

Raymond Plank

March 19, 2020

Reviewing Officer Joby P. Timm, Forest Supervisor GW & J National Forests  
and Mary Yonce, District Ranger, North River Ranger District  
5261 Valleypointe Parkway  
Roanoke, VA 24019-3050

SUBJECT: North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project

Dear Joby P. Timm and Mary Yonce,

As stated previously, I live on Little Dry River Road within the Feltz Ridge/Leading Ridge Working Area in the George Washington National Forest. After reading the Draft Decision Notice North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project U.S. Forest Service North River Ranger District GW & J National Forests Rockingham County, Virginia and Pendleton County, West Virginia; the North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project Draft Environmental Assessment Comments and Concerns; and the USDA Environmental Assessment North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project Rockingham County, Virginia and Pendleton County, West Virginia, I still have some concerns.

I still have concerns for water in the Slate Lick area and potentially in our area because of the way water moves in our folded mountains and karst land. Potable water can be contaminated very quickly due to natural springs, wet water springs and how water flows through the folded underground rocks. On page 1 and 2 of the Draft Decision Notice North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project U.S. Forest Service North River Ranger District GW & J National Forests Rockingham County, Virginia and Pendleton County, West Virginia reads "This decision will move forward with all of the treatment units, except for several units outlined below. A decision of these excluded units may occur at a later date. ... The excluded units have been fully analyzed in the final EA. The units not included in this decision are in the Feltz Ridge working area identified as units 19, 21, 24, 25, 202, 207 and 208. ... We have opted to delay the decision of treatments in this area until clear direction from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on this issue has been established. ... In the event this consultation results in any changes to the proposed actions as outlined in the final EA, a supplemental analysis for public review in compliance with NEPA regulations may be issued for public review." Page 29 of the North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project Draft Environmental Assessment Comments and Concerns reads "Imazapic is used in very specialized situations and is sometimes used as a pre-emergent in areas where it is challenging to control non-native invasive species. Currently there are no plans to use the chemical in the Feltz Ridge working area." I requested before and again request if changes are later made to the proposed actions outlined in the final EA, no Imazapic be used in our Feltz Ridge/Leading Ridge Working Area. If it must be used I request that I be notified in advance. [NOTE: My specific reasons for Imazapic to not to be used are stated in my September 13, 2019 comment letter.]

Thank you for notifying me regarding proposed burns in my area. I request that I continue to be notified in advance. My phone number is (540) 896-1232.

Sincerely,  
Raymond Plank