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## Reagan signs law for Pa. wilderness area

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan on Tuesday signed the Pennsylvania Wilderness Act, creating the state's first wilderness area in a 9,700-acre tract of the Allegheny National Forest.

The new law bars all oil, gas, mineral and timber development in the Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands sections of the forest, which extends into the northwestern counties of Forest, Warren, McKean and Elk.

The law also designates 23,100 acres as a National Recreation Area.

a designation that allows limited development subject to environmental precautions and safeguards.

In addition, the bill authorizes the use of \$2 million to purchase subsurface oil, gas and mineral rights at Hickory Creek. The money was appropriated this year in another bill.

The Allegheny wilderness and recreation areas, located within a day's drive of 92 million people, took 11 years to become a reality because of conflicts among conservationists, developers and the state's congressmen.

The compromise was sponsored in the House by Reps. Bill Clinger, R-Warren, and Peter Kostmayer, D-Bucks. In the Senate, it was introduced by John Heinz, R-Pa., and Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

"There were so many divergent views and so much polarization, I'm not surprised it took this long. I wasn't sure we'd ever resolve it," Clinger said in a telephone interview from Oil City, where he was campaigning.

"It's been a long haul and now we can get on to something else — like an election," he said.

Heinz expressed satisfaction with sponsoring legislation that will benefit generations of Pennsylvanians.

"This historic legislation ... is an effective balance among the competing commercial, environmental and recreational benefits to be derived from the area," he said.

Specter said, "This is not only a great day for Pennsylvania but for our entire nation."