



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Allegheny National Forest

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News Release

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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: Using shelterwood 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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The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit www.fs.fed.us.

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