

file copy

294 Lower Cove Run Road
Mathias, WV 26812
May 22, 2009

USDA-NRCS
75 High Street, Room 301
Morgantown, WV 26505
Attn: Lost River Comments

Dear Sir or Madam,

I want to start out by saying that I am opposed to the building of Lost River Site 16. I am 29 years old and have lived at the site all of my life. My family has farmed here for generations.

I feel that this is a waste of \$6.5 million in federal funds that could be put to better use. There are other places that a flood control dam could be put. This year there has been flooding in the southern part of West Virginia. Couldn't they use a flood control dam in that part of the state?

One thing that I have noticed is that there is not much difference between this 2nd draft EIS and the 1st one. In the 1996 Flood there were no damages at Lost City. However, there was bridge that was washed away in Mathias on Upper Cove Road. In the flood of 2003 we had no damages either.

I want to talk about the native trout in the Lower Cove Run. According to Tile 47 Legislative Rule DEP Water Resources Series 2 Requirements Governing Water Quality Standards section 2.19 the Lower Cove Run sustains year-round trout populations. This EIS says that there were only 3 trout found. Why is it then that the Lower Cove Run was up for protection under Tier 3? To me that says that there is significant numbers of native trout in the stream.

Where are the pictures of structures that will be protected by this dam? Does that mean that there are no structures that will be protected? Also why are there pictures included of dead animals?

Why put a dam in a river that barely has water in the summers for farm animals to drink? Most summers you have to go lay down in the river and roll around to find any water in the Lower Cove Run. There are summers that I am thankful that my father built a pond on our farm so that our cattle would have water to drink.

I have heard it said that this dam is going to used as a water source. I have to wonder how many people will sign up for this service. I can tell you that my neighbors are very satisfied with their well water. I have never heard of any of my neighbors having any trouble with their wells. I think that the fact that people will have to turn off their wells and not ever be able to use them again to get public

water from the dam will turn most people away. Again this is a waste of tax payer and federal money.

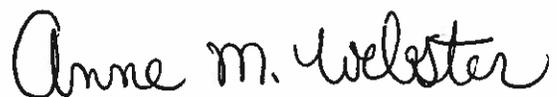
Your wetland map is a joke. You account for less wetlands than what there really is. For years I can remember my father not being able to get on what was our hay field to make hay because he said that the field was too wet. My father also would say that you would never cross the ditch in the field because of the fact that you were sure to get stuck because of the fact that the ground was always wet. When my mother took over the farming there were times when she didn't get on the field to make hay. What are your standards for determining what is or is not wetlands?

Years ago it was suggested that other locations be looked at for possible sites to build a dam. Why hasn't other sites been looked at for the building of a dam? Why is it that the Lower Cove Run Site was the only site ever looked at?

Also it is very convenient that very shortly after the reversal of the decision was published that a 2nd draft of the EIS was published. Is it safe to say that the reversal of the record of decision was just a farce? Was it just a ruse to make people forget about the dam so that the dam would be slid in under the nose of the opposed?

I thank you for taking the time to read my comments and questions. I really appreciate it. I hope that you will take all of these into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne M. Webster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne M. Webster