



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

February 18, 2016

Dr. Thomas Schuler  
Supervisory Research Forester  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Northern Research Station  
459 North Nursery Bottom Road  
Parsons, WV 26287

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement, 2016-2020 Fernow Experimental Forest, Tucker County, West Virginia, 2015, CEQ# 20160011

Dear Dr. Schuler:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the 2016-2020 Fernow Experimental Forest Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northern Research Station (NRS) proposes to continue on-going long-term research activities on the Fernow Experimental Forest, Tucker County, WV over the next several years. The proposed action and alternatives in this FEIS were designed to implement directions contained in the 2011 Revised Forest Plan for the Monongahela National Forest, the NRS-01 Research Work Unit Description, and the individual research study plans. The purpose of this project is to continue long-term research studies, and to manage the Fernow Experimental Forest for long-term research.

In our October 19, 2015 review letter of the Draft EIS, we rated the environmental impacts of the proposed action as EC 2 (Environmental Concerns Insufficient Information). Based on our review of the subject document and response to our previous comments, we have no objection to the project.



Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Barbara Okorn, principal reviewer, at (215) 814-3330.

Sincerely,



Barbara Rudnick  
NEPA Team Leader  
Office of Environmental Programs

