



WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

6820 MARKET STREET
RUSSELL PA 16345-3406

AMY J. STEWART
SUPERINTENDENT

June 10, 2019

District Ranger, USDA Forest Service
Allegheny National Forest
Bradford Ranger District
29 Forest Service Drive
Bradford, PA 16701

RE: State Road 666 Dispersed Camping Management

Dear District Ranger Hatfield:

We are writing to oppose limiting vehicular access to dispersed campsites on SR 666 near Henry's Mills. The campsites enjoy use throughout the year, especially during spring fishing and fall hunting seasons.

Usage of the campsites brings many advantages. At the local level the men, women, and families using the campsites frequent area businesses, especially those in the Sheffield area. The local businesses are glad for the patronage.

At a broader level the use of the campsites and the patronage of the businesses is good for the health of the ANF communities and therefore the health of the ANF. Knowing that the relationship between the ANF and the local communities is symbiotic, we understand the ANF policy decisions must factor in the welfare of the communities, just as the communities/local municipalities must factor the ANF in their decision making. Employees and users of the ANF depend on the community infrastructure such as roads, supply stores, restaurants and the like. The community infrastructure is supported by a host of smaller factors and events...including the usage of the dispersed campsites on SR 666.

The campsites also offer to the users the advantages of exposure to clean water, fine scenery, and healthy recreation opportunities such as fishing, hiking, and hunting. The ANF should offer more of these opportunities, not less. Unfortunately, limiting vehicular access will not provide more opportunities.

Instead, the usage of the SR 666 campsites will diminish significantly if vehicular access is limited. The remote location of Route 666 is known to us all – without use of vehicles, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for current users to gain access. Moreover, a significant portion of the current usage is uniquely vehicular, some carrying large tents which cannot be backpacked in, small trailers, and truck-bed campers.

The Warren County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment practices and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Gary Weber, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator at 6820 Market Street, Russell, PA 16345 or (814) 723-6900.

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If we are to maintain the ANF as the land of many uses, we must foster usage opportunities of all kinds. The long history of the usage of the campsites along SR 666 informs us that the campsites are a particularly desirable form of usage. The significance of their popularity helps to inform us of what it means to be a land of many uses.

For these reasons we ask that you not limit vehicular access to the dispersed campsites on SR 666 near Henry's Mills.

Sincerely,

Donna Zariczny
Warren County School District
Board President

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