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To: PA Biodiversity Listserve <PABIODIV@webmail.upb.pitt.edu>
Subject: PABIODIV: Allegheny National Forest Assessment
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 2005 17:55:08 -0400 (EDT)

Forwarded from SmartWood:

The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance is conducting a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management/chain of custody certification pre-assessment and assessment of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) located in Warren, PA, USA. SmartWood will conduct the FSC pre-assessment and assessment as part of a pilot project sponsored by The Pinchot Institute for Conservation. This pilot project includes dual assessments of the ANF to both FSC and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) forest certification standards. The SFI certification assessments will be conducted concurrent with the FSC assessments with a single, merged assessment team. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) will be conducting the SFI assessment.

This test will provide the Forest Service with information to assess the potential costs and benefits of the possible application of third-party certification to portions of the National Forest System lands. Actual certification of the ANF is not the objective of this effort, and is explicitly outside the scope of the test assessment.

As a part of the FSC certification assessment process, SmartWood invites stakeholders to offer comments and feedback on ANF forest management. Attached is the Public Briefing Paper with instructions for providing input regarding this project. [Note -- attachment was too long to include here]. Please pass this notification on to any interested parties. You may contact Dave Bubser of SmartWood at dbubser@smartwood.org with any comments or questions. Additional contact information is provided in the attached notice.

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*****end of forwarded message*****

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A public-private partnership to conserve biodiversity statewide.

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.