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Plan Revision
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8-21-06

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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)

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Forest Vegetation

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Habitat Diversity

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Recreation

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Special Areas including Roadless Areas and Wilderness

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Other Concerns

36 C.F.R. §219.6 requires that monitoring programs be implemented to determine how the land use plans are affecting local economies and communities that are dependent on the Allegheny National Forest. The monitoring programs are designed to determine whether local economies and community stability are adequately being protected through the planning process and whether the intent of National Forest establishment legislation is being carried out.

To our knowledge, no such monitoring plan or a codified communications protocol regarding the monitoring plan exists and, if it does exist, it would clearly indicate that local economies were not adequately protected under the 1986 Plan, and will be protected to an even lesser degree under the Proposed Plan. For example, local communities are largely dependent upon timber harvesting and oil and gas production as key sources of revenue for their economies.

Despite this, the preferred alternative C decreases the ASQ by nearly 40 MMBF, projects an actual harvest of 25 to 30 MMBF annually, and designates areas where there are known to be large quantities of oil and gas as Wilderness Study Areas or Remote Recreation Areas, which creates barriers to development in these areas. Additionally, the Proposed Plan does not build on the 1986 Plan by specifically sanctioning the construction of a resort on the Allegheny Reservoir, which would of course provide a much needed economic boost to local communities and greatly enhance the likelihood that a reputable developer would come forward with a development proposal.

Given that any such monitoring program would clearly indicate that local economies have not, and will not, be protected by the current management plans, the Proposed Plan must be rescinded and revised so that the preferred alternative ensures that local economies and community stability are adequately protected.