



*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.*

**For Immediate Release: February 2, 2011**

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**Overnight Backpacking Saturday, March 5th and Sunday March 6th --  
Proposed Minister Valley Wilderness Area, Allegheny National Forest**

**WARREN** -- Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) is a Warren, Pennsylvania-based non-profit organization seeking to have Congress permanently protect additional portions of the Allegheny National Forest as wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act of 1964.

FAW has scheduled an overnight backpacking trip into the proposed Minister Valley Wilderness Area in southern Warren County for the weekend of March 5th and 6th. The hike is free and open to the public. This outing will give hikers a fine sense of wild, unroaded nature of this eminently qualified prospective addition to America's National Wilderness Preservation System.

The hike will begin Saturday morning at the Minister Creek campground, and the group will primarily use the seven-mile Minister Trail loop, north to the North Country National Scenic Trail and the popular triple forks area. There may be some off-trail hiking as well, depending on the consensus of the group. Saturday evening the group will stop along the way to make camp before dark.

Hikers should bring all of their own food & camping equipment, and come fully prepared for the weather.

To RSVP, or for more information, contact Friends of Allegheny Wilderness at 814-723-0620 or [info@pawild.org](mailto:info@pawild.org). Or log onto: <http://www.pawild.org>

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