



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.

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The Forest Press [Tionesta, PA]
May 25, 2005

This letter offers the support of the PA State Council of Trout Unlimited to the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) for its proposal to designate eight additional areas of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) as Wilderness Areas under the 1964 Wilderness Act.

The ANF is a single 513,000 acre tract of land in the northwestern part of Pennsylvania. So far less than 9,000 acres of that tract are designated as wilderness. The proposal presented to the PA State Council of TU by FAW, if accepted in total, would add 8 additional areas totaling approximately 54,460 acres, as follows:

Allegheny Front – 6,906 acres
Hickory Creek Wild. Addition – 1,780 acres
Chestnut Ridge – 5,191 acres
Clarion River – 6,009 acres
Cornplanter – 3,022 acres
Morrison Run – 6,887 acres
Tionesta – 14,960 acres
Tracy Ridge – 9,705 acres

The Hickory Creek and Tionesta areas are of special interest to Trout Unlimited. The Hickory Creek Wilderness Addition encompasses most of the headwaters of Hickory Creek, a PFBC designated Wilderness Trout Stream. The Tionesta tract contains the largest old-growth forest left in Pennsylvania and a section of Crane Run, another state-designated Wilderness Trout Stream.

Currently there are only two areas of the ANF designated as Wilderness Areas: the Hickory Creek and the Allegheny Island tracts. These total about 9,000 acres or less than 2% of the ANF. Nationwide, 18% of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land is designated as wilderness. About 11% of USFS Eastern Region land is designated as wilderness. If all eight tracts delineated in the

Friends of Allegheny Forest proposal were added, it would bring the total of wilderness acreage in the ANF to 63,460 acres, or about 12% of the ANF acreage. This is certainly not an unreasonable amount to be set aside for hunters, anglers, hikers, birders and others who enjoy the wilderness experience.

The ANF is Pennsylvania's only National Forest. Setting aside 12% of its acreage to be enjoyed by this and future generations seems to be a modest proposal. It deserves the support of all those who treasure what is left of the wilderness our ancestors found when they first arrived in what is now the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Les McNutt, President
PA Trout Unlimited

If you are a member of, or know of, an organization that would like to add their name to the growing list of endorsers of FAW's A Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest, please contact FAW. For more information, such as the Executive Summary and maps from our proposal, or to view the list of organizations who have already endorsed, log onto www.pawild.org.

Save the Date!

On the weekend of September 24th and 25th of this year, FAW and The Wilderness Society will hold an Allegheny wilderness workshop weekend. This will be a great opportunity to get together with fellow wilderness advocates, learn from some experienced wilderness experts, view spectacular proposed Allegheny National Forest wilderness, and help energize the movement for permanently protecting these special areas. More details will be forthcoming in the near future. Please contact FAW if you are interested.

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*River otter illustration from: Reader's Digest
North American Wildlife Guide (1989)*

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.

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