

**From:** O Donnell, Bill - Morgantown, WV  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2009 11:47 AM  
**To:** Wigal, Ron - Morgantown, WV; Yost, Pamela - Morgantown, WV  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition to Lost River Subwatershed Site #16 Impoundment - Lower Cove Run

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**From:** Todd Cianfrocca [mailto:toddc@advocatemed.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2009 9:00 AM  
**To:** O Donnell, Bill - Morgantown, WV  
**Subject:** Opposition to Lost River Subwatershed Site #16 Impoundment - Lower Cove Run

**RE:** Opposition to Lost River Subwatershed Site #16 Impoundment – Lower Cove Run

Dear Mr. O'Donnell,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the Potomac Valley Conservation District's Lower Cove dam project in the Lost River Valley of Hardy County. As a native West Virginian and local Hardy County landowner, this area is dear to my heart as I have hunted and fished in the Lower Cove area for the past 40 years.

The environment that will be impacted by this project is currently home to many fragile species, not to mention 12 families whose land has been passed down from generation to generation. The Lower Cove stream that the Lost River Subwatershed project affects is a natural brook trout reproducing stream as documented by a recent biological study. Any structure, specifically a dam, risks forever damaging this delicate trout population enjoyed by thousands of sportsman throughout the last century.

Please consider these additional points when reviewing the PVC District's application:

- Sections of the Lower Cove stream are considered Tier 3 stream segments as they run through the George Washington National Forest.
- Approximately 30+ acres of natural, aquatic life inhabited wetlands will be destroyed.
- The proposed dam would be considered "high hazard" with the capacity to cause loss of life to those below or downstream of the structure in the event of breach or failure.
- A federal complaint has been lodged and investigation is pending regarding whether the USDA-NRCS complied with federal guidelines (NEPA) in moving this project along.

My hope is that your office rejects this plan. The overwhelming majority of local residents and surrounding landowners who oppose this project are ultimately the ones who must live with the negative environmental impact this project will have. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Todd E. Cianfrocca*

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