

From: owner-pabiodiv@webmail.upb.pitt.edu On Behalf Of Ryan Talbott  
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2006 8:31 PM  
To: PABIODIV@webmail.upb.pitt.edu  
Subject: PABIODIV: Deadline nears for public input on forest plan

It's hard to believe that the public is still being told that local governments get money from the Forest Service based on how much logging occurs in the Allegheny. It's been five years since these counties chose the 'guaranteed payments' method so they're NOT based on logging. It's based on the average of the three highest revenue years from past logging. Also, the reporter wrongly says that the new plan "would add nearly 30,000 acres of potential wilderness near Tracy Ridge, Minister Valley, Chestnut Ridge and the Allegheny Front." That's only if the Forest Service selected Alternative D. The amount of wilderness varies by alternative. The other alternatives propose less wilderness. Importantly, none of the alternatives would protect the Allegheny from oil and gas drilling, which is currently at an all time high in Pennsylvania's only national forest. Nearly 700 wells were drilled last year alone. So even if the above areas were proposed for wilderness, they would not be protected from oil and gas drilling.

Ryan

<http://www.thederrick.com/stories/08162006-3002.shtml>  
Deadline nears for public input on forest plan  
By ADAM MILASINCIC

Leaders will pour through reams of data and commentary to finalize a management strategy for the Allegheny National Forest. After one more week of public deliberation, Forest Service officials will plow through years of data and commentary to finalize a management strategy for the Allegheny National Forest. Input sessions began in 2002 as the Forest Service initiated work on an updated land-use plan, and officials unveiled a preferred proposal in May. Forest managers in Warren have received more than 3,000 comments since then and predict a flood of additional opinions before the Aug. 28 deadline, said Stephen Miller, a Forest Service spokesman.

"The public has taken this process very much to heart and very seriously, and we're real pleased with the level of interest and the level of insight that people have had so far," Miller said. "It's been real positive, and that hasn't always been so around here. This has been a real step forward." (information deleted from article)

Public comment on the draft plan for management of the Allegheny National Forest runs through Aug. 28. Individuals wishing to submit opinions may do so through the following means:

#### HEARINGS

Participants must sign in and will speak on a first-come-first-serve basis. Advance speaking slots are available by calling Lori Elmquist at 814-723-5150, extension 268.

- \* 5 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 21 at the Spotts World Culture Building on the Slippery Rock campus in Butler County.
- \* 5 to 9 p.m. on Aug. 22 at the Kare Area Community Center, 46 Fraley Street.

Send written comments to:  
Allegheny National Forest, Forest Plan Revision  
P.O. Box 36, Warren, Pa. 16365

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