

The Bradford Era



Vol. 127 No. 266 • 43 Main St., Bradford, Pa. 16701 • Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2004 • www.bradfordera.com • 50 cents

Wilderness program manager to appear in forum

WARREN — Wilderness stewardship expert and current wilderness program manager for the National Park Service in Washington, Rick Potts, is slated to appear in Warren Thursday to participate in a wilderness forum hosted by the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness.

Interested members of the public are invited to attend the presen-

tation, slated for 7 to 9 p.m. in the Slater Room at the Warren Public Library.

Potts is a native Pennsylvanian, and completed his master of science degree in animal nutrition and wildlife management at Penn State University in 1986. An avid sportsman, Potts has also hunted extensively in the Allegheny National Forest over the years.

The group has been working for several years to see that portions of the national forest are designated as wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Last year, the organization released a formal proposal identifying eight potential additions to America's National Wilderness Preservation System.

The group will begin Thursday's forum by giving a

half-hour presentation on its national forest wilderness proposal. Potts will then give an hour presentation on the values of wilderness, and attempt to allay misconceptions that exist about wilderness. He plans to share information regarding the interagency way in which the NWPS is managed, including the currently designated portions of the national forest.

There will be 20 to 30 minutes available for questions and answers.

The national forest is currently revising its 15-year management plan, providing an opportunity to designate additional wilderness here. Presently, less than two percent of the forest is allocated to the NWPS, compared to 18 percent of Forest Service land nationally.