

*Friends of Allegheny Wilderness seeks to foster an appreciation of wilderness values and benefits, and to work with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny National Forest.*

***Draft ANF Plan Short on Wilderness  
Please send a letter to the Forest Service!***

The Allegheny National Forest (ANF) – Pennsylvania’s only national forest – has for years been an important source of high-quality hardwood timber that is in demand all over the world for use in manufacturing furniture, paneling, veneers and other valued products. The ANF is *also* home to some of the greatest wild country and most unique natural areas you will ever see in your lifetime, including the largest tract of old-growth forest in the East between the Great Smoky and Adirondacks Mountains. Unfortunately, only a minute fraction of the ANF is permanently protected for future generations as part of America’s National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS).

The ANF is located within a day’s drive of most residents in the densely populated Eastern United States, including urban centers such as Erie, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Buffalo, and many others. This is prime hunting and fishing territory and a perfect place for hiking and family outings. Further, the ANF provides local communities with priceless clean drinking water, clean air, and serves as an ideal setting for outdoor adventure and a place to experience peace and quiet.

The future of this special forest is very much a stake today. The Forest Service is proposing a long-term management plan

that recommends too little wilderness protection, and therefore does not do enough to safeguard the native plants, animals, and recreation opportunities that so many Pennsylvanians deeply care about. You can help change that. Please take a moment to send a letter to the agency asking for more wilderness protection for our fish and wildlife habitats and wildland recreation.



A group of hikers enjoying the natural splendor of the Allegheny National Forest. A recent study under the Pennsylvania Wilds tourism program found that nearly a third of all Pennsylvanians visit protected forest areas in the state, such as a wilderness area, at least once every year. Photo by Jim DeLong

By law, all national forests must revise their Forest Plans every 10 to 15 years. This process provides a fundamental opportunity for public participation. The Forest Service is involved in that process now for the ANF, and the current phase is particularly important. The agency...

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...published its comprehensive Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in May. This document proposes four alternative management approaches for the future of the ANF (A, B, C, and D) and identifies the one the agency prefers (Alternative C). The Forest Service's preference is disappointing. However, the DEIS does contain another alternative (Alternative D) which offers more wilderness than Alternative C (Alternatives A and B offer *no* new wilderness). It is now our turn to weigh in and convince the agency to truly protect this unique forest. The DEIS is available online at:  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny)

The ANF has eight special areas that have been carefully identified by Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) for wilderness designation under the 1964 Wilderness Act in *A Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest*. These wild areas include: Allegheny Front, Chestnut Ridge, Clarion River, Cornplanter, an addition to the popular Hickory Creek Wilderness Area, Morrison Run, the Tionesta old-growth forest, and Tracy Ridge. An additional three areas were identified as potential national recreation areas – Minister Valley, Hearts Content and Cornplanter South.

Unfortunately, the Forest Service's preferred Alternative C recommends only two of these areas for wilderness study: Tracy Ridge and Chestnut Ridge. Alternative D offers a step in the right direction, and would recommend four of these special areas for wilderness protection: Tracy Ridge, Chestnut Ridge, Allegheny Front and Minister Valley. However, even

Alternative D does not consider a number of highly deserving areas.

**How You Can Help:** Contact the Forest Service today! If the agency hears from enough of us, we have a great opportunity to strengthen what is weak in the DEIS and build upon what is strong and best in it.

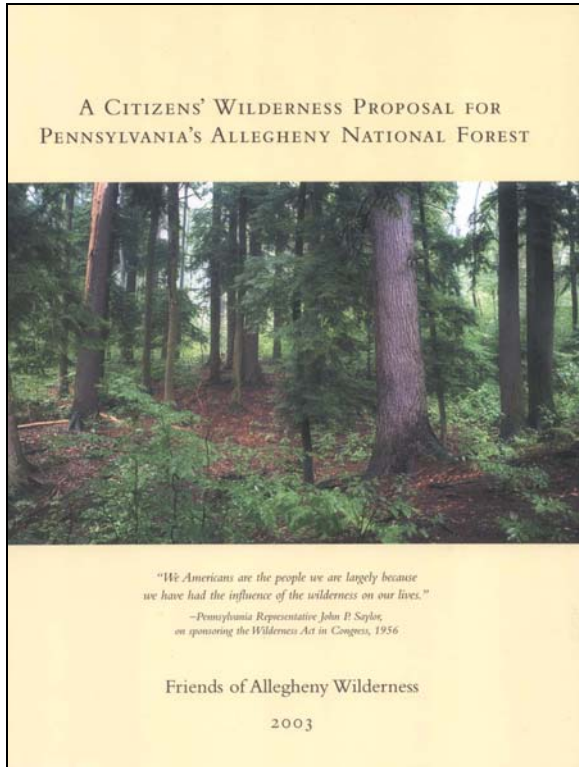
The best comments do more than simply ask for something. Explaining what you want, why you want it, why it's important, and why the agency should consider this course of action will make your comments much more effective. So, your own thoughts in your own words will really have the greatest impact. If you would like to write your own comment letter, please do! Suggested talking points follow below to help you compose your letter. We've also included a sample letter that you should feel free to copy directly and simply augment with your own thoughts if you are unsure of what to write from scratch. For additional background information, you can also log onto [www.pawild.org](http://www.pawild.org). **And remember: the Forest Service must receive your comments by Monday, August 28. Please send your comments to:**

Allegheny National Forest  
Forest Plan Revision  
P.O. Box 36  
Warren, PA 16365  
Email: [r9\\_anf\\_fpr@fs.fed.us](mailto:r9_anf_fpr@fs.fed.us)  
Fax: 814-726-1465

### Talking Points

-- Wilderness should be a top priority in the ANF Plan. Wilderness designations will protect watersheds, fishing and hunting opportunities, wildlife habitat, backcountry hiking, camping, and other recreation opportunities while also helping our local economy. The ANF is located within the recently established Pennsylvania Wilds tourism region, which seeks to promote the natural beauty of north central

Pennsylvania as a tourism draw. Maximizing wilderness opportunities in the ANF would be consistent with, and in fact augment, the ongoing Pennsylvania Wilds program.



The Executive Summary and maps of proposed areas from *A Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest* are available online at [www.pawild.org/index.html](http://www.pawild.org/index.html)

-- Alternative D is a good first step, recommending four areas for wilderness: Chestnut Ridge, Tracy Ridge, Allegheny Front and Minister Valley. Each of these areas has outstanding natural features, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, among other wilderness values, and should be recommended as wilderness in the final Forest Plan.

-- All eight areas identified in *A Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest* should be recommended as wilderness. The agency should choose the wilderness component of Alternative D and amend it to include wilderness recommendations for Clarion

River, Cornplanter, Hickory Creek Wilderness addition (which includes the headwaters of East Hickory Creek), Morrison Run (a popular backcountry hiking area), and Tionesta (an important old-growth forest). Each of these areas is highly qualified for wilderness designation.

-- Alternative D also protects the most remote recreation areas ("management area 7.2") of any Alternative. These unique areas will be essential to protecting wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities over the life span of the revised Forest Plan. Several areas that are highlighted in the *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal* are included in Alternative D as remote recreation areas. If any of the following are not designated as wilderness: Clarion River, Cornplanter, Hickory Creek addition, or Morrison Run, then they should be designated as remote recreation areas in lieu of true wilderness protection and managed as both non-motorized *and* non-mechanized so as to maintain their unique natural values and wilderness character. Overall there is more remote recreation area acreage proposed in Alternative D than in Alternative C (31,000 acres to 21,000 acres).

**Sample Letter:**

To the Forest Planning Team:

Please accept my comments on the draft Forest Plan for the Allegheny National Forest. I urge you to choose the wilderness component of Alternative D because it provides the strongest wilderness recommendations and also establishes the most remote recreation area acreage.

However, I believe even Alternative D recommends far too little wilderness. The Forest Service should recommend the four areas included in Alternative D (Tracy Ridge, Chestnut Ridge, Allegheny Front and Minister Valley), but also add to its recommendations the other areas proposed for wilderness in *A Citizens' Wilderness*

*Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest including Clarion River, Cornplanter, Morrison Run, Tionesta, and the Hickory Creek Wilderness addition.*

[FEEL FREE TO ADD SOMETHING ABOUT ANY OF THESE AREAS THAT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO YOU.]

All of these areas qualify for wilderness designation and should be included in the final plan. They provide opportunities for hunting and fishing, clean water, backpacking, solitude, and a range of other activities and values.

If they are not designated as wilderness, I urge you to manage remote recreation areas as both non-motorized *and* non-mechanized at Morrison Run, Hickory Creek Wilderness addition, Minister Valley, and Clarion River in order to maintain their natural, wild character in perpetuity.

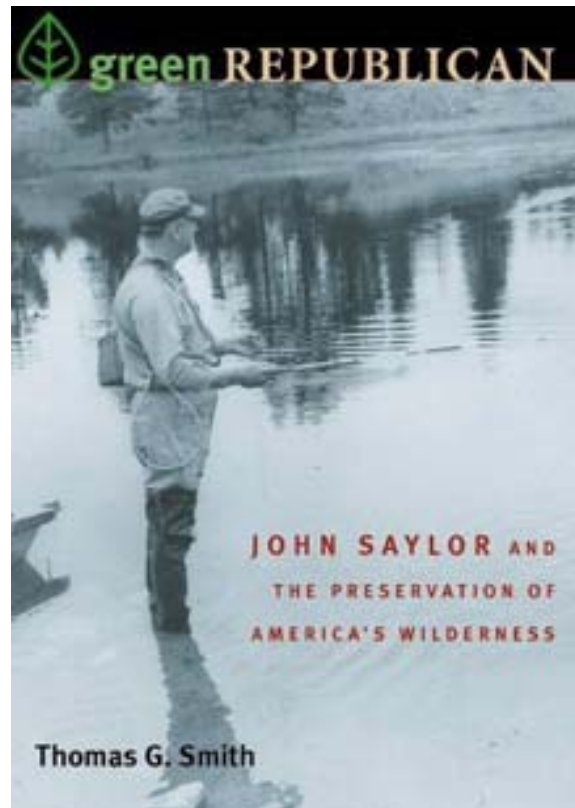
Finally, I want to emphasize that as the Forest Service makes important decisions impacting the future of the Allegheny National Forest, the agency should make new wilderness protections a high priority in its final plan.

Sincerely,  
(Your name and address)

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***Biography of John P. Saylor published Pennsylvania Congressman was a major proponent of the 1964 Wilderness Act***

*Green Republican: John Saylor and the Preservation of America's Wilderness* by Thomas G. Smith (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006) chronicles the life of Congressman John P. Saylor (R-Johnstown) and his personal legacy as an environmental champion.



Saylor believed that wilderness was intrinsic to the American experience – that our concepts of democracy, love of country, conservation, and independence were shaped by our wilderness experiences. Through his ardent protection of national parks and diligent work to add new areas to the parks system, Saylor helped propel the American environmental movement in the three decades following World War II. At the height of the federal dam-building program in the 1950s and 1960s, Saylor blocked efforts to erect hydroelectric dams whose impounded waters would have invaded Dinosaur National Monument and the Grand Canyon. During the energy crisis of the early 1970s, Saylor denounced attempts to open the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

Saylor was also the House architect of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (aiding fellow Pennsylvanian Howard Zahniser and The Wilderness Society in their efforts) and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Because Saylor represented a coal-mining district, he doggedly promoted the use of coal, instead

of atomic or hydropower, to generate electricity, and repeatedly won the support of his constituents over thirteen terms between 1949 and 1973. But he also fervently supported legislation to purify the air and water and redeem stripped lands.

Considered both a maverick and a pioneer, John Saylor won respect on both sides of the aisle because he was direct, hardworking, and passionate about conservation at a time when the cause was not popular. Environmental leaders dubbed him "St. John" because he tenaciously advocated their proposals and battled resistance by resource-use proponents. Based on extensive research and numerous interviews with Saylor's colleagues and members of the conservationist community, Thomas G. Smith assembles the remarkable story of John Saylor, arguably the leading congressional conservationist of the twentieth century, and a major force in the preservation of America's wilderness.

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***Diverse group to take close look at serious forest insect threat***

A coalition of concerned forest scientists, conservation groups, forestry professionals, and others are inviting the public to take a close look at an invasive insect that potentially threatens the ANF region's hemlock trees.

"Hemlock Woolly Adelgid – What Does it Mean & What Can You Do?" will be the subject of a public informational meeting and workshop at Tionesta's West Forest High School on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, with an optional field trip afterward.

The meeting will include talks by nationally recognized experts on the importance of hemlock trees to area forests and the threat posed by the hemlock woolly adelgid – an introduced insect that feeds on the hemlock's starch reserves, usually leading to the death of infested trees.

The meeting will include information about how the adelgid has affected forests already infested as well as details about options to protect hemlock trees and replace them where they have died. There will be information geared toward everyone from the homeowner with a favorite single hemlock in the yard to woodland owners, anglers concerned about the role of hemlock in maintaining stream temperature, and wildlife enthusiasts concerned about the special role of hemlock for many wildlife species – from deer to warblers.

The goal of the meeting is to provide participants with the information they need to make informed decisions about managing their land, and providing input into the management of public land once the adelgid arrives.

The meeting is being cosponsored by Allegheny College, Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Weyerhaeuser, and the U.S. Forest Service. For more information and to register for the meeting, please contact the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group at (814) 837-8555 or [hardwood@penn.com](mailto:hardwood@penn.com). A fee of \$15 will cover the costs of the meeting and includes a buffet lunch.

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***Warren Times Observer***  
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

***Hearings Slated on ANF plan***

By Samantha Baldensperger  
Staff Writer

In a news release Tuesday the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) said they will be hosting two public hearings to allow people to voice their opinions about the Forest Plan Revision.



**The first hearing will be on Aug. 21** on the Slippery Rock University campus at the Spotts Auditorium in the Spotts World Culture Building.

**The second hearing will be Aug. 22** at the Kane Area Community Center located at 46 Fraley St.

The hearings will be held from 5 until 9 p.m. with a half hour break at 6:30 p.m.

Participants should sign up at the door when they arrive. Each person will have five minutes to express their opinion on the Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the ANF.

Mary Hosmer with the forest service said "The public hearing is a good opportunity for people who are more comfortable speaking to make their opinion known."

Hosmer added that this is a great opportunity to get to talk directly to Forest Supervisor Kathleen Morse and Planning Officer Bill Connelly.

The hearing will be run by a moderator and all comments made will be recorded for official use.

The 90-day public comment period began on May 26 and will end on Aug. 28. Comments can be made at the hearing or in writing.

All written comments can be sent to Allegheny National Forest Forest Plan Revision, P.O. Box 36, Warren, Pa 16365.

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***Please Donate to Friends of Allegheny  
Wilderness Today!***

With your help, over the last five years FAW has made tremendous progress

toward permanently protecting the remaining wild portions of the ANF as wilderness:

- In 2001 and 2002, we surveyed the ANF extensively and developed detailed inventories of potential wilderness area boundaries.
- In 2003, we unveiled *A Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest*, identifying the way to permanently protect these remaining vestiges of wild Pennsylvania. Many national, regional, and local organizations have since formally endorsed our proposal.
- Over the last several years, thousands of citizens have written to ANF officials and to their elected representatives, asking that the *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal* be formally adopted for the benefit of future generations of Americans.
- We have come a long way. Our shared path has been paved with the hard work and cherished hopes of innumerable wilderness lovers throughout the region.

Despite our shared progress, however, we now find ourselves at a challenging crossroads. As the result of a shortsighted bureaucratic regional Forest Service policy, the ANF's shining wilderness future has recently been significantly dimmed. The Forest Service in 1997 called for unnecessarily restrictive criteria to be applied to "roadless inventories" for use during the Forest Plan revision process. The roadless inventory is the Forest Service's self-imposed first step in ascertaining what lands they will recommend to Congress for wilderness designation. The roadless inventory criteria the Forest Service

established are in fact not consistent with the 1964 Wilderness Act itself, and have had the affect of unfairly eliminating many important and worthy areas in the ANF from being fully and fairly evaluated for wilderness suitability.

As noted previously in this newsletter, only four areas are currently being considered for wilderness by the Forest Service: Allegheny Front, Chestnut Ridge, Minister Valley, and Tracy Ridge. Previously inventoried roadless areas at Clarion River and Cornplanter have been taken off the table. Equally troubling, FAW's proposed addition to the existing Hickory Creek Wilderness Area, as well as our proposed Morrison Run and Tionesta Wilderness Areas, have also been prematurely eliminated from further consideration.

Compounding the setbacks of the roadless inventory situation, FAW also must address an ongoing boom in the development of oil and gas resources in the ANF. Fueled chiefly by the skyrocketing value of oil, the market has dictated that hundreds of new wells be drilled in northwest Pennsylvania in recent months – including within the ANF, where more than 90 percent of sub-surface mineral rights are privately owned. Even the most remote roadless areas could eventually be adversely affected by this explosion in development, unless they are protected as wilderness soon and the oil and gas rights acquired by the Forest Service.

Won't you please send a donation to FAW today to help our critical campaign to ensure that all potential ANF wilderness areas are fairly considered and ultimately protected before it is too late? Many of you have donated generously in the recent past, and we thank you. Because we are at a critical juncture in our campaign, any additional contribution at this time – even \$15 or \$20 – would help cover important campaign costs. And remember, FAW is an

IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, so your donations to us are tax deductible.



This short road was recently constructed along the western edge of the proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness Area to drill an exploratory gas well. No productive gas deposit was found, but additional such intrusions into proposed ANF wilderness areas are possible as the region increasingly comes under the influence of an astonishing spike in drilling activity. Photo by Kirk Johnson

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this worthy effort. **A convenient donation form can be found on the back page of this newsletter.** With your help, we will ultimately succeed in permanently protecting the last best places in Pennsylvania's only national forest. Not only for current and future generations of Americans, but also for our friends in the wild flora and fauna communities who depend upon vibrant, unspoiled habitat but cannot speak for or defend themselves.

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*If you have internet access and would like more frequent updates about FAW's efforts for ANF wilderness than this quarterly newsletter provides, just send an email request to [alleghenyfriends@earthlink.net](mailto:alleghenyfriends@earthlink.net) and you will be added to our email listserve.*

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness  
220 Center Street  
Warren, PA 16365



Allegheny mountain dusky salamander (*Desmognathus ochrophaeus*)  
Small protected creeks, headwater streams, and hemlock  
ravines are the preferred habitat of the 7-10 centimeter  
long Allegheny mountain dusky salamander.

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**Your contribution to Friends of Allegheny Wilderness goes directly to saving wilderness!**

Yes, I want to support Friends of Allegheny Wilderness and help protect Pennsylvania's Wilderness

Yes, I want to contribute! Here is my donation of (circle one):

\$20      \$35      \$50      \$100      \$500      \$1,000      \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Friends of Allegheny Wilderness." Friends of Allegheny Wilderness is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:  
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