

## **Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Friends of Southwest Virginia has determined that the flooding proposed action under the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Partnership for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) initiative is located in the 100 year floodplain, and Friends of Southwest Virginia will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action. as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The project, known as Building Appalachian Spring: Growing the Economy of Southwest Virginia (Haysi Boardwalk) involves the construction of a Riverwalk in the Town of Haysi, Virginia. The Riverwalk will be an elevated walkway with support poles installed into the river bank and one or two approximately 300 SF observation/gathering place(s) overlooking the river with supports installed into bank adjacent to the rear, river facing exterior of downtown buildings. The Riverwalk will serve as a trailhead for a hiking, biking, horse trail to the parking area of Breaks Interstate Park.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize or mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public education tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Friends of Southwest Virginia at the following address on or before April 23, 2018 One Heartwood Circle, Abingdon, VA 24210 and (276) 492-2415, Attention: Marcia Dempsey, Policy Analyst. A full description of the projects may also be reviewed from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted via email at

**[mdempsey@myswva.org](mailto:mdempsey@myswva.org)**