

Mail comments to:
Allegheny National Forest
Plan Revision
PO Box 36
Warren, PA 16365

Fax comments to: 814-726-1465

E-mail to: ro_anf@fs.fed.us

Your name ROBT. TOWSEY Title (if applicable) Supt.
Organization (if applicable) WARREN County School District
Address 185 HOSPITAL DRIVE
City WARREN State PA ZIP 16365
Email address robert.towsey@wcsdpa.org

You may comment on any parts of the DEIS and PLRMP. The following topics will help you focus your comments and help us to better respond to your comments. You do not have to fill in every section in order to comment. At the end of the form, you will find a place to comment on other issues, alternatives, management direction and monitoring. Feel free to use additional pages.

Issues in the DEIS (please check the topics you are commenting on)

- ☒ Forest Vegetation ☐ Habitat Diversity ☐ Recreation
☐ Special Areas including Roadless Areas and Wilderness
☐ Other Concerns

Oak trees in the Allegheny National Forest are not being managed or regenerated effectively due in part to the management strategies that are implemented where these trees are located. There are approximately 70,000 acres of oak trees in the Allegheny National Forest. Roughly 35,000 of these acres are in areas that preclude the effective management of oak trees.

For example, a large percentage of these acres are in Wilderness Areas, Remote Recreation Areas, or National Recreation Areas where harvesting is administratively prohibited. The oak trees will not regenerate absent active management. As a result of

being in these areas the oak trees will not be managed for regeneration, the oak trees which are now reaching maturity and which eventually will die will not be replaced with oak trees, and oak trees will not be able to be adequately harvested. As a consequence, the oak tree population within the Allegheny National Forest will decrease dramatically.

The end result is that oak trees, which were once the number one producing tree in the Allegheny National Forest, are no longer being managed in a manner that exploits the wildlife, aesthetic, and economic benefits associated with these trees. It is acknowledged that the landscape/topography of the areas where many oak trees are located is not conducive to timber harvesting. However, this only increases the importance of designating those areas where harvestable oak trees are present as management areas that permit adequate harvesting and regeneration of the species. Therefore, the Proposed Plan must be rescinded and revised so that areas where large quantities of oak trees are present and where harvesting is possible are designated as areas that can be managed in a manner that ensures adequate harvesting and regeneration of oak and prevents the overall aging and mismanagement of the species.