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Protecting The Wild



North Branch Sugar Run in the proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness Area.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

Group Gathers Support Of Allegheny National Forest



The National Wild and Scenic Clarion River.

Photo by Bob Stoult

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Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness think it will take a grassroots effort to get Congress to support protecting the Allegheny National Forest.

They brought that message Friday to the James Prendergast Library, where the films "Forever Wild: Celebrating America's Wilderness," and "Keystone Wilderness," were shown. The first film, a campaign film highlighted the group's efforts to pro-

tect wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest.

The film reports the group's members seek to protect areas in the forest from development, road milling and logging. Referring to the areas as ones of solitude that provide places to explore and offer hiking, fishing, hunting and camping, the film discusses how Americans are influenced by the environment, which, they say is part of the country's heritage and way of life.

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Forest

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Congress's passage of an act to keep forest portions forever wild is a "chance to ensure (the areas) stay wild for those who come after us," report the group's members, who ask others to write representatives about protecting the forest.

The film's makers state the forest, created in 1923, is home to fish, species and essential wildlife, along with its pine, chestnut and oak trees.

"All is not well with the forest," reports the film's makers, adding it could be lost to development.

The audience was asked to write elected officials to support the group's efforts. Further information is available at their Web site, www.pawild.org.

The second film was a documentary hosted and narrated by Robert Redford about undeveloped, wild places and the volunteers who work to preserve the wild.