



Friends of Allegheny Wilderness seeks to foster an appreciation of wilderness values and benefits, and to work with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny National Forest.

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Court upholds Roadless Rule Decision affects areas within the Allegheny

By JOSH COTTON
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A U.S. Supreme Court ruling has the blessing of a local environmental group.

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) released a statement on Monday "praising this morning's U.S. Supreme Court ruling protecting national forest roadless areas."

The Associated Press reported that the Supreme Court turned away an appeal on Monday challenging a federal rule that bars the development of 50 million acres of roadless areas in national forests.

According to FAW, approximately 26,000 acres in the Allegheny Front, Clarion River, Cornplanter and Tracy Ridge areas retain the roadless rule protection that originated during the Clinton Administration.

The justices said Monday they will leave a federal appeals court decision in place that upheld the rule. The state of Wyoming and the Colorado Mining Association said closing so much forest land to development has had serious consequences for residents of western states and the logging, mining and drilling industries.

FAW Executive Director Kirk Johnson has a different take.

"These areas and other areas on the ANF are still of course vulnerable to oil and gas development due to the presence of privately held mineral rights, but without question it is far more desirable to have the roadless rule protection in place for these important natural areas than to have lost it," Johnson said.



The undeveloped shoreline of the 9,700-acre Tracy Ridge Roadless Area in the Allegheny National Forest shown aerially from the north. Tracy Ridge is one of the ANF areas protected by the U.S. Supreme Court's October decision to uphold Roadless Rule protections. Photo by Kirk Johnson/Lighthawk.

The challenge centered on the contention that that U.S. Forest Service essentially declared forests to be wilderness areas, a power that rests with Congress under the 1964 Wilderness Act.

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"In the wake of this good high court ruling, FAW and our thousands of supporters throughout the Commonwealth call upon Congressman Glenn Thompson, Senator Bob Casey and Senator Pat Toomey to do the right thing and introduce legislation in both houses of the Congress to permanently protect all qualifying areas of the ANF as wilderness under the Wilderness Act for future generations," Johnson explained.

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Election Results and Implications for Protecting Wilderness in Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest

Well, the election is over and the people have spoken. What does it all mean for protecting wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) under the Wilderness Act of 1964? An act of the U.S. Congress is required to designate wilderness areas as part of America's National Wilderness Preservation System for all future generations to use and benefit from.

For the last ten years, Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional district included portions of the western ANF in Glade Township, Warren County, and Triumph Township, Warren County. In response to the 2010 U.S. Census results, however, Pennsylvania lost one seat in the House of Representatives, going from 19 to 18, with Congressional district boundaries therefore being adjusted.

With redistricting the 5th Congressional district will grow to encompass not only the entire national forest, but also the entirety of all four ANF counties (Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren) when the 113th Congress opens in January of 2013. The office holder in the 3rd Congressional district will for at least the next ten years therefore not be as relevant to efforts to designate wilderness in the ANF, whereas

the 5th district office holder will be even more relevant than before.

Incumbent Representative Glenn Thompson won reelection to his 5th district seat against challenger Charles Dumas in November; therefore Thompson will be a primary decision-maker with regard to the ANF in the 113th Congress. Incumbent Senator Bob Casey won another six-year term over challenger Tom Smith; therefore he will be a primary decision-maker with regard to the ANF in the 113th, 114th, and 115th Congresses. Incumbent senator Pat Toomey was not up for reelection (his term expires in 2016).

Supporters of ANF wilderness designation must focus our attention on these three office-holders when the 113th Congress begins: Congressman Glenn Thompson, Senator Bob Casey, and Senator Pat Toomey. If you have not previously done so, please contact these members of Congress to ask them to support the *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest*:

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
United States Representative
127 West Spring Street, Suite C
Titusville, PA 16354

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senator
17 South Park Row
Federal Building, Suite B-150
Erie, PA 16501

The Honorable Pat Toomey
United States Senator
17 South Park Row
Federal Building, Suite B-120
Erie, PA 16501

Here is a link to a template letter that you can use and edit as you see fit to construct your own personalized pro-wilderness letter:

www.pawild.org/FAWSupportLetter.doc

A good model for possible ANF wilderness legislation is the inclusive, compromise-minded Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, which would benefit many interest groups, and most

importantly would for the *first time in more than a quarter of a century* (analogous to our situation in the ANF) designate new wilderness in Montana's national forest lands.

The Forest Jobs and Recreation Act is being championed by Senator Jon Tester of Montana, who like Bob Casey first came to the Senate in 2006, and also like Senator Casey won reelection in November. Tester's unwavering support for wilderness preservation was not fatal to his reelection efforts, as some had predicted.

With his newly-extended tenure, perhaps Pennsylvania's senior senator Bob Casey can now be convinced to follow Senator Tester's good lead and champion inclusive, compromise-minded wilderness legislation for the ANF. In your letter to Senator Casey, please feel free to express your support for Tester's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, and hold it up as a good model for Casey to follow for Pennsylvania's only national forest!

Jamestown Post-Journal

Sunday, November 25, 2012

Allegheny Wilderness Is Worth Protecting

As PBS puts it, Ken Burns' series on the National Parks tells the story of an idea as uniquely American as the Declaration of Independence and just as radical: that the most special places in the nation should be preserved, not for royalty or the rich, but for everyone.

And we learned from Burns' detailed look at the history of the National Parks a few years ago that each succeeding generation needs leaders to emerge who push, prod and pull the country to renew the commitment to what Burns' titled America's Best Idea.

The need continues. Today we call on New York Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, as well as U.S. Rep. Tom Reed to join forces with their counterparts in Pennsylvania to push for the preservation of the remaining special places within the Allegheny National Forest.

In particular, the non-profit citizens group Friends of Allegheny Wilderness has proposed

eight parcels within the national forest for wilderness designation – making them forever wild, forever preserved for everyone.



Hikers in the proposed Scandia National Recreation Area during a February 2012 FAW overnight backpacking trip deep into the interior of the North Branch Hodge Run drainage. Photo by Brent Silvis.

As we noted a few months back, 9,000 acres of the national forest's 517,000 acres have already been placed under the protection of the wilderness designation by Congress. For perspective, by the way, that is less than 2 percent of the national forest. The eight parcels the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness are proposing cover 54,460 acres, which would bring the total to about 11 percent – the average in other national forests in the East.

The Allegheny National Forest was established on lands in Elk, Forest, McKean and Warren counties 89 years ago to enable the Forest Service to promote reforestation to benefit the wood products industry after overcutting in earlier years and to protect the Allegheny River watershed.

As Kirk Johnson, executive director of the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, notes, the wood-products industry is still an important beneficiary of the Forest Service's management and should remain so.

Timbering and forever-wild designations do not exclude each other. Nor do forever-wild and, for example, snowmobiling. It is just that they do not occur at the same place within the vast Allegheny National Forest.

“Forty-five years ago, a bipartisan group of lawmakers agreed to legislation that would have a lasting impact on our nation’s public lands – not by changing them, but by making sure some portion of these magnificent wild places would remain undeveloped in perpetuity,” Johnson wrote a few years ago.

He was referring to the federal Wilderness Act of 1964, a law acknowledging that “America’s wild landscapes helped shape us as a people and that there is significant value in ensuring future generations will always have the opportunity to experience some part of the original America.”

We need only look at the tiny Hearts Content National Scenic Area in southern Warren County – one of the few truly old-growth white pine forests left in all of the northeastern United States – to understand the imperative of setting aside tracts where forests have grown to maturity undisturbed.

Earlier this year, Elk Township Historical Society voted unanimously to endorse the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness proposal to give those eight tracts the protection of wilderness designation.

Dr. Julie Lindblom Boozer told *Times Observer* in Warren earlier this year that the areas proposed for wilderness designation have historic value in that they are representative of what the Swedish immigrants found here. It looked like Sweden to them, she said.

And the Hearts Content area resembles the vast stands of huge white pines – some seven feet in diameter – that the first settlers encountered in the town of Carroll here in Chautauqua County.

For whatever reason individuals might have for valuing the few areas being proposed for special protection in the Allegheny National Forest, we agree wholeheartedly that the wilderness designation would result, as it should, in the most benefit for the most people for the longest time.

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FAW Represented at 2012 National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Conference for Second Year in a Row

Following up on FAW’s attendance at the first major national gathering of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance in Las Vegas in 2011, this year we were once again represented at the NWSA annual conference just this past November.

Seventy-five wilderness stewards from 23 states gathered together at the Montreat Retreat and Conference Center in Black Mountain, North Carolina November 1st – 3rd to attend the second annual National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Conference. Attendees included federal agency staff, emerging and established local, volunteer-based stewardship groups, and regional and national group representatives. They were treated to a two-day program designed to strengthen and inspire.

Keynote Address

Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society, led off with the keynote, calling for connecting more people of different ages, races and economic levels, to their public lands. He remarked that the work of wilderness stewards is already helping to build a wilderness constituency.



Friday morning’s panel discussion included The Wilderness Society’s new president Jamie Williams (left), and former ANF Supervisor and current director of Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers for the U.S. Forest Service Leanne Marten (center). Photo by Kirk Johnson.

Hot Topics

Conferees broke into small groups to discuss hot topics such as liability insurance for volunteers,

developing U.S. Job Corps stewardship training, and helping stewards connect with Back Country Horsemen of America, which seeks ways to volunteer and help lighten the load of stewardship projects. All of these are actionable ideas NWSA will continue to pursue.



Two volunteers from FAW's regular cleanup of the Hickory Creek Wilderness trail take a break during the September 28th – 30th wilderness stewardship project. Photo by Tom Tefft.

A sample of the conference speakers:

Dr. Chad Dawson, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, who discussed *Wilderness Experience Sought By Visitors and Wilderness Experience Programs*. Dr. Joseph Lanham, of Clemson University, spoke on *What Diversity Means and Why it Matters*. Sara O'Neil, of the Nonprofit Consulting Team, led a workshop on *Building a Sustainable Board*, and Steve Kallan of Kallan Strategic Partners spoke on *Business Literacy for Nonprofits*. Roger Osorio, who managed to travel from New York post-Sandy to talk about how to reach urban youth. Stacy Bare, Director of Mission Outdoors, a Sierra Club program, and Jennifer Homcy from its Hawaii chapter, on working with veterans. Several presenters from the Society for Wilderness Stewardship added to the range of program topics with presentations on topics related to stewardship beyond the trail.

Source: National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance

Aloha Senator Daniel Inouye

We lost a wilderness champion on December 17th with the passing of U.S. Senator Daniel K.

Inouye. The last remaining senator to vote on and for passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, Inouye spoke eloquently about wilderness early in his long career of public service.



Friend of wilderness Daniel Inouye represented Hawaii in the U.S. Senate from 1963 through 2012. According to his official website, his last word to friends and family was "aloha."

In 1962, at a House committee hearing, then Representative Inouye praised the Wilderness Act, reminding his colleagues of "the real need and purpose of the bill...to assure that heirs of our grandchildren may still have the opportunity, as did those before them, to leave for a while the manmade world and discover the irreplaceable mystery of nature as created by God alone."

Thanks to his vision and long-standing support, the National Wilderness Preservation System endures forever for his family and all Americans to enjoy.

The only remaining member of the Congress to be present for, and vote in favor of, the Wilderness Act is now Representative John Dingell of Michigan. This serves as another reminder that the torch must be born by those who come after.

Source: Campaign for America's Wilderness



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Northern riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*) is an endangered freshwater mussel found in the Allegheny River, growing to 4" long and 2" high. Formerly distributed widely in the Ohio River basin, their population is now fragmented into only three viable groups. The northern riffleshell mussel needs gravel river beds and swift-flowing, well-oxygenated water. Protecting additional wilderness in the ANF can help protect water quality for the northern riffleshell mussel.

Your contribution to Friends of Allegheny Wilderness goes directly to saving wilderness!

Yes, I want to support Friends of Allegheny Wilderness and help protect Pennsylvania's Wilderness.

Yes, I want to contribute! Here is my donation of (circle one):

\$20 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 \$_____

Please make checks payable to "Friends of Allegheny Wilderness." Friends of Allegheny Wilderness is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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