FURTHERMORE...

Proposed bill a threat to Pa.'s wildest regions

A Republican congressman from California wants to put at risk some of Pennsylvania's wildest forests.

U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy's bill targets millions of roadless acres of American wildlands, including some in Pennsylvania. The Wilderness and Roadless Areas Release Act would strip protections for 25,000 pristine acres in the Allegheny National Forest.

The Allegheny provides anglers with a great place to fish, and also provides families with a great atmosphere for canoeing and outdoor recreation. The region's older oak, black cherry, hemlock, and white pine forests provide ideal habitat for hunting deer and other game. In 2006 alone, more than four million Pennsylvanians went hunting, fishing, or wildlife watching there, generating more than \$4 billion for the state's economy.

Four Allegheny forest tracts — Allegheny Front, Clarion River, Cornplanter, and Tracy Ridge — could be stripped of protections.

Readers should urge their representatives in Congress to make sure the Allegheny's wildest places remain protected.

Kirk Johnson

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