



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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Pennsylvania Ikes endorse ANF Citizens' Wilderness Proposal

Warren – At their March 24th state convention members of the Pennsylvania Division, Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) unanimously endorsed the Allegheny National Forest wilderness proposal of the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW). The endorsement comes just days before new direction for the long-term management of the ANF is unveiled by the U.S. Forest Service.

FAW's *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for the Allegheny National Forest* advocates eight additional areas totaling 54,460 acres be added through Congressional designation to America's National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). Once designated, new ANF wilderness areas would augment the NWPS, which was established with the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

"We are pleased and proud to be supporting this proposal for additional wilderness on the Allegheny National Forest," said Don E. Robertson, Pennsylvania state president of the IWLA. "Preserving our last remaining roadless and wild areas is preserving our heritage. It is important to all our people and our Commonwealth. We will be ensuring that special places exist for our children's children's children."

Founded in 1922, the IWLA is one of the nation's oldest and most respected conservation organizations. With a grassroots network of 40,000 members and nearly 300 local chapters nationwide, the group takes a common-sense approach toward protecting our country's natural heritage and improving outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans.

"Friends of Allegheny Wilderness is honored to have the endorsement of such a committed, historic, and extensive organization as the Izaak Walton League supporting our carefully wrought proposal for the Allegheny National Forest," said John Bartlett, field representative for FAW. "We look forward to further expansion of our practical, broad-based wilderness advocacy coalition in the coming months."

The *Citizens' Wilderness Proposal* was published to coincide with the revision of the ANF's long-term management plan, or "Forest Plan." Forest Plan revision has been ongoing for nearly four

years. The Forest Service is required by the 1976 National Forest Management Act to review the wilderness potential for the ANF as part of Forest Plan revision.

Originally encompassing nine million acres, today there are more than 107 million acres protected as part of the NWPS, but only two wilderness areas totaling 9,000 acres in the ANF – Pennsylvania’s sole national forest. This acreage equates to a scant two percent of the 513,200-acre forest as a whole. Nationally, 18 percent of national forest land is protected as wilderness and in the East the figure is 11 percent.

“While we recognize and applaud the importance of continued timber production and other multiple uses of the Allegheny National Forest to the region’s economy and way of life, it must also be acknowledged that there is an acute shortage of protected wilderness here,” said Kirk Johnson, executive director of FAW. “We are grateful to the Ikes for recognizing this unfortunate problem, and acting to help us rectify it.”

Wilderness designated under the Wilderness Act consists of significant parcels of federal public land set aside to be left in their natural condition on a permanent basis. Hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and other forms of non-mechanized recreation are permitted within federal wilderness areas. New roads, motorized recreation, permanent developments, logging and other forms of commercial extraction are not permitted.

In addition to the IWLA, other organizations supporting FAW’s proposed wilderness areas include Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, the Butler Outdoor Club, Campaign for America’s Wilderness, Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Howard County Maryland Bird Club, Lake Erie Group Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Native Plant Society, Pennsylvania Republicans for Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited, The Wilderness Society, and many others.

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On the web:

Izaak Walton League of America: www.iwla.org

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness: www.pawild.org

PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION IZAAC WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA RESOLUTION STATEMENT
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2007

Whereas less than two percent of the Allegheny National Forest – Pennsylvania’s only national forest – is permanently protected for future generations to use and enjoy as part of America,s National Wilderness Preservation System;

Whereas 18 percent of all national forest land nationwide is protected as wilderness, and 11 percent of eastern national forest land is so protected;

Whereas an act of Congress is required to designate wilderness as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

Be it resolved that the Pennsylvania Division, Izaak Walton League of America acting at its March 2007 convention endorses the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness’ *Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal for the Allegheny National Forest*.

The Pennsylvania Chapter calls on the Izaak Walton League of America to lend its support to the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, proposal on the national level.

The Pennsylvania Division calls on Pennsylvania’s Congressional delegation to draft legislation designating the following Allegheny National Forest wilderness additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System totaling 54,460 acres, and National Recreation Areas totaling 14,477 as presented in the *Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal*:

- Allegheny Front Wilderness, 6,906 acres
- Chestnut Ridge Wilderness, 5,191 acres
- Clarion River Wilderness, 6,009 acres
- Cornplanter Wilderness, 3, 022 acres
- Hickory Creek Wilderness addition, 1,780 acres
- Morrison Run Wilderness, 6,887 acres
- Tionesta Wilderness, 14,960 acres
- Tracy Ridge Wilderness, 9,705 acres

- Allegheny National Recreation Area addition, 4,752 acres
- Hearts Content National Recreation Area, 2,335 acres
- Minister Valley National Recreation Area, 7,390 acres