not covered in the RFA because they are considered administrative facilities rather than recreation facilities. The funds for administrative facilities are separate from those used for recreation facilities.   |
| Atwood, Walt  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| <b>Form Letter</b><br>Baumer, Jane<br>Little, Ryan D. | First and foremost, the RFA must be subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and public comment regulations. To date, the Forest Service has only accepted public input informally without the benefit of any analysis pursuant to NEPA. Much like the Forest Service must conduct a NEPA analysis for a forest management plan, so must the Forest Service conduct a NEPA analysis for the RFA as it represents systematic and connected agency decisions allocating agency resources to implement a specific executive directive. At the very least, the RFA requires a Forest Plan amendment subject to the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Forest Service must immediately re-engage the public in the RFA by announcing it's intention to prepare an EIS and soliciting public comment in | RFA does not result in site-specific decisions to raise fees or remove sites. RFA provides information for future decisions about implementing the 5-Year Program of Work which may propose such actions as recreation fee changes, modifications in how recreation sites are managed, facility and site expansions, and new construction or facility removals. This information will be used as we conduct site-specific NEPA analysis. |

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|  | accordance with NEPA. No site-specific projects should move forward until the full scope of the RFA is analyzed and the public has a much better understanding of the current status of recreation management in the Allegheny National Forest.   |  |
| Benzar, Kitty<br>Western Slope No-Fee Coalition  | I went to your website looking for a copy of your 5-Year PPOW. I found a summary and two "white papers" written by two District Rangers, but was unable to find the complete PPOW. Could you please at your earliest convenience email the PPOW to me, or else let me know that it has been posted to your website where I can download it?   | The Final Program of Work is posted on the website.  |
| Bowser, Jack & Mary  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Davis, Mark & Karen  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Devlin, Linda<br>Allegheny NF Vacation Bureau<br><br>Hancharick, Amber<br>Kane Area Development Center | ...Water and wastewater management be considered for private contracting, along with other maintenance services such as trail grooming. Commission a cost analysis to study the economic impact of utilizing private business to perform routine services at existing facilities. Service contracts would allow flexibility with concessionaires with a goal of improving service and facilities within the forest...Occupancy rates for 2008 be collected and analyzed before recommendations be made regarding decommission of ANF sites.                                   | This comment will be moved forward for future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.   |
| Emigh, Dave  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Hesley, Philip<br>Higgins, Steve<br>Weissler, Anne L.  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Hoover, Robert M.  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| McClure, Kevin M.  | The costs of construction of the new ranger station at Marienville and the proposed ANF office north of Warren would cover the O&M costs for areas such as these for decades to come. In the recommendations the District Ranger mentions limited finances. There was extra money for these elaborate projects why none to maintain simple, not "highly developed" areas? I believe the emphasis should not be on closing or decommissioning sites to reduce costs, but to secure funding from the Agriculture Department and Congress to cover their maintenance and upkeep. | Congress appropriates money to the Forest Service by Budget Line Items. The money used to construct new offices is funded from a different Budget Line Item than the money used to fund the recreation program that could be used on developed recreation sites. |
| Raught, Shirley<br>Hamlin Township   | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.  |
| Rossi, John P.   | Your Recreation Facilities Analysis posted on your web site does  | These comments will be moved forward for   |

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| Cota-Robles, Gloria<br>Rossi, Mia  | not include any data as to how many campers and day users will be displaced from the close of the facilities which constitute over one-fifth (21%) of the total campsites in the Forest. Nor does it include any cost/benefit analysis. With oil and gas prices at record highs and high demand for lumber, the Forest Service ought to be able to generate sufficient revenues to pay fit the upgrades necessary to keep these campsites open.   | future consideration as we conduct site-specific analysis of the recommendations.<br><br>The ANF does not receive any revenue from the development of oil and gas where the subsurface rights are privately owned. 93% of subsurface mineral rights in the ANF are privately-owned. Income generated from the harvest of timber is subject to strict regulation, which does not permit receipts to be used for the operation and maintenance of recreation sites.   |
| Sheeley, Diane L.<br>Bradford Area Chamber of Commerce   | Support of comments provided by the Allegheny National Forest Vacation Bureau (ANFVB).  | Noted. See response to ANFVB comments.  |
| Spetz, unknown first name  | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.   | Thank you for taking the time to comment.   |
| Talbot, Ryan<br>Allegheny Defense Project;<br>Atwood, Ed<br>Tionesta Valley Snowmobile Club;<br>Darling, Reginald<br>Friends of Rimrock;<br>Stoneman, John<br>Allegheny Outdoor Adventures | The mere existence of the Concessionaire Management of Developed Recreation Areas project in the latest SOPA prejudices the RFA process and demonstrates that it has been nothing more than a dog-and-pony show. The Concessionaire Management project cannot proceed until the Forest Service re-engages the public in the RFA process and allows further opportunity for public comment and participation in setting priorities for maintaining developed recreation sites. The Forest Service must cancel the Concessionaire Management of Developed Recreation Areas project, extend the public comment period for the RFA to December 31, 2008 and re-engage the public in this process for setting priorities in maintaining developed recreation on the Allegheny...By proposing the significant changes in the RFA, such as closing multiple campgrounds, removing drinking and wastewater facilities, and eliminating oversight of numerous other recreation sites and facilities, the Forest Service will undoubtedly "alter" in a significant way "the long-term relationship between levels of multiple-use goods and services projected under planned budget proposals as compared to those projected under actual appropriations." Thus, at the very least, the Forest Service must amend the Forest Plan...NEPA applies to the RFA process itself, not just the site-specific actions that would be implemented at some later date. That is because the RFA and subsequent adoption of a final 5-Year Proposed Program of Work is a "major federal | The existing concessionaire management special use permit for the listed campgrounds is expiring on December 31, 2008. The proposed concessionaire special use permit listed in the latest SOPA is needed to facilitate continued operations at these campgrounds while further public involvement and site-specific analysis is conducted. The concessionaire prospectus provided to potential bidders includes information regarding the RFA and its recommendations.<br><br>RFA does not result in site-specific decisions to raise fees or remove sites. RFA provides information for future decisions about implementing the 5-Year Program of Work which may propose such actions as recreation fee changes, modifications in how recreation sites are managed, facility and site expansions, and new construction or facility removals. This information will be used as we conduct site-specific NEPA analysis. |

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|                         | <p>action.”...The Forest Service is proposing broad, programmatic changes to the operation and maintenance of recreation facilities throughout the Allegheny National Forest. The official title of the proposed plan is “5-year Proposed Program of Work and <i>Programmatic</i> Results of Implementation.” (emphasis added)</p> <p>This title indicates that the RFA actually is a “decision-making process” rather than simply an “analytic” one. This is clearly an instance where NEPA must be applied to the underlying RFA process itself, not just the site-specific proposals that result from it...For instance, out of approximately \$1 million the Forest Service received for recreation site operation and maintenance in 2001, only \$220,144 actually made it on the ground for developed recreation. This is outrageous. There is not a funding problem on the Allegheny for recreation management – there is a leadership problem and a complete lack of commitment to manage recreation in Pennsylvania’s only national forest.</p> |   |
| Wagner, Marvin & Esther | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment. |
| Wells, Dan              | No site-specific question or suggestion provided.  | Thank you for taking the time to comment. |