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Title:

Comments: I have maintained the Appalachian Trail atop Peters Mtn in the past, when the WV Scenic Trails Association was a maintaining club of the Appalachian Trail Conference. In fact, I helped to move the trail from its original location further southeast to the ridgetop walk between the south end of Peters Mtn through Rice's Field to the junction with the powerline maintenance roadway in the 1970s. Peters Mtn was chosen by the Appalachian Trail Conference (forerunner to the Conservancy) for the new AT location for two main purposes: to give the state of WV a second connection to the AT (originally only the Harpers Ferry area had a WV connection) and to take advantage of the incredible views northwestward over Monroe County, WV and 26 miles away to Flat Top Mountain in Raleigh County, WV. The purchase of Sugar Camp Farm from Cecil McKinney and the development of the Groundhog Trail also resulted from these two purposes. Senator Robert C. Byrd was instrumental in obtaining congressional funding for establishing and developing this portion of the AT, including Sugar Camp Farm. Scarring this viewshed with the MVP would be a betrayal to the generations of trail builders and maintainers, both volunteers and federal employees, as well as to the spirit of Senator Byrd, who have kept the viewshed intact. -The USFS should choose the No Action alternative, no. 1. -It is a very bad precedent to allow an exception for the MVP to cross the AT in Jefferson National Forest. No large pipeline has been allowed to cross the AT since it became a National Scenic Trail in 1968. -The wide, treeless corridor of the MVP violates Jefferson National Forest's scenic integrity objectives. -The steep slopes of Peters Mtn below the proposed MVP boring pits have been identified by Jefferson National Forest as high hazard sites due to seismic activity in the active earthquake zone. -Boring into the rock of the Peters Mtn aguifer and then placing a gas pipeline in the borehole in this active earthquake zone, will likely result in pipe cracks and leaks into the aquifer, which numerous families downslope depend upon. -Jefferson National Forest should chose Alternative No. 1, the noaction alternative. Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Doug Wood