

Opportunity to Comment on the Brush Hollow Salvage Project

The Marienville District of the Allegheny National Forest has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Brush Hollow Salvage project. This project proposes vegetative management activities on 434 acres of blowdown including associated reforestation activities occurring on 426 severely impacted acres, creating 158 acres of early-structural habitat using even-aged management, restoring structure and diversity to severely impacted acres in management area 2.2 using uneven-aged management, enhancing wildlife habitat, controlling or eliminating non-native invasive plants on two acres, maintaining 8.3 miles of roads, expansion of three existing stone pits, and reclamation of 10 acres of previously developed stone pits. Proposed reforestation activities include herbicide application, site preparation, fencing, planting, release, and installing tree shelters.

The project is located in Jones and Highland Townships, Elk County. The Brush Hollow Salvage project area includes 4,486 acres in Management Areas 2.2, 3.0, and 8.6.

The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed action and other alternatives prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official. The environmental assessment is now available for review and comment. Those persons or non-Federal organizations that provide comments or otherwise express interest in the proposed action are eligible to appeal the decision. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them during the comment period.

The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of this legal notice. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of this notice in *The Kane Republican* (Kane, Pennsylvania newspaper). The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted to the Responsible Official (Rober T. Fallon, Marienville District Ranger, HC2 Box 130, Marienville, PA 16239). The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours or by telephone at (814) 927-6628. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc), or any software supported by Microsoft applications to comments-eastern-allegheny-marienville@fs.fed.us. In order to have standing to appeal, each individual or representative of a group or organization that submits comments must sign or provide for verification of identity according to the requirements of 36 CFR 215.6(3)(iv) and (v).