

Mail comments to:

Allegheny National Forest
Plan Revision
PO Box 36
Warren, PA 16365

Fax comments to: 814-726-1465

E-mail to: r9_anf_fpr@fs.fed.us

Your name

ROBT TOWSEY

Title (if applicable)

Supr

Organization (if applicable)

WARREN County Sch. Dist.

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

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Forest Management Act, and the Code of Federal Regulations require that federal land use plans be coordinated with and be consistent with local plans. These provisions also require that local plans and policies be considered during the planning process and that adequate consideration be given to the impact of the Proposed Plan on the local economy and culture. Despite these requirements under federal law, local land use plans developed by Warren County were in great part ignored during the planning process.

For example, page 97 of the Warren County Comprehensive Plan Update (August of 2005) specifically calls for the development of a resort at the Allegheny Reservoir near the Kinzua Beach area. Additionally, pages 98 and 99 of the Plan Update recognize the shortfall in timber harvesting and specifically call for increased timber harvesting in order to generate needed revenue for local economies. Last, page 99 of the Plan Update recognizes the lack of an adequate communications infrastructure and the need for an improved infrastructure.

The federal mandates discussed above require that the Proposed Plan be coordinated with and consistent with the Plan Update, and the Plan Update was formulated in plenty of time for this to have occurred. However, the Proposed Plan in great part ignores the Plan Update by not specifically allowing for the construction of a resort near the Kinzua Beach area, by not taking action to increase much need timber harvesting, and by precluding the construction of communications towers in 13 of the 15 management areas.

The Plan Update even goes so far as to articulate the lack of local input with regard to the management of the Forest by stating that, "Although both the Kinzua Dam/Allegheny Reservoir complex and the ANF are located in Warren County, there is little local input into the development, or operation of these resources - resources important for local recreation opportunities and for economic development. This should, and must, change."

Because the Planning Committee made no effort to make the Proposed Plan consistent with Warren County local land use plans, the Proposed Plan is in violation of federal law. Therefore, The Proposed Plan must be rescinded and revised so that the

