

From: Dave Bonta bontasaurus@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2003 4:44 PM
To: pabiodiv@webmail.upb.pitt.edu
Subject: PABIODIV: ANF: more clearcutting, no significant road removal

Just passing this along FYI, with apologies for cross-listing. I'm sure the subscribers to this list don't need to be told how detrimental roads and clearcuts are to native forest biodiversity! If you don't agree with the ADP's analysis, that's fine -- but please do consider sending comments. Remember, this is YOUR property they're talking about.
--Dave Bonta

ALLEGHENY WILD! ALERTS #3

Help Protect Allegheny Forests from Industrial Exploitation. Take the time now to act on the following important issues for Allegheny Forests.

- 1) Stop the County Line/Four Mile Timber Sale!!
 - * Nearly 1,000 acres of clearcutting.
 - * Logging in a Wilderness Trout Stream watershed.

- 2) Support Road Obliteration in the Allegheny National Forest
 - * FS Roads Analysis Confirms Major Roads Problem in Allegheny.
 - * Parts of the Allegheny have >12 miles of roads per square mile.
 - * The FS continues to look the other way at oil/gas related roads.
 - * The FS avoids call for large-scale road obliteration.

Send comments TODAY by e-mail. County Line Comments due Monday, March 10.

1) STOP THE COUNTY LINE/FOUR MILE TIMBER SALE

The U.S. Forest Service has proposed yet another massive timber sale for the Allegheny National Forest. The County Line/Four Mile Timber Sale would approved more than 1,200 acres of logging (the equivalent of two square miles) and 1,100 acres of herbicide applications in the County Line/Four Mile watersheds. The Allegheny was one of the heaviest logged eastern national forests in 2002.

The Four Mile Run watershed, where much of the project will take place, is a state designated Wilderness Trout Stream. The Forest Service is leaning towards adopting an alternative that would allow clearcutting on nearly 1,000 acres while refusing to give serious consideration to a restoration based alternative. Despite the fact thousands of tons of erosion would occur annually under the proposal, logging is being approved on 133 acres of poorly drained soils. The Forest Service acknowledges that if approved, the concentration of interfering ferns/grasses which are over-crowding forest understories would increase severely.

Send comments to Supervisor John Schultz at jrschultz@fs.fed.us or at Bradford Ranger District, Star Route 1, Box 88, Bradford, PA 16701.

2) SUPPORT ROAD OBLITERATION IN THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST

The U.S. Forest Service just completed a mandated roads analysis of the Allegheny National Forest. According to that analysis:

- * The Allegheny has an \$8 million backlog on road maintenance;
- * The Allegheny has more than 300 miles of roads where their risks exceed their benefits.

* The Highland oil and gas development in the Allegheny is of a size and road density comparable to the city of Warren where the forest is headquartered. Road densities exceed 12 miles per square mile of road.

* There are nearly 3,000 miles of roads on Allegheny National Forest lands with most of these dedicated to timber production and oil/gas drilling.

* There are 30 unroaded areas within the Allegheny National Forest which are 500 acres or greater. The roads analysis process was adopted into law in 2000 with a primary emphasis on identifying roads for decommissioning. However, the Forest Service identified only 12 miles of roads where decommissioning was a priority. The U.S. Forest Service has failed to carry forward on its goal of reducing the strain that roads are causing on our national forests and road maintenance budgets. Send comments to Supervisor Kevin Elliott at kbelliott@fs.fed.us or at P.O. Box 847, Warren, PA 16365.

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* * * END INDUSTRIAL EXTRACTION ON PUBLIC LANDS! * * *

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Check out our nifty Friends of Rothrock poster:
<http://www.mccaughey.net/~sam/rothrock.html>

The Pennsylvania Biodiversity Listserve encourages open discussion about biodiversity issues in the state. It is hosted by the Allegheny Institute of Natural History, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and is moderated by the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership. The opinions expressed in messages are those of the authors and NOT the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership.