

**News Release**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Forest Service** |  |
| Allegheny National Forest |
| 4 Farm Colony Drive |
| Warren, PA 16365 |
| Web: [www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny/) | Media Contact: Nadine Pollock |
|  | Voice: 814.728.6179 |
| Forest Service logo | Email: npollock@fs.fed.us |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

**Draft Decision Notice for De Young Supplemental Environmental Assessment Project Available for Review**

**Marienville, Pa.** (December 1, 2017) –The draft decision notice and finding of no significant impact for the 16,672-acre De Young Supplemental Environmental Assessment is now available for review. In the draft decision notice, Marienville District Ranger Rob Fallon said he preferred the modified proposed action alternative because it would address a number of forest health concerns within the De Young project area and provide for more young-aged forest.

The original decision for the De Young project was signed in 2011. The Allegheny National Forest has been experiencing a number of forest health issues including defoliation by cherry scallopshell moth and fall webworm, infestations of beech bark disease, emerald ash borer, and the hemlock woolly adelgid.

“As we began implementation of this project, several forest health concerns have developed,” said District Ranger Rob Fallon. Marienville staff conducted tree stand exams in 2016, and found that mortality and crown dieback of black cherry, white ash, and American beech were reducing healthy tree stocking levels. Fallon said that reforestation activities are needed to ensure that desirable tree seedlings can be established and successfully become the next generation of healthy forest.

“We are concerned that seed tree abundance and distribution is declining within these project areas to the point that it will become more difficult to successfully regenerate these forest stands to desirable tree species that include red maple, black cherry, yellow-poplar, cucumber tree, sugar maple and other species,” said District Ranger Rob Fallon. “Regeneration of these areas should occur now while there are still viable seed trees within these hardwood stands.”

This project is subject to the 36 C.F.R. part 218 pre-decisional objection process. Objections will be accepted for 45 days, beginning on the first day after the legal notice was published in The Kane Republican.

For more information, please go to the De Young Supplemental Environmental Assessment link: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50267>.

**###**

The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service’s Eastern Region includes 20 states in the Midwest and East, stretching from Maine, to Maryland, to Missouri, to Minnesota. There are 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie in the Eastern Region. For more information, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/R9>.

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](http://www.fs.fed.us).

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).*