



Fall Collaborative Meeting

The Fall meeting of the ANF Health Collaborative will be held at East Forest School in late Sept./early Oct.

This meeting will include updates from the Working Groups, and perhaps a site visit. The Glossy Buckthorn and Cherry de-foliation research at Deadman's Corner will also be discussed, and the possibility of getting area youth involved, which will support the goal of developing future logging and forestry workers.

AFA president Amanda Hetrick and board members Bob Kirchner and Sue Swanson have been attending these meetings. We will report on the upcoming meeting in our next newsletter.

The local Collaborative also participated in the Eastern Regional Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM) Partner Roundtable held March 12th at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Illinois. AFA members Amanda Hetrick, Jack Hedlund and Sue Swanson attended via video conference at the ANF Forest Supervisor's office in Warren.

See a synopsis of the national report below.

Here's Your Card

AFA members will soon be receiving a membership card in the mail. The AFA is growing its programming, and being a 'card carrying' member will have its benefits!

If you are a new member, WELCOME! We value your ideas, expertise, time (if you can volunteer) and, of course, your contributions. We have a lot to do, and could use your help!

If you would like to be an active member, contact us at afaexec@gmail.com to talk about where you would like to help out.

Books for 4th Graders

The AFA is purchasing and distributing copies of "Why Would Anyone Cut a Tree Down?" to the school superintendents in our four counties and asking they read it to their 4th graders.

This book shows children the life cycle of trees, that they are a renewable resource, the various uses for wood, and the need to remove sick, flammable and other dangerous trees.

Summer 2018

Board of Directors

Officers:

Amanda Hetrick—President
 Bob Kirchner—Vice Pres.
 Becky Lucia —Secretary
 Ed Sleeman—Treasurer

For a full list of AFA Board Members, please visit our ["About" page](#).

Next Meeting:

August 21, 2018
 Kane Area School
 3:00 pm

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National EADM Report—Results of Nationwide Partner Roundtables

The Forest Service has launched an Agency-wide effort to improve processes related to EADM with a goal of getting more done through better efficiency and reducing the time and cost associated with EADM processes.

The goal is not to avoid laws, regulations, policies, or science-based environmental analysis in stewardship of the land. Nor is this a new effort; the USFS has explored improvement to EADM processes for over thirty years.

Regional EADM Partner roundtables were held nationwide in Feb./Mar. 2018 to collect partner feedback. The message heard across the country is that the agency must first move away from risk aversion and fear of litigation, and truly em-

brace partnerships and collaboration across all levels of the Agency. They must also move away from the "culture of mobility" in which USFS incentivizes frequent employee movement for career advancement. This culture has long been recognized locally as interfering with EADM, community relationships, and an understanding of local ecological and socioeconomic conditions.

As a result of this roundtable, the USFS aims to decrease cost and increase efficiency of EADM processes by 20% by 2019.

You can read the full report and the USFS plan for tackling this issue at this link: <https://www.nationalforests.org/assets/pdfs/National-EADM-Report.pdf>.

Knox-Kane Trail—"Now What?"

At a June 15th meeting in Marienville, Forest County, a large group gathered to discuss the status of the Knox-Kane Rail Trail and the opportunities the trail will provide for our communities.

As a recreation project that runs through the Allegheny National Forest, the AFA had an interest and was represented by our president, Amanda Hetrick. AFA board member Tom Kase was a presenter.

Discussion throughout the day-long event included topics such as business opportunities, trail infrastructure and visitor amenities, Greenway Plans, invasive plant management, health benefits of trails, and bike route connectivity.

Jenks Township Supervisors (Forest County) have secured several grants to establish a trail hub at the old Marienville train station. These include \$500,000 from DCNR, \$1.1 million from PennDOT, and \$67,000 from ARC. Uses will include trail construction, parking, pavilion, restrooms, and an information center.

Buckthorn—It's Here, Prolific and Persistent

The Buckthorn is an exotic, invasive shrub that becomes the dominant species in the understory and can form dense, continuous canopies up to twenty feet thick, shading-out its competitors. It is highly tolerant of shade and wet sites, seeds prolifically, and stump sprouts (see photo below of 11-month-old log with sprout), making it hard to kill. It was introduced in the late 1800s for windbreak and wildlife plantings.

In a 200-2004 Michigan State University study in Upper Michigan, using cutting and glyphosate application prior to clearcutting the parent aspen showed promising results: aspen sprout density of 25,000/acre was dominating the buckthorn. The commercial cost for this control method was \$150—\$200 per acre.



Courtesy: ANF

There's hope that this method will prove successful in our region as well. Buckthorn is on the ANF and a threat to the density and diversity of native species.

Park vs Forest

The AFA continues to work to informing the public about the Allegheny National Park Campaign and how it will do more harm than good—and to mobilize those who oppose the concept.

Over the coming months, watch for these and other efforts by AFA:

- Facebook posts designed to educate the public on this topic.
- A page added to our website with concerns and facts regarding how National Park designation would effect the ANF and our communities.
- Distribution of "NO Allegheny National Park" stickers to make more people aware and direct them to the AFA website.
- Development of "NO Allegheny National Park" merchandise to help build awareness and help the AFA fund its opposition campaign.
- Development and distribution of informational brochures with concerns and facts, and how you can help the AFA opposition effort.

Would you like to help distribute information? Do you have ideas to help further our efforts? Would you like to contribute to / sponsor our efforts? Contact us as afaexec@gmail.com.

ANF Project Comment Opportunities:

We encourage you to keep informed of and comment on proposed projects on the ANF.

Use the link below to view the current Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) Report for the ANF. <https://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?110919>

As we publish this newsletter quarterly, we suggest that you check the SOPA link frequently for any updates between issues. We will list critical projects and AFA comment actions here.

Tracy Ridge (ON HOLD): McKean, Warren; Forest Plan amendment to allow mountain biking on 12.5 miles of hiking trails; **SECONDARY COMMENT PERIOD TO BE ANNOUNCED.**

Pine Bear Supplemental EA (updated): Forest Products, Vegetation Management, Road Management; **Comment Period: June 2018.**

Hoover Project EA: Warren; Forest products, forest health issues, early successional habitat objectives, non-native

invasive plants, fishery stream habitat, transportation systems, improved recreation opportunities; **Comment Period: July 2018.**

FR136/FR343 Road Relocation and Wetland Restoration EA: (updated) Elk; Watershed management, Road management; Estimated Comment Period: Sept. 2018.

Please add your voice to that of the Allegheny Forest Alliance to balance the scales in public comment opportunities!