

Kristin Davis

From: Steve <shbrooks@mounet.com>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 1:59 PM
To: 'Williams, Shelby -FS'; 'Overcash, Karen B -FS'; 'Garten, Barry -FS'
Cc: 'Diana Withen'; 'Annie Cotten'; Kristin Davis
Subject: RE: Follow up to our Dec. 9, 2016 FOIA

Expires: Wednesday, September 06, 2017 12:00 AM

Barry,

Thank you for your responses. We still have related questions and requests, which we list at the end of this email. (For the sake of clarity, we have requested additional documents referenced in the EA (e.g., BE and comments summary) separately. We will follow up with you about those as well.)

We are growing increasingly alarmed that 2 weeks before the public comment period closes (and nearly 3 months after our FOIA request), it seems that we still don't have all of the responsive documents, and it sounds like you think Karen Overcash will need to respond to some requests whenever she returns from leave. We requested these documents through FOIA on December 9th specifically so we would have all of the information we need to inform our comments on the draft EA. We have tried to be flexible about the delays in receiving all of the responsive documents. At the same time, we have been diligent because this information is critical. Not having it greatly hinders our ability to provide meaningful comments -- which is our goal.

Given these concerns, we would like to talk to you about extending the public comment period. This seems appropriate given the circumstances. Are you available to discuss this today or Monday?

In the meantime, we have the following questions/requests related to the FOIA request.

- **Hydrology.** The maps available to us only show larger perennial streams. We were interested in locations of wetlands, springs, and lower order streams. Could you please provide documents/information collected to date from the ongoing surveys or state that no such documents exist?
- **Botany.** We checked in with Karen on this on March 1 and she said she'd be in touch with the Clinch. We haven't heard back but re copying her here so everyone is in the loop.
- **Old Growth.** Took another look at the Vision Draft maps, and realized there are numbers throughout that I assume are the OG survey plots. I missed these the first time. There are two maps in that file for Compartments 2043 and 2044. Could you send the maps for 2042 and 2059?
- Perhaps I've overlooked it, but I haven't seen new qualifying OG delineated on any of the maps provided. Could you tell me which specific map delineates these areas?
- **NNIS, Project Level.** Has there been any concerted effort to survey for and map NNIS *in the project area*? This is the information we are requesting. If it does not exist, please just let us know that.
- **NNIS, Clinch District.** Again, we are interested in district-level management of NNIS. On the Clinch RD, are there any district-level NNIS management plans, monitoring results, documentation that

provides details of efforts to treat NNIS (including tracking of herbicide use) etc.. ? If not, please just let us know that.

Please let me know your thoughts!

Thanks, Steve

From: Williams, Shelby -FS [<mailto:shelbywilliams@fs.fed.us>]
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 2:23 PM
To: Steve; Overcash, Karen B -FS; Garten, Barry -FS
Cc: Diana Withen; Annie Cotten
Subject: RE: Follow up to our Dec. 9, 2016 FOIA

See comments in blue text below.



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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.

These surveys are ongoing. You received the information from previous project (CMB) in the area. Others known springs and creeks are public information available on maps. Any new creeks, springs and any other wetland identified during the implementation of the project will be evaluated and protected the same as known springs and streams per state BMP's, Forest Plan and the DEA.

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.

Karen Overcash will have to respond to this one when she gets back from leave.

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.

Old growth survey plots and any new qualifying old growth would be delineated on all of the maps you were given. That includes the NP 2020 Vision Draft map. We used existing maps during the surveys.

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.

NNIS are also a concern for the Forest. That is why in the DEA we have included the treatment of NNIS. The existing NNIS inventoried for this project are along the existing roads. Being able to treat these occurrences as found is key to reducing any found populations as well as keeping these NNIS from spreading.

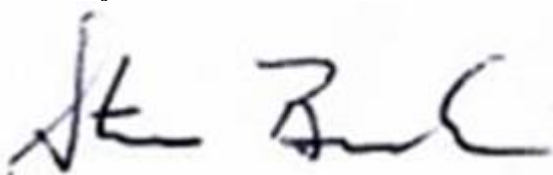
5. Field notes, reports, summaries, and maps associated with, resulting from, and/or regarding timber surveys completed for the Nettle Patch Project
6. Field notes, reports, summaries, and maps associated with, resulting from, and/or regarding soil surveys completed for the Nettle Patch Project
7. Field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

The Forest Plan, the Forest-Wide Non-Native Invasive Plant Control EA and the Nettle Patch EA combined would guide the management related to NNIS. If you would like copies of any of these we could send you an electric copy.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Brooks', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Steve Brooks, Associate Director
The Clinch Coalition
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276-479-2176

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