

From: [Stahl, Megan D.](#)
To: [Phifer, Paul](#)
Cc: [Cindy Schulz](#); [Troy Andersen](#); [Hoskin, Sumalee](#); [Lennon, Tiernan](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: MVP Request to Clear Trees in JNF
Date: Thursday, May 31, 2018 2:24:18 PM
Attachments: [MVP USFWS for JNF Clearing 20180531.pdf](#)

Paul, yes I was working on preparing the requested map.

Sumalee/Tiernan, the requested map is attached. Please review and let me know if this is what you are looking for. The tree sitter is in WV.

From: Phifer, Paul [mailto:paul_phifer@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 2:11 PM
To: Stahl, Megan D. <MStahl@eqt.com>
Cc: Cindy Schulz <Cindy_Schulz@fws.gov>; Troy Andersen <troy_andersen@fws.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: MVP Request to Clear Trees in JNF

Hi Megan -

I know you spoke with the VAFO this morning. To be clear, we are waiting on further location information from you before we respond. I just wanted to make sure you weren't waiting on anything from us.

Thanks, Paul

Paul Phifer, PhD
Assistant Regional Director - Ecological Services
Northeast Region
Dept of the Interior
US Fish and Wildlife Service
413.253.8698 work
413.687.4764 cell

On Wed, May 30, 2018 at 5:10 PM, Stahl, Megan D. <MStahl@eqt.com> wrote:

I accidentally omitted Paul Phifer's email address on the email below.

Paul, please review and let me know if you have any questions.

From: Stahl, Megan D.
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 5:07 PM
To: Paul Friedman <Paul.Friedman@ferc.gov>; 'Cindy Schulz' <cindy_schulz@fws.gov>; 'Troy Andersen' <troy_andersen@fws.gov>
Cc: 'tabing@fs.fed.us' <tabing@fs.fed.us>; 'mleveret@blm.gov' <mleveret@blm.gov>; 'vcraft@blm.gov' <vcraft@blm.gov>; Paul Friedman <Paul.Friedman@ferc.gov>; 'Lavinia DiSanto'

<Lavinia.DiSanto@cardno.com>; Dawley, Joseph <JDawley@eqt.com>; Eggerding, Matthew <MEggerding@eqt.com>

Subject: MVP Request to Clear Trees in JNF

Paul, Cindy and Troy,

Mountain Valley requests permission to clear trees in two very small areas of the Jefferson National Forest during the period June 1 - July 31. The two areas are (1) the area of the tree sitters at the top of Peters Mountain (an area approximately 0.31-acre between about Engineering Station Numbers 10370+00 and 103775+00) and (2) an area needed for widening the hairpin turn on Mystery Ridge Road in Giles County, VA.

A tree sitter prevented Mountain Valley from clearing the trees on Peters Mountain. Mountain Valley is awaiting final FERC approval for widening and clearing trees along the hairpin turn on Mystery Ridge Road.

Based on negative results of mist net surveys, both of these areas can be categorized as suitable unoccupied summer habitat. In the Biological Opinion, the Service stated that adverse effects to lbats are not expected from clearing suitable unoccupied summer habitat. Further, the Biological Opinion does not specify a time-of-year restriction for this habitat category. These two areas are not within 150-feet of Northern long-eared bat maternity roost trees and therefore impacts associated with clearing activity would be covered by the Final 4(d) rule.

Prior to clearing, Mountain Valley proposes to conduct additional bat surveys (emergence counts) on trees within the specified areas that are equal to or greater than 5 inches DBH. In addition, Mountain Valley will continue to monitor a nest in the vicinity of the remaining trees on Peters Mountain that belongs to a migratory bird species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The nest is currently active and therefore is being protected by a 50 foot buffer that will remain in place until avian biologists confirm that the nest is no longer active.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Megan

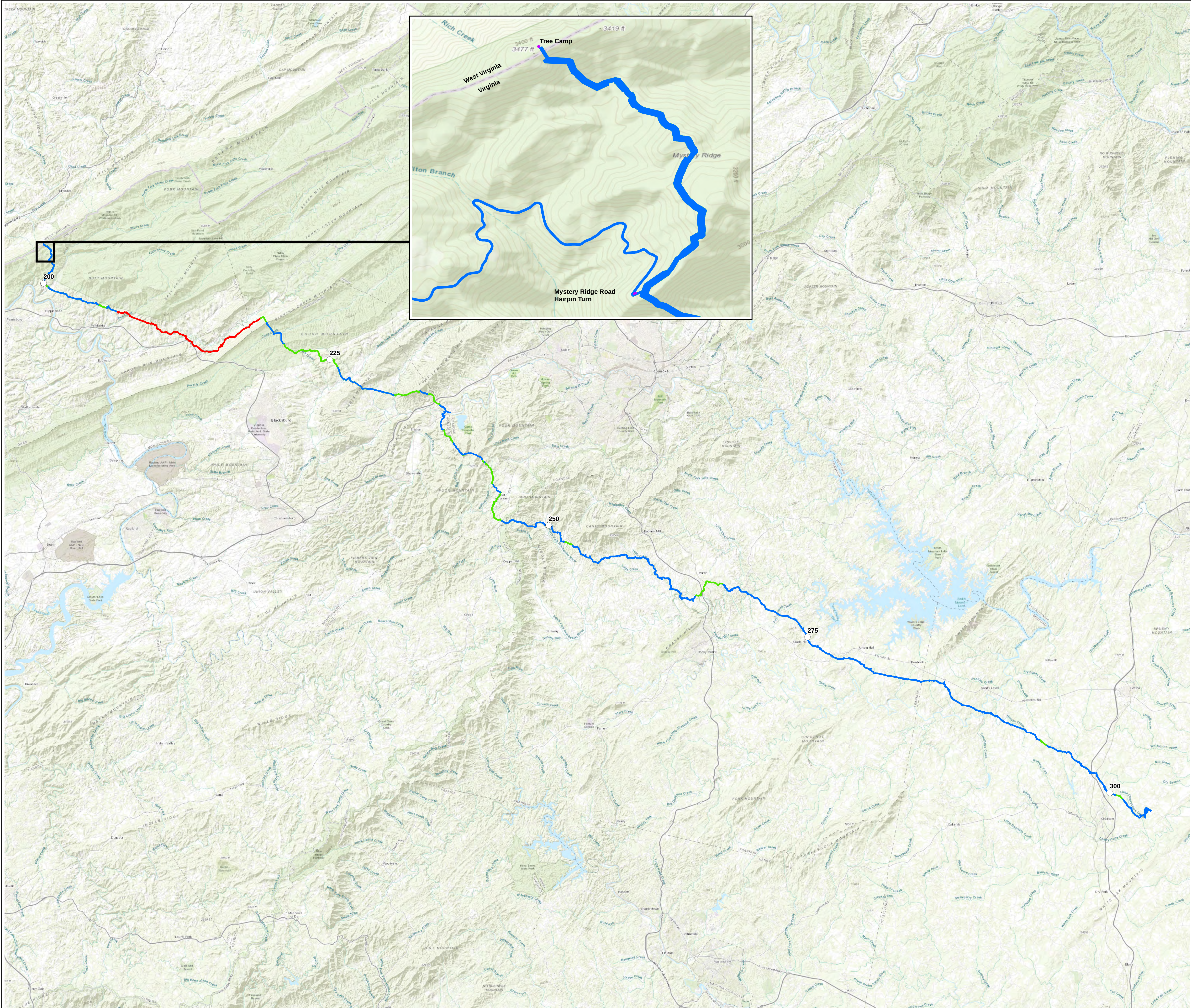
Megan Stahl
Permitting Supervisor
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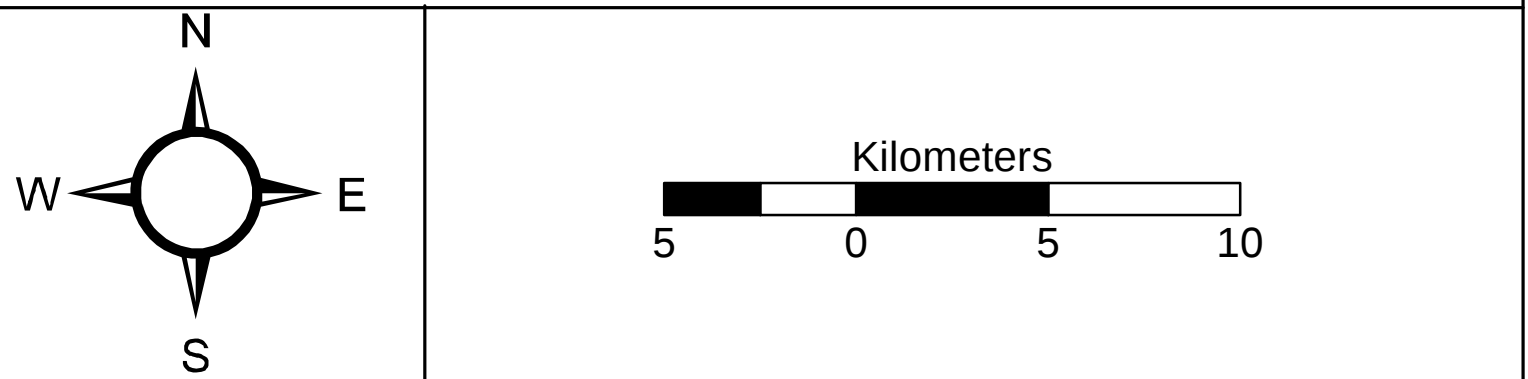
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Tree clearing by habitat Category - Virginia

-  Milepost
-  *Unknown use summer habitat*
TOYR: Trees will not be removed between June 1 and July 31 and October 1 and November 14.
Tree clearing will occur between November 15 and May 31 and/or
-  *Unknown use spring staging/fall swarming habitat*
TOYR: Trees will not be removed between June 1 and July 31 and October 1 and November 14.
Tree clearing will occur between November 15 and May 31 and/or
-  *Known use spring staging/fall swarming habitat*
TOYR: Trees will not be removed between April 1 and November 14. Trees clearing will occur
-  *Suitable unoccupied summer habitat*



Base Map: ESRI "World Topographic Map"; accessed 5/31/2018