
From: Garten, Barry -FS [mailto:bgarten@fs.fed.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2017 10:48 PM
To: Steve; Overcash, Karen B -FS
Cc: Williams, Shelby -FS; Diana Withen; Annie Cotten
Subject: RE: Follow up to our Dec. 9, 2016 FOIA

Steve – I apologize for the delay but we are short-staffed and are doing our best to accommodate your requests. Thank you for your patience.



Barry Garten
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Steve [mailto:shbrooks@mounet.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 07, 2017 9:45 AM
To: Overcash, Karen B -FS <kovercash@fs.fed.us>; Garten, Barry -FS <bgarten@fs.fed.us>
Cc: Williams, Shelby -FS <shelbywilliams@fs.fed.us>; Diana Withen <dwithen@gmail.com>; Annie Cotten <clinchcoalition@gmail.com>
Subject: Follow up to our Dec. 9, 2016 FOIA

Karen, Barry & Shelby:

Here is a follow up to our original FOIA. Please let me know if there is any question. Thanks for your earliest response.

Steve

March 7, 2017

Barry Garten, District Ranger
Clinch Ranger District, Jefferson National Forest

1700 Park Ave., SW, Norton, Va. 24273

Barry,

I am writing in follow up to the FOIA request I submitted on behalf of The Clinch Coalition on December 9, 2017. We requested the following information in order that we may be able to develop substantive, informed comments to the Nettle Patch Draft Environmental Assessment. The following highlighted comments are in relation to items I requested and have not received. Please see highlighted comments regarding this request.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I am writing to request the following documents:

1. Field notes, reports, summaries, and maps associated with, resulting from, and/or regarding hydrology surveys completed for the Nettle Patch Project

We did receive surveys from 1996, of the CMB area, that are not specific to the Nettle Patch (NP) project. We were interested in the surveys specifically related to the NP project. I had assumed that the area would be surveyed for perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams and springs. If these surveys have not been completed, please let us know that this information does not exist.

2. Field notes, reports, summaries, and maps associated with, resulting from, and/or regarding botany surveys completed for the Nettle Patch Project

We still have not received his information-which we know exists through conversations with Jessica Bier. We would like to focus our attention on stands with higher diversity and this information will be critical to that effort.

3. Field notes, reports, summaries, and maps associated with, resulting from, and/or regarding old growth surveys completed for the Nettle Patch Project

We did receive the old growth survey forms, and we appreciate you providing those. Could you provide maps with the locations of the OG survey plots?

The map that was provided in the partial response titled "OG-Maps 2" was not an old growth map. It was an NP 2020 Vision Draft.

It is our understanding that new Old Growth patches have been inventoried, as stated in the Draft EA. We expected to receive information on these new areas, in addition to previously identified stands in response to this FOIA request. This request includes these new areas. This is important because we think that areas of newly Identified Old Growth should be identified, considered, and buffered in the Nettle Patch EA.

4. Field notes, reports, summaries, and maps associated with, resulting from, and/or regarding nonnative invasive species (NNIS) surveys completed for the Nettle Patch Project

NNIS are an issue of concern, which we have received no information in response to this request. We are very much concerned about adverse impacts from NNIS, and it is critical we have this information as soon as possible in order to be able to assess impacts from the Nettle Patch Project and provide comments on the DEA. If this information does not exist, please inform us of that.

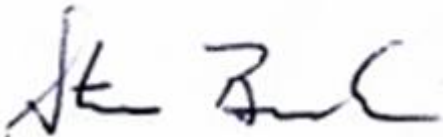
5. Field notes, reports, summaries, and maps associated with, resulting from, and/or regarding timber surveys completed for the Nettle Patch Project

6. Field notes, reports, summaries, and maps associated with, resulting from, and/or regarding soil surveys completed for the Nettle Patch Project
7. Field notes, reports, summaries, and maps associated with, resulting from, and/or regarding the treatment of nonnative invasive species on the Clinch Ranger District, including the amounts and product names of specific herbicides used over the last five years.

We are interested in how NNIS management related to the Nettle Patch Project fits into NNIS management plans and efforts on the District as a whole. We would like to be able to assess short and long term management plans, priorities, treatments, successes and failures, etc. If this information does not exist, please inform us of that.

8. Field notes, reports, summaries, and maps associated with, resulting from, and/or regarding wildlife surveys completed for the Nettle Patch Project
- If there are requested items or documents or information that cannot be provided, please provide justification or confirmation that they do not exist. We would like this request to be processed by the end of the week. It has already been three months, which we think should have provided adequate time for a full response. We have not been notified of any time extension.

Sincerely,



Steve Brooks, Associate Director
The Clinch Coalition
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