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Organization: WV Chapter of Sierra Club

Title: Public Lands Committee Chair

Comments:

Melissa Waggy

Public Lands Committee

WV Chapter of Sierra Club

304-497-4358

March 31, 2022

Monongahela National Forest

Cheat-Potomac Ranger District

2499 North Fork Highway

Petersburg, WV 26847

Attn: Jon Morgan, District Ranger

Re: Proposed Upper Cheat River Project draft EA

Dear Mr. Morgan,

This letter is submitted by the WV Chapter of the Sierra Club and contains our formal comments regarding the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Forest Service's (FS) proposed Upper Cheat River Project. We appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts about the proposed action.

The WV Chapter of the Sierra Club is a 2100+ volunteer membership organization dedicated to exploring and protecting wild places and to practicing and promoting responsible use of the earth's ecosystems. We are part of the nation's largest grassroots movement to protect the environment. Protecting public lands is naturally at the forefront of our mission. The Monongahela National Forest (MNF) is a special place in WV, and serves as a destination location for residents and visitors alike. The WV Chapter of the Sierra Club is dedicating to ensuring the sustainable management of the MNF.

Our Chapter is a member of the West Virginians for Public Lands Committee organized and led by the West Virginia Rivers Coalition (WV Rivers). Several members have submitted comments and suggestions regarding the Upper Cheat River Project including, Friends of the Cheat (FOC), West Virginia Highlands Conservancy (WVHC), and the WV Rivers Coalition. We support in full the comments made by these organizations, particularly comments related to water quality protection and restoration, fisheries restoration, soil protection, and timber harvest impacts on forest age class diversity. Of special concern are the issues raised by the WV Highland Conservancy about carbon sequestration.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide our thoughts on the Upper Cheat River Project EA and ask that you consider carefully, comments submitted by the FOC, WVHC, and WV Rivers regarding the EA. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Melissa A. Waggy
WV Chapter of Sierra Club
Public Lands Committee Chair