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**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** December 22, 2016

Dear Forest Friend:

The Tracy Ridge Project environmental assessment (EA) is now available for public review and comment. The EA is available on the Allegheny National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/allegheny/landmanagement/projects> and copies have been provided to those who commented during the scoping period.

The proposed action includes the conversion of 12.5 miles of the 34-mile Tracy Ridge Trail System from hiking-only to shared use (open to hiking and bicycling). The proposed action includes a Forest Plan amendment. Currently, the Forest Plan prohibits bicycle use on the Tracy Ridge National Recreation Trail.

The purpose of the Tracy Ridge Shared Use Trail Project is to:

1. address maintenance needs on the Tracy Ridge Trail System;
2. better utilize the 34-mile trail system;
3. stimulate new volunteer partners for the trail system; and
4. provide additional high quality mountain bike opportunities on the Forest.

The responsible official for a decision on this project is Forest Supervisor Sherry A. Tune. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection to this project under 36 CFR Part 218 (Project-Level Predecisional Administrative Review Process) or 36 CFR Part 219 (Decision to Amend the Forest Plan). In order to be eligible to object, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral and electronic comments will be accepted for 30 days following publication of this legal notice in *The Warren Times Observer* (Warren, Pennsylvania newspaper). The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.

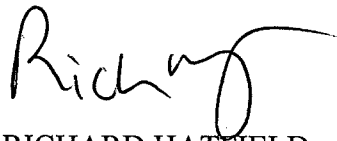
Individuals who wish to provide written comments should mail them to the "Tracy Ridge Project," USDA Forest Service, Allegheny National Forest, Bradford Ranger District, Attention: Rich Hatfield, 29 Forest Service Drive, Bradford, PA 16701. For those submitting hand-delivered comments, Bradford Ranger District office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Submit oral comments via telephone at 814-363-6098, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and by FAX at 814-362-2761. E-mail



comments must be sent to [comments-eastern-allegheny-bradford@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-eastern-allegheny-bradford@fs.fed.us), and have the project name in the subject line, your name, and mailing address in one of the following formats: e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc) or any software supported by Microsoft applications. If no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this process. If you have any questions concerning this project, please contact me at 814-363-6098 or [rhatfield@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhatfield@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

RICHARD HATFIELD  
District Ranger