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Subject: PABIODIV: Allegheny Wild Proposal Endorsed by Sierra Club's Niagara Group
Date: Thu, 21 Apr 2005 10:34:23 -0400 (EDT)
Sender: owner-pabiodiv@webmail.upb.pitt.edu

<http://www.timesobserver.com> (subscription required)

Warren Times Observer, Wednesday, April 20, 2005
Allegheny Wild! Plan Supported

The Allegheny Defense Project, a Clarion-based conservation organization, has received the endorsement of the Sierra Club's Niagara Group for its Allegheny Wild! proposal for the Allegheny National Forest.

Allegheny Wild! is a citizen's generated proposal submitted to the Forest Service for consideration in their revision of the current land management plan. Allegheny Wild! is a comprehensive plan that would protect and restore native forests and increase recreation opportunities in the Allegheny National Forest. Under Allegheny Wild!, commercial logging would end on the Allegheny, oil & gas drilling would be phased out over a 30 year period, and approximately 50,000 acres (or 10%) of the forest would be designated as Wilderness.

"We are honored to gain the support of this Sierra Club chapter," said Ryan Talbott, Forest Watch Coordinator for the Allegheny Defense Project. "The Niagara Group has worked for years to protect the people and environment in western New York on a multitude of issues. We are pleased to know that Allegheny Wild! is supported by the conservation community of western New York where many of the Allegheny National Forest's visitors come from," Talbott said.

"For years our organization has admired the work of the Allegheny Defense Project in preserving Allegheny National Forest's invaluable natural resources", said Larry Beahan, Sierra Club's Niagara Group Forest Chairman. "Their plan, Allegheny Wild! is an exemplary approach to forest use that will insure the forest's being there for the use of many generations to come."

Over 700 individuals, including Carl Leopold, son of famed conservationist and Forest Service employee, Aldo Leopold, have endorsed Allegheny Wild!. Additionally, more than 30 organizations have endorsed Allegheny Wild!, including, the Greater Wyoming Valley and Juniata Valley Chapters of the Pennsylvania Audubon Society, the Otzinachson Regional Group of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club, Greenline Paper Company, the Erie County Environmental Coalition, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Network.

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