**News Release**

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| **Forest Service** |  |
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**Decision Notice for Chaffee Vegetation Project Signed**

**Marienville, Pa.** (November 29, 2017) –Marienville District Ranger Rob Fallon signed the decision notice and finding of no significant impact for the 16,675-acre Chaffee Vegetation Management project on November 24, 2017. In the decision notice, Fallon said he chose the proposed action alternative because it will help move the Allegheny National Forest closer to establishing a higher proportion of early successional habitat and greater age diversity among forest types. In selecting this alternative, Fallon said, “Recent monitoring has shown that only 3.8 percent of the forest exists in early structural stages, which is less than half of our desired conditions.”

The project will address:

**Vegetation management activities, including:** Usingshelterwood seed cut/shelterwood removal cuts to remove part of the overstory to encourage tree seedling development. Restoring white pine by planting rust-resistant white pine seedlings that can develop without the effects from white pine weevil. Completing thinning treatments to reduce overcrowding in highly stocked younger stands.

**Reforestation activities, including:** Herbicide treatments on understory vegetation stands with dense ground cover that interfere with desired tree seedling establishment and growth. Manually removing or reducing competing non-preferred species to increase sunlight to the forest floor. Fertilization to accelerate the growth of natural seedling regeneration. Installing fencing and/or tree shelters to exclude deer and reduce browsing on desired seedlings and planting trees to improve species diversity.

**Wildlife Habitat Improvements, including:** Establishing hard and soft mast (seed) producing species to provide future forage and cover for a variety of wildlife species. Installing wildlife structures for nesting and roosting opportunities. Constructing brush piles and large woody debris to provide habitat and to increase the amount of escape and concealment cover for wildlife. The large woody debris would also provide drumming logs for ruffed grouse.

The project would also improve aquatic habitats by placing trees into streams and on floodplains to create pools; adding protective cover and restoring spawning gravel and complete treatments to remove non-native invasive plants.

For more information on this project, please go to the following link: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=37427>.

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