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# TIMES OBSERVER



Missile protest / B4

## Local author receives award for story on proposed Morrison Run Wilderness Area

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Staff Writer

An article on the proposed Morrison Run Wilderness Area in the Allegheny National Forest has won a Farmington resident the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Award for 2005.

The article, written by Ben Moyer, was published in the *Times Observer* on March 4, 2005.

The article also appeared in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on Feb. 27, 2005.

Moyer was presented the award at a recent spring conference of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership for the best article, column, or essay dealing with natural resources affecting the ANF.

The Morrison Run Wilderness area was proposed to the U.S. Forest Service in 2003 by the non-profit Warren-based Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness (FAW).

"The proposed area straddles Warren and McKean counties with State Rt. 59 forming its northern boundary, and the Kinzua Bay arm of the Allegheny Reservoir forming its southern boundary. The area contains a 12-mile hiking trail loop, as well as a six-mile segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail," Kirk Johnson, executive director, Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness, said.

In Moyer's award-winning article, he described a Feb. 2005 winter backpacking trip led by the Butler Outdoor Club and FAW in the proposed Morrison Run Wilderness Area, and discussed the FAW proposal to designate 54,460 acres of the ANF in eight separate parcels as part of America's National Wilderness



Photo submitted to Times Observer

### Author is honored

Ben Moyer was recently awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Award for 2005 for his story on the proposed Morrison Run Wilderness Area within the Allegheny National Forest. The story was published in the *Times Observer* on March 4, 2005. The award was presented to Moyer, left, by Doyle Dietz, chairman of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association Excellence in Craft Program.

Preservation System. Morrison Run is one of the tracts recommended for wilderness designation by FAW.

"This notable award is well deserved by Mr. Moyer, who is a renowned and accomplished writer," Johnson said. "This also reaffirms the appeal the pro-

posed Morrison Run has for outdoor enthusiasts, and its good potential to be permanently protected for future generations."

Moyer is a book author, columnist, and essayist whose writing on nature, conservation, and outdoor recreation

appears regularly in regional and national publications.

Morrison Run is not included in the U.S. Forest Service's designated Wilderness Areas, but Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness Executive Director Kirk Johnson thinks that area and several others could possibly be added to the plan, with enough public pressure.

Designation as a Wilderness Area requires an act of Congress and makes an area a part of the National Wilderness System, protecting it from all motorized and mechanized activity. Activities such as fishing, hunting, and backpacking are allowed in such areas and are very popular in these spots, Johnson noted.

Johnson pointed out that the public has until Aug. 28 to provide input to the Forest Service as part of its Environmental Impact Statement.

The Forest Service has identified Tracy Ridge, Minister Valley, Chestnut Ridge and Allegheny Front as potential Wilderness Areas. FAW would like to see not only Morrison Run added to that list, but also the Complanter area on the western shore of the Allegheny Reservoir, a small addition to the existing Hickory Creek area proposed, the Tionesta old growth forest area, and the Clarion River just west of Ridgeway.

"If enough people comment," it could make the difference, according to Johnson. "Certainly the Clarion River and Complanter are known roadless areas on the Allegheny."

Johnson said those areas were in fact identified as roadless by the Forest Service in 1979 and in 2000, but the Forest Service "used a little different criteria (recently). Those two it's easy to bring back into the fold as potential wilderness areas."