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Comments: I have worked as a forestry professional for over 28 years. The Monongahela National Forest is important to me from both a recreational and a professional stand point. I am glad to hear that the Upper Cheat River Project Area Plan has placed a priority on increasing timber harvest on the Monongahela National Forest. This will help the local timber industry as well as recreation for hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts.

The plan is allowing for annual harvests to be roughly 1% per year which is under the goal to significantly change the overall structure of the stands. The proposed methods of harvest is 51% helicopter and 15% sky yarding. I feel that the overall harvest should be more aggressive and that the method of harvest should be geared to a higher percentage of conventional logging. Helicopter and sky yarding have very high costs which takes value away from the timber sale and in turn from the general public.

In a nut shell, the plan should be to increase timber harvesting more aggressively and to do away with high costing helicopter and sky yarding harvesting methods