It's a Wrap For Rapp
Both ballots in November

By CHUCK HAYES

A national wilderness group has listed Chestnut Ridge on the Allegheny National Forest as one of the nation’s “Ten Natural Troubles in Trouble.”

The report lists oil and gas production as the mayor threat. There is a 5,300-acre area surrounding the headwaters of Indian Run, in the northern section of the forest, east of Rt. 321 and north of Rt. 99.

The area was included in the “Troubles in Trouble” listing released this week by the Campaign for American Wilderness. The group works with wilderness area advocates and state coalitions to protect wild places by getting them added to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

In its final Forest Plan, the U.S. Forest Service in 2007 recommended that congress consider designating wilderness status for Chestnut Ridge and Minersville Valley, a 4,462-acre tract southwest of Sheffield, but the Campaign for American Wilderness said, “There is no area protected, so it is anticipated that dozens of new wells could be drilled over the next several years, utterly destroying the area’s remote, roadless character.”

Another threat to Chestnut Ridge, the report said, is frequent illegal use by all-terrain vehicles, “which mar the land, damage wildlife habitat, and break the quiet of the place.”

Chestnut Ridge listed as endangered land

By CHUCK HAYES

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush says the economic stimulus tax rebates will begin going out Monday and will help people cope with high energy and food prices, as well as giving the economy a jolt. The rebate range from $300 to $1,200 and are the centerpiece of the government’s $158 billion stimulus package, enacted in February, to help the struggling economy recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression.

“Many Americans are expecting to get a check from their government,” Bush said in a brief remarks at the White House.

Bush announced that next week nearly 77 million Americans will receive their tax rebates by direct deposit. The IRS will start mailing checks on May 9, the president said.

The IRS says all checks for those who filed tax returns on time and those who file by July 15 will be sent by July 11.

The Bush administration is hoping the people will spend the money, helping to bolster the economy. “It’s obvious our economy is in a recession,” Bush said. “The country needs a boost.”

Early this winter, the president promised the nation was in a recession, insisting, “We are in a recession.” But many economists believe the economy already was in a recession.

Alas of course — housing, credit and financial — has threatened to change the economy deep into recession.

The economy grew at an anemic 1.8 percent in the final three months of last year and is believed to have grown even weaker in the first three months of this year. The government will report on the first quarter’s performance next week. A growing number of analysts believe the economy is in a recession.

With the economy faltering, the nation’s unemployment rate has climbed to 5.1 percent, the highest since September 2005, when only 4.8 percent.

The collapse of the once high-flying housing market has been the biggest weight on the economy. With many people watching their single biggest asset — their home — falling in value, they have been less inclined to spend, weakening the economy.
Tenative farm bill deal negotiated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional negotiators reached a Tenative farm bill deal Friday afternoon with Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., said Rep. Collin C. Peterson, the Minnesota Democrat, who is the House Agriculture Committee's ranking member. Peterson said he was sending the measure to the House floor. "I don't think there's any question now that we can get this done by the end of the week, May," said Rep. Collin C. Peterson, the Minnesota Democrat, who is the House Agriculture Committee's ranking member. Peterson said he was sending the measure to the House floor. "I don't think there's any question now that we can get this done by the end of the week, May," said Rep. Collin C. Peterson, the Minnesota Democrat, who is the House Agriculture Committee's ranking member. Peterson said he was sending the measure to the House floor. "I don't think there's any question now that we can get this done by the end of the week, May," said Rep. Collin C. Peterson, the Minnesota Democrat, who is the House Agriculture Committee's ranking member. Peterson said he was sending the measure to the House floor. "I don't think there's any question now that we can get this done by the end of the week, May," said Rep. Collin C. Peterson, the Minnesota Democrat, who is the House Agriculture Committee's ranking member. Peterson said he was sending the measure to the House floor. "I don't think there's any question now that we can get this done by the end of the week, May," said Rep. Collin C. Peterson, the Minnesota Democrat, who is the House Agriculture Committee's ranking member. Peterson said he was sending the measure to the House floor. "I don't think there's any question now that we can get this done by the end of the week, May," said Rep. Collin C. Peterson, the Minnesota Democrat, who is the House Agriculture Committee's ranking member. Peterson said he was sending the measure to the House floor. "I don't think there's any question now that we can get this done by the end of the week, May," said Rep. Collin C. Peterson, the Minnesota Democrat, who is the House Agriculture Committee's ranking member. Peterson said he was sending the measure to the House floor. "I don't think there's any question now that we can get this done by the end of the..."