APPENDIX A:

DISASTER DECLARATION
President Declares Major Disaster for West Virginia

Release date: June 25, 2016

Release Number: HQ-16-042

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the State of West Virginia to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides beginning on June 22, 2016, and continuing.

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in of Greenbrier, Kanawha, and Nicholas counties. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

The President's action makes federal funding available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures in Greenbrier, Kanawha, and Nicholas counties.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Albert Lewis has been named as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Lewis said additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in the designated area can begin applying for assistance tomorrow by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov (http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

APPENDIX B:

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE
FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. John Schmidt
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
West Virginia Field Office
90 Vance Drive
Elkins, WV 26241

Subject: Sulphur Lick Run Road Decommissioning and Relocation
Monongahela National Forest
Request for Concurrence

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

The Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, Monongahela National Forest (MNF), proposes to decommission most of Forest Road (FR) 719 (known as Sulphur Lick Run Road) and rehabilitate FR 719A extension road and a currently non-system, unnamed woods road to continue to provide access to active management areas and private lands. The unnamed woods road is a proposed addition to the MNF formal road system and, as such, needs to be brought up to Forest Service standards. This action is the result of flood damage resulting from torrential rains that caused epic flooding to the area in June 2016. In the Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area, a segment of FR 719 remains closed due to the flood damage. A project location map is attached for your use.

Road rehabilitation work on FR 719A and the northern and southern ends of Sulphur Lick Run Road would include culvert replacement, minor grading to improve drainage (crowning the road and restoring the ditch line), and resurfacing with aggregate. Road reconstruction work on unnamed woods road would include excavation and grading to widen the existing road, which varies between 4.5 to 11-feet wide, to a 14-foot wide single travel lane with 2-foot wide shoulders. Six damaged culverts would be replaced and the road would be surfaced with 6 inches of aggregate. An approximately 9,400-foot section of Sulphur Lick Run Road would be decommissioned by removing existing culverts and restoring drainages, removing unstable fill material and road shoulders, and obliterating the road. Barriers would be constructed at each end of the decommissioning to prevent vehicular traffic, and the area would be revegetated with native species.

Reviews of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation website (IPaC) indicated that five Federally-listed plant species had the potential to be present in the project area: buffalo clover (Trifolium stoloniferum), Virginia spiraea (Spiraea
virginiana), shale barren rock cress (Arabis serotina), small whorled pogonia (Isotria medeoloides), and northeastern bulrush (Scirpus ancistrochaetus). In addition, IPAC reports indicated the potential for four Federally-listed animal species to be present: Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis), northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis), and candy darter (Etheostoma osburni). No critical habitat was located within the project area. A Biological Assessment (BA), which included botanical field surveys to document Federally-listed plants present in the project area, was completed for all of the 2016 flood damage repair projects. No federally-listed plant species were found in the project area for this project. In the BA, the location of the proposed action is identified as part of the WV ERFO FS 2016-1(6) repairs.

FHWA has determined that the proposed project would have no effect on Virginia spiraea, shale barren rockcress, small whorled pogonia, northeastern bulrush, or running buffalo clover because none of these species were found to be present in the project area during field surveys for these two projects. The proposed project would also have no effect on the candy darter because no potential habitat is in the project area.

FHWA has also determined that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat. Although no known hibernacula or maternity roosts are in the project area, potential summer habitat is present in forested areas surrounding existing roads. Also, potential foraging habitat and travel corridors are located along existing roads and streams. Tree clearing would be necessary along unnamed woods road in order to widen and reconstruct the road; however, tree clearing is not anticipated to exceed six acres. Trees would be not cleared between April 1 and November 15, to avoid impacts to bat species and repairs would be completed during the day when bats are not active.

For the northern long-eared bat, we have followed the Key to the Northern Long-Eared Bat 4(d) Rule for Federal Actions that May Affect Northern Long-Eared Bats and have determined that the action would not cause prohibited incidental take. No tree removal would occur during the pup season from June 1 through July 31. We will rely on the finding of the Programmatic Biological Opinion on the 4(d) Rule for the Northern Long-eared Bat and Activities Excepted from Take Prohibitions, and consider our project-specific section 7(a)(2) responsibilities fulfilled unless notified that additional consultation is necessary.

The FHWA respectfully requests your review of the proposed projects and concurrence with our determination within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Lisa Landers, Environmental Protection Specialist, at Lisa.Landers@dot.gov or (571) 434-1592.

Sincerely,

Lisa Landers

For Kevin S. Rose
Environmental Compliance Specialist

Enclosures
cc:
Ms. Jane Bard, USDA Forest Service
Ms. Liz Stout, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Kevin Rose  
Federal Highway Administration  
Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division  
21400 Ridgetop Circle  
Sterling, Virginia  20166  

Re:  Sulphur Lick Run Road Decommissioning and Relocation, Greenbrier County, WV  

Dear Mr. Rose:  

This letter is in response to your August 8, 2018, correspondence for the above-mentioned project. This proposed project occurs within the Monongahela National Forest (MNF) in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, and proposes to decommission Forest Road (FR) 719, also known as Sulphur Lick Run Road, and rehabilitate FR 719A and a currently non-system, unnamed woods road to continue to provide access to active management areas and private lands. The latter is a proposed addition to the MNF formal road system and must be brought up to Forest Service standards. These comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).  

Based on the information provided, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has determined that the federally listed Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis), northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (Myotis septentrionalis), running buffalo clover (Trifolium stoloniferum), small whorled pogonia (Isotria medeoloides), and shale barren rockcress (Arabis serotina) may occur within the vicinity of and may be affected by the proposed projects.  

Bats  
The Indiana bat and NLEB may use the project area for foraging and roosting between April 1 and November 15. Indiana bat summer foraging habitats are generally defined as riparian, bottomland, upland forest, and old fields or pastures with scattered trees. Roosting/maternity habitat consists primarily of live or dead hardwood tree species which have exfoliating bark that provides space for bats to roost between the bark and the bole of the tree. Tree cavities, crevices, splits, or hollow portions of tree boles and limbs also provide roost sites. In West Virginia, the
Mr. Kevin Rose  
September 5, 2018

Service considers all forested habitat containing trees greater than or equal to 5 inches in diameter at breast height to be potentially suitable as summer roosting and foraging habitat for the Indiana bat.

Indiana bats feed on emerged aquatic and terrestrial flying insects. Moths, caddisflies, flies, mosquitoes, and midges are major prey items. Aquatic insects that have concentrated emergences or that form large mating aggregations above or near water appear to be preferred prey items. As a result, streams, wetlands, and associated riparian forests are often preferred foraging habitats for pregnant and lactating Indiana bats. Indiana bats also forage within the canopy of upland forests, over clearings with early successional vegetation (e.g., old fields), along the borders of croplands, along wooded fencerows, and over farm ponds in pastures. Increased erosion and sedimentation of streams reduces diversity and biomass of benthic invertebrates, i.e. insects. Some projects propose impacts to aquatic features such as streams or wetlands, which could result in a decrease in insects available to both bat species for foraging.

Similar to the Indiana bat, NLEB foraging habitat includes forested hillsides and ridges, and small ponds or streams. NLEB are typically associated with large tracts of mature, upland forests with more canopy cover than is preferred by Indiana bats. NLEB seem to be flexible in selecting roosts. They choose roost trees based on suitability to retain bark or provide cavities or crevices, and this species is known to use a wider variety of roost types than the Indiana bat. Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places like caves and mines. Although rare, this bat has also been found roosting in structures like barns and sheds.

Indiana bats and NLEB use caves or mine portals for winter hibernation between November 15 and March 31. These species also use the hibernacula and the areas around them for fall-swallowing and spring-staging activity (August 15 to November 14 and April 1 to May 14, respectively). Some males have been known to stay close to the hibernacula during the summer and may use the hibernacula as summer roosts. There may be other landscape features being used as hibernacula by NLEB during the winter that have yet to be documented.

The Service has reviewed the number of acres of potentially suitable foraging and roosting habitat on the West Virginia landscape available to each Indiana bat, versus the total acreage of forest. On that basis, we have determined that small projects, more than 10 miles from a known priority 1 or 2 Indiana bat hibernaculum, more than 5 miles from a known priority 3 or 4 Indiana bat hibernaculum, or more than 2.5 miles from any known maternity roost, or more than 5 miles from summer detection sites where no roosts were identified, that affect less than 17 acres of forested habitat, and will not affect any potential hibernacula, will have a very small chance of resulting in direct or indirect effects to the Indiana bat, and therefore these effects are considered discountable. Please note that the Service may review and update this assessment at any time as new information becomes available.

The Service concurs that this project is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat because your project: 1) will affect less than 17 acres of potential Indiana bat foraging or roosting habitat; 2) is not within any of the Indiana bat hibernaculum or summer use buffers described above; 3) will not affect any potential caves or mines that could be used as hibernacula for this species; and 4) effects to aquatic features used for foraging habitat will be insignificant.
The NLEB may occur within the range of the proposed project, and may be affected by the proposed construction and operation of this project. Any take of NLEB occurring in conjunction with these activities that complies with the conservation measures (as outlined in the 4(d) rule), as necessary, is exempted from section 9 prohibitions by the 4(d) rule and does not require site specific incidental take authorization. Note that the 4(d) rule does not exempt take that may occur as a result of adverse effects to hibernacula and that no conservation measures are required as part of the 4(d) rule unless the proposed project: 1) involves tree removal within 0.25 miles of known NLEB hibernacula; or 2) cuts or destroys known, occupied maternity roost trees or any other trees within a 150-foot radius around known, occupied maternity tree during the pup season (June 1 to July 31). This proposed project is not located within any of these radii around known hibernacula or roost trees and will not affect any known NLEB hibernacula, therefore any take of NLEB associated with this project is exempted under the 4(d) rule and no conservation measures are required.

Plants
Running buffalo clover occurs in mesic habitats of partial to filtered sunlight, where there is a prolonged pattern of moderate periodic disturbance, such as mowing, trampling, grazing, or flood-scouring. It is often found in regions with limestone or other calcareous bedrock underlying the site, though limestone soil is not a requisite determining factor for the locations of populations of this species. Populations of running buffalo clover have been found in a variety of habitat types, including mesic woodlands, streambanks, grazed woodlots, mowed paths, old logging roads, trails, hawthorne thickets, locust savannahs, mowed wildlife openings within mature forests, savannahs, sandbars, and steep ravines. This species can also be found on infrequently used ATV trails and gravel drives. All populations are associated with light to moderate disturbance such as occasional ORV or foot traffic, stream scour, or grazing.

Small whorled pogonia is a perennial member of the orchid family, generally known from deciduous woods with acid soil. It flowers from about mid-May to mid-June, typically with only one flower per plant, which lasts only a few days to a week. Individual plants may not flower every year and extended dormancy, although not scientifically documented, is purported to occur under certain conditions. This plant is believed to be self-pollinating by mechanical processes; no evidence of insect pollination has been observed.

Shale barren rock cress is a biennial herb of the mustard family and is one of several endemic species restricted to the mid-Appalachian shale barrens of the Ridge and Valley province of the Appalachian Highlands. Shale barren vegetation occurs on eroding shale formations. Mid-Appalachian shale barrens occur on eroding shale formations and typically have open, scrubby growth of pine, oak, red cedar, and other woody species adapted to xeric conditions.

Your August 8, 2018, correspondence included the results of a botanical survey for federally listed plants within the proposed action area. This survey was completed by AllStar Ecology from September 11 to 14, 2017. No listed plants were found within the vicinity of these proposed projects The Service concurs that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect any federally listed plant species.
Mr. Kevin Rose  
September 5, 2018

No biological assessment or further section 7 consultation under the ESA is required with the Service for the proposed project. Should project plans change or amendments be proposed that we have not considered in your proposed action, or if additional information on listed and proposed species becomes available, or if new species become listed or critical habitat is designated, this determination may be reconsidered. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Liz Stout of my staff at (304) 636-6586, ext. 15, or elizabeth_stout@fws.gov or at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John E. Schmidt  
Field Supervisor
Lisa T. Landers
Environmental Protection Specialist
Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division
Federal Highway Administration
21400 Ridgetop Circle
Sterling, VA 20166

Ms. Landers,

I was notified by Jim McCormick, biologist on the Monongahela National Forest Marlinton/White Sulphur Springs Ranger District, regarding the draft EA for road repair/decommissioning – specifically FS719A. I am project leader for monarchs and lepidoptera for WV DNR. Unfortunately, I was missed when documents were distributed, and I needed to comment on some of the proposed work.

The Appalachian grizzled skipper (Pyrgus wyandot) is a WV state species of conservation concern and a Forest Service Regional Foresters Sensitive Species. It was formerly found in scattered colonies in the eastern panhandle of WV but was extirpated there primarily due to repeated aerial applications of insecticides for control of gypsy moth (Lymantria dispar) in the 1980s and 1990s. A skipper colony along FS719A was discovered in the early 2000s; the WVDNR and FS have been coordinating monitoring and management since then. This population of Appalachian grizzled skipper is the largest population known. Management involves release and enhancement of its larval host Canada cinquefoil (Potentilla canadensis) and nectar sources during flight of the adults (mostly mid-April – mid-May depending on temperatures) and daylighting the road to increase sunlight for these plants. The skipper is found along the lower portions of FS719A, corresponding with Section 4 of the draft EA. The map below identifies the portion of the road that is currently known to be used by the species:

![Map of FS719A with skipper population location]({% asset 'map.png' %})

Regarding the proposed minimal improvements to this section on FS719A, care must be taken to avoid disturbing the shoulders of the road where Canada cinquefoil occurs, and slopes that harbor other spring blooming plants. The species uses Canada cinquefoil during...
all its life stages; eggs are laid on the underside of leaves, larva create leaf shelters and eat the leaves, pupas find shelter under the winter rosettes, and adults nectar from blooms in spring – the plant is essential to the species survival. Additionally, the skippers require some trees for adults to roost in and other spring blooming plants for survival. Along FS719A these primarily include moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*), bird-foot violet (*Viola pedata*), and Carolina vetch (*Vicia caroliniana*), among others. In the photo below, you can see that the distribution of these species is concentrated on the existing shoulders of FS719A.

Additionally, because of the nature of these native plants, any fill material used must be acidic, like the native shales. Addition of limestone fill/aggregate will increase the pH and allow invasive species to gain a greater foothold and smother out the cinquefoil and other needed flowering plants.

I know that this may pose a challenge to proposed road improvements, but before the 2016 floods, the FS and DNR partnered to develop techniques for installing broad-based dips to allow water drainage, while protecting the skipper habitat. We’ve drafted basic BMPs for skipper habitat management that have been shared with personnel at the FS including Cynthia Sandeno, District Ranger at White Sulphur and Jim McCormick, Biologist at Marlinton/White Sulphur, and would like to see these incorporated into the proposed road restorations. I would like to know specifically what actions are proposed for this section of FS719A.

I am willing to participate in a site visit preceding the start of any work done on FS719A. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Susan Olcott
Project Leader, Wildlife Diversity Program
WVDNR
PO Box 99, 1110 Railroad St
Farmington, WV 26571
(304)825-6787
(304)825-6270
susan.p.oltcott@wv.gov
Mrs. Landers,

The purpose of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) pursuant to 7 CFR 658: Federal agencies are (a) to use the criteria to identify and take into account the adverse effects of their programs on the preservation of farmland, (b) to consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could lessen adverse effects, and (c) to ensure that their programs, to the extent practicable, are compatible with State and units of local government and private programs and policies to protect farmland. If the project is going to fix existing roads and decommission others then the conversion of “farmland” will not occur and is therefore not subject to FPPA. Where “improvements” include expanding or building new roads, the footprint of the actual construction would constitute the conversion and should be calculated and shown clearly on a map so that soil types can be determined.

Your reason for dismissing further consideration of the FPPA due to the absence of prime and unique soils is inaccurate, see the partial definition of “farmland” 658.2(a) Farmland means prime or unique farmlands as defined in section 1540(c)(1) of the Act or farmland that is determined by the appropriate state or unit of local government agency or agencies with concurrence of the Secretary to be farmland of statewide or local importance. Note the inclusion of statewide and locally important farmland in the definition.

It is within your authority to make the determination of whether the site is “farmland” and subject to FPPA, however I would be happy to assist 658.4(a) An agency may determine whether or not a site is farmland as defined in §658.2(a) or the agency may request that NRCS make such a determination. If an agency elects not to make its own determination, it should make a request to NRCS on Form AD-1006, the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form

If you need further assistance do not hesitate to contact me. I would be happy to assist.

Jared Beard
State Soil Scientist
Acting National Leader for Technical Soil Services & World Soil Resources
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1550 Earl Core Rd. Room 200
Morgantown, WV 26505
304-284-7597 (office)
304-578-9171 (cell)
Good Morning Mr. Beard,

The Marlinton/White Sulphur Springs Ranger District is proposing to provide improvements to several forest roads within the Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area of the Monongahela National Forest, which were heavily damaged by storms and flooding in 2016. The Forest Service is partnering with the Eastern Federal Lands Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration to complete the environmental assessment, design, and construction of the proposed improvements. A copy of the project map is attached. A summary project description is presented at the bottom of the email.

Farmlands are one of the issues being investigated for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the project. Utilizing data provided by the USDA – NRCA Web Soil Survey (https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx), we identified two soils classified as “farmland as statewide importance” that exist along the banks of Sulphur Lick Run:

- ErB—Ernest silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- MaC—Macove channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes

These two soil units account for 33.7 acres (3 percent) and 59.7 acres (5.3 percent) of the Area of Interest (AOI), respectively. In addition, these two soils are considered as prime farmland if irrigated; however, none are irrigated within the project area. No unique farmlands were identified within the project area. Due to the absence of prime or unique farmlands associated with the project area, farmlands is dismissed from further analysis in this EA.

We would appreciate it if you could confirm whether you agree with our finding. Any comments you have regarding the proposed project would also be appreciated.

Thank you,
-Lisa

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**Sulphur Lick Run Road Decommissioning and Relocation Project Description**

The project is located entirely within Greenbrier County, with the City of White Sulphur Springs approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the project area. The MNF and project area, are located north of I-64, and west of the Virginia state line. The project consists of multiple forest roads and is located entirely within the MNF land, though it provides access to private landholders who are encircled by the forest.

The MNF is proposing to take action in the Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area to address the damages incurred in 2016 to Sulphur Lick Run Road (Forest Road 719) and an unnamed woods road. Portions of the gravel or earthen roads were partially or completely washed out by Sulphur Creek Run and other, unnamed stream reaches. Sulphur Lick Run Road (Forest Road 719), between mile post (MP) 0.8 and the beginning of the unnamed woods road, suffered catastrophic damage and are unusable due to slide slope and roadway washouts. Due to the proximity of this section of road runs to Sulphur Lick Run, it is likely that future heavy rain events will continue cause washouts. Bringing this road up to standard is environmentally and economically unfeasible.
The various improvements involve the decommissioning of most of Sulphur Lick Run Road and rehabilitation of the FR 719A extension road and an unnamed woods road. The portion of Sulphur Lick Road that is not being decommissioned would be reconstructed at locations that received storm damage. Specific improvements to FR 719, FR 719A, and the unnamed woods road are described in detail below.

- **Sulphur Lick Run Road (FR 719)** – This work includes reconstructing the roadway in areas that received storm damage such as side slope and roadway washouts outside of the portion of the roadway that is being decommissioned. This includes clearing and grubbing, embankment construction, construction of mechanically stabilized earth walls, culvert replacement, and resurfacing. Instead of reconstructing storm damaged areas between MP 0.8 of Sulphur Lick Run Road and the intersection with an unnamed woods road, this section of the roadway will be decommissioned. Decommissioning includes full recontouring of the road template and re-establishment of the drainages back to similar existing contours.

- **FR 719A extension road** – This work includes rehabilitating this roadway from the end of FR 719A to the beginning of the unnamed woods road. This includes clearing and grubbing and resurfacing.

- **Unnamed Woods Road** – This work includes rehabilitating this roadway from the end of the FR 719A extension road to the intersection with Sulphur Lick Run Road. Roadway widening will occur on about 1 mile of the roadway. Areas that received storm damage such as side slope and roadway washouts will be reconstructed. This includes clearing and grubbing, embankment construction, construction of mechanically stabilized earth walls, culvert replacement, and resurfacing.

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Mr. J. Gavin Hale  
Heritage Program Manager/Tribal Liaison  
Forest Service  
Monongahela National Forest  
200 Sycamore Street  
Elkins, WV 26241  

RE: Cultural Resource Investigation FR 719 and 719A Road Access  
FR#: 18-1384-GB  

Dear Mr. Hale:

We have reviewed the information submitted for the above-mentioned project to determine its effects to cultural resources. As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: “Protection of Historic Properties,” we submit our comments.

According to submitted information, the Forest Service, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to modify a total of 5.6 miles of Forest Roads (FR) 719 and 719A in response to the 2016 flood event. Both roads are located within the Brushy Mountain Area of Monongahela National Forest in Greenbrier County, WV. The proposed project will involve the removal of FR 719 and the rehabilitation and widening of FR 719A. It is our understanding that the proposed project’s area of potential effect (APE) consists of the proposed limits of disturbance (LOD), which includes 2.5 meters on each side of the road centerline.

Archaeological Resources:
Archaeological survey of this area included pedestrian reconnaissance and shovel probe excavation. Small portions of the APE were observed to consist of steep or previously disturbed terrain or were inundated with water. In total, 719 shovel probes were excavated. The survey resulted in the recovery of six artifacts. Two prehistoric flakes and one fragment of a machine-made brick were recovered from the ground surface along FR 719. Three historic/modern artifacts consisting of one beverage can tab, one fragment of clear container glass, and the lid of a can were recovered from the topsoil of shovel probes. Because of their contexts, we concur that these items do not represent archaeological sites. No archaeological sites were identified within the APE. As a result, we concur that the project will have no effect on archaeological historic properties and that no further archaeological investigations are warranted.

It is our understanding that the survey resulted in the identification of one archaeological resource, the Sulphur Lick Run Still Site (46GB570), outside of the proposed project’s APE. The site was initially identified by the presence of artifacts associated with twentieth-century distilling in proximity to a
consistent water source. Because of the limits of the ARPA permit that was obtained for the survey and its location outside the APE, no subsurface investigation was conducted. We appreciate the submission of the completed archaeological site form for our records.

Architectural Resources:
We have reviewed the submitted information and determined that the proposed project will affect no architectural properties eligible for or included in the National Register of Historic Places. Although a small portion of FR 719 is over 50 years of age, the majority of FR 719 and FR 719A in the proposed project area appear to post-date 1974, and we agree that they lack the significance necessary to be eligible for the National Register. No other architectural resources are located near the project area. No further consultation is necessary regarding architectural resources; however, we ask that you contact our office if your project should change.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. If you have questions regarding our comments or the Section 106 process, please contact Lora A. Lamarre-DeMott, Senior Archaeologist, or Benjamin M. Riggle, Structural Historian, at (304) 558-0240.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP/LLD/BMR
APPENDIX C:
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

The following best management practices (BMPs) are consistent with the guidelines set forth in the 2006 Monongahela National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (updated 2011), as well as other Forest Service policies and regulations. Table C-1 provides a list of BMPs that would be implemented regardless of the alternative chosen.

**Table C-1: Project Best Management Practices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMP</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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<tr>
<td>During the design phase of project development, a detailed soil analysis would be completed, and a plan would be developed to address soil stability and revegetation during and post construction. All disturbed areas would be stabilized and revegetated with native species in a timely manner. Seed mixes would be approved by a Forest Service botanist. Proper seed selection would promote revegetation with appropriate plants with deep root systems that would help to stabilize soils, foster greater infiltration, and reduce runoff. An annual cover crop like rye or oats may be used to temporarily stabilize the soil and discourage establishment of non-native invasive species (NNIS). Equipment, vehicles, and trailers would be cleaned prior to entering MNF by scraping, brushing, or washing to minimize the risk of transporting NNIS. Soil excavated during construction would be stockpiled and reused as fill if needed. Fill material, gravel, and mulch/straw would be free from NNIS to the extent possible.</td>
<td>Improve soil stability and reduce erosion and sediment from entering waterbodies. Species protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan that uses BMPs to protect downstream areas would be developed and implemented to minimize erosion and sedimentation; the plans would be in place and all components activated prior to ground disturbing activities.</td>
<td>Reduce erosion and sediment from entering waterbodies; prevent and/or minimize impacts to water quality.</td>
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<td>Reduce risk of erosion and sediment transport by appropriately using methods that may include, but are not limited to: straw bales, silt fencing, sand bags, filter fabric, temporary sediment ponds, check dams of pea gravel-filled burlap bags or other material, and/or immediate mulching of exposed areas. Sediment traps should be incorporated into ditches.</td>
<td>Prevent sediment from entering waterbodies.</td>
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<td>All machinery maintenance involving potential contaminants (fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, etc.) shall occur at a site greater than 150 feet from stream channels, water bodies, or wetlands, or at a prior approved site. Equipment operated instream should be</td>
<td>Prevent and minimize effects to water quality.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BMP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
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<td>cleaned before beginning operations below the bankfull elevation to remove all external oil, grease, dirt, and mud. Stationary power equipment (e.g., generators, cranes) operated within 150 feet of any stream, water body, or wetland should be diapered to prevent leaks.</td>
<td>Prevent and minimize effects to water quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess material (spoils) shall be disposed of and stabilized so it does not enter flowing waters, stream channels, or other waterbodies. The location for the stockpiling or disposal of excess material would be determined during design.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No tree clearing would be allowed between April 1 and November 15 in order to avoid impacts to bat species utilizing trees for roosting. The Forest Service should be notified 7 days in advance to inspect the trees for bat activity.</td>
<td>Species protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On FR 719A, disturbance of Canada cinquefoil and other spring blooming plants found on road shoulders and slopes would be avoided to the maximum extent possible in order to avoid impacts to the Appalachian grizzled skipper. Any fill material used would be acidic, like the native shales. No limestone fill/aggregate would be used and use of lime or fertilizer would be avoided. No insecticide would be applied near the occupied area. Prior to construction activity on FR 719A, construction crews would be briefed on the skipper and made aware of the need to minimize impacts from equipment and traffic to the sides of FR719A.</td>
<td>Species protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If protected species are identified during later phases of the project, the locations and sensitive areas containing protected species would be demarcated onsite with highly visible flagging or construction fencing prior to the start of any construction activities.</td>
<td>Species protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If a previously unidentified resource is discovered during project implementation, the Forest Cultural Resources Specialist would be notified and the Forest would fulfill its responsibilities in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement between the Forest Service and the State Historic Preservation Office.</td>
<td>Cultural Resources protection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX D: PUBLIC SCOPING REPORT
Public Scoping Report

Sulphur Lick Run Road Decommissioning and Relocation
Environmental Assessment
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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name</th>
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<td>Code of Federal Regulations</td>
<td>CFR</td>
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<td>Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division</td>
<td>EFLHD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads</td>
<td>ERFO</td>
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<td>FHWA</td>
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<td>FR</td>
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<td>MNF</td>
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<td>NOI</td>
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<td>U.S. Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>USDA</td>
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<td>U.S. Forest Service</td>
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Introduction

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Marlinton/White Sulphur Springs Ranger District is proposing to provide improvements to several forest roads within the Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area of the Monongahela National Forest (MNF), which were heavily damaged by storms and flooding in 2016. The USFS is partnering with the Eastern Federal Lands Division Office (EFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to complete the Environmental Assessment (EA), design, and construction of the proposed improvements.

An EA is being prepared to analyze and disclose to the public the environmental, social, and economic impacts of repair and construction of roads within the National Forest System (NFS), and also roads not formally adopted in the NFS, but that are used by the USFS to meet the goals and objectives of the MNF. The EA will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and other associated regulations. This EA will analyze and establish the USFS management practices for the MNF in response to current legislation, policies, and the demand to use public land and its resources.

An integral part of the planning and environmental process is public participation, which keeps the public engaged and appraised of the project’s progress and intended effects. Opportunities for public participation include public scoping, as well as opportunities for public comment that are solicited through mailings, public advertisements, and meetings. The frequency and level of public participation solicitation will depend on the level of environmental documentation.

Background

In June of 2016, torrential rain caused epic flooding in West Virginia. This one-in-one-thousand year event severely damaged roads, trails, and recreation sites in the southern half of the MNF. In the Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area, heavy rainfall that caused extensive damage to forest roads. As such, emergency repair funds through the Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) program were made available to assist with repairs to this section of the forest.

The project is located entirely within Greenbrier County, with the City of White Sulphur Springs approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the project area. The MNF and project area, are located north of I-64, and west of the Virginia state line. The project consists of multiple forest roads and is located entirely within the MNF land, though it provides access to private landholders who are encircled by the forest. No activities for this project are proposed on private lands. Please refer to the Figure 1 for a location map of the project area and proposed repairs.

The MNF was established in 1920 in the northcentral highlands of West Virginia. The more than 919,000-acre national forest provides timber, water, grazing, minerals, and recreational opportunities. The project area lies in the Brushy Mountain area in the southwest corner of the Marlinton/White Sulphur Ranger District, with Interstate 64 (I-64) on the southern edge and the West Virginia/Virginia state line on the eastern edge. The 7,148 acres in the project area include approximately 6,862 acres of Forest Service land and 322 acres of privately-owned land. The area was acquired by the MNF in 2003.
from the Westvaco Corporation. Westvaco actively managed the lands for commercial timber with frequent harvests. ¹

Forest Road 719 (FR 719) complex (Buskirk/Sulphur Lick Run Roads) was a network of old logging roads that were officially adopted into the USFS road system, becoming formal roads and brought up to and maintained to appropriate standards. The three formal Forest Service Roads in the project area are FR 719, FR 719A, and FR 719B: FR 719B is not a part of this project and improvements to that road are being undertaken separately. The unnamed woods road is not currently a part of the formal road network.

FR 719 (Sulphur Lick Run Road), FR 719A extension road, and the unnamed woods road are one-lane, two-way gravel roads that provide forest access. The roads are used for resource management activities such as logging and fire management activities, access to private properties, and for recreation activities such as hunting and hiking. The project area is also being managed by the Forest Service for Brushy Mountain Ruffed Grouse habitat restoration. Public access via these forest roads is available from September 1 through January 30. Outside of those dates the roads are only accessible for landowners and Forest Service staff.

In 2016, the Forest Service closed the FR 719 complex at State Route 92 to the end of these roads on Brushy Mountain because the roads were no longer traversable due to the extent of the damage.

¹ USFS Monongahela Nations Forest Marlinton/White Sulphur Ranger District, August 14, 2015 letter regarding Brushy Mountain Ruffed Grouse Habitat Manager Project Scoping Letter.
Figure 1 – Project Location Map
Scoping Process

This section describes the public scoping process, including the techniques that were used to advertise and solicit input.

Newspaper Notice/Announcement

A Public Notice (refer to Appendix A) advertising the opportunity for input was posted in the Pocahontas Times and the Register-Herald on June 20, 2018 (refer to Appendix B). The notice contained an overview of the scoping process, project background, and proposed action. It also provided information on how to submit comments and contacts for additional information.

Individual Notices

The Public Notice was also sent to interested parties and landowners who previously notified the Monongahela National Forest – Marlinton/White Sulphur Springs of their interest in MNF projects. There were 28 letters and 8 emails distributed to the interested parties based on their preferred method of receipt. One contact requested notification by letter and email (refer to Appendix C).

Comment Summary

The official 30-day comment period commenced on Friday, July 20. At the time of this writing, Friday, July 27, no responses were received as a result of the public scoping efforts. If any comments are received prior to the approval of the EA, this report will be amended to summarize the comments and disposition.
Appendix A – Public Notice
File Code: 1900

Date: June 20, 2108

Subject: Scoping – Opportunity to Provide Input - Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area Roads

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Monongahela National Forest:

The Marlinton/White Sulphur Springs Ranger District is proposing to provide improvements to several forest roads within the Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area of the Monongahela National Forest, which were heavily damaged by storms and flooding in 2016. The Forest Service is partnering with the Eastern Federal Lands Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration to complete the environmental assessment, design, and construction of the proposed improvements.

Please take a few minutes to review the following information and provide your input about proposed activities.

Your comments will be used to help identify relevant issues. They will help guide the environmental analysis and documentation. Please be as specific as possible when responding. If you provide or refer to data or research results, please identify why the information is pertinent to the Brushy Mountain project and provide a copy of the information.

For additional information about this project, or to provide comments, please contact Lisa Landers, Environmental Protection Specialist. You can reach her at the Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Division Office, 21400 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling, VA 20166-6511; by phone at (703) 404-6201. You may also email comments to Lisa.Landers@dot.gov. Please include the project name in the subject line of the e-mail.

Please provide your comments within 30 days from the date of this letter. If you do not wish to comment at this time, but would like to continue receiving information about this project, please let us know. Additional information about this project will be sent to those people who request it or who have submitted comments during the analysis process.

Also, let us know what format you prefer for receiving information: hard copy or e-mail. It is the responsibility of interested parties to respond to this notice within the established time period. If a document is not available or delivered at the expected time, please the District office address above to ascertain the document’s availability, and if necessary, to arrange an alternate delivery method.

Caring for the Land and Serving People
Overview

In June of 2016, torrential rain caused epic flooding in West Virginia. This one-in-one-thousand-year event severely damaged roads, trails, and recreation sites in the southern half of the Monongahela National Forest (MNF). In the Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area, heavy rainfall that caused extensive damage to forest roads. As such, emergency repair funds through the Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) program were made available to assist with repairs to this section of the forest.

The project is located entirely within Greenbrier County, with the City of White Sulphur Springs approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the project area. The MNF and project area, are located north of I-64, and west of the Virginia state line. The project consists of multiple forest roads and is located entirely within the MNF land, though it provides access to private landholders who are encircled by the forest. No activities for this project are proposed on private lands. Please refer to the figure for a location map of the project area and proposed repairs.

After you review this letter and attached map, please consider if you are interested in this project or would like to learn more about it. Your comments concerning this project are welcome. While comments will be accepted, and considered at any time on this project, in order for them to be most useful in developing and analyzing the proposal, please provide them by July 20, 2018. Please refer to the cover or Public Comments section of this letter to see how you can submit your input.

Purpose of and Need for Action

The “Need” for taking action can be thought of as the problems identified in the area. The “Purpose” can be thought of as objectives — what the end results should be when the problems are solved or lessened.

The MNF is proposing to take action in the Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area to address the damages incurred in 2016 to Sulphur Lick Run Road (Forest Road 719) and an unnamed woods road. Portions of the gravel or earthen roads were partially or completely washed out by Sulphur Creek Run and other, unnamed stream reaches. Sulphur Lick Run Road (Forest Road 719), between mile post (MP) 0.8 and the beginning of the unnamed woods road, suffered catastrophic damage and are unusable due to slide slope and roadway washouts. Due to the proximity of this section of road runs to Sulphur Lick Run, it is likely that future heavy rain events will continue cause washouts. Bringing this road up to standard is environmentally and economically unfeasible.

Like most of the roads in this section of the forest, the unnamed woods road is an old logging road; while Sulphur Lick Run Road (FR 719) and FR 719A were officially adopted as US Forest...
Service system roads and brought up to appropriate standards. The unnamed road is still an informal road that remains substandard.

Need: There is a need for safe motorized vehicular access for forest administration, vegetation management, and fire protection, as well as access to private properties within the Brushy Mountain Grouse Management Area. The access requires managing the transportation system at a minimum standard needed to allow safe travel by forest vehicles, logging trucks, and private vehicles.

Purpose: The purpose of the project is to restore safe motorized traffic within the Brushy Mountain area, which includes:
- Access for Forest Service administration and land management;
- Access to private lands for management and use of those lands;
- Public access for hunting and wildlife viewing; and
- Access for forest fire protection and suppression activities.

Proposed Action

As displayed in Figure 1, the various improvements involve the decommissioning of most of Sulphur Lick Run Road and rehabilitation of the FR 719A extension road and an unnamed woods road. The portion of Sulphur Lick Road that is not being decommissioned would be reconstructed at locations that received storm damage. Specific improvements to FR 719, FR 719A, and the unnamed woods road are described in detail below.

- **Sulphur Lick Run Road (FR 719)** – This work includes reconstructing the roadway in areas that received storm damage such as side slope and roadway washouts outside of the portion of the roadway that is being decommissioned. This includes clearing and grubbing, embankment construction, construction of mechanically stabilized earth walls, culvert replacement, and resurfacing. Instead of reconstructing storm damaged areas between MP 0.8 of Sulphur Lick Run Road and the intersection with an unnamed woods road, this section of the roadway will be decommissioned. Decommissioning includes full recontouring of the road template and re-establishment of the drainages back to similar existing contours.
- **FR 719A extension road** – This work includes rehabilitating this roadway from the end of FR 719A to the beginning of the unnamed woods road. This includes clearing and grubbing and resurfacing.
- **Unnamed Woods Road** – This work includes rehabilitating this roadway from the end of the FR 719A extension road to the intersection with Sulphur Lick Run Road. Roadway widening will occur on about 1 mile of the roadway. Areas that received storm damage such as side slope and roadway washouts will be reconstructed. This includes clearing and grubbing, embankment construction, construction of mechanically stabilized earth walls, culvert replacement, and resurfacing.
Public Involvement

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency’s decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and if denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within five days.

The environmental assessment is being developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality’s NEPA regulations (40 CFR Part 1500), the Forest Service’s NEPA regulations (36 CFR Part 220) and the Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction. The environmental assessment is also being developed to meet the NEPA requirements of the Federal Highway Administration (23 CFR Part 771).

If you have no input at this time, but wish to remain on the mailing list, please for this project call or write to show your interest. If you would like to be taken off the Monongahela National Forest mailing lists, likewise, please notify us.

Thank you for your interest in the Monongahela National Forest.

Sincerely,

CYNTHIA SANDENO
District Ranger
Appendix B – Public Notice Advertisement
Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF RALEIGH,

I, Tara Meyer, of The Register-Herald, a daily newspaper published in the City of Beckley, Raleigh, West Virginia, do certify that the notice attached hereto under the caption;

was published in the said The Register-Herald 1 time(s) on the following day(s), namely 06/20/18

Publication Fee: $496.77

Signed: ____________________________

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day
06/20/2018

My commission expires: March 22, 2021

Notary Public:

DIANA L. SLONE
Beckley Newspapers
152 O. Bane St.
Beckley, WV 25801

My commission expires: April 22, 2021
Appendix C – Distribution List
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Wayne Wiese</td>
<td>1603 Shirley Lane</td>
<td>Jacksonville, FL 32207</td>
<td>Ellis Walton</td>
<td>635 S Curley St</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD 21224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Ryder</td>
<td>PO Box 447</td>
<td>White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986</td>
<td>Gordon Lewis</td>
<td>66 Terrace Drive</td>
<td>White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986</td>
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<td>James Fury</td>
<td>2220 Pondlick Rd</td>
<td>White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986</td>
<td>Stephen Hoke</td>
<td>391 Hilltop Drive</td>
<td>Madison Heights, VA 24572</td>
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<td>Shelby Fury</td>
<td>1343 Pondlick Rd</td>
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<td>James Jefferies</td>
<td>507 Pleasant Valley Rd</td>
<td>White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jimmie Dowdy</td>
<td>PO Box 72</td>
<td>White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986</td>
<td>Ralph Simms</td>
<td>392 Rocky Hollow Rd</td>
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<td>Lana Bartlett</td>
<td>2199 46th St</td>
<td>Parkersburg, WV 26104</td>
<td>Michael Pusey</td>
<td>HC 69 Box 228</td>
<td>White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986</td>
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<td>Marsha Frisbie</td>
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<td>James Dunlap</td>
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<td>Marvin Masters</td>
<td>301 Abney Circle</td>
<td>Charleston, WV 25314</td>
<td>Benny Browning</td>
<td>1187 Pleasant Valley Rd</td>
<td>White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynch Brothers</td>
<td>2740 Pocahontas Trail</td>
<td>White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986</td>
<td>Gary Humphreys</td>
<td>PO Box 672</td>
<td>White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nellie Brooks</td>
<td>210 Old Smith Rd</td>
<td>White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986</td>
<td>Peter Scott Buskirk</td>
<td>345 Friendly Lane</td>
<td>Wilmington, NC 28409</td>
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David Sizemore Family: 26600 Lake St, Hemet, CA 92544
Eric and Henry Foggus: 222 Old Country Rt 15, Springville, PA 18844
Jeffery Forren: 8 Ingle Side Ave, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986
Michael Lynch: PO Box 592, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986
Richard Dowdy: 348 Slash Lick Rd, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986
1. Linda Ordiway – Ruffed Grouse Society - LindaO@ruffedgrousesociety.org
2. Jim Craft, 141 Greenbrier Avenue, White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986
3. Deke Clements - deke7@frontier.com
4. Charles Brown - Brownsbrittanys@gmail.com
5. Alan Shipley – DNR (email and letter to WS Office) - alan.p.shipley@wv.gov and 1079 Main Street E, White Sulphur, WV 24986
6. Clifton Neal – Ruffed Grouse Society - PO Box 218, Crawley, WV 24931
7. Mike Buskirk – landowner and RGS - mbuskirk53@gmail.com
8. Greenbrier County Planning Commission - kelly.banton@greenbriercounty.net
9. Cully McCurdy – Wild Turkey Federation - cmcurdy@nwtf.net
10. Todd Dowdy – DNR - todd.j.dowdy@wv.gov