



Forest Service

Allegheny National Forest
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News Release

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Allegheny National Forest Releases Supplemental Environmental Assessment

Marienville, Pa. (December 1, 2017) – The Allegheny National Forest’s Marienville Ranger District has recently released a supplemental environmental assessment on the Porkey Heights project. Two other projects – De Young (approved in 2011) and the Pine Bear project (approved in 2012) are also being supplemented in separate analyses and decision documentation.

The original decision for the Porkey Heights project was signed in 2009. “As we began implementation of this project, a number of 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 regeneration harvests with associated reforestation activities are needed to ensure that desirable tree seedlings can be established and successfully become the next generation of healthy forest.

The Allegheny National Forest has been experiencing a number of forest health issues including defoliation by cherry scallophshell moth and fall webworm, infestations of beech bark disease, emerald ash borer, and the hemlock woolly adelgid.

The Allegheny National Forest is seeking comments on this supplemental environmental assessment. Comments may be submitted by:

- **Mail:** Robert T. Fallon, District Ranger, Marienville Ranger District, 131 Smokey Lane, Marienville, PA 16239
- **Fax:** 814.927.2285
- **Email:** comments-eastern-allegheny-marienville@fs.fed.us. Electronic comments must be submitted in plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), portable document format (.pdf), Word (.doc or .docx), or any other format supported by Microsoft Office applications. Please enter the project name (*Porkey Heights SEA project*) on the subject line and include your name and physical mailing address with your comments.

- **Hand-delivered and verbal comments** can be accepted at the Marienville Ranger District office weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or by calling 814-927-5700.

A legal notice was published in the Kane Republican on December 1, 2017, which starts the 30-day comment period. Please note this project is subject to the 36 C.F.R. part 218 pre-decisional objection process. Only those who submit specific written comments regarding the proposed project during a designated public comment period established by the responsible official, are eligible to file and objection.

Information about the project can be found at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50269>. For more information, please contact Kevin Treese, Marienville Planning Team Leader at 814.927.5759 or ktreese@fs.fed.us.

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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>.

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