

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.

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT, 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PENNSYLVANIA WILDERNESS ACT CELEBRATED!

**Philadelphia Inquirer**  
Monday, September 6, 2004

### **Preserving Wilderness** **A wondrous act of man**

*“Macadam is good, and airplanes are good, and jangling telephones are good, and apartment house dwelling is good - but they are not good enough. They have to be complemented with roadless areas, with places that are far removed from our cities...” - U.S. Rep. John Saylor (R., Pa.), 1963*

Perhaps no country has struggled more with wilderness than the United States.

Early settlers fought relentlessly to tame it. Industry determined to dam, drill, log and mine it.

America's wild lands inspired novels and ballads, paintings and photographs.

But as more acres were plowed under and paved over, wise legislators and conservationists foresaw that America's struggle would someday move from seeking to master the wilderness to trying to preserve it.

In the 1950s, an adept Pennsylvanian, Howard Zahniser, hatched a uniquely American idea: What if the United States set aside certain remote lands forever? Different from monuments or national parks, these would be places where man himself would be merely a visitor and not remain.

There'd be no roads, no power lines, no sign of habitation. Just wilderness.



Matt Zahniser (right), son of Howard Zahniser, and Matt's son Dave next to the Howard Zahniser historical marker near Tionesta, PA (see story on page 4). Photo by Ben Moyer

Another Pennsylvanian, Rep. John P. Saylor, a conservative Republican, quickly got on board. Then a liberal Democrat from Minnesota, Hubert H. Humphrey. Eight

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness  
220 Center Street  
Warren, PA 16365  
(814) 723-0620  
alleghenyfriends@earthlink.net  
www.pawild.org

years of debate later, Congress passed the Wilderness Act, preserving 9 million acres in perpetuity.

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law 40 years ago this month. On Sept. 3, 1964, he said: "If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them with more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

Most Americans still cling to that value. They know that saving wilderness isn't just about hiking, fishing or bird-watching. It's also about protection of watersheds, promotion of clean air, and preservation of wildlife habitat, often for rare and endangered species. It's about honoring the cultural and historical memory of early explorers, trappers and pioneers who braved these harsh lands.

The federal Wilderness Act, copied by state and foreign governments, is one of America's environmental success stories.

Every Congress since 1964 has used the Wilderness Act, setting aside a total of 106 million acres so far. Proposals for more than 2.5 million acres are pending this Congress.

Credit goes to both political parties. The most land was preserved under President Jimmy Carter - 66 million acres, most of it in Alaska. The most laws were passed under President Ronald Reagan - 43, designating 10.6 million acres in 31 states. President Bush signed 526,000 acres into wilderness during the last Congress.

Beyond preserving land, the Wilderness Act furthered participatory democracy. It was one of the first laws to require a federal agency to disclose its planning process and allow the public to attend hearings. Now

taken for granted, that kind of public input was rare in the 1960s.

When the Great Swamp Wilderness Area was proposed in North Jersey in 1968, an unprecedented 1,000 people turned out to be heard. Wilderness activism formed a grass-root and legislative base that would lobby for the landmark clean air, water and anti-toxic waste legislation in the 1970s.

Today, wilderness designations often face challenges from off-road recreation interests, as well as industries. Their thinking focuses too much on selfish, short-term gains.

The great naturalist John Muir wrote that trees could survive drought, disease, avalanches, and "a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods" - but not fools. Only Uncle Sam can save nature from them.

Forty years ago, one generation created a valuable tool to safeguard America's natural wonders for future generations. Today's leaders should use it well.

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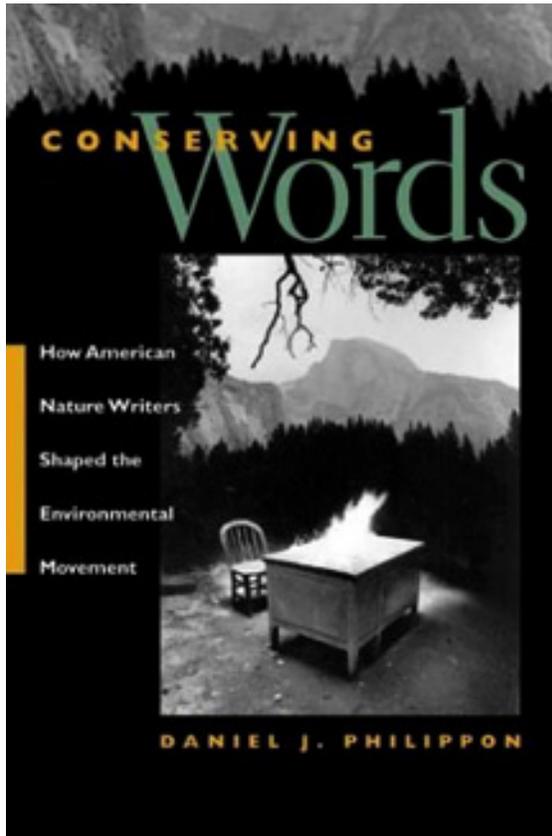
### **Aldo Leopold and the Wilderness Idea**

A Book Note by Ed Zahniser

Daniel J. Philippon's *Conserving Words: How America Nature Writers Shaped the Environmental Movement* has an excellent chapter on Aldo Leopold and wilderness. Published by the University of Georgia Press in hardback in February at \$39.95, the book should be available for interlibrary loan now. Philippon is an assistant professor of rhetoric at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, where he directs the Program in Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Ethics. The book looks at how five writers associated with the founding of conservation advocacy groups understood nature through a particular, galvanizing metaphor: Theodore Roosevelt *frontier* Boone and Crockett Club, Mable Osgood Wright *garden* National Audubon Society, John Muir *park* Sierra Club, Leopold *wilderness* Wilderness Society, and Edward Abbey *utopia* Earth First! "The Call

of the Wild: Aldo Leopold and the Wilderness Society” is chapter four.

Some scholars in the recent postmodern deconstructionist (pomo decon) mode have asserted that Leopold moved away from concern for wilderness late in life in favor of private lands conservation. Philippon doesn't buy that. Leopold (1887-1948) wrote extensively about wilderness from 1921 to 1924 and again in the mid-1930s, when the Wilderness Society was forming and organizing. And “Wilderness” appears as the next-to-the-last essay in *A Sand County Almanac* (1949).



Philippon points out, however, that Leopold's own arrangement of the manuscript that was posthumously published as *Sand County* made “Wilderness” the final essay of the fourth section, “The Upshot,” and of the book. “The Land Ethic,” now the final chapter in “The Upshot” section, was its first chapter in Leopold's arrangement of the manuscript.

Philippon argues that wilderness was indeed the organizing metaphor—hence the upshot—of Leopold's thinking about land. A reviewer of Leopold's manuscript, which Leopold titled “Great Possessions,” objected that wilderness, with which the reviewer was not sympathetic, was “too limited a phase of conservation” to get the final say in Leopold's book. Philippon says this reader's report reveals “his limited understanding of the role of wilderness advocacy in the conservation movement and suggest that Leopold may in fact have had some very good reasons for positioning “Wilderness” where he did, especially considering his recent successes with the Wilderness Society.”

“Whether or not ‘The Land Ethic’ is in fact better suited in its current position is not the issue,” Philippon writes, “so much as why Leopold may have placed ‘Wilderness’ where he did and how differently we would perceive his relationship to the wilderness idea had the essay remained in its original location.”

Philippon also makes the case for how Leopold significantly broadened the policy thinking of the Wilderness Society, mainly through injecting the ecological importance of wilderness into its predominantly recreational early posture. Leopold also encouraged and facilitated connection and cooperation between the Wilderness Society and Ecological Society of America. Leopold also linked wilderness preservation to the preservation of endangered species (with “important ethical implications”) and to the continued opportunity for the natural evolution of species.

Philippon has produced a valuable book for wilderness advocates. The introduction, “The Ecology of Influence,” has concise discussions of important concepts in contemporary environmental thought. These include the contesting of nature, what nature writing is, what metaphor is, what “discourse” means, the problem of language in recent discourse about nature, and what environmentalism is.

## **Sierra Club Hikes FAW's Proposed Tionesta Wilderness Area**

By Roger Knacke, Outings Chair  
Lake Erie Group Sierra Club

The Lake Erie Group Sierra Club had an outing on June 26 to the Allegheny National Forest to explore the magnificent Tionesta Scenic Area old-growth forest. This important area is being recommended for federal wilderness protection by Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW).



Elsie & Will Reeby and Al Richardson, Political Chair for the Lake Erie Group Sierra Club hiking the Tionesta Scenic Area. Photo by Roger Knacke.

Kirk Johnson of FAW guided the three-hour hike. Kirk conceived the Tionesta Wilderness Area idea as part of his graduate studies six years ago, and has since led the effort to designate it as wilderness. Six people participated in the outing, which featured trails through stands of giant hemlocks, beeches, and maples. Kirk's expert commentary throughout helped us gain a deeper appreciation of the forest. Impressive also was the vast scale of the tornado damage of 1986. Experiencing this ancient forest showed how important it is to preserve the area, and what an inspirational resource it could become. Thanks to all for their companionship, and special thanks to Kirk for a memorable event.

*Editorial note: If you would like to take a trip to visit the proposed Tionesta Wilderness Area, or any of the other proposed wilderness in FAW's*

A Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest, please contact FAW, and a trip can be arranged! Maps of our proposed wilderness areas can be viewed online at [www.pawild.org/exec\\_summary.html](http://www.pawild.org/exec_summary.html).

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**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**  
Sunday, September 5, 2004

### **True Visionary: Tionesta Native had a hand in the National Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964**

By Ben Moyer

Forty years ago last Friday, President Lyndon B. Johnson placed his signature on the National Wilderness Preservation System Act of 1964. But it was the pen of a Western Pennsylvanian, Howard Zahniser, that fashioned the heart and soul of the law that would lead to eventual designation of 107 million acres of wilderness on federal lands across the country.

Zahniser, a native of Tionesta, Forest County, wrote the original draft of the Wilderness Act in 1956 as director of the Wilderness Society. For eight years he guided the law through 66 revisions toward passage by Congress. Zahniser died in May of 1964, days after testifying at the final congressional hearing on the Wilderness bill and four months before Johnson's signature made it law. He was 58.

"He'd just go and go, often 30 hours at a stretch," said Zahniser's wife Alice after his death. "In the end he just spent himself out."

On Aug. 27-29, 13 canoeists in eight canoes commemorated the Wilderness enactment anniversary with a three-day canoe trip on the Allegheny River. Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW), a non-profit group based in Warren, organized the journey as part of its work to promote appreciation of the 9,031 acres of designated wilderness on Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest.

After a study of other relatively undisturbed parts of the Forest, the group

proposes that an additional 54,000 acres merit wilderness designation. FAW faces opposition, however, from commercial forestry and oil and gas industry representatives who maintain that extractive industries are foundations of local economies in places such as rural northwestern Pennsylvania and it is unwise to bar such activities from federal lands.

According to FAW executive director Kirk Johnson, the group's proposal for additional wilderness on the Allegheny is not an attempt to stop timber or gas and oil production there.

“Our proposal is not an all or nothing proposition,” Johnson said. “We have objectively identified the most wild, undeveloped areas of the Forest with the fewest conflicts for their potential inclusion in America’s National Wilderness Preservation System.”

FAW's commemorative canoe trip launched at Warren (canoes and shuttle supplied by Allegheny Outfitters, [www.alleghenyoutfitters.com](http://www.alleghenyoutfitters.com)) and paddled 40 miles downriver to Zahniser's hometown of Tionesta where his grave, marked by an uncut stone from the forest, overlooks the Allegheny. Making the trip with Johnson were Zahniser's son Matt Zahniser of Covington, Ky.; grandson Dave and wife Rachel of Covington, Ky.; Stuart Zahniser of Erie; Julie, Dan and Gabrielle Kennedy of Clearfield; Charlotte and Will Ford of McConnellsburg, Nathan Bell of Bradford; and U. S. Forest Service wilderness ranger Eric Flood.

Under the rim of the Allegheny Plateau, the paddlers glided through the Allegheny River Islands Wilderness, one of the more unique areas in the nationwide system of designated wilderness lands. The Allegheny River Islands Wilderness contains seven islands totaling 368 acres embraced by the river between Warren and Tionesta. Named for early settlers, the islands are covered with forest and dense understory vegetation. There is no development and the islands are used primarily by fisherman and for camping by canoe parties. The FAW party camped in hard rain on Crull's Island and King Island along their route. Courson

Island, also part of the Wilderness chain, can be seen from the Tidioute Overlook along the Tidioute-Warren Road just east of Route 62.

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness chose a canoe float to commemorate Zahniser's contributions to the wilderness protection because he and Alice had made a similar but longer canoe trip on the Allegheny from Olean, N.Y., to Tionesta in June of 1937. Howard kept a journal during the trip and recorded sightings of wildlife and vegetation. Their route took them along a section of the Allegheny that was later inundated by the Kinzua Dam reservoir after the dam was completed in 1966.

Zahniser's early life along the Allegheny and his 1937 canoe trip with Alice strongly influenced his conservation work in the next 27 years.



FAW canoers just prior to pushing off from the Allegheny Outfitters in Warren on their three-day float to Tionesta. Photo by Rachel Zahniser

“We paddled on, finding the islands interesting,” Zahniser wrote in the journal. “It was a clear blue June day. The sky was especially beautiful, with cumulus, cirrus and stratus clouds all day. As we went under the bridge at West Hickory after winding through the islands, we saw two eagles flying high over the narrows. We stopped below the tannery to stretch. The canoeing from Hickory on had the added interest of the faint recollection of familiar things. We were much interested in fish

jumping and in the green herons standing on an anchored boat.”

As Alice and Howard Zahniser did in 1937, the FAW flotilla encountered numerous bald eagles, blue herons and abundant waterfowl. Ranger Flood asked the group to “help the Forest Service” by keeping a lookout for a possible eagle nest among tall white pines near one of the wilderness islands. A mature eagle soared out of the forest near where the nest was thought to be, and an immature eagle stretched its wings on a snag downriver, but the canoeists did not spot a nest.

Two miles above Tionesta, Johnson led the fleet ashore below the rumble of log trucks and the rush of tourist traffic along Route 62. There along the west shoulder stands a blue and gold Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker dedicated to Howard Zahniser's work on behalf of wilderness.



The FAW flotilla makes its way downstream in the misty aftermath of a morning rainstorm. Photo by Rachel Zahniser

“It is quite fitting that he be mentioned in a place where not only did he have some of his most formative years, but in a region where there are two wilderness areas designated already,” Matt Zahniser said.

The Hickory Creek Wilderness is the Allegheny National Forest's other designated wilderness. It consists of 8,663 acres of northern hardwood forest atop the plateau above the river's east bank. Both the Hickory Creek and the Allegheny River

Islands areas were granted wilderness designation through the Pennsylvania Wilderness Act of 1984.

Together, their acreage amounts to less than 2 percent of the Allegheny National Forest total, far below the 18 percent of national forest land designated as wilderness nationally. Most designated wilderness is in the West, but according to Johnson protected wilderness on the Allegheny is scarce even compared to other eastern states.

“Demand for wilderness experience in the Allegheny National Forest is very high and the available supply in the region is low,” Johnson said. “The Allegheny is Zahniser's home national forest and the inspiration for Friends of Allegheny Wilderness' efforts stems from the fact that there is so little wilderness in his home forest. We believe we must do his legacy proud by protecting what would still amount to a small fraction of this forest. We have an obligation here to live up to the hard work that Zahniser put into wilderness and its protection for the entire nation.”

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### **Leave No Trace Principle 7: Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

*By Eric Flood, Wilderness Ranger, Allegheny National Forest  
Master Educator in Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics*

Greetings, and welcome to the eighth, and last, installment of my series on Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics for the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness newsletter. I would like to begin this column by mentioning that we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the two Congressionally designated wilderness areas here on the Allegheny National Forest; the Allegheny Islands Wilderness and the Hickory Creek Wilderness. Along with the Allegheny National Recreation Area, the Pennsylvania Wilderness Act of 1984 established these two areas, which are presently the only federal wilderness areas within Pennsylvania. President Ronald

Reagan signed this act into law on October 30, 1984. Happy 20th Birthday to the Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands Wilderness areas!

Leave No Trace is a public education program intended to promote responsible outdoor recreation behaviors through education, research, and partnerships. The USDA Forest Service in partnership with the National Outdoor Leadership School first created this program. The Leave No Trace program has since expanded to include a wide range of partners in federal, state, and local agencies, as well as the private sector. A non-profit organization located in Boulder, Colorado known as the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is responsible for managing the program.

In the first article of this series I outlined a general overview of the Leave No Trace program and the role of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. Over the span of the next six articles I dedicated an entire installment to each of the first six principles, following a brief review of what was covered before. If you are new to the FAW newsletter, and would like to know more about the first six principles, it would be advisable to access the back issues by downloading them from the FAW website.

*“The Leave No Trace message is more than a campaign for clean campsites. It's a program dedicated to building awareness, appreciation, and most of all, respect for our public recreation places.... Leave No Trace is about enjoying the great outdoors while traveling and camping with care” --From the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics website (www.lnt.org).*

The seven Leave No Trace Principles listed below are the foundation of the Leave No Trace outdoor ethics program:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. **Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

This brings us to the final installment featuring the last of the seven principles, **Be Considerate of Other Visitors**. Being considerate is something that all too often some of us may forget to do in our zeal to enjoy our outdoor recreation pursuits. It is too easy in our enthusiasm to forget that our actions may have a direct impact on others and the quality of their outdoor experiences.

While we may seek out uncivilized places for their lack of human influence upon the natural world, our separation from polite society does not relieve us from the necessity to be polite to our fellow visitors. The one civilized characteristic we should expect to find in a backcountry mostly devoid of human influence is our attitude towards others.

The first step in our consideration is deciding when to plan our trip. When possible, avoid making plans during the more popular times for others to be in the backcountry, such as holidays and weekends. Enhance the experiences of yourself and others by making your trip on days when there are likely to be few, if any, other visitors to the backcountry. Try visiting the backcountry during the off-season. Better yet, rather than choosing a more popular area, visit one that sees much less use and practice your knowledge of Leave No Trace skills to help keep the area pristine.

How many individuals make up your group? There is no doubt that the feeling of security and camaraderie with others who share your interests can greatly enhance an outdoor experience. Some of my best backpacking experiences have been as part of a diverse group of personalities sharing a common interest in the outdoors. But keep the size of any backcountry group to less than 10 persons, and in popular or smaller areas, even less than that. I've shared in previous articles the impacts of large groups on the environment and the local wildlife population, but larger groups have an impact on people, too. The numbers and noise associated with large groups leads to a sense of crowding, and this feeling in an area where one does not expect to be crowded can cause stress and the inflation

of minor annoyances into major conflicts. Because of both the popularity and the size of the Hickory Creek Wilderness, the Allegheny National Forest recommends a group size of 8 persons or less in that area.

When traveling on backcountry trails you should always yield to other users, especially if they are moving faster than you and may wish to pass. If you are alone and encounter a large group, step off the trail to allow the group to pass. When hiking on a trail that is shared with pack stock, always yield the right-of-way by stepping off the trail to the downhill side. Your being on the uphill side can be dangerous to the stock and riders, as they are in far more risk of a dangerous fall downhill than a person on foot. Speak in a normal voice as the horses approach your position to enable them to recognize the odd shape of a person wearing a large backpack as a human being. Take care not to do anything to scare the animals, and speak to the riders as they pass.

When stopping to take rest breaks, move well off the trail so as not to impede the progress of other users, but remember to seek out durable surfaces for your rest area. Avoid stopping near where others have set up campsites, or are stopped for a rest break of their own. Respect the right to privacy and solitude of others, and avoid camping near, or within sight of, other campsites. When selecting your campsite (upon a durable surface, of course) look for natural obstructions to block your campsite from the view of others. This is especially important in more open areas.

If you choose tents, clothing, and camping gear that are colored in muted earth tones, you will blend in and be much less visible over distances. This will help to reduce a feeling of crowding for yourself and others who may be sharing the backcountry.

Take great care to moderate the volume of your own voice and that of the members of your group. Avoid any unnecessary talking in the vicinity of others, and loud noises at all times in order to allow nature's sounds to prevail in the backcountry. Be respectfully quiet whenever you are in the back-

country, whether traveling or in camp. Remember that noises travel more easily and farther over water and open landscapes than through foliage, so extra care must be taken with noise in these environments. The opportunities to hear the sounds of the natural world, or even just the absence of the constant cacophony of noises of modern life, are an important part of many visitors' wilderness experience.

Some people take great pleasure in listening to music, rather than silence or natural sounds, in order to enhance their enjoyment of the great outdoors. This is, of course, a perfectly acceptable personal preference, but if you bring a radio, tapes, or CDs into the wilderness, be sure to use headphones to listen in private without the possibility of disturbing others.



ANF Wilderness Ranger Eric Flood. Eric is a dedicated public servant who has supervised all of FAW's volunteer work projects in the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area. He also planned and prepared the meals for FAW's Wilderness Act anniversary canoe trip in August.

And one final area to discuss before we close our series on Leave No Trace outdoor ethics: be sure to always control pets at all times, or leave them at home. Remember that dogs may have been bred to be man's best friend over the centuries, but not everyone cares for them. Some people are very frightened by dogs, and others find their presence in the backcountry offensive. Even if they aren't intimidated by dogs, or

have a particular dislike of their company, an unsupervised canine visit to someone else's campsite is unacceptable. They may get into all sorts of mischief, including becoming lost, or having inappropriate contact with nearby wildlife or other visitors' leashed pets.

For more information on Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics, please feel free to contact me at: Bradford Ranger District, Allegheny National Forest, 29 Forest Service Drive, Bradford, PA 16701, (814) 362-4613 extension 126, email: [eflood@fs.fed.us](mailto:eflood@fs.fed.us). Or, visit the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics Website at [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org).

If you feel you may have an interest in becoming a Leave No Trace Trainer or Master Educator, we anticipate offering courses locally within the Allegheny National Forest in cooperation with the Appalachian Mountain Club in 2005. Contact me at the address or phone number above for more information, or contact Dara Johnson, Leave No Trace Coordinator with the Appalachian Mountain Club, PO Box 298, Rt. 16, Gorham, NH 03581, (603) 466-2721 ext.209, [djohnson@outdoors.org](mailto:djohnson@outdoors.org).

As we close out 2004, I would also like to say many thanks to all of the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness volunteers who made our trails projects so successful over the past year. Happy Holidays, and I look forward to seeing you in 2005!

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### ***History of National Wilderness Preservation System published on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act***

*THE ENDURING WILDERNESS: Protecting Our Natural Heritage through the Wilderness Act* by Doug Scott, Policy Director  
Campaign for America's Wilderness

An up-to-the-minute look at how America has preserved nearly 106 million acres of diverse wilderness areas in 44 states by statutory law ... and how much more will be preserved.

Written by a wilderness lobbyist (since 1966), strategist, and historian, this book is a one-stop place for activists, students, and others to learn what wilderness preservation is all about.

- Foreword by Theodore Roosevelt IV
- History of the wilderness idea and the Wilderness Act of 1964
- What has been protected: how conservationists and Congress have protected 97 million acres since 1964
- What more remains to be saved on federal lands
- The practical politics of preserving more wilderness by a leading activist
- Wilderness stewardship: challenges of administering wilderness areas
- Wilderness in other realms: Tribal, state, other nations
- Afterword by Ed Zahniser
- Full text of the Wilderness Act
- Comprehensive bibliographic essay of key wilderness readings
- Endnotes for useful wilderness quotations throughout the text

For more information or to order a copy of *The Enduring Wilderness* please visit [www.fulcrum-books.com](http://www.fulcrum-books.com).

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### ***Join Our E-mail List!***

FAW maintains an active email listserve on which subscribers are regularly updated on developments regarding efforts to designate additional wilderness in the Allegheny National Forest. This is an informational list, with relevant newspaper articles, event announcements and action alerts being the typical fare. Over the last two years, there has been an average of about two emails a week sent to subscribers. If you would like more frequent updates on FAW's efforts than this newsletter provides, please send an email to [alleghenyfriends@earthlink.net](mailto:alleghenyfriends@earthlink.net) and ask to be subscribed to our listserve. We will not share our email list with other organizations or businesses, so you will not receive unwanted "spam" email as a result of subscribing.

**Friends of Allegheny Wilderness**  
**220 Center Street**  
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**Your Contribution to Friends of Allegheny Wilderness Goes Directly to Saving Wilderness!**

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