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News Release

USDA Forest Service
Allegheny National Forest

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Local Contact: Steve Miller 814-723-5150

PRESENTATION ON OTTERS AT WARREN LIBRARY ON MONDAY, 3/21

Warren, Pa. -- Dr. Tom Serfass, otter researcher from Frostburg State University in Maryland, will do a presentation on Monday, March 21st, starting at 6:00 p.m. on the fascinating and successful reintroduction of otters to western Pennsylvania. This presentation is free to the public. The presentation will start at 6:00 p.m. in the Slater Room on the third floor of the Warren Public Library on Market Street in Warren. Parking is available on Market Street or in the parking lot behind the library. Dr. Serfass will entertain questions after his presentation.

River otters were reintroduced to drainages in the Allegheny National Forest during the early 1990s. The drainages included the Clarion and Allegheny Rivers, and the Tionesta Creek. The otters have since successfully reproduced. Dr. Serfass used a combination of techniques such as Geographic Information Systems, genetic tracking, and digital technologies to evaluate the current distribution and abundance of reintroduced river otter populations throughout the Forest. Methods developed by Dr. Serfass revolutionized the ability of natural resource agencies to monitor native and reintroduced river otter populations in North America. Dr. Serfass will summarize his work in the presentation on Monday, March 21st.

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