

A Citizens' Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest



*“We Americans are the people we are largely because
we have had the influence of the wilderness on our lives.”*

*—Pennsylvania Representative John P. Saylor,
on sponsoring the Wilderness Act in Congress, 1956*

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness

2003

Acknowledgements



THE
WILDERNESS
SOCIETY

Allegheny Valley Conservancy
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Bartramian Audubon Society
Brokenstraw Watershed Council
Butler Outdoor Club
Campaign for America's Wilderness
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future
ClearWater Conservancy
Eastern Native Tree Society
Erie Outing Club
Evergreen Conservancy
Explorer's Club of Pittsburgh
Finger Lakes Trail Conference
French Creek Valley Conservancy
Friends of Briar Bush Nature Center
Howard County, Maryland Bird Club
Juniata Valley Audubon Society
Keystone Trails Association
Lake Erie Group Sierra Club
Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force
Lehigh Valley Audubon Society
Moshannon Group Sierra Club
Penn State Eco Action
Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club
Pennsylvania Izaak Walton League
Pennsylvania Native Plant Society
Pennsylvania Reps. for Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited
Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group
Pine Creek Land Conservation Trust
Pocono Heritage Land Trust
PrimalNature.org
Roger Tory Peterson Institute
Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
Seneca Rocks Audubon Society
Susquehannock Trail Club
Tiadaghton Audubon Society
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness
220 Center Street
Warren, PA 16365
814-723-0620
info@pawild.org
www.pawild.org

Our sincerest thanks to everyone who helped craft this proposal. The cumulative efforts of hundreds of people and years of advocacy on behalf of wilderness in Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest is manifested in the pages of this report. From Wilderness Act of 1964 author Howard Zahniser's humble beginnings in the borough of Tionesta in the early 20th century, to the Pennsylvania Sierra Club's efforts to gain wilderness here during the 1970s and early 1980s, to the current efforts of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness and our supporters, the development of a wilderness vision for the Allegheny National Forest has been a long time in the making.

This document has drawn significantly from previous proposals prepared by the Sierra Club for the Hickory Creek (by Helen McGinnis), Tracy Ridge and Allegheny Front (both by Richard Pratt) areas of the Allegheny National Forest. Bryan Black, a Ph.D. candidate at the Penn State University School of Forest Resources deserves great credit as he did the bulk of the Geographic Information System work in finalizing our maps. His lab partner Steve Signell made important contributions as well.

Many thanks also to: Chuck Benson, Mike Bleech, Michael Carroll, Gina Ellis, Dina El-Mogazi, Melissa Fetterman, Jeremy Garncarz, Matt Getner, Ted Grisez, Tarius Haggood, Joe Hardisky, Shannon Hughes, Fran Hunt, John Imhof, Chad Johnson, Kirk Johnson, Gail Johnston, Mike Kaizar, Bart Koehler, Kevin Mack, Tim Mahoney, John McComb, Fred Mendenhall, Brian O'Donnell, Chuck Palasick, Bob Papp, Larry Romans, Tom Rooney, Virginia Rozic, Dave Saville, Doug Scott, Jim Solley, Dave Startzell, Scott Stoleson, Bob Stoudt, Susan Stout, David Sublette, Bruce Sundquist, Kristen Sykes, Gerry Thomas, Lori Walker, John Wallin, Tim Walter, Melyssa Watson, Paul Weigman, Peter Wray, Alice Zahniser, Ed Zahniser, and Matt Zahniser. If anyone has been left off this list, rest assured that your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

We would like to acknowledge all receptionists at the Allegheny National Forest offices, and other Allegheny National Forest personnel for their kind help in answering questions and with obtaining data, maps, and other important information. The following Forest Service individuals have been of great help (this is by no means a complete list): Brenda Adams-Weyant, Mike Antalosky, Jim Apgar, Kevin Elliott, Eric Flood, Sylvia Grisez, Andrea Hille, Linda Houston, Chris Losi, Jack McLaughlin, Steve Miller, Brad Nelson, Nadine Pollack, Scott Reitz, Dan Salm, Wendell Wallace, John Weyant, Linda White.

Special thanks to: Acorn Foundation, American Wilderness Coalition, Campaign for America's Wilderness, Fund for Wild Nature, Hawksglen Foundation, Mytopo.com, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Patagonia, Inc., Peradam Foundation, Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust, Sierra Club, Tortuga Foundation, The Wilderness Society and TWS's Wilderness Support Center, and the Wildlands Project. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy contributed valuable biological information to this proposal.

Cover photo of the Tionesta Research Natural Area old-growth forest by Kirk Johnson.

Copyright © Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, 2003, 2008.

Table of Contents

| | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Foreword by Ed Zahniser |
| 5 | Executive Summary |
| 6 | Acronyms |
| 7 | Introduction |
| 7 | Wilderness and the Allegheny National Forest |
| 7 | What is Wilderness and the Wilderness Act? |
| 8 | Why an Allegheny National Forest Citizens' Wilderness Proposal? |
| 9 | Timber Harvest |
| 10 | Climate |
| 10 | Geology |
| 11 | Flora and Fauna |
| 13 | Human Activity |
| 14 | Hunting and Fishing |
| 15 | North Country National Scenic Trail |
| 16 | Mineral Rights |
| 16 | Conclusion |
| 18 | Wilderness Selection Criteria |
| 19 | Allegheny National Forest Wilderness and Recreational Potential |
| 20 | Allegheny Front Wilderness – Proposed |
| 22 | Chestnut Ridge Wilderness – Proposed |
| 24 | Clarion River Wilderness – Proposed |
| 26 | Cornplanter Wilderness – Proposed |
| 28 | Hickory Creek Wilderness addition – Proposed |
| 30 | Morrison Run Wilderness – Proposed |
| 32 | Tionesta Wilderness – Proposed |
| 36 | Tracy Ridge Wilderness – Proposed |
| 39 | National Recreation Areas |
| 40 | Allegheny National Recreation Area addition – Proposed |
| 42 | Hearts Content National Recreation Area – Proposed |
| 44 | Minister Valley National Recreation Area – Proposed |
| 46 | Tanbark National Recreation Area – Proposed |
| 47 | Sources |
| 49 | Appendices |



This beaver dam provides important wetland habitat along North Branch Sugar Run in the proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness Area.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

foreword

We Need More Allegheny Wilderness *“For the permanent good of the whole people”*

Long after my father Howard Zahniser had moved away from his boyhood home in Tionesta, Pa., and settled in Washington, D.C., Tionesta and the Allegheny area were often on his mind. Zahnie, as he was known, submitted an essay to *Scribner's* magazine in the 1930s that was a nostalgic paean to his coming-of-age years in Tionesta. It is also emblematic that he and my mother Alice Zahniser chose as their last pre-parenthood adventure a June 1937 canoe trip down the Allegheny River from Olean, N.Y. to Tionesta. Also, my father was unable to part with the family home up on Bridge Street in Tionesta even after his mother's death in the 1950s. His lifelong close connections to the Allegheny watershed make the prospect of now designating a reasonable amount of wilderness on the Allegheny National Forest so fitting.



Howard Zahniser canoeing on the Allegheny River, June 1937.

Photo by Alice Zahniser

On the 1937 canoe trip Zahnie was packing Henry David Thoreau's first book *A Week on the Concord and Merrimac Rivers* and a book of Ralph Waldo Emerson's essays. "If you go to the woods," Emerson warned, "you must feed the mosquitoes." Toting a Thoreau tome was to be a lifetime habit. Right up through his wilderness bill years of 1956 to 1964, Zahnie usually carried one from his sizable collection of Thoreauviana in the suit coats into which he had had oversized inside pockets fitted to carry also Wilderness Society membership literature and wilderness bill propaganda. His coats were fabric file cabinets for the wilderness cause, and, from the get-go on his arrival at the Wilderness Society in 1945, he was its full-time advocate.

It was Thoreau who ground-truthed Emerson's Transcendentalist valuation of nature, and, in 1850 or 1851, in one of the two lectures that became the essay "Walking," Thoreau penned the koan-like assertion that "...in Wildness is the preservation of the World." As a culture we have not yet achieved enlightenment by contemplating Thoreau's koan, but Thoreau himself said that the word *World* there is the Greek word *Kosmos*, meaning not only world but also beauty (hence cosmetics), pattern, and order. And Thoreau does not say that we ultimately preserve wildness but that wildness preserves us.

If Zahnie's work was necessary to the eventual fruition of the Wilderness Act — David Brower eulogized him as its "Constant Advocate" — then it may be to the birds of the Alleghenies that we owe that magnificent piece of public lands law and this fine new proposal, carefully crafted by Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, The Wilderness Society and the Lake Erie Group of the Sierra Club, for designating more wilderness on the Allegheny National Forest. What stands out in Zahnie's 1937 canoe trip journal is his keen interest in and observation of birds. Entry after entry expresses his and my mother's intense delight at the herons, warblers, vireos, phoebes, and others they encountered. These wilderness proposals, such as for Chestnut Ridge and the Hickory Creek Wilderness Addition, would help address the severe problem of forest fragmentation that now threatens the future of neotropical songbirds and other species.

Zahnie's love for birds propelled him toward his 15-year career with the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 1930 to 1945. There he met the men-

tors—self-taught naturalist Edward A. Preble, biologist Olaus J. Murie, mammalogist Ira N. Gabrielson, regional planner Benton MacKaye, and others—whose circle drew concern for birds and other wildlife and their habitat into an even broader concern for preserving wilderness and wildness. The year before their Allegheny River trip, Zahnier had met in the Nation's Capital with wilderness champion Robert Marshall and others to organize “the Washington section of the Wilderness Society,” of which Zahnier was a charter member.

What but the world itself can be the meaning of the concept of ecosystem in a world in which Arctic terns migrate 20,000 miles yearly and birds from all seven continents congregate yearly in northwestern Alaska? It was ecologist Aldo Leopold, another close student of the Thoreau canon and a founder of the Wilderness Society, who made continental leaps in wild thinking in one intellectual lifetime. Leopold took our concern for the natural world from early theorizing of “game management” based on extrapolating techniques of animal husbandry to articulating a land ethic—that we should treat the land (the entire biota) ethically, as community not commodity.

A major ethical thrust of the Wilderness Act is that we should make room for permanence as well as for change: “...in Wildness is the preservation of the World,” beauty, pattern, order. One of the great meanings of wilderness for modern humans, Zahnier wrote in “The Need for Wilderness Areas,” is that the experience of wilderness can show us our dependence and interdependence as well as our independence. We truly prosper, Zahnier believed, only when the whole community of life on Earth prospers. The proposed Tionesta Wilderness seems particularly compelling as protection for the Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas. Two years ago, while walking in the open and towering forest of the Research Natural Area, I tried to imagine how important a regional, natural shrine this forest may well be in another hundred years—if given the adequate protection this wilderness proposal would afford.

It is likewise fitting that this wilderness proposal concerns the eastern United States, for that is “Where Wilderness Preservation Began,” as Zahnier titled a 1957 speech about New York State’s “forever wild” Forest Preserve lands of the Adirondack and Catskill state parks. For, from the 1870s into the 1890s, New Yorkers were able to secure on their state-owned public lands what the nation first attempted on our federal public lands with the Forest Reserve movement championed by John Muir, Robert Underwood Johnson, and others. Today New York has 17 designated state wilderness areas defined by language nearly identical to that of the federal Wilderness Act.

Certainly Pennsylvanians of this and future generations also deserve the enduring benefits of close proximity to such a common wealth of the wildness that wilderness designation means to protect in perpetuity. Is it not the genius of democracy, properly understood, that the rights of future generations should be seen to outweigh—for we live in hope that their numbers may exceed our own—the rights of the present generations? It is part of the ethical thrust of the Wilderness Act not only to recognize but to enfranchise those rights and that hope.

This citizens’ proposal for designating a reasonable amount of wilderness on the Allegheny National Forest will make room for permanence here while leaving ample room for change. It recognizes our biotic com-



Ed Zahnier speaking at the August 2001 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Marker dedication ceremony for his father Howard Zahnier near Tionesta.

Photo by John McComb

munity as wilderness while leaving ample forest resources available for commodity uses. It will give future generations the opportunity—on these public lands owned in common by all Americans—to experience wilderness and wildness while still enjoying the fruits of our modern civilization, which certainly depends on quantities of natural resource commodities. As such, this carefully wrought wilderness proposal is both bold and modest, as befits the character of Howard Zahniser and his love for the Allegheny region and its people. For it was Zahniser’s twin loves for people and the wild that saw him through a laborious eight-year advocacy—including tireless consultations with agencies and members of Congress, 18 public hearings, and 66 rewrites—for a National Wilderness Preservation System “for the permanent good of the whole people.”

—Ed Zahniser



North Branch Sugar Run in the proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness Area.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

executive summary

In delivering the keynote speech at the Denver ‘Wilderness 2000’ conference in September of 2000, then Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck stated that “Approximately five percent of the United States landbase is designated wilderness. That may not sound like much and in fact it is not nearly enough. In revising our Forest Plans we must deliberately look for areas suitable for inclusion in the Wilderness system.” Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) has taken Chief Dombeck’s admonition to heart as the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) undertakes revision of its 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

Currently there are just two ANF areas designated as wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act—the Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands Wilderness Areas—together encompassing approximately 9,000 acres, or less than two percent of the 513,000-acre Forest. This compares to 18 percent of Forest Service land designated as wilderness nationwide, and 11 percent in the Forest Service’s Eastern Region, of which the ANF is a part. This *Citizens’ Wilderness Proposal for Pennsylvania’s Allegheny National Forest* identifies a total of 54,460 acres of public land in eight different tracts within the proclamation boundary of the ANF that we believe qualify for inclusion in America’s National Wilderness Preservation System. We have also identified three additional parcels totaling 14,477 acres that could be designated as national recreation areas. Together, these proposed designations include public lands within Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren Counties. In some cases our proposal corresponds to past inventory work of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club or the Forest Service’s own roadless analyses. In other cases, it includes public lands which have wilderness qualities but have previously been overlooked.

The ANF, Pennsylvania’s only national forest, is located in the densely populated eastern United States and is within a day’s drive of half of the country’s population. Large urban centers such as Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C. and others are all within easy reach for those seeking a weekend wilderness retreat. While the eastern United States holds about 60 percent of the nation’s population, it contains only about four percent of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The 1986 ANF Forest Plan identifies this acute wilderness shortage, stating: “It seems obvious that the demand for wilderness designation on the Forest is high, and the available supply in the regional area is low.” Further, the 1975 Eastern Wilderness Areas Act recognized that “In the more populous eastern half of the United States there is an urgent need to identify, study, designate, and preserve areas for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.” Although more than 30,000 acres of ANF wilderness was originally proposed in this legislation, none was included in the final version of the bill. While we recognize the importance of continued ANF timber production to the regional economy, it is vital at this juncture to complete the mandate sought by Congress more than a quarter century ago with the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act here on the ANF. Our goal is not to impede or reduce timber production or other multiple uses of the Forest, but simply to permanently protect the remaining wild areas here for the benefit of current and future generations of Americans.

Although a great deal of planning has gone into the forging of this proposal, it cannot be said that it is a perfect document; nor should our proposed wilderness and national recreation area boundaries necessarily be viewed as static. Our proposal is based on the most current information that we have been able to gather through extensive field inventory, from Geographic Information Systems data, from information provided by the Forest Service and other organizations, through interviews with various agency personnel, through hours of discussion with key stakeholders and experts, and as the result of much internal debate with regard to which ANF lands should be included in our final proposal. We welcome dialogue on this document and realize that the process for any public lands legislation requires the constructive exchange of information, and communication amongst the stakeholders involved. Please direct your comments to:

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, 220 Center Street, Warren, PA 16365
(814) 723-0620 info@pawild.org www.pawild.org

common acronyms used in this document

| | |
|------|---|
| ANF | Allegheny National Forest |
| AT | Appalachian National Scenic Trail |
| ATC | Appalachian Trail Conservancy |
| ATV | All-terrain vehicle |
| BP | Before Present |
| DCNR | Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources |
| DEP | Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| EWAA | Eastern Wilderness Areas Act |
| FAW | Friends of Allegheny Wilderness |
| GMNF | Green Mountain National Forest |
| HNF | Hiawatha National Forest |
| NCT | North Country National Scenic Trail |
| NCTA | North Country Trail Association |
| NPS | National Park Service |
| NRA | National Recreation Area |
| NWPS | National Wilderness Preservation System |
| PGC | Pennsylvania Game Commission |
| PNDI | Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory |
| RNA | Research Natural Area |

introduction

“Here is an American wilderness vision: the vision of ‘a wilderness-forever future.’ This is not my phrase, it is Howard Zahniser’s. And it is not my vision, but the one that I inherited, and that you, too, have inherited, from the wilderness leaders who went before.”

—Douglas W. Scott, *Campaign for America’s Wilderness*

wilderness and the allegheny national forest

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW), formed in 2001, seeks to foster an appreciation of wilderness values and benefits, and to work with local communities to ensure that increased wilderness protection is a priority of the stewardship of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). This report presents the results of FAW’s extensive wilderness inventory process through which numerous individuals studied the wilderness potential in the ANF. The wild lands presented in this report meet the requirements and intent of wilderness as outlined in the 1964 Wilderness Act and encompass the wonderful landscape diversity and beauty of northwest Pennsylvania’s Allegheny Plateau. As the population of the northeastern United States continues to increase, the value of these few remaining wild areas and the need to protect them increases in concert. The pure, natural attributes of these areas contribute to the high quality of life many Pennsylvanians currently enjoy. Just as importantly, these areas encompass the amazing biodiversity found in Pennsylvania’s spectacular public lands.

The ANF is located on the Allegheny Plateau in northwest Pennsylvania in four counties: Elk, Forest, McKean and Warren. Before the arrival of European settlers, the Allegheny Plateau was sparsely populated and heavily wooded. Forests dominated by old-growth eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), birch (*Betula* spp.), and others covered nearly the entire land surface of the Plateau (Lutz 1930a, Whitney 1990). With the advent of the logging railroad, the Allegheny Plateau was unsustainably logged from approximately 1890–1920, during a period the Forest Service calls “the highest degree of forest utilization that the world has ever seen in any commercial lumbering era” (Marquis 1975). In the aftermath of this cutting the ANF was established in 1923 with the first land purchases made by the Forest Service under the authority of the 1911



Lumberjacks overseeing the payload of a turn of the 20th century logging railroad in McKean County.

Taken from Taber (1974)

Weeks Act to promote the reforestation and protection of the Allegheny River watershed (Bishop 1925, Hentretta 1929).

Pennsylvania’s only national forest, the Allegheny, is a significant but often overlooked natural area. Today, despite its origin in forest and watershed protection, the ANF has a disproportionately small amount of land devoted to the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) when compared with national forest land in other states (U.S. Forest Service 2002). This is true even when the comparison is made to eastern states where wilderness designation is meager (Klyza 2001). Less than 2% of the ANF is designated as wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act, at Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands. The mean for national forest land designated as wilderness nationally is 18% and in the Forest Service’s Eastern Region, of which the ANF is a part, the figure is 11%.

what is wilderness and the wilderness act?

The Wilderness Act of 1964 (Appendix A) created America’s National Wilderness Preservation System and gave Congress the authority to designate tracts of public land as wilderness areas, “for preservation and protection in their natural condition.” The Wilderness Act states that these lands “shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.”

The Wilderness Act defines wilderness by stating that “A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby

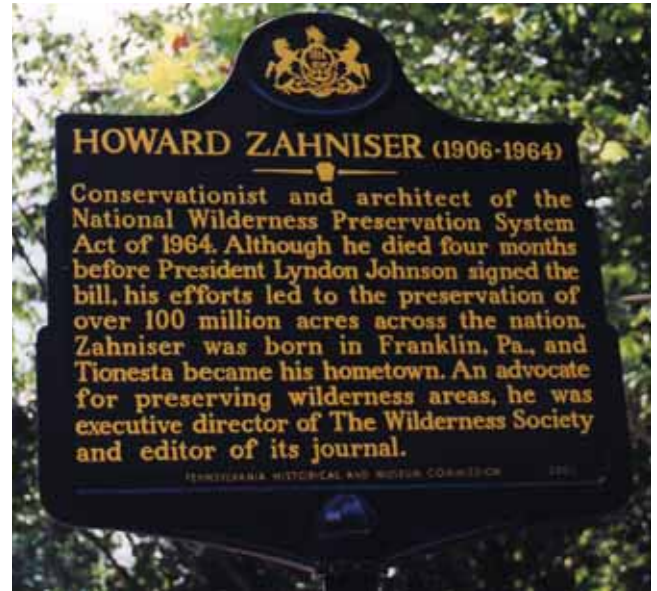
recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

Wilderness areas are designated by Congress on four of America’s public lands systems—land that is already set aside as National Forests, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Wilderness areas, like other federal public lands, belong to all Americans. Wilderness is important because it provides undisturbed habitat for native flora and fauna, outdoor recreation opportunities, vital reference areas for scientists, and economic benefits including help in diversifying local and regional economies.

Hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, camping, bird watching, photography, and other forms of non-motorized recreation are all activities that are allowed in federal wilderness areas. The Wilderness Act prohibits such activities as logging, mining, road building, oil and gas development, and the use of motorized or mechanized equipment (except under emergency circumstances). Mining or oil extraction may occur in a wilderness area if valid mining claims or oil leases are in place before an area is designated as wilderness.

Currently there are 704 individual units of the NWPS totaling more than 107 million acres, or approximately 5% of the land base of the United States. One may easily peruse the NWPS, individual units of the system and legislation that established each unit of the NWPS on the Wilderness Net website — www.wilderness.net.

Pennsylvania has unique connections to the history of the establishment of our NWPS. Former Pennsylvania Representative John P. Saylor, a Republican from Johnstown, was the original sponsor of the Wilderness



Howard Zahniser marker dedicated August, 2001 near Tionesta.

Photo by Carole Wray

Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. Upon introduction of the Wilderness Act in Congress, Saylor stated, “We Americans are the people we are largely because we have had the influence of the wilderness on our lives.” The author of the Wilderness Act itself and executive director of The Wilderness Society from 1945–1964—Howard Zahniser—also hailed from Pennsylvania and had a special connection to the Allegheny region. Born in Franklin, Pa. in 1906, Zahniser grew up and is now buried in Tionesta, a town that lies on the southwest corner of the ANF. In 1956 he drafted the first wilderness legislation and shepherded it through numerous revisions and 18 hearings in Congress before it finally passed into law as the Wilderness Act on September 3, 1964. He was a tireless advocate to the end.

why an allegheny national forest citizens’ wilderness proposal?

In 1974 there was an opportunity for at least 30,000 acres of ANF wilderness to be designated under the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act (EWAA), legislation which recognized that “In the more populous eastern half of the United States there is an urgent need to identify, study, designate, and preserve areas for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.” The EWAA established 16 new federal wilderness areas in 12 eastern states and 14 national forests, totaling 206,988 acres in all. Pennsylvania’s two Senators at that time, Republicans Hugh Scott and Richard Schweiker, strongly supported the ANF designations (Appendix C).



President Lyndon Johnson signing the Wilderness Act into law – which Tionesta native Howard Zahniser originally authored – and handing the pen to Zahniser’s widow, Alice. September 3, 1964.

Photo courtesy of Alice Zahniser

Senator Schweiker stated on the Senate Floor on May 31, 1974 that the EWAA would:

...help preserve for the millions of people in the eastern region of our country, now and in the future, unspoiled natural areas to be enjoyed in their original state. It is important that we act now to preserve these unique areas, many of which are located within easy access of our most heavily populated areas.

During the same debate Senator Scott stated that:

...after a year and a half of intense study by two Senate committees, I am pleased that the so-called Eastern Wilderness Areas Act of 1974 is now before us. I have taken an active interest in the development of this vital bill, especially as it concerns the Allegheny National Forest... Mr. President, I am proud to have played a role in developing this bill. I hope the Senate will approve it and pave the way for swift action in the House of Representatives.

Despite the support of Senators Scott and Schweiker, wilderness for the ANF was not included in the final version of the EWAA due to action in the U.S. House of Representatives. The late Congressman Albert Johnson, whose district encompassed the Forest, asserted at the time that there was no need for the wilderness designations, stating, "If you fly from Bradford airport to Harrisburg as I do, you'll realize Pennsylvania is nothing but wilderness" (Hayes 1974).

In 1984 local Congressman Bill Clinger did support an ANF wilderness bill that designated the Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands Wilderness Areas (as well as the Allegheny National Recreation Area) (Appendix B), but the acute wilderness shortage here remains and should be rectified now. The 1986 Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), the 15-year document that guides management strategies for the entire ANF, formally identifies this need for change in Chapter 2, page 5, where it states:

It must be concluded that the demand for wilderness experience on the ANF is very high, given that half the country's population lies within a day's drive of the Forest... It seems obvious that the demand for wilderness designation on the Forest is high, and the available supply in the regional area is low.

Fortuitously, the areas Senators Scott and Schweiker advocated for wilderness designation still exist as wild, undeveloped, unroaded areas that we believe could easily make the transition, along with the other areas of the Forest we have inventoried and included in this report, into the NWPS for the permanent good of the whole people.

ANF personnel are currently revising their Forest Plan as required by the 1976 National Forest Management Act. The current Forest Plan, completed in 1986,

provides the framework by which the ANF is managed for a range of uses such as wildlife habitat, timber harvesting, recreation, wilderness and others. The document you hold in your hands is meant to further discussion and understanding of one aspect of the Forest Plan revision: protection of new wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act. As part of the Forest Plan revision, the Forest Service is required to reevaluate the wilderness potential on the ANF, and has the ability to recommend new wilderness to Congress.

timber harvest & multiple use

Efforts to designate additional wilderness in the ANF should not be viewed as a referendum on the legitimacy of timber harvesting or oil and gas development in the Forest. We support the traditional range of uses of the ANF including timbering and drilling for oil and gas which are important components of the local economy. These uses were, after all, part of the original reason President Calvin Coolidge established the ANF in 1923 (Bishop 1925). However, we believe that there is a clear need to protect new federal wilderness in the Forest, in areas where timbering is not a significant activity, to complete the mandate here for eastern national forests established in the EWAA, and to balance the range of uses in the multiple-use philosophy so that the ANF truly is used—as former Pennsylvania Governor and the first Forest Service Chief Gifford Pinchot intended—for the greatest good for the greatest number over the longest period of time.

This also includes the use of recreational all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and snowmobiles. There are designated trails in the ANF for the use of these vehicles, and we support this continued use. This wilderness proposal does not seek to close or restrict access to any of the designated ATV and snowmobile trails on the ANF.

Also, the ANF maintains a series of small wildlife openings across the Forest meant to act as a continual representation of early-successional habitat for wildlife species that benefit from such habitat such as deer, turkey, Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), and others. Plantings of shrubs and apple trees are often located in these maintained openings. FAW fully supports the continuation of this program of maintained wildlife openings across the Forest. However, there are cases where formally maintained openings are found within our proposed wilderness areas. For example, six openings totaling 38 acres are maintained within the proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness. We recommend that the relatively few maintained openings located in newly designated wilderness be permitted to revert naturally to forest cover.

climate

Average high temperatures in the ANF region range approximately from 30°F in January and December to 80°F in mid-July. Average low temperatures for the region range approximately from 10°F in February to 60°F in mid-July. The frost free growing season on the Plateau lasts from 100 to 130 days (Whitney 1990). Because the ANF lies in the path of many storms that cross the country from west to east, sudden weather changes occur throughout the year. The Forest is raked each summer by strong thunderstorms, and occasionally even tornadoes, which can churn their way through the Forest, snapping large trees like toothpicks (Mohlenbrock 1986). The average annual precipitation for the Forest is comparable to that for the state as a whole. Long term records show 41" at Ridgway in the south-east, 43" at Warren and Tionesta on the Allegheny River, and 45" at Kane. The average yearly snowfall ranges from 60" in the southern portion of the Forest to 100" closer to the Allegheny Reservoir. The combined effects of latitude, generally high elevation, and radiation conditions make the ANF area one of the coldest in the Commonwealth (Sundquist et al., 1999).

geology

The ANF region can be described as an elevated, mature, dissected plateau. The Allegheny Plateau is made up largely of horizontally layered sedimentary sandstone and shale, with minimal faults or folds. These underlying strata are protected by a forest cover and deep soil developed through a relatively wet climate. On top of the plateau, the bedrock types are of the Pennsylvanian Period, originating 280 to 310 million years BP. Stream valleys cut down into formations from the older Mississippian Period. These are underlain by Devonian Period rocks (350 to 400 million years BP). The high top of the Plateau in the area between Kane and Marienville is often referred to as the 'Big Level' because much of it lies above 2,000' in elevation with no dominant peaks (Schiner and Kimmel 1972, Sundquist et al. 1990, Ross 1996). During advances of the Wisconsin Laurentide glacier 10,000–20,000 years BP, the Plateau deflected the encroaching ice sheet to the east and to the west, roughly where the Allegheny River makes a large 'ox bow' into present day New York State (Hough 1936, Whitney 1990). Elevation within the proclamation boundary of the ANF ranges from approximately 1,100' to 2,300' (Sundquist, et al. 1990).

The surface of the Allegheny Plateau is very hilly with numerous short ridges and spurs that have no regular orientation. Most ridges are broad and level on top.



The mature dissected landscape of the Allegheny Plateau in the Allegheny National Forest.

The main valleys are deep and narrow, bounded by steep walls. The massive sandstones and conglomerates of the Pennsylvanian Period cap the hills of the region. Large exposed outcrops near the hilltops as the region's many streams cut toward the Allegheny River are one of the striking features of the ANF. These outcroppings have played a significant role in human history on the Plateau by acting as rock shelters for indigenous people, as well as by providing important microhabitats for native Allegheny Plateau flora and fauna.

The geological make-up of this region ensured that petroleum and natural gas would develop in sedimentary sandstone formations from the Upper Devonian period of the Paleozoic Era. These reservoirs lie generally along a northeast-southwest orientation, typically longer than they are wide. It is believed that these formations were once the lagoons and sand bars of a shallow sea that previously occupied the Appalachian Basin. As deposits covered the lagoons and sand bars over millions of years, the sand bars formed sandstone and the benthic lagoon mud formed shale, confining organic deposits in the sandstone. Over time, these deposits converted to pockets of petroleum, natural gas and saline water through a process known as a stratigraphic trap (Allaby 1994, Ross 1996). This geological process, which took hundreds of millions of years, has played a significant role in just the last 150 years of history in the ANF region. The world's first commercial oil well was drilled near Titusville, Pa. in 1859, 10 miles west of today's ANF. As the industrial revolution took hold, petroleum became an indispensable product. Between 1871 and 1987, more than 675 million barrels of oil were removed from the Bradford oil field in McKean County, Pa. and Cattaraugus County, N.Y. It is estimated that at least half of the oil deposits in this region

have been used in a span of less than 150 years. The *Bradford Era* daily newspaper still proclaims the city of Bradford to be “The High Grade Oil Metropolis of the World.”

flora and fauna

The two most common tree species in historic Allegheny Plateau forests were the eastern hemlock and the American beech, shade tolerant climax species which together made up approximately 60% of all trees found here (Lutz 1930a, Whitney 1990). Other common species included: eastern white pine, American chestnut, sugar maple, red maple, black birch, yellow birch, tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and several oak and hickory species. Flowers present include the Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema astrorubens*), Solomon’s seal (*Polygonatum pubescens*), goldthread (*Coptis groenlandrica*), purple trillium (*Trillium erectum*), yellow loostripe (*Lysimachis quadrifolia*), and sundrops (*Oenothera pratensis*).

Historically, the old-growth forest of the Allegheny Plateau was characterized by white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) populations that were regulated by natural processes—particularly predation by large carnivores such as wolves (*Canis lupus*) and the North American cougar (*Puma concolor cougar*)—to as few as 10 deer per square mile. As a result, understory vegetation was thick with high diversity. Deer were all but extirpated by 1900 due to unrestricted hunting practices to meet demand for venison in large cities and logging camps (deCalesta 1994). Wolves and cougar were virtually eliminated by this time through deliberate extermination programs. Like many eastern colonies, Pennsylvania offered bounties for destroying wolves almost from the time of first settlement (McIntyre 1995).

The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) began reintroducing deer in Pennsylvania from other regions with larger populations in the first decade of the 20th century. From 1907 until approximately 1940, the deer population in the ANF climbed steadily to a peak of nearly 44 deer per square mile, with the aid of new game laws, a lack of predators, and abundant available browse in the brushy recovering forests of the Plateau (Whitney 1990, deCalesta 1994). The deer population declined somewhat from that peak, but has remained higher than historical levels (Rooney and Dress 1997). The heavy browsing pressure by this increased population over approximately 70 years has resulted in the reduced abundance of understory shrubs, and their replacement by ferns and grasses (deCalesta 1994). The present day hunting community will likely play an important role, along with the inevitable process of



Ancient hemlock tree (*Tsuga canadensis*), Allegheny National Forest.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

natural succession, in moving new ANF wilderness toward old-growth conditions by helping to control deer populations within those wilderness areas.

The term ‘old-growth’ is used in this document to describe a mature forest with a high degree of naturalness operating at a climax state of natural succession—in essence uninfluenced by human activities. Such a forest possesses, among other characteristics, large living trees, large standing dead trees (‘snags’), a multi-layered canopy, a high degree of biological diversity, and an abundance of random downed large woody debris. Historically, the vast majority of forested area on the Allegheny Plateau could accurately have been termed old-growth. There are a few remnant areas of forest today on the Plateau that can be termed old-growth, as well as second-growth areas that are approaching that threshold.

Although most of the Allegheny Plateau forest was old-growth in character, isolated natural disturbances such as windthrow were not uncommon, so that small recolonizing stands of various ages and species mixtures were ubiquitous throughout the Plateau. Native Americans of this region also created forest disturbances in

which natural successional processes would occur. Northeastern native people lived in villages, clearing land for space to live and for agriculture, and cut trees from adjacent areas for firewood. They also likely set fire to fields and to portions of the forest understory to increase production of plants like huckleberry (*Gaylussacia* spp.), expedite travel, improve visibility as an aid in hunting, and perhaps even to control populations of rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*) residing along the Allegheny River (Lutz 1930b, Marquis 1975, Whitney 1990).

Species of wildlife present in the ANF region prior to European settlement included large mammals such as the aforementioned deer, cougar and wolves, as well as black bear (*Ursus americanus*). They also likely included elk (*Cervus elaphus*), lynx (*Lynx lynx*), moose (*Alces alces*) and eastern woodland bison (*Bos bison pennsylvanicus*) (Marquis 1975)—species which are no longer present in the ANF. Historically, the now extinct Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) visited the region by the millions.

Other notable species of wildlife present in the ANF today include bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), red fox (*Vulpes fulva*) and gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), weasel (*Mustela frenata*), muskrat (*Ondanta zibethicus*), beaver (*Castor*



A Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*) visiting the Allegheny National Forest.

Photo by Mike Bleech



American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) in the proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness Area.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

canadensis), skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) and three species of squirrel. More than 60 species of birds have been found nesting in the Forest, and more than 200 have been identified through other methods, including Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*), Barred Owl (*Strix varia*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and the American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*).

Two mammals once extirpated have also been deliberately brought back in recent years. River otters (*Lutra canadensis*) were reintroduced to Tionesta Creek and the Allegheny River beginning in 1991, and fishers (*Martes pennanti*) were reintroduced to a number of locations in the ANF beginning in December 1996 (Buck 1999). Large tracts of continuous forest canopy cover, such as that provided by federal wilderness areas, are known to provide high quality habitat for fishers (Serfass et al. 1994). Fishers are also one of the only predators of porcupine in the Forest (porcupine are known browsers of tree seedlings).

Five threatened and endangered species listed under the federal 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA) are found in or near the ANF: the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), clubshell mussel (*Pleurobema clava*) and northern river shell mussel (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*), which are listed as endangered, and the small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*) and Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which are listed as threatened. By designating the prospective wilderness outlined in this document, we will be making permanent, undisturbed habitat available to these important species, and indeed to all native Allegheny Plateau flora and fauna.

human activity

Native Americans occupied the upper Allegheny River valley by 12,000 BP. The Lamoka people had settlements along the Allegheny and Clarion Rivers, and by 6,000 BP the Brewerton people had adapted to the upland environments in what is now the interior of the ANF. The first European known to have traversed the area was a Dutchman, Arnout Viele, who in 1692 was sent by the governor of New York to accompany some Shawnee people to their home in the lower Ohio River valley. In 1749 an expedition under Celeron de Blainville was sent from Montreal to reassert French claims. From Lake Erie they portaged to Chautauqua Lake and followed Conewango Creek to the Allegheny River, where they buried a plate of lead and attached the royal coat of arms to a tree at what is now the City of Warren. They met with Seneca chiefs at Brokenstraw Creek before continuing south down the Allegheny River valley (Pratt 1973a).

In 1768 all except northwestern Pennsylvania was purchased from the Iroquois at Fort Stanwix. After the American Revolution began, the Iroquois were gradually won over to the British side and raids broke out on the northern frontier. In August 1779 Colonel Brodhead led a force of 600 up the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh. An advance party skirmished with 30 or 40 Natives on Thompson's Island, in the Allegheny River between Charley Run and Hedgehog Run, next to today's Allegheny Front portion of the Allegheny National Recreation Area. This was the only Revolutionary War battle in northwestern Pennsylvania. Today Thompson's Island is part of the Allegheny Islands Wilderness. The Iroquois were forced to sign a treaty at Fort Stanwix in October 1784 selling to Pennsylvania for \$5,000 all unceded land in the state except a few hundred acres left to Chief Cornplanter. After significant disagreement over the terms of the agreement, the Iroquois were forced to submit, and the sale was ratified November 11, 1794 with the Treaty of Canandaigua in Canandaigua, N.Y.

Areas on the east bank of the Allegheny River developed more slowly than those on the west bank. This was due not only to terrain but to difficulties in purchasing land. An 1838 map shows no roads or habitation in the area now known as Tracy Ridge, as contrasted with the west bank of the river. It is stated however that the first settlement in the area took place in 1826, and that a German immigration began about 1832.

In August 1859, a well sunk by Colonel Edwin Drake tapped a small oil deposit less than 100 feet deep on Oil Creek near Titusville. His discovery prompted numerous oil developers to seek land likely to produce

oil. In the subsequent months dozens of wells were drilled over a wide area from western New York to West Virginia and southeastern Ohio. The well drilling flurry in the region over the next several decades is now legendary and gave birth to what remains one of the most important global industries. Though there have been peaks and troughs in production, the oil and gas industry has remained omnipresent in the region and an important component of the economy.

In 1923, under the authority of the 1911 Weeks Act, the ANF was established in Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren Counties out of the denuded land resulting from the oil and timber boom that had taken place here over the previous five decades (Bishop 1925). The proclamation boundary encompasses 742,693 acres (U.S. Forest Service 2002). The Forest Service went about making land purchases within this boundary, owning 280,000 acres by 1929 (Henretta, 1929), 498,925 acres by 1975 (U.S. Forest Service 1975), and as of March, 2003, 513,257 acres were in Forest Service ownership (U.S. Forest Service 2003), or approximately 69% of the area contained within the proclamation boundary (U.S. Forest Service 2002). Much of the Forest has largely recovered from the clearcutting at the turn of the 20th century, albeit with a remarkably different forest structure and composition.

In the original forests of this region, black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) comprised less than one percent of all trees (Lutz 1930, Whitney 1990). However, after the clearcutting era, shade intolerant pioneer species such as black cherry increased in frequency during reforestation. It soon became clear that this tree was particularly profitable as commercial timber to produce wood products such as veneer, paneling, and furniture. Therefore, management practices in the late 20th century



Typical steam powered sawmill and log pond, Galeton, Pa., like those used during turn of the 20th century logging operations.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

turned deliberately toward retarding natural succession to native forest types through even-aged forest management techniques in order to maintain the elevated presence of black cherry (Marquis 1975, Butt 1984, U.S. Forest Service 1986). Today, black cherry makes up 25% or more of the canopy trees in most stands of the ANF.

Some areas of the Forest have retained their wild, unroaded character despite the 1890–1920 clearcutting and later even-aged management. Now is the time to plan for future representations of Allegheny Plateau old-growth. Less than 0.1% of the Commonwealth's landscape is currently in old-growth condition. We should be planning to protect permanently select parcels of Pennsylvania's 100-year-old trees today so that there will be significant representations of 500-year-old trees 400 years from now. This is an important concept, and it is a legacy that all can agree we should dedicate ourselves to leaving to future generations.

hunting and fishing

FAW supports hunting and fishing in wilderness. Hunting and fishing are established activities in all national forest wilderness areas (Hendee and Dawson 2002). The Wilderness Act is intended to be supplemental to the purposes for which national forests were established. The primary management goal for wilderness is the permanent preservation of wilderness characteristics. However, other uses of federal land from which the wilderness area was withdrawn, such as hunting and fishing, may continue (Watson and Beech 2000). In the ANF, this means that those individuals with hunting licenses issued by the PGC or fishing licenses issued by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission may hunt or fish while obeying applicable laws.



Trout fisherman wetting his line, Allegheny National Forest.

Photo by Mike Bleech



Bowhunting from a portable tree stand in the Allegheny National Forest.

Photo by Mike Bleech

Warren native, hunter, and *Warren Times Observer* outdoor columnist Mike Bleech (2002) had this to say regarding wilderness:

A wilderness experience might be the ultimate hunting or fishing adventure. All hunters and anglers enjoy the outdoors, but relatively few have actually connected with nature in the way that can only be done when one is actually out of contact with civilization. Essential feelings brought out by time in a wilderness can not be adequately communicated to anyone who has not had the experience. The absence of artificial stimuli releases a clearness of the mind, a spiritual awakening.

The hunting community will likely play an important role in moving the forest cover in new ANF wilderness toward late-successional and old-growth conditions by helping to control the deer population.

The Allegheny Reservoir, filled in the mid-1960s, is a recreational feature that should be considered when assessing the wilderness qualifications of the Tracy Ridge, Cornplanter, and Morrison Run areas. The region has become popular as the reservoir has become well known, as it provides fishing for northern pike (*Esox lucius*), walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum vitreum*), rainbow (*Salmo gairdneri*) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), perch (*Perca* spp.), carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and bullhead

(*Ictaluridae* spp.). Also, we are proposing in this document wilderness protection for two Pennsylvania state-recognized Wilderness Trout Streams in the ANF— East Hickory Creek (see Hickory Creek Wilderness addition proposal), and Crane Run (see Tionesta Wilderness proposal).

north country trail

Upon completion, the North Country Trail (NCT), a National Scenic Trail like the Appalachian, Continental Divide and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails, will be the longest continuous hiking trail in the nation. Its planned route runs more than 4,000 miles from Lake Sakakawea State Park in North Dakota through Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York to the Adirondack Mountains. As of April 2003, approximately 1,700 miles of this trail have been completed and certified by the National Park Service (North Star 2003), including 95 miles in the ANF. Membership of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) has grown more than 850% since 1990, from 322 members to 2,813 members as of April 2003 (North Star 2003). Currently the NCT does not pass through any designated wilderness in Pennsylvania.

Our proposal herein offers wilderness protection for three different areas of the ANF that the NCT currently passes through. From south to north these include the Tionesta Scenic Area, Morrison Run and Tracy Ridge. The NCT has the potential to be the greatest hiking trail in the nation and we believe that additional wilderness along the trail here will augment its recreational potential, add to the National Scenic Trail hiking experience and help precipitate a legendary cultural status for the trail, like that currently bestowed by many upon the Appalachian Trail (AT), our nation's first National Scenic Trail.

In 2001 a NCT management problem presented itself in the Hiawatha National Forest (HNF) in Michigan. In crafting a management plan for the Rock River Canyon Wilderness Area (designated 1987) managers from that national forest determined that the NCT should not be built in the wilderness—over the objection of the National Park Service (NPS) and North Country Trail Association (NCTA). Though the NCT had been routed through Rock River Canyon before the area received wilderness designation, no trail had ever been built. HNF staff believed the NCT was not compatible with wilderness because it would elevate use in the wilderness area and encourage unenforceable intrusions by motorized traffic. In fact, the NCT is currently located within three federal wilderness areas along its length (the NCT also passes through state des-

ignated wilderness in Michigan and New York).

Further, according to officials at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), a non-governmental organization analogous to the NCTA that oversees the stewardship of the AT, the AT is currently located within more than 20 wilderness areas. According to the ATC website (www.appalachiantrail.org):

Between 1964 and 1996, Congress designated 26 wilderness areas that encompass or are adjacent to the AT, usually with explicit language regarding administration of the AT. Today, more than 100 miles of the Trail pass through or are immediately proximate to designated wilderness.

The Pacific Crest Trail is located within 33 wilderness areas (www.pcta.org), and the Continental Divide Trail is located in 20 wilderness areas (www.cdtrail.org). The importance of the NCT remaining in place within any newly designated ANF wilderness areas cannot be overstated.

The ATC has been vigilant over the years in matters such as these in preserving the integrity of the trail. We suggest the course of action taken by the ATC in having specific language incorporated into the 1984 Vermont Wilderness Act in keeping the AT intact in the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF):

Sec 104(c) – Notwithstanding any provision of the Wilderness Act or any other provision of law, the Appalachian Trail and related structures, the Long Trail and related structures and associated trails of the Appalachian Trail and the Long Trail in Vermont may be maintained.

Language analogous to the above should be incorporated into any legislation that designates new wilderness in the ANF. Similar language should also be included in House and Senate reports associated with said legisla-



Hiking the North Country Trail in the Tionesta Scenic Area old-growth forest.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

tion. FAW does not advocate the relocation of the NCT outside any of the wilderness areas or National Recreation Areas we have proposed herein. The integrity and permanence of the NCT should remain a priority during the development of new ANF wilderness legislation.

mineral rights

Approximately 95% of all mineral rights underlying Forest Service owned land in the ANF are privately owned, and the owners are permitted to access those rights when they wish to develop them. As L.L. Bishop, the first ANF Forest Supervisor wrote in 1925, “With but one or two minor exceptions the Government has not obtained any title to the underground resources, all gas, oil and mineral rights are excepted and reserved when the land is sold to the United States. Such rights are in no way necessary to the satisfactory working out of the National Forest program and the vendors are encouraged to retain and develop them.” Mineral development on the ANF (drilling for oil and gas) involves road construction, clearings for well pads, brine water storage pits, oil storage tanks, and other associated developments inconsistent with the preservation of wilderness qualities.

In 1984, when the Allegheny Islands and Hickory Creek Wilderness Areas were designated, mineral rights were purchased under these areas to insure that the outstanding wilderness resource would be protected. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, a non-governmental organization based in Pittsburgh, purchased said mineral rights for approximately \$1.85 million, and later sold them to the Forest Service once the money was appropriated by Congress to make the purchase. The Forest Service does not lease out these rights for development.

The purchase of mineral rights does not have to precede wilderness designation, however. The Wilderness Act includes provisions regarding access to areas of private or state land that lie within a Wilderness Area. Section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act recognizes valid existing rights. According to the Wilderness Act, adequate access to such areas known as “inholdings” shall be granted. Specifically, Section 5(a) of the Wilderness Act states that “such State or private owner shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to such State-owned or privately owned land by such state or private owner and their successors in interest.”

The Wilderness Act further allows for the voluntary acquisition of inholdings in wilderness if authorized by Congress and for voluntary land exchanges and volun-

tary donations or bequests of wilderness inholdings to the federal government. Private and state inholdings within wilderness are not subject to the requirements of the Wilderness Act, but the Wilderness Act does provide for inholdings to be purchased on a willing seller basis. Under our proposal, should an inholding within the existing wilderness boundary be voluntarily acquired, donated, or exchanged, it will become part of the wilderness area.

FAW advocates mineral rights acquisition for all the Forest Service lands identified as potential wilderness or national recreation areas within this report. Precedent has been set on the ANF with the 1984 and other purchases, and these purchases serve as useful models for additional mineral rights acquisition.

conclusion

This report describes eight places—the wildest spots left in the ANF—that should make the transition into the people’s NWPS, a system established when the Wilderness Act that Tionesta native Howard Zahniser authored was signed into law on September 3, 1964. It also describes three additional places that we believe should be designated as national recreation areas. These are the wildest places remaining in a landscape that ranges from well-roaded timberlands and oil and gas fields to wilderness, scenic areas, National Scenic Trails, to parking lots. The question before us is: will these wild areas be permanently protected for future generations of Pennsylvanians and Americans?

At the landscape level, protecting these areas will ultimately establish a north-south and east-west network of wildlands in the ANF made up of late-succes-



Typical pumpjack found in the Allegheny National Forest. Since the late 1800s, tens of thousands of oil and gas wells have been drilled in the region to help supply the nation’s energy demands.

Photo by Kevin Mack

sional forest. This is consistent with the Allegheny Forest Service's and other scientists own past proposals for maintaining a late-successional system throughout the Forest (Rooney 1995, U.S. Forest Service 1995). Our proposed areas stretch from the Allegheny Reservoir near New York State southeast to the Clarion River, near Ridgway; and from the steep banks of the Allegheny River east to the upper reaches of the Tionesta Creek drainage, near Kane. Such a decisive step would bring a measure of ecological balance to the landscape and provide permanently protected interior forest habitat important to native Allegheny Plateau flora and fauna, some of which is formally recognized as rare, threatened, and even endangered. Currently there are two areas designated as wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act in the ANF—Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands, which encompass approximately 9,000 acres, or less than two percent of the Forest as a whole (Johnson, 1999, 2001, 2002). This compares to 18% of Forest Service land designated as wilderness nationwide, and 11% in the Eastern Region, of which the ANF is a part. These wilderness designations will guarantee that the ANF will have significant old-growth reserves for future generations as the forest continues to mature, and the inevitable process of natural succession moves us farther away from the turn-of-the-20th century clearcutting that occurred here.

Some may say that the land outlined in this wilderness proposal document has been too heavily used over the years to be considered suitable wilderness. However, the Wilderness Act defines wilderness as “an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence...which *generally* appears to have been affected *primarily* by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work *substantially* unnoticeable” [emphasis added]. This definition contains qualifiers which ensure that, by law, wilderness designation does not require pristine conditions, but simply predominantly natural conditions (Watson and Beach 2000, Cole 2000, Hendee and Dawson 2002). The “ecological capacity” of wilderness in the eastern United States is thus characterized by Haney et al. (1999): “it is possible for an ecosystem to have low integrity (due to recent degradation) but high capacity so long as restoration is feasible. This situation is typical of Eastern wilderness areas, most of which consist of lands previously harvested, tilled, or otherwise altered by human use.” In point of fact, the 1964 Wilderness Act, 1975 Eastern Wilderness Areas Act, and the 1978 Endangered American Wilderness Act all codified that areas previously influenced by man should not be precluded from consideration for wilderness designation. The tracts identified in this report are eminently eligible for inclu-



Members of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club explore potential Allegheny National Forest wilderness in the early 1970s.

Photo by Bruce Sundquist

sion in the NWPS.

The ANF, a multiple-use national forest if there ever was one, is missing a key component of the range of uses: large wilderness areas. For example, New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest has the 45,000-acre Pemigewasset, 27,380-acre Presidential Range-Dry River, and 25,000-acre Sandwich Range Wilderness Areas. Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest has the 21,480-acre Breadloaf and 15,503-acre Lye Brook Wilderness Areas. The ANF's sister national forest, the Monongahela in West Virginia, has the 35,864-acre Cranberry and 20,000-acre Otter Creek Wilderness Areas. We too should be thinking big here as ANF managers move forward with their Forest Plan revision, in order to balance wilderness use with the other uses of the Forest.

It is important to bear in mind that protecting all of the remaining wild areas of the ANF identified in this report would not eliminate, or even significantly reduce, timber harvesting on the Forest. We are proposing that a small fraction of the total ANF landbase be designated wilderness. This is even a smaller fraction of the more than four million acres of publicly owned forestland in Pennsylvania, and of course far less of the 17 million acres of forest within the Commonwealth as a whole. We recognize that timber management and oil and gas development are important and appropriate uses of the ANF, and we support the continuation of these practices on this “land of many uses.” Most of the acreage identified as prospective wilderness in this report already has varying levels of protection through legislative and administrative designations and classifications. There is little to no commercial timber harvest performed in most of these areas. It is therefore

possible to move a significant amount of ANF acreage into the NWPS, thereby making the ANF's wilderness representation commensurate with national forest land in other eastern states for the benefit of everyone in the ANF region and beyond, without significantly affecting the levels of timber harvesting in the Forest, and without trauma to the timber or oil and gas industries, or to the economy of the four-county ANF region. Indeed, the permanent protection of these wilderness and recreation areas will provide a regionally rare attraction for hunters, anglers, hikers, birders, photographers, and others, and prove a steady economic boon to our region for generations to come (Rudzitis and Johansen 1991, Phillips 1999, Loomis 1999).



Tionesta old-growth forest.

Photo by Bob Stoudt

wilderness selection criteria

The remainder of this document outlines our specific recommendations for ANF wilderness and National Recreation Area designation. The areas described in this document have been delineated using on-the-ground observations, Geographic Information System data on roads, ANF management area designations, aerial photography, and other features obtained from the ANF and other sources. Our criteria for choosing these areas included:

- All areas that have previously been formally identified as being roadless by the Forest Service were brought into consideration.
- All areas that have previously been considered by Members of Congress for wilderness designation were brought into consideration.
- Areas that have not been significant timber producing areas since the establishment of the ANF were brought into consideration. This includes management areas 6.1, 6.2, and 6.4 (National Recreation Areas). Deliberate efforts were made to avoid management area 3.0 (though in the special case of the proposed Tionesta Wilderness, 3.0 land was brought under consideration). Management area 3.0 is the most important timber producing area of the Forest. (See Appendix D for a description of current ANF Management Area prescriptions.)
- The areas identified remain relatively unroaded, wild, and undeveloped—untrammelled by man. All of the areas that we have identified in the document overlap the unroaded areas recently identified by the Forest Service in their March, 2003 Forest-wide roads analysis project.
- The areas identified provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and retain their primeval character and natural conditions.
- The areas identified are 5,000 acres or greater in size, or are of sufficient size and are of sufficient wild character so as to be managed as wilderness or as National Recreation Areas. Of the eight proposed wilderness areas, only one is less than 5,000 acres in size.
- The areas identified provide excellent opportunities for primitive recreation such as hunting, fishing, birding, and backpacking.
- The areas identified have significant ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, and/or historic value.

Allegheny National Forest Wilderness and National Recreation Area Potential

■ Proposed Wilderness

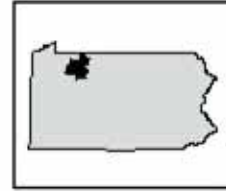
1. Allegheny Front
2. Chestnut Ridge
3. Clarion River
4. Cornplanter
5. Hickory Creek Wilderness Addition
6. Morrison Run
7. Tionesta
8. Tracy Ridge

■ Proposed National Recreation Areas

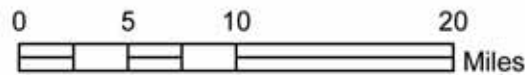
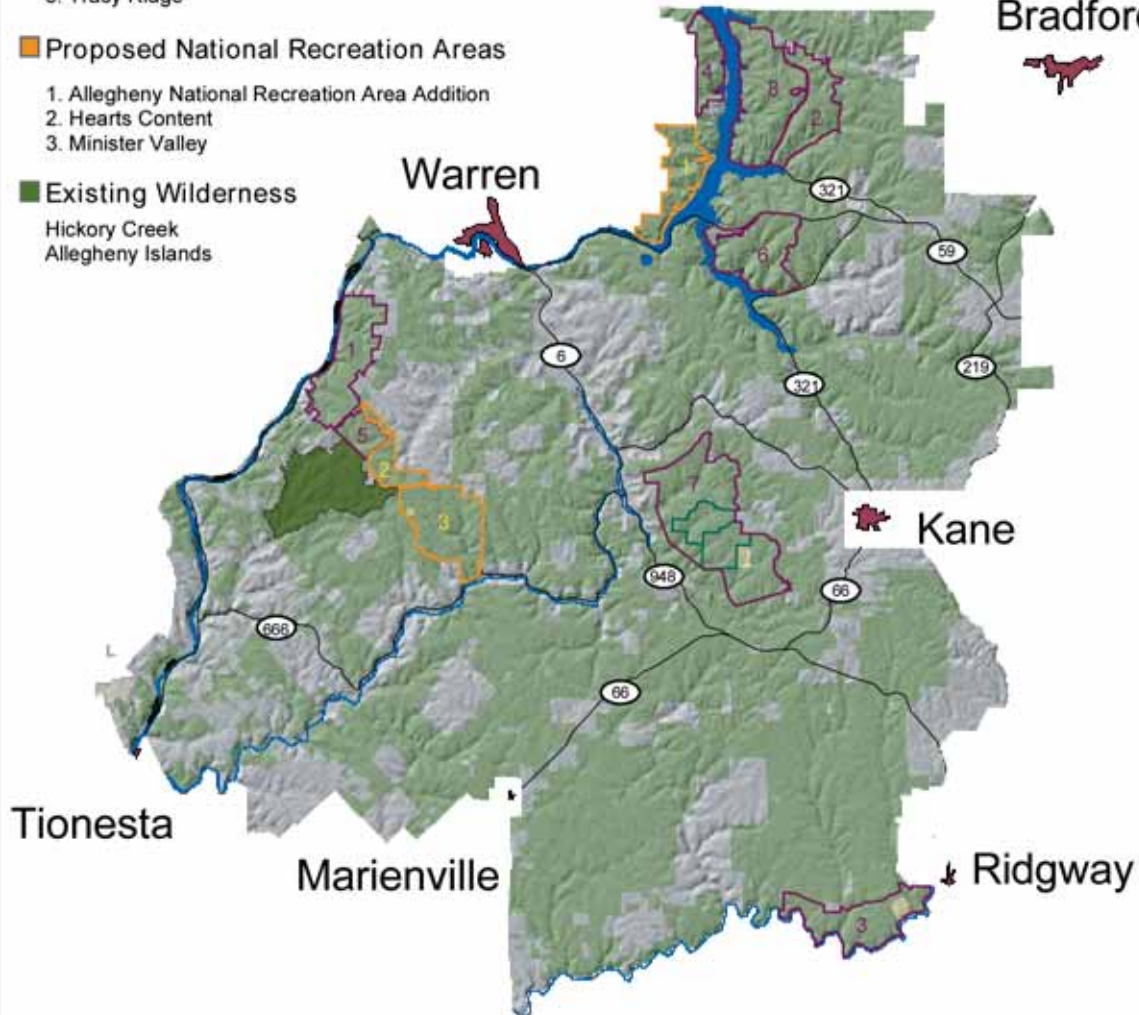
1. Allegheny National Recreation Area Addition
2. Hearts Content
3. Minister Valley

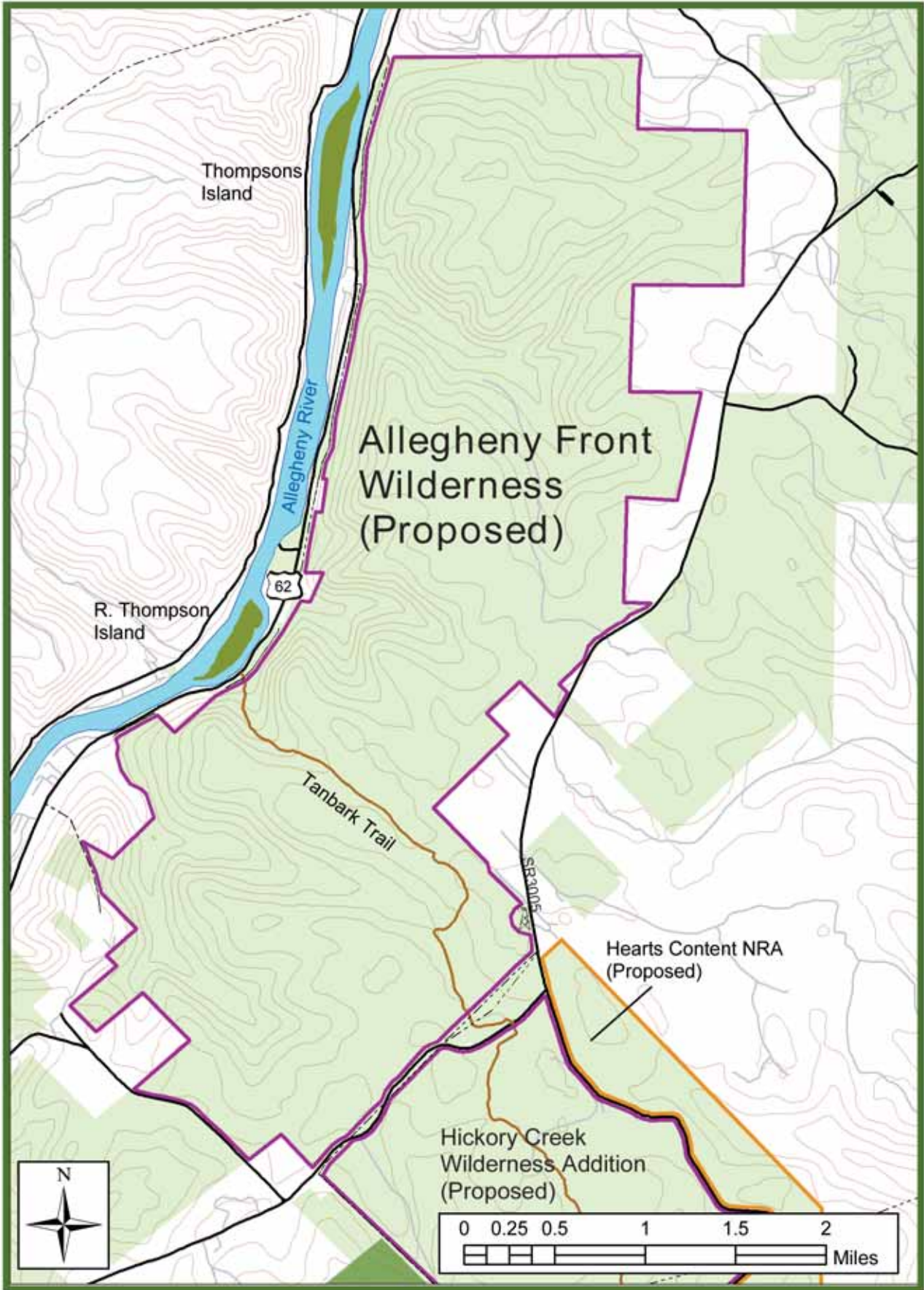
■ Existing Wilderness

- Hickory Creek
- Allegheny Islands



Bradford





6,906 Acres

1. allegheny front wilderness – proposed

Citizen Proposed Acreage: 6,906

Current Status: National Recreation Area designated as such under the 1984 Pennsylvania Wilderness Act, Management Area 6.4

County: Warren

Townships: Pleasant, Watson

Ranger District: Bradford

USGS topographic maps: Cherry Grove, Cobham, Youngsville, Warren

Low Elevation: 1,130'

High Elevation: 1,927'

Inclusion of the Allegheny Front area in the NWPS was urged by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club in the early 1970s, along with the Hickory Creek, Minister Valley, and Tracy Ridge areas. Pennsylvania Senators Hugh Scott and Richard Schweiker supported wilderness protection for these areas within the EWAA.

The proposed Allegheny Front wilderness lies along the National Wild and Scenic Allegheny River on the western edge of the Forest and extends approximately eight miles along the river, averaging some two miles in width. Much of the Allegheny Front is an elevated, relatively level plateau, bounded roughly by State Route 337 on high ground at the east, dropping sharply to the west edge to U.S. Route 62 at the Allegheny River, and dissected by a series of small streams draining west into the river. The highest elevation is 1,927' above Hedgehog Run near Route 337; the lowest is 1,130' near the mouth of Slater Run. From north to south the major streams of the study area are: Lenhart Run, Charley Run, Hedgehog Run, Clark Run, "Tanbark Trail Run" (not named on the topo map), & Slater Run.

The topography of Allegheny Front is diverse. On north trending hillsides at the 1,600' level, one finds frequent outcroppings of sandstone, in large blocks 25' high or more along the ridges, which form amphitheatres and crannies. Similar formations can be found above South Slater Run and along the ridge top above Clark Run, where archaeologists suspect there was significant human activity dating to prehistoric times. In contrast, there are flat hilltops covered with dense mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*) thickets, open woods carpeted with ferns, grassy clearings, and steep slopes that descend to the Allegheny River.

Allegheny Front is free of recent human activity. There is no current oil and gas activity, and past such activity was comparatively limited and mostly unsuccessful. Only one Forest Road, which has been gated



Red spotted newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), Allegheny Front.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

and abandoned, now enters the area from the east—Forest Road 573. This road, while technically open for administrative purposes, has not been used and has been overtaken by young hemlocks and fallen timber.

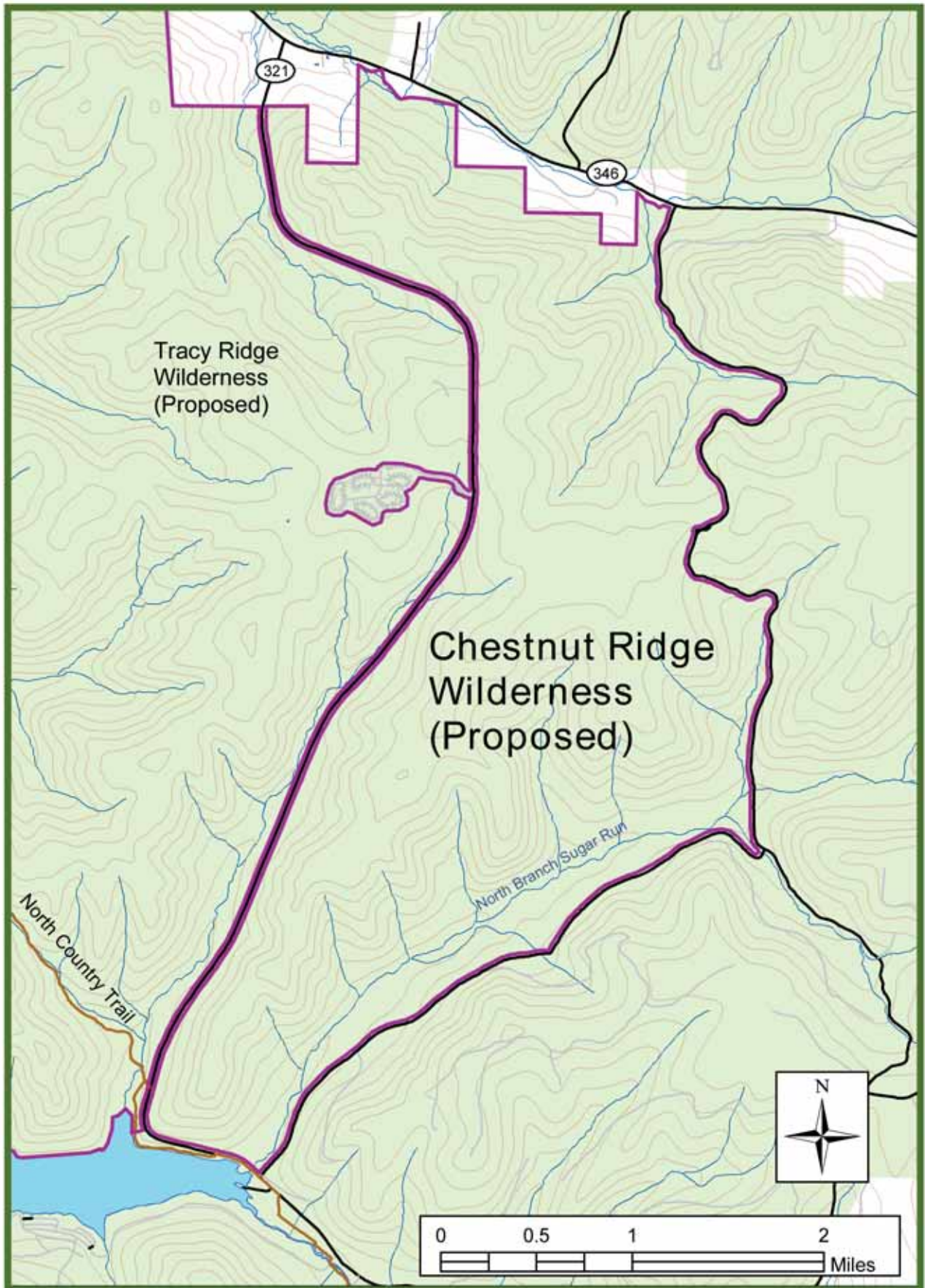
Trees present include several species of oak, as well as hemlock, white pine, black cherry, beech, and black and yellow birch. The forest cover on the steep drop to the Allegheny River is in a later successional stage than the upland remainder of the study area. This is perhaps due to the fact that the first Allegheny Plateau areas to be logged more than a century ago were those closest to main waterways. This hillside was probably among the first to be cleared, the logs easily skidded down to the Allegheny River. Therefore, the forest here would be among the oldest second-growth in the ANF.

This area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. An Allegheny Front Wilderness would offer an excellent opportunity for day hikes and overnight camping. There are wide, open meadows and pleasant overlooks. An Allegheny Front Wilderness would provide high quality habitat for species such as black bear, rattlesnakes (which the Forest Service considers a regionally sensitive species), as well as the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), and other neo-tropical migrant songbirds. Additionally there are a number of species of special concern inhabiting the Allegheny River, which is fed by several tributaries draining the proposed Allegheny Front Wilderness.

Proposed Allegheny Front Wilderness

1. The entire current Allegheny Front NRA should be included in the wilderness designation, save only for small portions cut off by utility corridors along Routes 62 and 337.

2. The only intrusion within this tract is Forest Road 573, which has been gated and unused since the area's designation as a National Recreation Area in 1984. We recommend that this road be permanently closed, the remaining culverts be removed, and native vegetation such as hemlock and shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) be planted on its surface.



5,191 Acres

2. chestnut ridge wilderness – proposed

Citizen Proposed Acreage: 5,191

Current Status: Management Area 6.1

County: McKean

Township: Corydon

Ranger District: Bradford

USGS topographic maps: Cornplanter Run, Stickney

Low Elevation: 1,350'

High Elevation: 2,250'

This area is unroaded with an impressive forest cover of hemlock and black birch in the lowlands along the North Branch Sugar Run. Red, white, and chestnut oak dominate on the high plateau. Remarkably, hundreds of healthy young American chestnut trees can be found

here as well, hence the inspiration for the name of our proposed wilderness. Much of the area lies above 2,000' in elevation. The proposed wilderness has high ecological value and provides high quality habitat for a variety of wildlife, including black bears, fishers, and rattlesnakes, as well as Cerulean Warblers and other migratory songbirds dependent on unfragmented forest.

During the late 1970's there was a program of 'preroading' areas of the ANF that had lower product value in anticipation of logging the areas later when the trees matured. Consideration was given to building several roads into Chestnut Ridge under the preroading program. However, since the timber was smaller in diameter and there was relatively little of the commercially valuable Allegheny Hardwood Forest Type present, then ANF Forest Supervisor



North Branch Sugar Run, Chestnut Ridge. Photo by Kirk Johnson

John Butt decided not to pursue preroading for the Chestnut Ridge area. According to one Forest Service forester, there is also less oil and gas beneath Chestnut Ridge than in other parts of the Forest.

A hotel was once located at the mouth of North Branch Sugar Run where famous bands such as the Count Basie Orchestra and the Tommy Dorsey Band played. Several sites along North Branch Sugar Run were once logging camps. Designation of the proposed Chestnut Ridge and Tracy Ridge Wilderness areas would result in the establishment of nearly 15,000 acres of wilderness, separated only by a relatively lightly used (according to Pennsylvania Department of Transportation data) segment of State Route 321.

Proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness

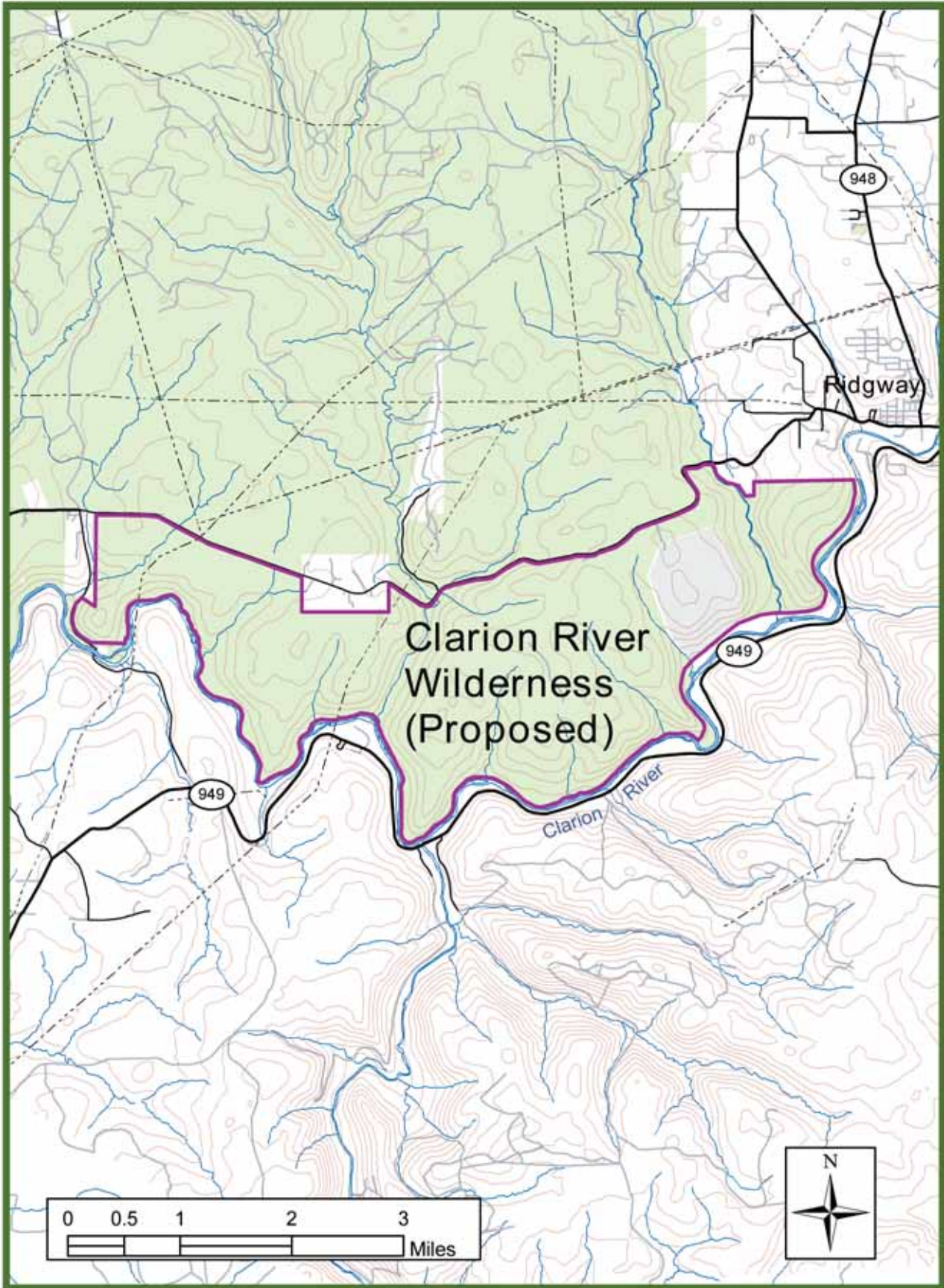
1. There are more than a dozen informal pull-offs along Forest Roads 271 and 137, which bound the proposed wilderness to the south and to the east, where semi-primitive campsites including fire rings have been established near the roads. These camp sites should remain open but outside the wilderness boundary, for the use of those wishing to camp near the road and then hike in to enjoy the wilderness.

2. The Forest Service owns a tract of the mineral rights underlying the proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness, located along State Route 321 across from the Tracy Ridge campground. We recommend that the remaining mineral rights underlying the area be acquired by the Forest Service and not leased out, using the process developed during the Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands Wilderness designation in 1984 as a model, to assure permanent protection of the Chestnut Ridge wilderness resource.



Hiker standing to the right of a sixty foot tall American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*).

Photo by Kirk Johnson



6,009 Acres

3. clarion river wilderness – proposed

Citizen Proposed Acreage: 6,009

Current Status: Management Area 6.1

County: Elk

Townships: Ridgway, Spring Creek

Ranger District: Marienville

USGS topographic maps: Carman, Hallton, Portland Mills

Low Elevation: 1,300'

High Elevation: 1,850'

The proposed Clarion River Wilderness lies entirely in Elk County near the town of Ridgway, along a portion of the Clarion River that was designated a National Wild and Scenic River in 1996. The Forest Service has identified 4,241 acres within the proposed wilderness as an inventoried roadless area. The area is cloaked by a maturing second-growth forest cover that is closed and mostly non-coniferous, though there are fine specimens of white pine present and areas of hemlock cover. On the steep drop south to the Clarion River, dense thickets of rhododendron (*Rhododendron* spp.) and mountain laurel can be found.

The proposed Clarion River Wilderness extends west from near the Ridgway Country Club to, and including, the ghost town of Arroyo. The proposed northern boundary is the Laurel Mill Road. Approximately 14 miles of the National Wild and Scenic Clarion River frontage would be included in the designation.

The Clarion River corridor is experiencing rapid growth in recreational use. Canoers and campers from around the country are aware of the area's rich scenic beauty and visit in increasing numbers each year. Also within the proposed wilderness are several archaeological sites related to lumbering history in Elk County. According to local historian John D. Imhof, these include the towns of Arroyo (1831–1930), Bear Creek Eddy (1860–1890), Carman (1890–1955), Irwintown (1851–1880), Lily Pond (1850–1900), and Portland Mills (1803–present).

The area has high ecological value and provides high quality habitat for a variety of wildlife, including black bears, fishers, and migratory songbirds. On multiple occasions FAW inventory volunteers have sighted migrant songbird species such as the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) and Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus gallbula*) in the Clarion River roadless area. Animals that also use the area and have been sighted include white-tailed deer, Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), Turkey, and porcupine. In the past the Clarion River has been considered

polluted, but since its designation as a National Wild and Scenic River in 1996, clean-up has been ongoing and great strides have been made. Biologists expect the prospective Clarion River Wilderness to be high potential Bald Eagle habitat within ten years.

The Clarion River appears to be the southern margin for several aquatic insects of special concern. These insects, recorded along the Arroyo to Portland Mills stretch of the river, are as follows: ski-tailed emerald (*Somatochlora elongate*), superb jewelwing (*Calopteryx amata*), zebra clubtail (*Stylurus scudderi*), harpoon clubtail (*Gomphus descriptus*), zorro clubtail (*Lanthus parvulus*), twin-horned snaketail (*Ophiogomphus mainensis*), ocellated darter (*Boyeria grafiana*), brotherly clubtail (*Gomphus fraternus*), green-faced clubtail (*Gomphus viridifrons*), and moustached clubtail (*Gomphus adelphus*).

The area also offers outstanding opportunities for backcountry recreation, education, and scientific research. Approximately half of the popular Laurel Mill cross-country ski and hiking trail lies south of Laurel Mill Road within the proposed Clarion River Wilderness.

Proposed Clarion River Wilderness

1. The proposed wilderness is bounded roughly by the Laurel Mill Road on the north, the Clarion River on the south, and the Arroyo Road and private property on the west.

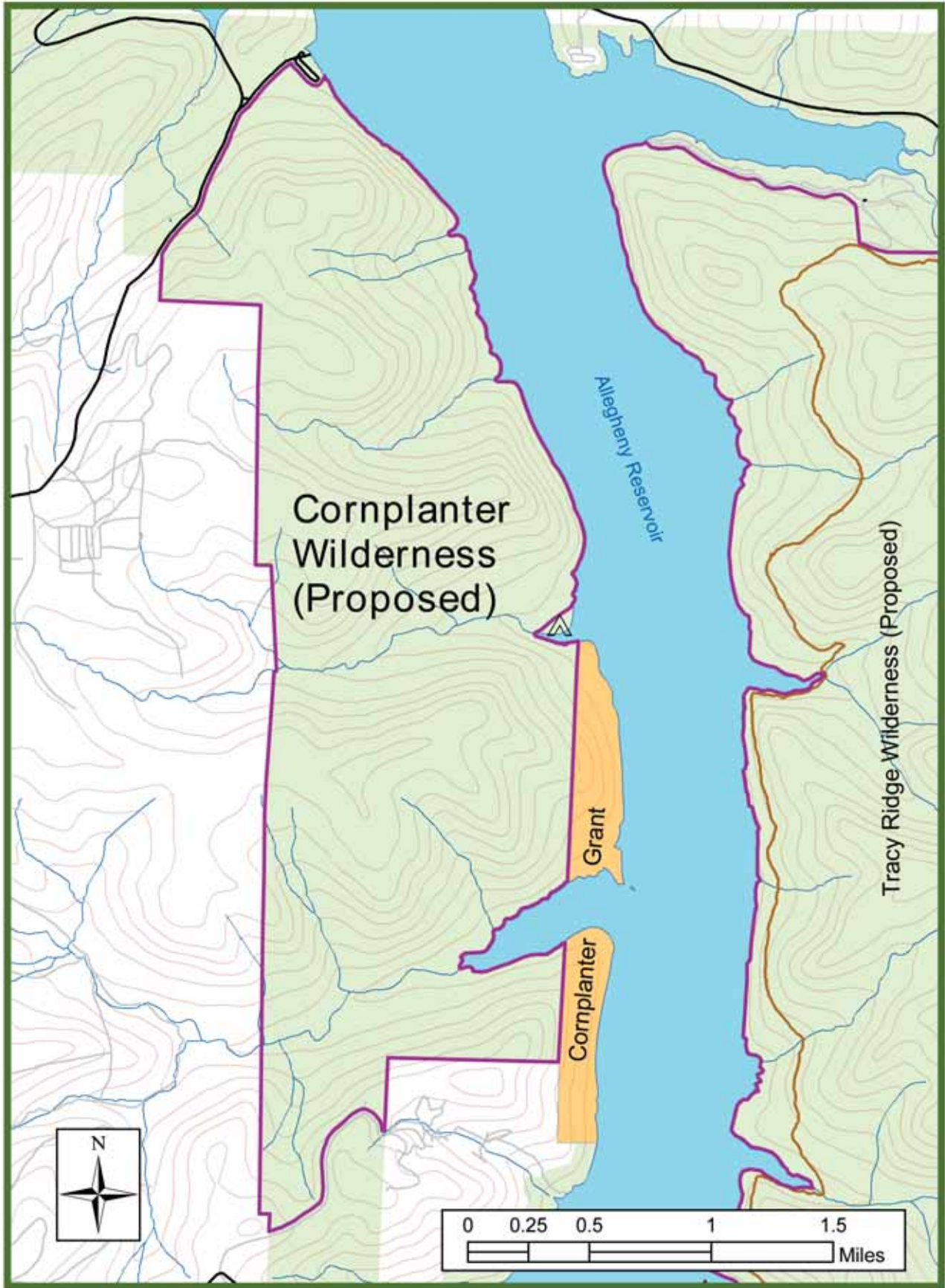
2. A power line and below-ground pipeline pass through the proposed wilderness in a north-south direction at the western end of the proposed wilderness. Specific language should be included in any ANF wilderness legislation to allow for continued maintenance of these utilities.

3. We recommend that the Forest Service acquire, on a willing seller basis, a 452-acre inholding of private land near Mill Creek for inclusion in the Clarion River Wilderness.



The National Wild and Scenic Clarion River.

Photo by Bob Stoudt



3,022 Acres

4. cornplanter wilderness – proposed

Citizen Proposed Acreage: 3,022

Current Status: National Recreation Area designated as such under the Pennsylvania Wilderness Act of 1984. Management Area 6.4

County: Warren

Township: Elk

Ranger District: Bradford

USGS topographic maps: Cornplanter Run

Low Elevation: 1,328'

High Elevation: 2,122'

This area is currently part of the Allegheny National Recreation Area that was designated under the 1984 Pennsylvania Wilderness Act. Covered by a dense canopy of maturing second-growth forest, the area provides high-quality habitat for black bears, rattlesnakes, and Bald Eagles.

There is a known Bald Eagle's nest near the southern end of the proposed Cornplanter Wilderness. The Bald Eagle is a species sensitive to human intrusion, and the PGC does not wish the exact location of nest sites to be distributed. Questions concerning the nesting occurrence should be posed to the PGC or the ecological staff at the ANF.

The area is entirely unroaded except for a marginal, closed road beginning near Red Oak Campground leading to Hooks Brook campground on the Allegheny Reservoir. This road is closed to public access, but the Forest Service did use it in fall 2002 to access Hooks Brook campground in order to replace the pit toilets

there. The road was closed and reseeded when the project was completed.

During the American Revolution, in August 1779 the American Colonel Brodhead led a force of 600 troops up the Allegheny River to the Seneca towns near the New York and Pennsylvania border. The Senecas had fled, but their towns, containing 130 homes, were burned. Great quantities of corn and vegetables were destroyed, and plunder valued at \$330,000 was taken. The Iroquois were forced to sign a treaty at Fort Stanwix in October 1784, selling to Pennsylvania for \$5,000 all unceded land in the state except a reservation of a few hundred acres for Chief Cornplanter of the Senecas. Most of this Cornplanter land is now under water due to construction of the Kinzua Dam in the 1960s, but a small tract along the west shore of the reservoir is still owned by the heirs of Chief Cornplanter. This land is distinct from the reservation of the Seneca Nation of Indians, which lies along the river north of the New York state line. The Cornplanter Landowners Association oversees the Cornplanter land grant here. This grant land would lie adjacent to, but would not be affected by, a Cornplanter Wilderness designation.

All the land surrounding the Allegheny Reservoir is sacred to the Seneca Nation. There are known prehistoric archeological sites, routes of travel, and other evidence of past Native American uses within the proposed wilderness.

Proposed Cornplanter Wilderness

1. The area of our proposed wilderness is bounded roughly by the Warren-Onoville Road on the northwest, Webb's Ferry boat launch on the north, the Allegheny Reservoir on the east (excluding the Hooks Brook campground and Cornplanter Land Grant), Camp Olmstead and the Camp Olmstead Road on the south, and the ANF proclamation boundary on the west.

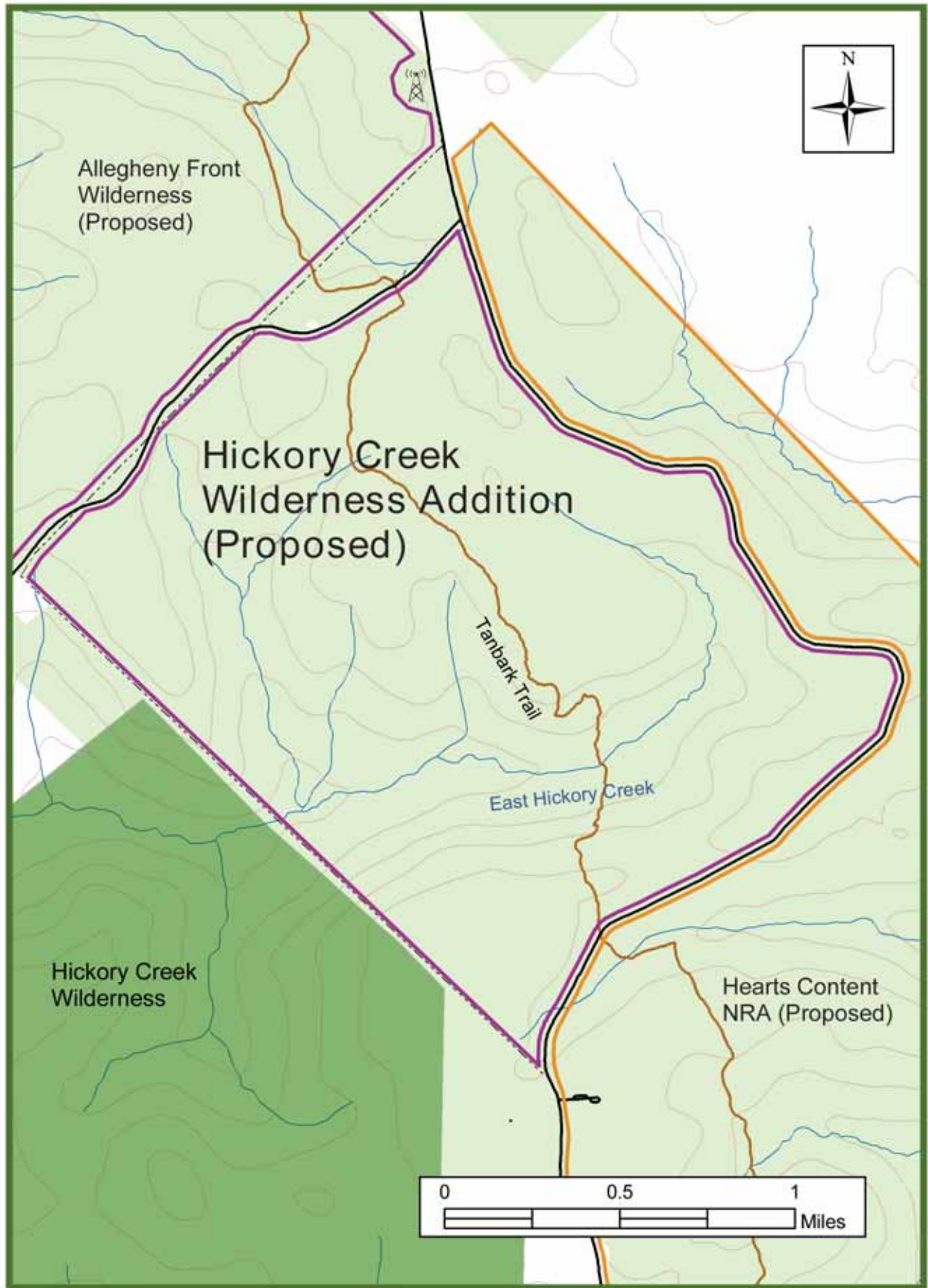
2. FAW recommends cooperation with the Seneca Nation in their efforts to retain full access to the Cornplanter Grant land.

3. Where the boundary of the proposed Cornplanter Wilderness is coterminous with the Allegheny Reservoir, we recommend boundary placement to be at 1,365', the maximum pool level of the Allegheny Reservoir.



The proposed Cornplanter Wilderness as seen from the Allegheny Reservoir.

Photo by Kirk Johnson



1,780 Acres

5. hickory creek wilderness addition – proposed

Citizen Proposed Acreage: 1,780

Current Status: Management Area 6.1

County: Warren

Township: Watson

Ranger District: Bradford

USGS topographic maps: Cherry Grove, Cobham

Low Elevation: 1,550'

High Elevation: 1,900'

This area was originally identified as potential wilderness in the early inventories by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club and was included in early versions of the EWAA legislation supported by Pennsylvania Senators Hugh Scott and Richard Schweiker.

The current proposed wilderness addition is separated from the main acreage of the existing Hickory Creek Wilderness by a 33'-wide electric line corridor (maintained by side trimming, hand-cutting and deer browsing) that supplies power to Hearts Content campground, camps and residences on the east side of the Hickory Creek Wilderness. The expanded Hickory Creek Wilderness would complement FAW's proposed wilderness and NRA designation at Allegheny Front, Hearts Content, and Minister Valley. These areas, along with the existing Hickory Creek Wilderness, have in common being traversed by the popular 11-mile Tanbark hiking trail, which runs east from the Allegheny River until it meets the NCT in the proposed Minister Valley National Recreation Area. Adjacent to Hickory Creek is the Hearts Content picnic area, which includes a small remnant of an old-growth forest community. Expanding the Hickory Creek wilderness will in time increase the amount of old-growth forest communities in this area, increase forest linkage, and decrease forest fragmentation.



Shelf fungi find a home on coarse woody debris lying on the forest floor.

Photo by Scott MacDonald



Beaver pond along East Hickory Creek, a State designated Wilderness Trout Stream, in the proposed Hickory Creek Wilderness addition.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

The 1,780 acres contain many features worth protecting, including beautiful maturing second-growth forests on the headwaters of East Hickory Creek; bogs, beaver ponds, and meadows along the creek and two tributaries; and moss-covered cliffs and boulders more than 25' in height. This area contains many known prehistoric archeological sites and is therefore of great historic value. Projectile points dated to 5,000 BP have been found in this area.

Designation of this proposed wilderness addition would bring nearly the entire East Hickory Creek watershed—a state designated Wilderness Trout Stream from its headwaters to the point where it leaves the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area at Forest Road 119—under wilderness protection. The Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) has identified East Hickory Creek as a high gradient clearwater creek aquatic community because this stream is recognized by the DEP as an Exceptional Value Waters. Exceptional Value streams are potential examples of high biodiversity qualities and are therefore considered exemplary natural aquatic communities.

Ideally we would like to see the powerline moved from the current corridor between the Hickory Creek Wilderness and proposed Hickory Creek Wilderness addition. Perhaps this power line could be routed parallel to the Heart's Content Road. Such action, however, is not necessary to precipitate the area's designation as an addition to the Hickory Creek Wilderness.

Proposed Hickory Creek Wilderness Addition

This proposed expansion of the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area is bounded roughly on the north and east by Heart's Content Road and on the west by State Route 337.



6,887 Acres

6. morrison run wilderness – proposed

Citizen Proposed Acreage: 6,887

Current Status: Management Areas 6.1, 6.2

Counties: McKean, Warren

Townships: Corydon, Hamilton (McKean County), Mead (Warren County)

Ranger District: Bradford

USGS topographic maps: Cornplanter Bridge, Westline

Low Elevation: 1,328'

High Elevation: 2,150'

Morrison Run is a tributary of what once was Kinzua Creek, now Kinzua Bay since the construction of the Kinzua Dam in the 1960s. The proposed Morrison Run Wilderness lies along the Kinzua Bay. A century ago in this area, as Taber (1975) points out, “The sight and sound of the geared locomotive was seen and heard in the valley for sixty-two years, a length of time not recognized throughout Pennsylvania.” In about 1885 or 1886, Joseph W. Neily purchased timber on warrants 5594 and 5575; 2,500 acres are recorded purchased by him. The mill was located about a half mile up Chappel Fork. His narrow gauge railroad probably ran off the Kinzua Railroad and up Hemlock Run about two miles (Taber 1975). Several known prehistoric Native American sites lie along Morrison Run in the northern portion of the proposed wilderness.

The Morrison Trail, a 10.8-mile loop trail, offers a pleasant two-to three-day backpacking experience or a shorter day hike. This trail leads to Morrison Campground on Kinzua Bay, a primitive area of 32 boat access campsites, which include picnic tables, fire rings, vault toilets, and pump water. Slopes along the reservoir and along the small streams are steep with large boulders on the steeper hillsides. Most of the area is heavily forested in second-growth timber, primarily oak and hickory. Hemlock is found along the streams, and splendid old white pines can be found in scattered locations. The month of June provides a perfect opportunity to see the mountain laurel in bloom. Opportunities to view deer, squirrel, grouse, beaver, and turkey are also good. A rare emergent wetland plant known as a thread rush (*Juncus filiformis*) has been recently recorded near Chappel Bay along the southern edge of the proposed wilderness. This is a Pennsylvania Rare state-listed species. Its discovery in 1991 coincided with drought conditions resulting in lower water levels in the reservoir and exposed mudflat habitats.

The NCT passes through the eastern end of the proposed Morrison Run Wilderness from the southwest to

the northeast, following the beautiful Hemlock Run drainage. On the west end of the proposed area is the popular Rimrock Drive and Overlook. This feature was formally dedicated on Friday, October 9, 1964 by Congressman Albert Johnson (*The Bradford Era* 1964). The Rimrock Drive and Overlook is not inside the boundary of our proposed wilderness but is close enough for users of the Rimrock area to use the area as a starting point for their Morrison Run Wilderness experience. Surrounded by the proposed Morrison Run Wilderness, and located at the Rimrock Overlook, is a geologic feature classified by the PNDI as an “erosional remnant.” This feature has been included in at least one DCNR publication identifying significant geological features in the state.

Proposed Morrison Run Wilderness

1. We recommend that the developed Morrison Run campground be excluded from the proposed wilderness.

2. We recommend that the Rimrock Drive and Overlook be excluded from the wilderness designation by ‘cherrystemming’ the area from the boundary. We recommend that the wilderness boundary be set at 50’ from the Rimrock Drive.

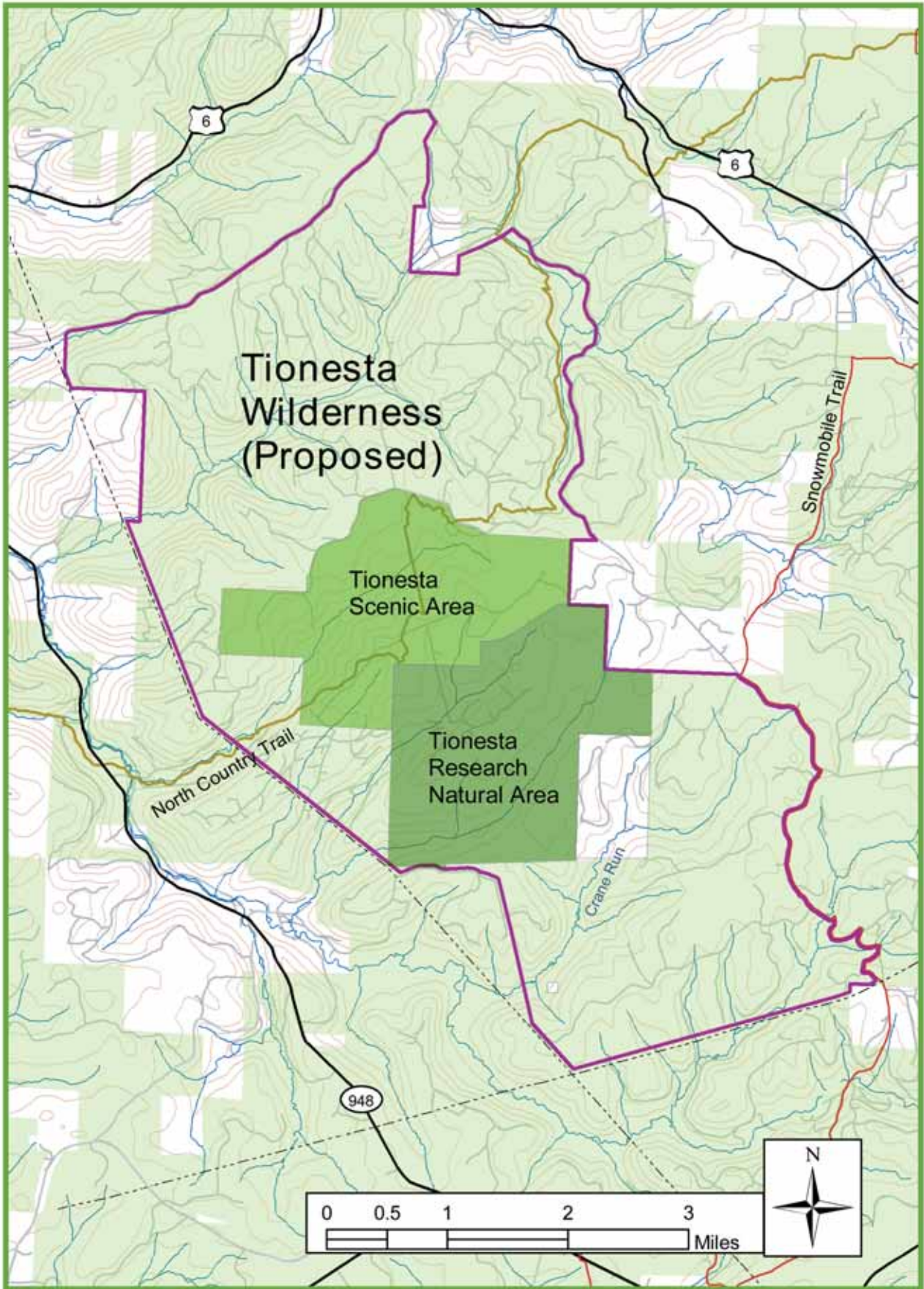
3. We recommend that the Kinzua Beach Management Area 7 land along Kinzua Bay, zoned for “Large scale recreation areas or resorts,” be excluded from the proposed wilderness in deference to those who may wish to develop a rustic lodge at this location. This area has already been developed as a public day-use beach.

4. The Forest Service owns three small tracts of mineral rights between Campbell Run and Morrison Run along Kinzua Bay, and another between Morrison Run and Hemlock Run along Chappel Bay within the proposed Morrison Run Wilderness. They do not allow surface occupancy to access these deposits if leased. We recommend that the Forest Service acquire the mineral rights underlying the remainder of the proposed wilderness.



Rock outcropping along Morrison Run.

Photo by Kirk Johnson



14,960 Acres

7. tionesta wilderness – proposed

Citizen Proposed Acreage: 14,960

Current Status: Management Areas 3, 6.1 and 8. Approximately 4,110 acres of old-growth forest are recognized as a National Natural Landmark at the Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas

Counties: Elk, McKean, Warren

Townships: Highland (Elk Co.); Hamilton, Wetmore (McKean Co.); Sheffield (Warren Co.)

USGS topographic maps: Ludlow, Russell City

Low Elevation: 1,375'

High Elevation: 2,000'

This is the largest old-growth forest in the state of Pennsylvania, and indeed in the eastern United States between the Great Smoky Mountains and the Adirondacks. The Forest Service has characterized the Tionesta Research Natural Area as “one of the most valuable old-growth remnants in the eastern U.S. ... evidenced by the 10-fold increase in research activity on the area over the past decade” (Nowak and Nelson 1997). The Tionesta area was once part of a colonial land grant to the Holland Land Company that was later held by small tanneries in Sheffield as a reserve for hemlock tanbark. This land was later purchased by the U.S. Leather Company and subsequently turned over to the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company. In 1871 H.J. Brooks established a tannery at Brookston that became the Forest Tanning Company in 1884 (Casler 1973). However, even the presence of this tannery, which required significant quantities of hemlock bark, did not affect today’s Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas. There are six known prehistoric sites along the East Branch Tionesta Creek within the proposed Tionesta Wilderness Area, as well as several historic logging camps.



Exploring the Tionesta Research Natural Area, February 2002.

Photo by Tim Walter



Tionesta Scenic Area.

Photo by Scott MacDonald

To preserve a remnant of this climax forest, the last remaining area of uncut hemlock-beech forest was purchased by the U.S. Government in 1936. At the urging of forest scientist Theodora Cope, in 1940 approximately 2,000 acres were formally dedicated as a scenic area and another 2,000 were dedicated as a research natural area (RNA).

On July 23, 1973, the Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas were added to the National Registry of the National Landmarks Program. The objectives of the National Landmarks Program are (1) to encourage the preservation of sites illustrating the geological and ecological character of the United States, (2) to enhance the educational and scientific value of sites thus preserved, (3) to strengthen cultural appreciation of natural history, and (4) to foster a greater concern for the conservation of the Nation’s natural heritage. In 1999 the Tionesta old-growth was recognized as a Pennsylvania Important Bird Area. All of these recognitions are compatible with wilderness designation.

An estimated 120 oil and gas wells are located within the Tionesta old-growth (Robert T. Jacobs, Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service Eastern Region, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, pers. correspondence). The ANF owns the mineral rights below the Research Natural Area, but not below the Scenic Area (Nowak and Nelson 1997). There are 16 active oil wells in the RNA, but as these stop producing over time, they will not be redrilled to restore production and will be phased out as part of the 1987 purchase agreement.

We suggest that the region of the ANF demarcated by U.S. Route 6, and State Routes 66 and 948, with the 4,100-acre Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas old-growth as its core, is a strong candidate for wilderness designation (Johnson 1999, 2001, 2002). This pro-

posed wilderness lies partially in Elk, McKean, and Warren counties. Protection for the unique 4,100-acre Tionesta old-growth would be bolstered by virtue of being encompassed by a larger wilderness area. Given time, the complete Tionesta Wilderness Area as described above would largely come to resemble its native old-growth forest core, as characterized by Bjorkbom and Larson (1977):

Most of the Allegheny Plateau outside the Tionesta Scenic and Natural Areas is now dominated by second-growth stands of intolerant species resulting from the commercial logging operations of the 1890–1930 era. These second-growth stands will eventually revert to hemlock/beech/sugar maple types like those in the Tionesta tract if left undisturbed long enough.

With 500-year-old, 40" diameter ancient hemlocks a common occurrence, the Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas represent some of the last primary forest in the eastern United States. These areas provide high quality habitat used by rare species such as the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) (Gannon 2000), and yellow-bellied flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*). Tionesta is one of the few confirmed breeding locations of the yellow-bellied flycatcher in Pennsylvania (Crossley 1999). Songbirds and amphibians show greater abundance (U.S. Forest Service 1995), and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) find more diverse habitat due to large woody debris contributions that significantly affect fluvial processes (Terrick 1996) in the Tionesta old-growth than in the surrounding landscape. Also, Rooney and Dress (1997) found greater tree species richness within the Tionesta old-growth than in the surrounding secondary forest.

With a baseline old-growth core surrounded by additional wilderness-qualifying forest land, the pro-



Large woody debris in the 1985 tornado blowdown, Tionesta Scenic Area.

Photo by Scott MacDonald

posed Tionesta Wilderness Area would benefit the scientific community as an exceptional site for studying successional processes (Noss 1991, Saunders et al. 1991, Rooney and Dress 1997, Cole 2000). This wilderness designation would not dissolve the existing RNA designation. Following examples such as the McCormick RNA in the McCormick Wilderness of Michigan's Ottawa National Forest and The Bowl RNA in the Sandwich Range Wilderness of New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest, the Tionesta RNA should continue to be managed as such. Both of these RNAs (like the Tionesta RNA both are located in the Eastern Region of the USDA Forest Service) existed long before the surrounding wilderness was designated, which is analogous to our Tionesta Wilderness proposal. There will be no conflict with ongoing and future research in this area. The Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas provide a unique environment for conducting research. The proposed Tionesta Wilderness would provide a baseline reference site, an area to study ecological processes and disturbance regimes (Ruffner and Abrams 2003), and a place to study wildlife habitat relationships. More than 100



Tionesta Research Natural Area.

Photo by Bob Stoult

scientific papers have been written and published on the Tionesta old-growth. At any one time there may be more than a dozen research projects taking place here.

The proposed Tionesta Wilderness is influenced primarily by the forces of nature, largely untrammelled, and suitable as an addition to the NWPS. Exceptional recreational opportunities include hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, photography, and bird watching. A major attraction of this wilderness designation is the presence of the NCT, which passes through the Tionesta Scenic Area. Hector's Falls, north of the existing Tionesta Scenic Area, has been a popular attraction over the years as well. PNDI has identified Crane Run (like East Hickory Creek a state-designated Wilderness Trout Stream) as a high gradient clearwater creek aquatic community because this stream is recognized by the DEP as an Exceptional Value Waters. The majority of the watershed of this stream, a popular stream for anglers, is encompassed within the proposed area.



East Fork Run, Tionesta Research Natural Area. Terrick (1996) found brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) habitat to be physically diverse here due to large woody debris that the surrounding old-growth forest contributed to the streambed over time.

Photo by Paul Feenstra

Proposed Tionesta Wilderness Area

1. The boundaries of the herein proposed Tionesta Wilderness are, roughly, as follows: Forest Road 258 on the north, Forest Road 133 on the east, the pipeline that crosses Martin Run on the south, and the powerline that runs between Sheffield and Ridgway on the west.

2. Forest Road 443 from Brookston is used for access to the Tionesta Research Natural Area by hunters, forest scientists, hikers, and others. It should be excluded from the Tionesta Wilderness Area.

3. We recommend the purchase, on a willing-seller basis, of the several hundred acre tract of privately held timberland to the immediate east of the Tionesta Research Natural Area, which contains the upper reaches of Crane Run—a state-designated Wilderness Trout Stream from its headwaters to its confluence with South Branch Tionesta Creek.

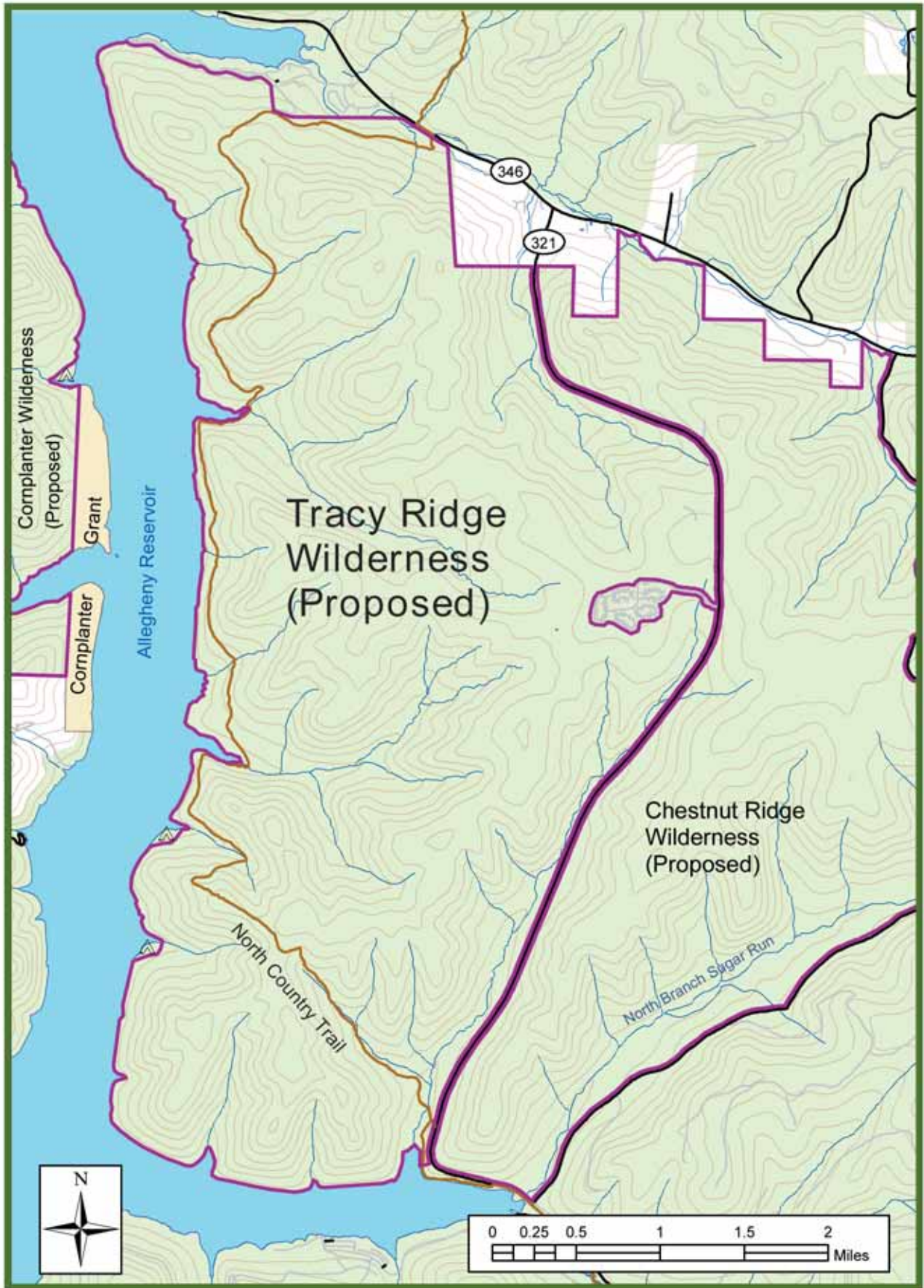
4. We recommend the purchase, on a willing-seller basis, of the 5-acre tract of private land in the lower Crane Run drainage.

5. We recommend that the existing 60 miles of Forest Roads within the proposed Tionesta Wilderness Area be permanently closed and replanted with native vegetation. Much of this road system is closed seasonally or year-round. The vast majority of this 60 miles is made up of Maintenance Level 1, 2, and 3 roads—the lowest levels in the Forest Service's system. Of these, only Maintenance Level 3 roads are open to civilian passenger cars, and "user comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. Roads in this maintenance level are typically low speed, single lane" (U.S. Forest Service 2003). We are not proposing that any main thoroughfares be closed.



The popular Hector's Falls, north of the Tionesta Scenic Area.

Photo by Mike Bleech



9,705 Acres

8. tracy ridge wilderness – proposed

Citizen Proposed Acreage: 9,705

Current Status: National Recreation Area under the 1984 Pennsylvania Wilderness Act. Management Area 6.4

Counties: McKean, Warren

Townships: Corydon (McKean Co.), Mead (Warren Co.)

Ranger District: Bradford

USGS topographic maps: Cornplanter Run, Stickney

Low Elevation: 1,328'

High Elevation: 2,200'

Beginning with Native American times, the rich history of this area continues with rafting and river transportation, lumbering, oil and gas discoveries, establishment of the ANF, and most recently the creation of the Allegheny Reservoir behind Kinzua Dam. Extending for 6.5 miles along the east bank of the Allegheny Reservoir, the proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness is one of the largest undisturbed areas in the ANF.

Human activity in the area has always been concentrated along the Allegheny River, the major early route of transportation north into New York State. The bottom lands along the river (now flooded by Kinzua Dam) sheltered several Seneca villages. All of the land surrounding the Reservoir is sacred to the Seneca Nation. There was once a particularly large Seneca village at the mouth of Kinzua Creek, a little less than three miles southwest of the study area. Senecas hunted within the proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness, and arrowheads and other artifacts are frequently found here. Archaeologists believe that Native Americans used the area's rock outcroppings on high ground for shelter during hunting expeditions.

Permanent European settlement apparently did not begin until 1827, when Philip Tome built a shanty in what became the village of Corydon, near the mouth of Willow Creek. Others arrived later that year and mills were soon built, but the population did not grow rapidly. An 1878 atlas shows a road along the east bank of the river, with the communities of Corydon at the mouth of Willow Creek and Cornplanter P.O. at the mouth of Sugar Creek. The only roads leading inland ran along these two creeks. Land throughout the study area was never more than lightly populated by white settlers (Pratt 1973b).

Tracy Ridge is a plateau elevated above the Allegheny Reservoir, dissected by small runs that drop rapidly to the reservoir. The highest land (2,245' near Tracy Ridge campground) is in the middle on the east

side, almost equally distant from the reservoir and north and south bounding bays. But all the high lands of the area are connected—one could walk from the north end to the south end of the proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness without ever dropping below 1,900'. There are rock ledges behind the Tracy Ridge Campground and large boulders along the hillside between Whiskey Run and Tracy Run. Rock exposed along the edge of the reservoir is rich in fossils between Handsome Lake campground and Johnnycake Run. The largest streams draining the area are on its eastern edge—Nelse Run drops south for four miles to Sugar Bay, while Co?ey Run drops north for two miles to Willow Creek.

The Bald Eagle is a species sensitive to human intrusion and the PGC does not wish the exact location of nest sites to be distributed. A nesting pair has used this part of the ANF in recent years. Questions concerning this nesting occurrence should be posed to the PGC or ecological staff at the ANF. The proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness is heavily forested in oak, white pine, hemlock, and other species, and provides high quality habitat for many species of native Allegheny Plateau wildlife in addition to the Bald Eagle.



A remarkable maturing forest cloaks the proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

Four developed campgrounds are located on the periphery of the area: Willow Bay Recreation Area on Willow Bay; two boat-in campgrounds, Handsome Lake and Hopewell, on the reservoir without road access; and the Tracy Ridge Campground off Route 321 on the central hilltop. These campgrounds would be convenient access points for the more serious Tracy Ridge Wilderness hikers. The two boat-in campgrounds, Handsome Lake and Hopewell, are accessible only by water or by hiking trails. Each has a hand-operated water pump and vault toilet building, picnic tables, and fire rings.

The Tracy Ridge Campground, located on a flat hilltop in the center of the area just south of the Johnson farm, was built in 1972. It has 119 developed camp sites, each containing a picnic table, fire ring, and tent pad. Hand-pumped water, vault toilets, and a trailer dump station are also available. The level of use at this campground has been relatively low over the years. Two of the four loops often remain closed throughout the season. When the Sierra Club surveyed this area in 1973, it was reported that some Forest Service employees seemed to regret building the campground in this location (Pratt 1973b).



Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*).
Photo by Mike Bleech



A heavy snowfall blankets Nelse Run, proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness Area.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

Proposed Tracy Ridge Wilderness

1. Surrounded by water on three sides, Willow Bay and Route 346 provide the northern boundary, Sugar Bay the southern boundary. Bounded on the east by Route 321, the area is generally 2 miles wide with a bulge to 3 miles at the center on the hilltop open area at the former Johnson farm site. On the west, the boundary would be the Allegheny Reservoir (set at the maximum pool level of 1,365'), between Willow Bay and Sugar Bay.

2. On the north side, the boundary for the wilderness area would drop south from Route 346 at Schoolhouse Hollow, follow the 1,400' contour line on the south side of Willow Creek and Willow Bay until passing the Willow Bay boat ramp and parking area where it would again drop down to the 1,365' level, 50' west of the boat launch area.

3. Some 500 acres lie south of an underground pipeline at the southern end of Tracy Ridge. We recommend that they be included in the designation and managed as part of the wilderness area, to which they belong geographically.

4. We recommend the Handsome Lake and Hopewell semi-developed campgrounds remain as developed boat-in campgrounds, and that they remain outside the wilderness boundary.

5. We recommend that the Tracy Ridge Campground and its access road be excluded from the Tracy Ridge Wilderness through 'cherry-stemming' of the boundary here.

national recreation areas

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Congress began designating National Recreation Areas such as the Glen Canyon, Lake Chelan, as well as the Sawtooth National Recreation Areas (NRA). Since that time, numerous NRAs have been designated around the country. Unlike wilderness areas, there is no one law guiding management of these areas; each one is unique. Also unlike wilderness areas, motorized equipment and other management actions are sometimes allowed within NRAs, although the primary management objective of these areas is focused on recreation. NRAs have been designated to accommodate many types of recreation, from boating and public beaches to scenic drives to wilderness, as well non-wilderness activities such as energy generation. As the name implies, management has emphasized recreational activities rather than new development uses. Where roads and/or off road motorized travel have been permitted, it has been limited to designated routes.

The 1984 Pennsylvania Wilderness Act designated the 23,100-acre Allegheny National Recreation Area in the ANF (see Appendix B). This is an example of an NRA with no motorized recreation permitted. The Allegheny NRA consists mainly of the Tracy Ridge and Cornplanter tracts on the shores of the Allegheny Reservoir, and the Allegheny Front tract south of Warren along the Allegheny River. Previously in this document we outlined our proposals for designating these three areas as wilderness.

In addition to our eight proposed wilderness areas, we have identified three parcels of the ANF that cur-

rently have no special designation beyond their current management area classification set by the 1986 Forest Plan. We believe that the Hearts Content picnic and old-growth area, the popular Minister Valley area, and an extension of the existing Allegheny NRA south to the Kinzua Dam on the west bank of the Allegheny Reservoir, would be appropriate additions to the NRA system in the ANF. These areas are wonderful natural tracts that in our view do not quite fall under the criteria for wilderness designation. We believe they could best be enjoyed by the public as NRAs.

We further propose the Tanbark National Recreation Area, shown on page 46 of this document. This proposed NRA would combine proposed and existing wilderness as well as two of the above-mentioned proposed NRAs. Patterned after the early vision of the Sierra Club in the 1970s, the Tanbark NRA would consist of our proposed Allegheny Front Wilderness, Hickory Creek Wilderness addition, Hearts Content NRA, Minister Valley NRA, as well as the existing Hickory Creek Wilderness.

The Tanbark NRA would total more than 27,000 acres, establishing for future generations a large permanent wildlands complex, traversed only by a few paved roads. The purpose of a Tanbark NRA would be to create one relatively contiguous unit with several management components. The popular 11-mile Tanbark hiking trail spans and ties together this proposed NRA. The NCT passes through the Minister Valley portion of the proposed Tanbark NRA, as does the Allegheny Snowmobile Trail. Such an area could enjoy increased Forest Service funding and would be a draw for visitors seeking to enjoy activities ranging from snowmobiling, hunting, and camping in established facilities to wilderness hiking and backpacking.



The popular 11-mile Tanbark hiking trail spans and ties together the proposed Tanbark National Recreation Area, its eastern terminus intersecting the North Country National Scenic Trail in Minister Valley.

Photo by Kirk Johnson



4,752 Acres

1. allegheny national recreation area addition – proposed

Citizen Proposed Acreage: 4,752 acres

Current Status: Management Area 6.1

County: Warren

Townships: Elk, Glade

Ranger District: Bradford

USGS topographic maps: Clarendon, Cornplanter Run, Cornplanter Bridge, Scandia

Low Elevation: 1,328'

High Elevation: 2,100'

This proposed Allegheny NRA addition would appropriately extend protection for the west shore of the Allegheny Reservoir from the New York State line all the way south to the Kinzua Dam. All of the land surrounding the Allegheny Reservoir is sacred to the Seneca Nation of Indians. According to an ANF archeologist, the Hodge Run valley at the northern end of the proposed NRA addition was likely a historic east-west Native American travel route. The hillsides and plateau tops in this area are heavily forested with a pleasing mixture of oaks, maples, hemlock, and even Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*). Large white pines on the steep slope dropping down to the reservoir provide important nesting habitat for Bald Eagles. The large boulder outcroppings in this area provide high quality black bear and timber rattlesnake habitat. Such outcroppings, as in other portions of the ANF, also provided shelter for Native people during hunting excursions.

There is a known Bald Eagle's nest near the southern end of the proposed area near the Allegheny Reservoir. The Bald Eagle is a species sensitive to human intrusion and the PGC does not wish the exact location of nest sites to be distributed. A nesting pair has used this part



Porcupines (*Erethizon dorsatum*) abound in the proposed addition to the Allegheny National Recreation Area.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

of the ANF in recent years. Questions concerning this nesting occurrence should be posed to the PGC or the ecological staff at the ANF.

A number of closed Forest Roads are within the boundary of the proposed Allegheny NRA addition. These roads are no longer used and are becoming overgrown. There is also a gravel pit at the southern end of the area overlooking the Kinzua Dam, where gravel was obtained during construction of the dam. This gravel pit is no longer used, and natural succession has produced a cover of white pine, shrubs, and other vegetation. According to the manager of the Kinzua Dam, there will not be a need for access to this old gravel pit at any time in the future.

Proposed Allegheny NRA addition

The area is bounded roughly on the north by the ANF proclamation boundary and the road to the Roper Hollow boat launch, on the east and south by the Allegheny Reservoir and Army Corps of Engineers land, and on the west by the ANF proclamation boundary.



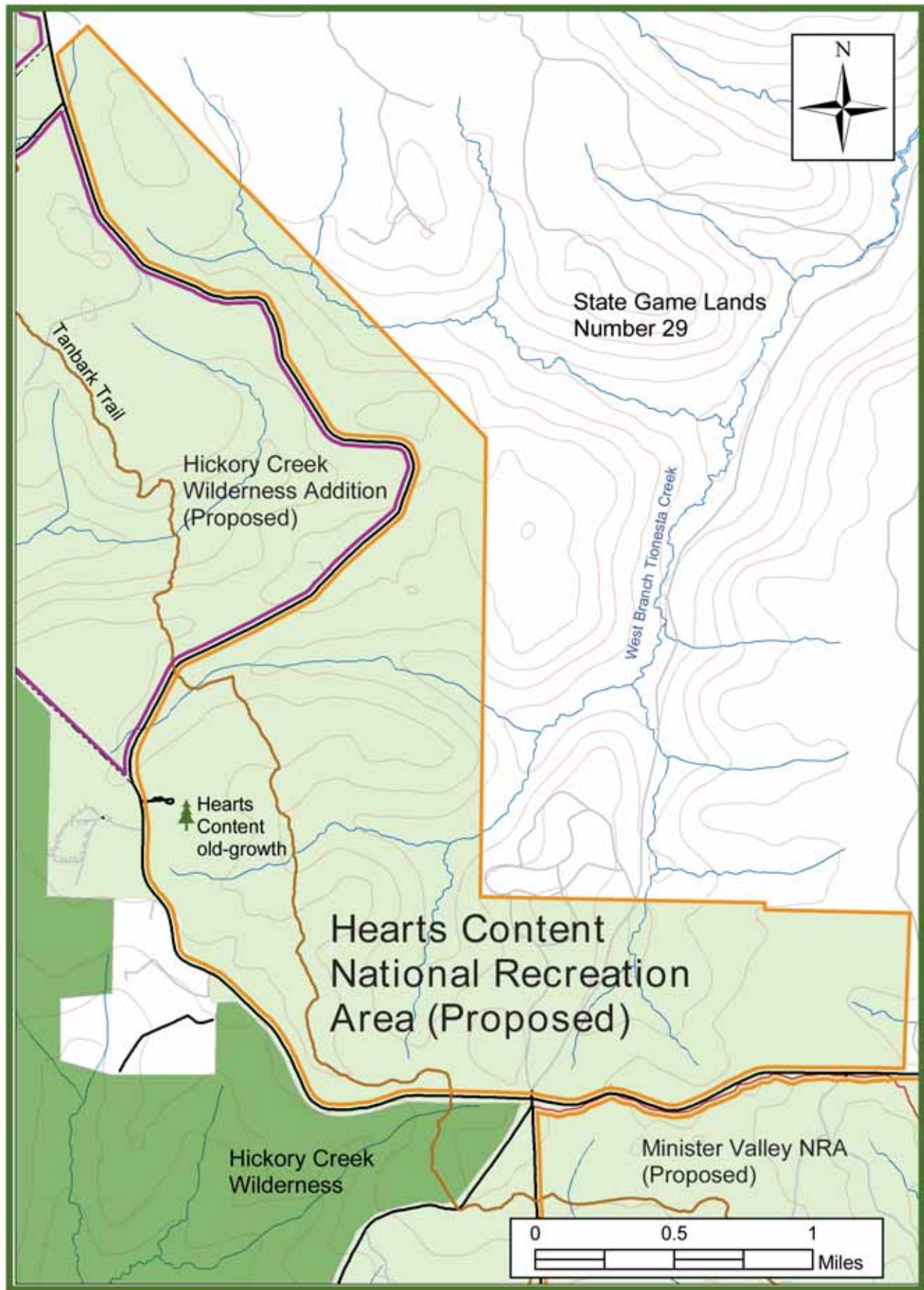
The proposed Allegheny National Recreation Area addition as seen from the Kinzua Point Information Center.

Photo by Kirk Johnson



An angler gets a strike on his line on the Allegheny Reservoir.

Photo by Mike Bleech



2,335 Acres

2. hearts content national recreation area – proposed

Citizen Proposed Acreage: 2,335 acres

Current Status: Management Area 6.1

County: Warren

Townships: Cherry Grove, Watson

Ranger District: Bradford

USGS topographic maps: Cherry Grove, Cobham

High Elevation: 1,950'

Low Elevation: 1,660'

Designating the proposed 2,335-acre Hearts Content NRA would augment wildlands protection in the western edge of the Forest. Together with the proposed Allegheny Front Wilderness, Hickory Creek Wilderness addition, Minister Valley NRA designation, and the existing Hickory Creek Wilderness, the wildlands complex created here would be more than 25,000 acres in size, separated only by three roads.

The proposed NRA will add an additional layer of protection to the existing 100-acre Hearts Content old-growth tract, an important remnant of eastern old-growth featuring towering 300- to 400-year-old white pine, hemlock, and beech. The Hearts Content old-growth is well known and has been exhaustively studied by forest researchers over the years (Lutz 1930b, Morey 1936, Rooney and Dress 1997). Much has been done over the years by the Forest Service to protect this area, and adding NRA protection to the area is a logical next step in this progression.

This area remains largely undeveloped and provides great opportunities for solitude and dispersed recreation. The Hearts Content Scenic Interpretive Trail winds about one mile through this forest stand and returns to the picnic area. Cross-country skiing on the Hearts Content cross-country ski trail, hiking on the Tanbark Trail, and backpacking on the nearby Hickory Creek Wilderness trail are all available here. The Tanbark Trail links up to the North Country Trail just to the southeast of the area, which allows hikers to hike the span of the ANF north to south using the proposed Hearts Content National Recreation Area as a starting point.

Proposed Hearts Content National Recreation Area

1. The proposed NRA is bounded roughly by the Hearts Content Road on the west and south, and State Game Lands No. 29 on the north and east.

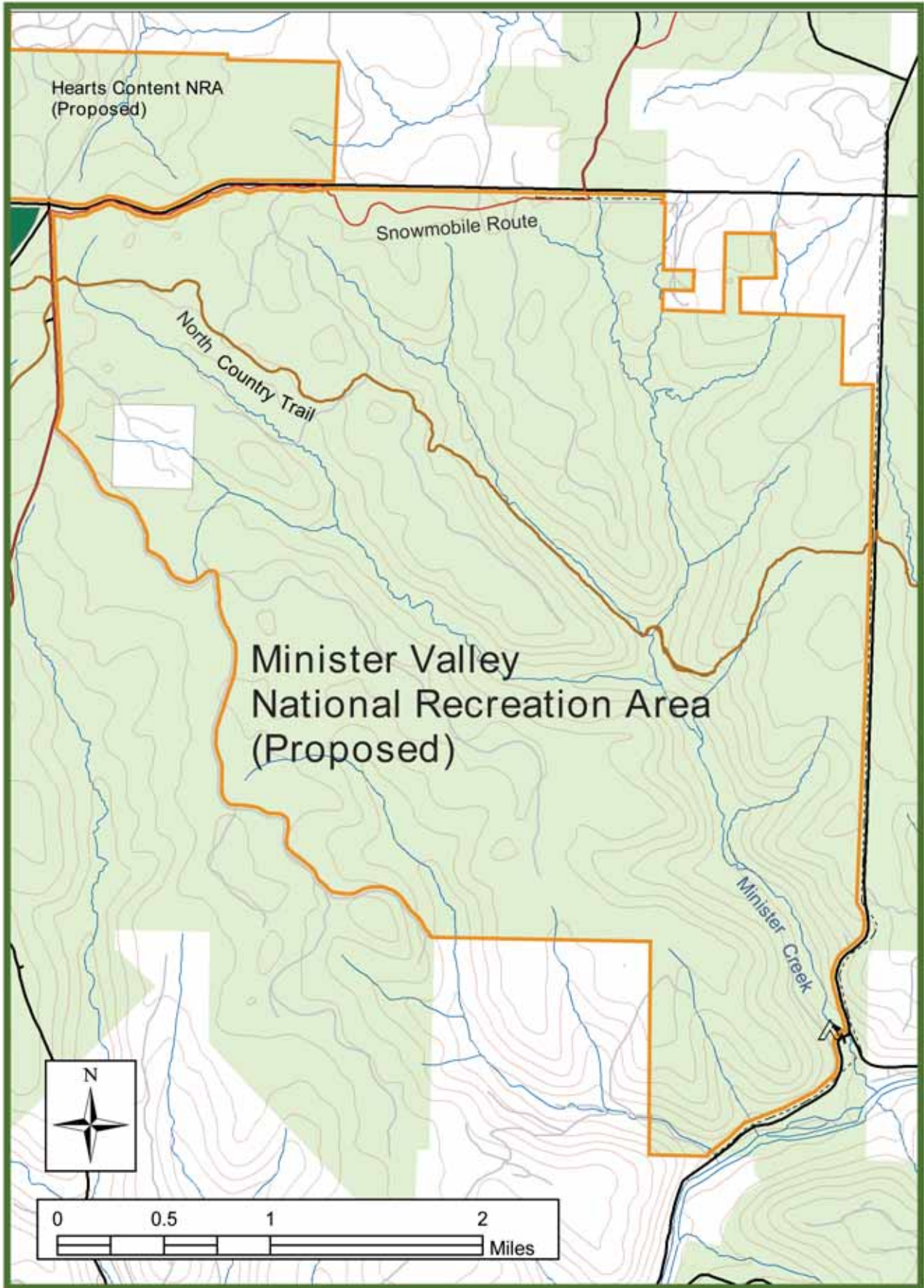
2. We recommend that snowmobile use be permitted to continue in the Hearts Content NRA on the designated snowmobile trails.

3. The Forest Service owns the mineral rights under the Hearts Content old-growth tract. We recommend that the mineral rights underlying the remainder of the proposed Hearts Content NRA be acquired by the Forest Service and not leased out, using the procedure developed during the Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands Wilderness designation in 1984 as a model, to assure permanent protection of the area.



The Hearts Content old-growth forest was first protected by the Wheeler and Dusenbury Lumber Company more than a century ago.

Photo by Kirk Johnson



7,390 Acres

3. minister valley national recreation area – proposed

Citizen Proposed Acreage: 7,390

Current Status: Management Areas 6.1, 6.2

Counties: Forest, Warren

Townships: Howe (Forest Co.), Cherry Grove, Watson (Warren Co.)

Ranger District: Bradford

USGS topographic maps: Mayburg, Cherry Grove

Low Elevation: 1,250'

High Elevation: 1,950'

The 1,417 acres of the lower Minister Valley have been formally recognized as roadless by the Forest Service. Minister Valley is a special place for many people. Its scenic vistas, large rock formations, clear trout streams, forested areas, and diverse flora and fauna make it a popular recreation area. The Minister Creek campground has six campsites situated along lower Minister Creek just before its confluence with Tionesta Creek. Each site contains a picnic table, fire ring, and tent pad. Vault toilets and hand-pumped water are available. The Minister hiking trail, a popular six-mile loop, starts and ends at the campground and joins the NCT on the north end. Trout fishing is excellent in Minister Creek and also in nearby Tionesta Creek. The Tanbark Trail also enters the area in the far northwest corner.

Dunham's Mill was formerly the site of a mill operated by the Dunham family, but the name has been changed to Dunham's Siding at the northwest corner of the proposed Minister Valley NRA. It was named Dunham's Siding because at one time it was the convergence point of seven logging railroads (Casler 1973). A number of well preserved historic logging camps lie within the proposed NRA. And nowhere else in the ANF are there are so many prehistoric archeological sites, perhaps because Minister Valley has the most dense rock shelters of any drainage in Western Pennsylvania known to archeologists.

Although the proposed Minister Valley NRA bears evidence of recent human activity such as forest thinning and deer exclosures and several Forest Roads entering from the north associated with the execution of the ANF's Minister Watershed Project, the central and southern reaches of the study area and creek beds are untouched. The area boasts abundant possibilities for solitude and peace, where one can commune with nature without the reminder of human activities. The maturing second-growth forest within the study area contains white oak, black cherry, hemlock, beech, and aspen. Wildlife observed here include deer, squirrel,

chipmunks, and hawks.

Two species of special concern insects (one dragonfly and one damselfly) have recently been recorded from lower Minister Creek, found within the last few hundred yards before the stream mouth. The extent to which these species are associated with Minister Creek, Tionesta Creek, or both, is presently unknown. An additional six special concern dragonflies have been recently recorded as inhabiting Tionesta Creek in the area of the mouth of Minister Creek. No dragonfly or damselfly species are officially listed as species of special concern by state government, but the ANF includes several on its list of Forest Sensitive Species, and these species receive extra management consideration. Also in Tionesta Creek, in the general vicinity of the mouth of Minister Creek, is a recent record for the state listed (Pa. Threatened) bluebreast darter (*Etheostoma camurum*). Although this fish is not expected to inhabit Minister Creek due to that stream's smaller size, water quality in Tionesta Creek is important to its survival. Because Minister Creek is a major tributary of Tionesta Creek in this area, there is a conservation connection.

Proposed Minister Valley National Recreation Area

1. The proposed NRA is made up entirely of the 6.1 and 6.2 Management Areas bounded on the north by Hearts Content Road and the Allegheny Snowmobile Loop trail, on the east by Minister Road, on the south by state route 666 and the Minister Campground, and on the west by Forest Roads 420, 250, and 116.

2. We recommend the purchase of the 90-acre private inholding near Forest Road 116 if the owner is willing to sell.

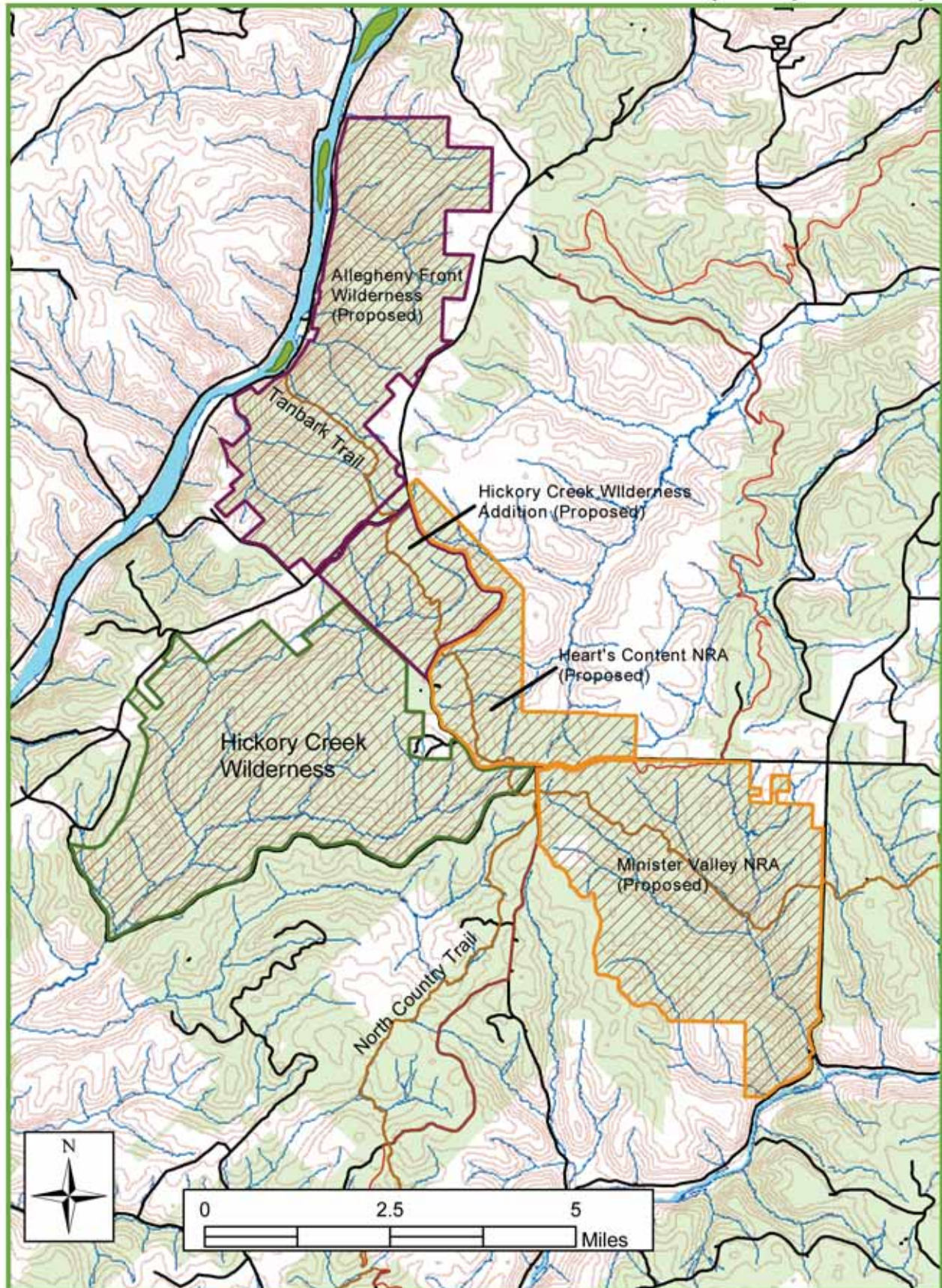
3. We recommend that the established snowmobile trail paralleling Hearts Content Road along the northern boundary of the proposed Minister Valley NRA remain open for snowmobile access and use.



Minister Valley roadless area.

Photo by Kirk Johnson

Tanbark National Recreation Area (Proposed)



sources

- Abrams, M.D. and D.A. Orwig. 1996. A 300-year history of disturbance and canopy recruitment for co-occurring white pine and hemlock in the Allegheny Plateau, USA. *Journal of Ecology* 84: 353–363.
- Allaby, M. 1994. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Ecology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 415 pp.
- Bishop, L.L. 1925. The Allegheny National Forest – what, why, and where. Allegheny National Forest Supervisor, Essay. Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, Harrisburg. 28 pp.
- Bleech, M. 2002. Wilderness: the ultimate adventure. *Warren Times Observer*. Page S-10. November 7.
- Bjorkbom, J.C. and R.G. Larson. 1977. The Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas. General Technical Report NE-31, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. 24 pp.
- Bradford Era, The*. 1964. Rimrock recreation area is dedicated. Page 1. October 10.
- Buck, J. 1999. Fishers of the forest. *The Bradford Era*: 1+. 27 May.
- Butt, J.P. 1984. Deer and trees on the Allegheny. *Journal of Forestry* 82: 468–471.
- Casler, W.C. 1976. *Teddy Collins Empire: A Century of Lumbering in Forest County*. Lycoming Printing Company, Inc. Williamsport, Pennsylvania.
- Cole, D.N. 2000. Paradox of the primeval: ecological restoration in wilderness. *Ecological Restoration* 18: 77–86.
- Crossley, G.J. (ed.). 1999. *Important Bird Areas in Pennsylvania: A Guide to Identifying and Conserving Critical Bird Habitat*. Pennsylvania Audubon Society and Signal Graphics Printing, Mechanicsburg, Penn. 219 pp.
- deCalesta, D.S. 1994. Deer and diversity in Allegheny hardwood forests: managing an unlikely challenge. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 28: 4–53.
- Gannon, M.R. 2000. Survey of bats at Allegheny National Forest with emphasis on the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*): second year report. Unpublished report, Penn State University, Altoona, Penn. 22 pp.
- Haney, J.C., M. Wilbert, C. DeGroot, D.S. Lee, and J. Thomson. 1999. Gauging the ecological capacity of southern Appalachian reserves: does wilderness matter? Pp. 128–137 in McCool, S.F., D.N. Cole, W.T. Borrie, and J. O'Loughlin, comps. *Wilderness science in a time of change conference – Volume 2: Wilderness within the context of larger systems* May 23–27, Missoula, Montana. Proceedings RMRS-P-15-VOL-2. Ogden, Utah. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.
- Hayes, C. 1974. Johnson says ANF out of wilderness bill. *Warren Times Observer*. Page 1. 22 October.
- Hendee, J.C. and C.P. Dawson, eds. 2002. *Wilderness Management: Stewardship and Protection of Resources and Values*. 3rd Edition. Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, Colorado. 640 pp.
- Henretta, J.E. 1929. *Kane and the Upper Allegheny*. Reprinted 1998. Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland. 357 pp.
- Hough, A.F. 1936. A climax forest community on east Tionesta Creek in northwestern Pennsylvania. *Ecology* 17: 9–28.
- Johnson, N.L. 1999. *A sleeping giant: Recreational and ecological potential on the Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania*. M.E.S. thesis essay. The Evergreen State College, Washington.
- Johnson, N.L. 2001. A proposal for Tionesta wilderness designation in the Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania, USA. *Natural Areas Journal* 21: 338–345.
- Johnson, N.L. 2002. Honoring a wilderness vision: a proposal for Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest. *Wild Earth* 12 (2): 63–67.
- Klyza, C.M. 2001. Wildlands in the northeastern United States. *International Journal of Wilderness* 7(2): 8–10.
- Loomis, J.B. 1999. Do additional designations of wilderness result in increases in recreation use? *Society and Natural Resources* 12: 481–491.
- Lutz, H.J. 1930a. Original forest composition in northwestern Pennsylvania as indicated by early land survey notes. *Journal of Forestry* 28: 1098–1103.
- Lutz, H.J. 1930b. The vegetation of Hearts Content, a virgin forest in northwestern Pennsylvania. *Ecology* 11: 1–29.
- Marquis, D.A. 1975. The Allegheny Hardwood Forests of Pennsylvania. General Technical Report NE-15, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. 32 pp.
- McGinnis, H. 1973. The East Hickory Creek Wilderness Study Area: Allegheny National Forest. Allegheny Group, Pennsylvania Chapter, Sierra Club.
- McIntyre, R., ed. 1995. *The War Against the Wolf: America's Campaign to Exterminate the Wolf*. Stillwater, Minnesota: Voyager Press. 495 pp.
- Mohlenbrock, R.H. 1986. Tionesta forest, Pennsylvania. *Natural History* November: 74–78.
- Morey, H.F. 1936. Age-size relationships of Hearts Content, a virgin forest in northwestern Pennsylvania. *Ecology* 17: 251–257.
- North Star. 2003. Milestones along the North Country Trail. *North Star: The Magazine of the North Country Trail Association* 12(2): 27.
- Noss, R. 1991. What can wilderness do for biodiversity? *Wild Earth* (Summer): 51–55.
- Nowak, C. and B. Nelson. 1997. Establishing critical boundary points and lines around and within the Tionesta Research Natural Area. Unpublished report, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Warren, Pennsylvania. 5 pp.
- Pratt, R.H. 1973a. Allegheny Front Wilderness Study: Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Chapter, Sierra Club.
- Pratt, R.H. 1973b. Tracy Ridge Wilderness Study: Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Chapter, Sierra Club.
- Rooney, T.P. 1995. Restoring landscape diversity and old-growth to Pennsylvania's northern hardwood forests. *Natural Areas Journal* 15: 274–278.
- Rooney, T.P., and W.J. Dress. 1997. Species loss over sixty-six years in the ground-layer vegetation of Hearts Content, an old-growth forest in Pennsylvania, USA. *Natural Areas Journal* 17: 297–305.
- Ross, P.W. 1996. *Allegheny Oil: The Historic Petroleum Industry on the Allegheny National Forest*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 96 pp.
- Ruffner, C.M. and M.D. Abrams. 2003. Disturbance history and stand dynamics along a topographic gradient in old-growth hemlock-northern hardwood forests of the Allegheny Plateau, USA. *Natural Areas Journal* 23: 98–113.
- Rudzitis, G. and H.E. Johansen. 1991. How important is wilderness? Results from a United States survey. *Environmental Management* 15: 227–233.

- Saunders, D.A., R.J. Hobbs, and C.R. Margules. 1991. Biological consequences of ecosystem fragmentation: a review. *Conservation Biology* 5: 18–32.
- Schiner, G.R. and G.E. Kimmel. 1972. Mississippian Stratigraphy of Northwestern Pennsylvania. U.S. Geological Survey. Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office.
- Serfass, T.L., R.P. Brooks, W.M. Tzilkowski, and D.H. Mitcheltree. 1994. Fisher Reintroduction in Pennsylvania: Feasibility and Review. Pennsylvania Game Commission.
- Sundquist, B., C.W. Yartz, and J. Richardson. 1999. *Allegheny National Forest Hiking Guide*. Fourth ed. Pittsburgh: Allegheny Group, Sierra Club. 186 pp.
- Taber, T.T. 1974. *Tanbark, Alcohol, and Lumber*. Lycoming Printing Company, Inc. Williamsport, Pennsylvania. 112 pp.
- Taber, T.T. 1975. *Sawmills Among the Derricks*. Lycoming Printing Company, Inc. Williamsport, Pennsylvania. 118 pp.
- Terrick, T.D. 1996. *A survey of the habitat and associated fish populations of East Fork Run, Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania*. M.S. thesis, Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Clarion. 66 pp.
- U.S. Forest Service. 1975. Allegheny National Forest Forest Plan. Ralph J. Freeman, Forest Supervisor.
- U.S. Forest Service. 1986. Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 224 pp.
- U.S. Forest Service. 1995. A landscape approach to providing late-successional forests and associated functions and values on the Allegheny National Forest. Unpublished report, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Warren, Pennsylvania. 18 pp.
- U.S. Forest Service. 2002. Land areas of the National Forest System as of September 2001. FS-383, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington, D.C. 159 pp.
- U.S. Forest Service. 2003. Allegheny National Forest Forest-wide Roads Analysis. Final Report. March. 167 pp.
- United States Senate. 1974. Congressional Record. Eastern Wilderness Areas Act of 1974. 31 May: 17183-17199.
- Watson, J. and B. Beach. 2000. *The Wilderness Act Handbook*. 4th Edition. The Wilderness Society, Washington, D.C. 84 pp.
- Whitney, G.G. 1990. The history and status of the hemlock-hardwood forests of the Allegheny Plateau. *Journal of Ecology* 78: 443–458.



An impressive six-point buck, with doe, white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in the Allegheny National Forest.

Photo by Mike Bleech

appendix a: 1964 wilderness act

Public Law 88-577 — Sept. 3, 1964

An Act

To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Short Title

sec. 1. This Act may be cited as the “Wilderness Act” wilderness system established — statement of policy

sec. 2. (a) In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as “wilderness areas”, and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness; and no Federal lands shall be designated as “wilderness areas” except as provided for in this chapter or by a subsequent Act.

(b) The inclusion of an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System notwithstanding, the area shall continue to be managed by the Department and agency having jurisdiction thereover immediately before its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System unless otherwise provided by Act of Congress. No appropriation shall be available for the payment of expenses or salaries for the administration of the National Wilderness Preservation System as a separate unit nor shall any appropriations be available for additional personnel stated as being required solely for the purpose of managing or administering areas solely because they are included within the National Wilderness Preservation System.

definition of wilderness

(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this chapter an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

extent of system

sec. 3 (a) All areas within the national forests classified at least 30 days before September 3, 1964 by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as “wilderness”, “wild”, or “canoe”

are hereby designated as wilderness areas. The Secretary of Agriculture shall –

Within one year after September 3, 1964, file a map and legal description of each wilderness area with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and such descriptions shall have the same force and effect as if included in this chapter: Provided, however, That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal descriptions and maps may be made.

Maintain, available to the public, records pertaining to said wilderness areas, including maps and legal descriptions, copies of regulations governing them, copies of public notices of, and reports submitted to Congress regarding pending additions, eliminations, or modifications. Maps, legal descriptions, and regulations pertaining to wilderness areas within their respective jurisdictions also shall be available to the public in the offices of regional foresters, national forest supervisors, and forest rangers.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture shall, within ten years after September 3, 1964, review, as to its suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness, each area in the national forests classified on September 3, 1964 by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as “primitive” and report his findings to the President. The President shall advise the United States Senate and House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to the designation as “wilderness” or other reclassification of each area on which review has been completed, together with maps and a definition of boundaries. Such advice shall be given with respect to not less than one-third of all the areas now classified as “primitive” within three years after September 3, 1964, not less than two-thirds within seven years after September 3, 1964, and the remaining areas within ten years after September 3, 1964. Each recommendation of the President for designation as “wilderness” shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress. Areas classified as “primitive” on September 3, 1964 shall continue to be administered under the rules and regulations affecting such areas on September 3, 1964 until Congress has determined otherwise. Any such area may be increased in size by the President at the time he submits his recommendations to the Congress by not more than five thousand acres with no more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of such increase in any one compact unit; if it is proposed to increase the size of any such area by more than five thousand acres or by more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in any one compact unit the increase in size shall not become effective until acted upon by Congress. Nothing herein contained shall limit the President in proposing, as part of his recommendations to Congress, the alteration of existing boundaries of primitive areas or recommending the addition of any contiguous area of national forest lands predominantly of wilderness value. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the Secretary of Agriculture may complete his review and delete such area as may be necessary, but not to exceed seven thousand acres, from the southern tip of the Gore Range-Eagles Nest Primitive Area, Colorado, if the Secretary determines that such action is in the public interest.

(c) Within ten years after September 3, 1964 the Secretary of the Interior shall review every roadless area of five thousand contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments and other units of the national park system and every such area of, and every roadless island within the national wildlife refuges and game ranges, under his jurisdiction on September 3, 1964 and shall report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each such area or island for preservation as wilderness. The President shall advise the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of his recommendation with respect to the designation as wilderness of each such area or island on which

review has been completed, together with a map thereof and a definition of its boundaries. Such advice shall be given with respect to not less than one-third of the areas and islands to be reviewed under this subsection within three years after September 3, 1964, not less than two-thirds within seven years of September 3, 1964 and the remainder within ten years of September 3, 1964. A recommendation of the President for designation as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress. Nothing contained herein shall, by implication or otherwise, be construed to lessen the present statutory authority of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the maintenance of roadless areas within units of the national park system.

(d) (1) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall, prior to submitting any recommendations to the President with respect to the suitability of any area for preservation as wilderness –

give such public notice of the proposed action as they deem appropriate, including publication in the Federal Register and in a newspaper having general circulation in the area or areas in the vicinity of the affected land;

hold a public hearing or hearings at a location or locations convenient to the area affected. The hearings shall be announced through such means as the respective Secretaries involved deem appropriate, including notices in the Federal Register and in newspapers of general circulation in the area: Provided, That if the lands involved are located in more than one State, at least one hearing shall be held in each State in which a portion of the land lies;

at least thirty days before the date of a hearing advise the Governor of each State and the governing board of each county, or in Alaska the borough, in which the lands are located, and Federal departments and agencies concerned, and invite such officials and Federal agencies to submit their views on the proposed action at the hearing or by no later than thirty days following the date of the hearing.

Any views submitted to the appropriate Secretary under the provisions of (1) of this subsection with respect to any area shall be included with any recommendations to the President and to Congress with respect to such area.

(e) Any modification or adjustment of boundaries of any wilderness area shall be recommended by the appropriate Secretary after public notice of such proposal and public hearing or hearings as provided in subsection (d) of this section. The proposed modification or adjustment shall then be recommended with map and description thereof to the President. The President shall advise the United States Senate and the House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to such modification or adjustment and such recommendations shall become effective only in the same manner as provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

use of wilderness areas

SEC. 4. (a) The purposes of this chapter are hereby declared to be within and supplemental to the purposes for which national forests and units of the national park and national wildlife refuge systems are established and administered and –

(1) Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to be in interference with the purpose for which national forests are established as set forth in the Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 11), and the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of June 12, 1960 (74 Stat. 215) (16 U.S.C. 528-531).

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall modify the restrictions and provisions of the Shipstead-Nolan Act (Public Law 539, Seventy-first Congress, July 10, 1930; 46 Stat. 1020), the Thye-Blatnik Act (Public Law 733, Eightieth Congress, June 22, 1948; 62 Stat. 568), and the Humphrey-Thye-Blatnik-Andresen Act (Public Law 607, Eighty-Fourth Congress, June 22, 1956; 70 Stat. 326), as applying to

the Superior National Forest or the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) Nothing in this chapter shall modify the statutory authority under which units of the national park system are created. Further, the designation of any area of any park, monument, or other unit of the national park system as a wilderness area pursuant to this chapter shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation of such park, monument, or other unit of the national park system in accordance with sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this title, the statutory authority under which the area was created, or any other Act of Congress which might pertain to or affect such area, including, but not limited to, the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 432 et seq.); section 3(2) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796(2)); and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.

prohibition of certain uses

(c) Except as specifically provided for in this chapter, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this chapter and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this chapter (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.

special provisions

(d) The following special provisions are hereby made:

Within wilderness areas designated by this chapter the use of aircraft or motorboats, where these uses have already become established, may be permitted to continue subject to such restrictions as the Secretary of Agriculture deems desirable. In addition, such measures may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases, subject to such conditions as the Secretary deems desirable.

Nothing in this chapter shall prevent within national forest wilderness areas any activity, including prospecting, for the purpose of gathering information about mineral or other resources, if such activity is carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment. Furthermore, in accordance with such program as the Secretary of the Interior shall develop and conduct in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, such areas shall be surveyed on a planned, recurring basis consistent with the concept of wilderness preservation by the United States Geological Survey and the United States Bureau of Mines to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present; and the results of such surveys shall be made available to the public and submitted to the President and Congress.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, until midnight December 31, 1983, the United States mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing shall, to the same extent as applicable prior to September 3, 1964, extend to those national forest lands designated by this chapter as “wilderness areas”; subject, however, to such reasonable regulations governing ingress and egress as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture consistent with the use of the land for mineral location and development and explo-

ration, drilling, and production, and use of land for transmission lines, waterlines, telephone lines, or facilities necessary in exploring, drilling, producing, mining, and processing operations, including where essential the use of mechanized ground or air equipment and restoration as near as practicable of the surface of the land disturbed in performing prospecting, location, and, in oil and gas leasing, discovery work, exploration, drilling, and production, as soon as they have served their purpose. Mining locations lying within the boundaries of said wilderness areas shall be held and used solely for mining or processing operations and uses reasonably incident thereto; and hereafter, subject to valid existing rights, all patents issued under the mining laws of the United States affecting national forest lands designated by this chapter as wilderness areas shall convey title to the mineral deposits within the claim, together with the right to cut and use so much of the mature timber therefrom as may be needed in the extraction, removal, and beneficiation of the mineral deposits, if needed timber is not otherwise reasonably available, and if the timber is cut under sound principles of forest management as defined by the national forest rules and regulations, but each such patent shall reserve to the United States all title in or to the surface of the lands and products thereof, and no use of the surface of the claim or the resources therefrom not reasonably required for carrying on mining or prospecting shall be allowed except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter: Provided, That, unless hereafter specifically authorized, no patent within wilderness areas designated by this chapter shall issue after December 31, 1983, except for the valid claims existing on or before December 31, 1983. Mining claims located after September 3, 1964, within the boundaries of wilderness areas designated by this chapter shall create no rights in excess of those rights which may be patented under the provisions of this subsection. Mineral leases, permits, and licenses covering lands within national forest wilderness areas designated by this chapter shall contain such reasonable stipulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of the wilderness character of the land consistent with the use of the land for the purposes for which they are leased, permitted, or licensed. Subject to valid rights then existing, effective January 1, 1984, the minerals in lands designated by this chapter as wilderness areas are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing and all amendments thereto.

Within wilderness areas in the national forests designated by this chapter, (1) the President may, within a specific area and in accordance with such regulations as he may deem desirable, authorize prospecting for water resources, the establishment and maintenance of reservoirs, water-conservation works, power projects, transmission lines, and other facilities needed in the public interest, including the road construction and maintenance essential to development and use thereof, upon his determination that such use or uses in the specific area will better serve the interests of the United States and the people thereof than will its denial; and (2) the grazing of livestock, where established prior to September 3, 1964, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this chapter to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.

Nothing in this chapter shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the Federal Government as to exemption from State water laws.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several States with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests.

state and private lands within wilderness areas

SEC. 5. (a) In any case where State-owned or privately owned land is completely surrounded by national forest lands within areas designated by this chapter as wilderness, such State or private owner shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to such State-owned or privately owned land by such State or private owner and their successors in interest, or the State-owned land or privately owned land shall be exchanged for federally owned land in the same State of approximately equal value under authorities available to the Secretary of Agriculture: Provided, however, That the United States shall not transfer to a State or private owner any mineral interests unless the State or private owner relinquishes or causes to be relinquished to the United States the mineral interest in the surrounded land.

(b) In any case where valid mining claims or other valid occupancies are wholly within a designated national forest wilderness area, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, by reasonable regulations consistent with the preservation of the area as wilderness, permit ingress and egress to such surrounded areas by means which have been or are being customarily enjoyed with respect to other such areas similarly situated.

(c) Subject to the appropriation of funds by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to acquire privately owned land within the perimeter of any area designated by this chapter as wilderness if (1) the owner concurs in such acquisition or (2) the acquisition is specifically authorized by Congress.

gifts, bequests, and contributions

SEC. 6. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture may accept gifts or bequests of land within wilderness areas designated by this chapter for preservation as wilderness. The Secretary of Agriculture may also accept gifts or bequests of land adjacent to wilderness areas designated by this chapter for preservation as wilderness if he has given sixty days advance notice thereof to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Land accepted by the Secretary of Agriculture under this section shall be come part of the wilderness area involved. Regulations with regard to any such land may be in accordance with such agreements, consistent with the policy of this chapter, as are made at the time of such gift, or such conditions, consistent with such policy, as may be included in, and accepted with, such bequest.

(b) Authorization to accept private contributions and gifts The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept private contributions and gifts to be used to further the purposes of this chapter.

annual reports

SEC. 7. At the opening of each session of Congress, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior shall jointly report to the President for transmission to Congress on the status of the wilderness system, including a list and descriptions of the areas in the system, regulations in effect, and other pertinent information, together with any recommendations they may care to make. (16 U.S.C. 11 36)

approved september 3, 1964.

Legislative History:

House Reports: No 1538 accompanying H.R. 9070 (Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs) and No. 1829 (Committee of Conference).

Senate report: No. 109 (Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs).

Congressional Record: Vol. 109 (1963):

April 4, 8, considered in Senate.

April 9, considered and passed Senate.

Vol. 110 (1964): July 28, considered in House.

July 30, considered & passed House, amended, in lieu of HR 9070

August 20, House and Senate agreed to conference report.

appendix b: 1984 pennsylvania wilderness act

Public Law 98-585 – Oct. 30, 1984

An Act

To designate certain areas in the Allegheny National Forest as wilderness and recreation areas.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the “Pennsylvania Wilderness Act of 1984”.

findings

sec. 2. The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) there is an urgent need to identify and protect natural areas to meet the recreational needs of Americans;

(2) certain lands within the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania are worthy of inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

(3) certain other lands within the Allegheny National Forest are suitable for designation as a national recreational area.

purpose

sec. 3. It is the purpose of this Act to—

(1) establish the Allegheny Islands Wilderness and the Hickory Creek Wilderness;

(2) establish the Allegheny National Recreation Area so as to ensure the preservation and protection of the area’s natural, scenic, scientific, historic, archaeological, ecological, educational, watershed, and wildlife values and to provide for the enhancement of recreational opportunities, particularly undeveloped recreational opportunities; and

(3) ensure that any mineral exploration and development that takes place within the recreation area is done in an environmental-sound manner.

wilderness designations

sec. 4. In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), the following lands in the State of Pennsylvania are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) certain lands in the Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania, which comprise approximately three hundred and sixty-eight acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Allegheny Islands Wilderness – Proposed”, dated March 1984, composed of Crulls Island, Thompsons Island, R. Thompsons Island, Courson Island, King Island, Baker Island, and No Name Island, and which shall be known as the Allegheny Islands Wilderness; and

(2) certain lands in the Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania, which comprise approximately nine thousand three hundred and thirty-seven acres as generally depicted on a map entitled “Hickory Creek Wilderness—Proposed”, dated March 1984, and which shall be known as the Hickory Creek Wilderness.

administration of wilderness

sec. 5. (a) Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated by this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provision of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) As provided in section 4(d)(8) of the Wilderness Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State of Pennsylvania with respect to wildlife and fish in the Allegheny National Forest in the State of Pennsylvania.

(c)(1) The Secretary is authorized to acquire by purchase, donation, or exchange, with donated or appropriated funds, such lands

or interests in lands (including oil, gas, and other mineral interests and scenic easements) within the wilderness areas designated by this Act as the Secretary deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act. Such lands and interests in lands may be acquired only with the consent of the owner thereof.

(2) Not more than \$2,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of acquiring, in accordance with this subsection, lands and interests in lands in the wilderness areas designated by this Act.

allegheny national recreation area

sec. 6. (a) In furtherance of the findings and purposes of this Act certain lands in the Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania which comprise approximately twenty-three thousand one hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled “Allegheny National Recreation Area—Proposed”, dated March 1984, are hereby designated as the Allegheny National Recreation Area (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “national recreation area”). The Secretary of Agriculture may revise the boundaries of the national recreation area to correct errors or to include additional lands acquired adjacent to the area.

(b) The national recreation area shall be managed for the purposes of—

(1) outdoor recreation including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking, camping, nature study, and the use of motorized and nonmotorized boats on the Allegheny Reservoir;

(2) the conservation of fish and wildlife populations & habitat;

(3) the protection of watersheds and the maintenance of free flowing streams and the quality of ground and surface waters in accordance with applicable law;

(4) the conservation of scenic, cultural, and other natural values of the area;

(5) allowing the development of privately owned oil, gas, and mineral resources subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by the Secretary under subsection (c) for the protection of the area; and

(6) minimizing, to the extent practicable, environmental disturbances caused by resource development, consistent with the exercise of private property rights.

(c) The Secretary shall administer the national recreation area in accordance with the purposes described in subsection (b) and the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System. Subject to valid existing rights, any activity associated with the exploration, development, or transportation of oil, gas, or other minerals shall be subject to such reasonable conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, and in accordance with the management plan described in subsection (d), to achieve the purposes, described in subsection (b), of the national recreation area. For any such activity, the Secretary shall require a plan of operations which shall include provisions for adequate reclamation, including, to the extent practicable, revegetation and rehabilitation after each phase of operations is completed.

(d) The Secretary shall prepare, and may from time to time amend, a management plan for the national recreation area. The plan may be prepared in conjunction with, or incorporated with ongoing planning for the Allegheny National Forest in accordance with the National Forest Management Act of 1976. The initial management plan and significant amendments or revisions shall be accompanied by an environmental impact statement prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

(e) The Secretary shall permit hunting, fishing, and trapping within the boundaries of the national recreation area in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws except that the Secretary may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting, fishing, or trapping shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any prohibitions or restrictions made pursuant to this subsec-

tion shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate State fish and game department.

(f) Subject to valid existing rights, the minerals in all federally owned lands within the national recreation area designated by this Act are withdrawn from, all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing, including all laws pertaining to geothermal leasing, and all amendments thereto.

(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to or have any effect on any other management area of the National Forest System, including any wilderness area or any other national recreation area.

maps and descriptions

sec. 7. As soon as practicable after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and a legal description of the national recreation area and of each wilderness area designated by this Act with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the United States Senate. Each such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that correction of clerical and typographical errors in such maps and descriptions may be made by the Secretary. Each such map and description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

effect of rare ii

sec. 8. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) the Department of Agriculture has completed the second roadless area review and evaluation program (RARE II); and

(2) the Congress has made its own review and examination of National Forest System roadless areas in the State of Pennsylvania, and of the environmental impacts associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

(b) On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby determines and directs that—

(1) without passing on the question of the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to National Forest System lands in States other than Pennsylvania, such statement shall not be subject to judicial review with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Pennsylvania;

(2) with respect to the National Forest System lands in the State of Pennsylvania which were reviewed by the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands referred to in subsection (d), that review and evaluation or reference shall be deemed for the purposes of the initial land management plans required for such lands by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, to be an adequate consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Department of Agriculture shall not be required to review the wilderness option prior to the revisions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness option when the plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every fifteen years, unless, prior to such time, the Secretary of Agriculture finds that conditions in a unit have significantly changed;

(3) areas in the State of Pennsylvania reviewed in such final environmental statement or referenced in subsection (d) and not designated as wilderness or for special management under section 6 of this Act upon enactment of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in accordance with land management plans pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of

1976: *Provided*, That such areas need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of the initial land management plans; and

(4) in the event that revised land management plans in the State of Pennsylvania are implemented pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness designation need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas recommended for wilderness designation shall be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation as may be required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law.

(c) As used in this section, and as provided in section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the term "revision" shall not include an "amendment" to a plan.

(d) The provisions of this section shall also apply to National Forest System roadless lands in the State of Pennsylvania which are less than five thousand acres in size.

buffer zones

sec. 9. The Congress does not intend that the designation of a wilderness area under this Act lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around such wilderness area. The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within a wilderness shall not preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area.

approved October 30, 1984.

Legislative History—H.R. 5076:

House Report No. 98-713, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

Senate Report No. 98-616 (Comm. on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry).

Congressional Record, Vol. 130 (1984):

May 1, considered and passed House.

Oct. 2, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Oct. 4, House agreed to Senate amendment.

appendix c:
support for anf wilderness from former pennsylvania
senators hugh scott & richard schweiker

HUGH SCOTT
PENNSYLVANIA

MARTIN G. HAMBERGER
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
EDITH V. SKINNER
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 19, 1973

Ms. Helen McGinnis
1561 Clark Street
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15221

Dear Ms. McGinnis:

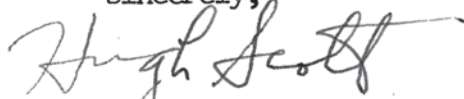
Thank you for advising me of your support for the inclusion of four areas in the Allegheny National Forest in the proposed Eastern Wilderness bill. I appreciate your interest in this matter and I share your concern.

You will be pleased to know that Senator Schweiker and I have asked the Senate Interior Committee to add the following areas to the bill: Hickory Creek, Minister Creek, Tracy Ridge and Allegheny Front. I am hopeful that the Committee will support our recommendations.

You can count on my continued support for this proposal when it reaches the Senate floor.

With good wishes,

Sincerely,



Hugh Scott
United States Senator

NEWS

from U.S. Senator HUGH SCOTT, Pennsylvania

Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6324



RELEASE WEDNESDAY, May 8, 1974

5/3/74

U. S. Senator Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) said today Senate committee approval of his amendment adding wilderness study areas in the Allegheny National Forest is a first step toward "protecting some of Pennsylvania's most precious natural resources."

The Senate Republican Leader and Senator Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.) had urged study of additional acreage in an amendment to the Eastern Wilderness Act in January.

The Senators had asked that 10,000 acres in Allegheny Front (Warren County) be added for study, and that proposed reductions in study areas in Hickory Creek (Warren County) and Tracy Ridge (Warren and Forest Counties) not be made.

Scott was notified by Senator Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, that the committee had approved the amendment.

Besides adding Allegheny Front, the amendment calls for study areas of 11,200 acres (instead of 8,200) in Hickory Creek (Warren County) and of 10,000 acres (instead of 7,900) in Tracy Ridge (Warren and Forest Counties).

When he introduced the amendment, Scott said the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club had recommended the Allegheny Front area for study because of its "high wilderness qualities."

###

CONTACT: Bob Hetherington
202, 225-6324
703, 280-4221

appendix c:
scott & schweiker support (continued)

RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER
PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 21, 1973

Miss Helen McGinnis
1561 Clark St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15221

Dear Miss McGinnis:

Thank you for letting me know your interest in S. 316, the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act.

As you may know, I am a cosponsor of this legislation. The bill would further the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964 by designating certain lands, many in the east, for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The measure is currently pending before the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee.

I have contacted the chairman of the committee to express my support for the designation of four areas of the Allegheny National Forest as wilderness study areas.

Your contacting me concerning this matter is very much appreciated. I share your concern about designation of the Allegheny National Forest areas, and will give this legislation my close attention when it is reported from the Interior Committee to the full Senate, to be sure that Pennsylvania is not overlooked.

Sincerely,




Richard S. Schweiker
United States Senator

RSS:cr

appendix d:
1986 anf forest plan management area legend

Management Area Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Mixed even-aged forest with a large aspen component; wildlife species emphasis on grouse as well as other early successional species; roaded recreation environment, roads generally open except for seasonal closures.</p> <p>2 Uneven-aged hardwood forest; wildlife associated with shade tolerant vegetation, particularly non-game species; roaded recreation environment with roads generally open except for seasonal closures.</p> <p>3 Even-aged hardwood forest; associated wildlife species, particularly big-game; roaded recreation environment with most roads closed except for seasonal openings.</p> <p>5 Area designated Wilderness and managed to protect wilderness values.</p> <p>6.1 Forest area managed primarily for semi-primitive motorized dispersed recreation opportunities and wildlife species such as turkey, bear, cavity-nesting birds and mammals. Most roads closed except for seasonal openings.</p> | <p>6.2 Even-aged hardwoods, logging activities limited to one decade every 40 years; associated wildlife species, particularly big-game; semi-primitive non-motorized recreation emphasis between harvesting decades. All roads closed.</p> <p>6.3 Strong wildlife emphasis with interspersed wildlife openings, ponds, pot-holes, conifer stands, and hardwood stands; emphasize riparian wildlife species such as, waterfowl and warm-water fish; semi-primitive motorized recreation environment with roads closed.</p> <p>6.4 Area designated and managed as the Allegheny National Recreation Area.</p> <p>7 Large-scale developed recreation areas or resorts.</p> <p>8 Protection and management of unique scenic, research, or natural areas having National significance.</p> <p>9.1 Forest area managed with minimal investments only to protect the environment and the incidental forest user.</p> <p> Recreation Facility Construction/Expansion. The number within the symbol is keyed to a brief facility description in Table 4-3 on page 4-6 of the Final EIS.</p> |
|---|--|

Taken from U.S. Forest Service (1986).

| Index | |
|---------|------------------|
| PG 2 | Vital Statistics |
| PG 3 | County/Region |
| PG 4 | Opinion |
| PG 5 | Community |
| PG 6 | Business |
| PG 7 | Nation/World |
| PG 8, 9 | Sports |
| PG 10 | Comics/Crossword |
| PG 11 | Help/Club |
| PG 12 | Classifieds |

The Titusville Herald

Established June 14, 1865. Oldest Daily Newspaper in Northwestern Pennsylvania



TITUSVILLE, PA

TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 7, 2001

50 CENTS

FOR CONSERVATION LEADER

Historical marker being dedicated

TIONESTA — The life and work of a Tionesta native being named one of the country's greatest conservation leaders will be celebrated next week with the dedication of a historical marker in the region.

The marker, honoring Howard Zahniser, will be unveiled by leaders of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and national conservation groups at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13, on State Route 62, a mile and a half north of Tionesta.

Howard Zahniser was a lifelong advocate of wilderness and wildlands protection

as well as an early proponent of a national policy for wilderness preservation on America's public lands.

He served as executive director of the Wilderness Society from 1945 to 1964 and was chief architect of the Wilderness Act, which was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

The Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation system, which includes two Wilderness areas on the Allegheny National Forest: Allegheny Islands Wilderness and Hickory Creek Wilderness.

"We are excited to have been able to work with the Zahniser family, Forest County Historical Society, the PHMC and representatives of The Wilderness Society and Pew Wilderness Center to pay tribute to Howard Zahniser and his amazing contribution to protection of our public lands," said Kirk Johnson of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness.

"We hope to further Zahniser's wilderness vision by working to designate additional Wilderness areas on the ANF."

Speakers planned for the dedication ceremony and

reception include Ed Zahniser and Matt Zahniser, sons of Howard Zahniser; U.S. Cong. John Peterson; and Darrell Knuffke of The Wilderness Society, vice-president for regional conservation.

"Pennsylvania has always been home to some of our nation's greatest conservationists and none is greater than Howard Zahniser," said Knuffke.

"We owe him a great debt of gratitude for all his work to protect Wilderness both throughout the country and right here in Pennsylvania."

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT NEWSPAPERS

50 CENTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2001

VOL. 75, NO. 150 12/27/01 • FINAL

Green vs. green

A sensible path to Allegheny Forest wilderness

In northwest Pennsylvania lies the Allegheny National Forest — 513,000 acres of woodland used by hunters, hikers, campers, loggers and oil and gas explorers. About 75 miles from Pittsburgh, the land is a natural resource in Forest, Elk, McKean and Warren counties whose many uses under the law deserve strong protection and wise stewardship.

The U.S. Forest Service, as required by law, will revise within the next few years its resource management plan, the blueprint that determines how the forest will be used in the future. If the new plan has any value, it will significantly expand the forest's wilderness area.

"Wilderness" is a technical designation given by Congress to specific tracts of federally owned land for the purpose of preserving, or allowing it to return to, its natural state. In practical terms, that means a wilderness area in Allegheny National Forest may not be logged or drilled for oil or natural gas. Its roads would not only be closed but also obliterated. It would not contain a building or structure, though visitors would be welcome to hunt, fish, hike and explore. In short, it would exist — and be experienced — only in the way that the first humans found it.

Although the United States has vast wilderness areas — as of July 2000, 105 million acres — only two-tenths of 1 percent of them can be found in the 11 eastern states between Maine and Maryland. In the Allegheny National Forest, about 9,000 acres (less than 2 percent), is designated as wilderness. That compares with 18 percent of federally owned lands nationwide and 10 percent of federal lands in the East.

Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness, the Sierra Club and other groups are promoting a plan that would ask Congress, when it comes time to approve the next forest management plan, to expand the wilderness area to 8 percent of total acreage.

The proposed wilderness would include some old-growth forest that has never been logged, habitats where animal populations would benefit from less human activity and other tracts that would provide primitive recreation opportunities.

On paper and in theory, the wilderness expansion plan is a good one — and Pennsylvania's two senators and U.S. Rep. John Peterson, the Venango Republican whose House district includes the forest, should give it due consideration. But it will take additional study before Pennsylvanians can be sure of the plan's environmental and economic impact. Those results must also be factored into the equation.

Since federal law reserves national forests for a variety of uses — some of them economic and some which, quite frankly, sustain whole communities — we see no reason to take an extremist position when multiple tracts and thousands of acres are involved. Some could easily, and deservedly, become wilderness; others will not go without a fight from lawyers and lobbyists.

In the end, it may take a negotiated compromise — one that balances the acres most worthy of protection with those most valuable for mineral extraction — to get Congress to act on a wider wilderness designation. With Rep. Peterson and Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness willing to weigh the competing interests, the proposal is off to a promising start.

Serving All Of Warren County



TIMES OBSERVER

Series begins today
Page B-5



20 Pages

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2002

50¢

A-4

Times Observer

Opinion / Commentary

Tuesday
February 19, 2002

Our opinion: Merit in wilderness

There's considerable merit in a proposal being advanced by the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness to include additional wilderness areas in the next version of the Allegheny National Forest's management plan.

Currently there are two designated wilderness areas on the Allegheny, the Hickory Creek Wilderness and the Allegheny Islands Wilderness. Together, these two areas total about 9,000 acres, less than two percent of the total national forest.

Even by the standards of other eastern national forests, where wilderness areas average in the neighborhood of 10 percent of the total forest, the amount of protected land on the Allegheny is miserly.

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness would like to increase the amount of protected land on the Allegheny to somewhere near the standard of other national forests in the East. To accomplish that, the group proposes studying a number of areas for possible wilderness designation, including the Tionesta Scenic Area, the Allegheny Front and Tracy Ridge recreational areas, and some roadless areas along the Clarion River.

That study deserves public support for several reasons.

In terms of significance, the Tionesta Scenic Area is the largest tract of old growth forest between the Adirondacks and the Smokey Mountains and one of the finest remaining examples of the original Eastern forest. As such, it deserves

protection.

In terms of politics, the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness represents a reasonable alternative to the all-or-nothing tactics of Allegheny Defense Project, which seeks to ban logging and other resource use on the entire forest.

In terms of economics, the proposed wilderness areas would have minimal impact on the timber industry but could have a significant economic benefit in terms of forest visitor use, providing far more opportunity for the type of dispersed forest recreation which has generated considerable income for the local areas around many other national forests in the East.

The idea clearly merits further study.

www.centredaily.com
**CENTRE
DAILY TIMES**
Saturday September 21, 2002
50 cents

Protecting the Allegheny will strengthen the area

By Kirk Johnson

Though many of us are not necessarily aware of it, we have lost a significant amount of America's natural heritage over the last 500 years. This is particularly true in the East, where the majority of the nation's population resides. Famed conservationist and forester Aldo Leopold once wrote, "One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds."

Pre-settlement Allegheny Plateau forests northwest of present-day Centre County were sparsely populated and heavily wooded. Towering old-growth stands of hemlock, beech, white pine and American chestnut covered most of the plateau. However, from 1890 to 1920, intense logging, which the U.S. Forest Service has referred to as "the highest degree of forest utilization in any commercial lumbering era," denuded the entire plateau.

The Allegheny National Forest was established in the aftermath of this cutting in 1923 to promote the reforestation and protection of the Allegheny River watershed, augment outdoor recreation opportunities, assure future timber production and for other purposes. Federally owned land in the ANF currently encompasses 513,000 acres.

The need to designate permanent wilderness areas on Forest Service lands for the permanent good of the whole people was identified by Leopold in the *Journal of Forestry* in 1921. This notion has been confirmed by the U.S. Congress, not once with the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act establishing our National Wilderness Preservation System, but over 100 times subsequently, with laws protecting wilderness on federal land throughout the country.

Originally 9 million acres with the passage of the Wilderness Act, the preservation system has since grown to more than 105 million acres. There is no question that wilderness protection is a right and proper component of federal public land management.

Former U.S. Representative John P. Saylor, R-Johnstown, the original sponsor of the Wilderness Act in Congress, once said, "We Americans are who we are largely because we have had the influence of the wilderness on our lives."

The Wilderness Act was in large measure conceived and shepherded through Congress by Tionesta native and Wilderness Society Executive Director Howard Zahniser. Unfortunately, very little wilderness acreage lies in the ANF — Pennsylvania's only national forest and the land that Zahniser loved as a youth. Two wilderness areas totaling 9,000 acres — Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands — protect less than 2 percent of the ANF's acreage. The mean nationally for Forest Service land

Rep. John Peterson should be applauded for taking a close look at designating additional Allegheny National Forest wilderness.

designated as wilderness is 18 percent. And, in fact, a number of wild areas still exist here; they could easily make the transition to the preservation system without upheaval to the local timber or oil and gas industries, including a 4,100-acre parcel of old-growth near Kane. Such designations would actually strengthen and diversify the regional economy.

Revision of the 1986 ANF Forest Plan will begin later this fall. This is a 15-year document dictating management direction and priorities for the entire forest. The Forest Service should make significant wilderness additions a main focus as they deliberate on what is to be changed from the 1986 document to the newly revised plan. The 1986 Forest Plan, in fact, concedes that "it seems obvious that the demand for wilderness designation on the Forest is high and the available supply in the regional area is low."

Should additional areas of the ANF be designated as wilderness, by the inevitable process of natural succession they would approach old-growth conditions over time. They would be protecting water quality and wildlife habitat, and leaving a unique Allegheny Plateau wilderness experience for future generations of hunters, fishermen, backpackers and others to enjoy. They would also serve as valuable reference areas for scientists to assess the effect of management activities on ecological processes elsewhere.

Rep. John Peterson, R-Pleasantville, should be applauded for taking a close look at designating additional ANF wilderness to permanently protect western Pennsylvania's native flora and fauna, advance the region's economy, and as a way of balancing wilderness protection with other forest uses. As much as 40,000 additional acres would be appropriate. This would bring the ANF closer to 10 percent designated as wilderness, a figure commensurate with other eastern national forests, and would be a decisive step toward healing some of the ecological wounds of the recent past.

Kirk Johnson is executive director of the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness in Warren.

The Patriot-News

December 20, 2002

FOREST'S FUTURE

Extending wilderness protection would aid Allegheny's treasure

Allegheny National Forest sprawls across 513,000 acres in northwest Pennsylvania, its future about to be decided as the U.S. Forest Service prepares to revise its 16-year-old management plan.

This is Pennsylvania's only national forest. And it is among the most intensively exploited in the entire system. Logging, oil and gas extraction have long taken place here and are part of the backbone

Only 2% of Allegheny National Forest has been designated as wilderness area

of the region's economy.

But not all of this forest is in such use. While only 9,000 acres — less than 2

percent of the forest — are protected as wilderness, upward of 50,000 additional acres may qualify for such protection.

The Forest Service should give serious consideration to recommending that wilderness protection be accorded to what remains of Allegheny's significant blocks of wild areas.

Of course, the extractive industries don't want one additional acre put out of reach of a chain saw. The head of the timber industry in the area has gone so far as to suggest that what little wilderness protection exists in Allegheny should be revoked.

National Forests are intended for multiple uses, including logging, mineral extraction, recreation, watershed protection and wilderness preservation. Clearly, the one area in Allegheny that has been shortchanged is the latter.

Nationally, about 18 percent of National Forest acreage has been given wilderness protection. For National Forests in the East, about 10 percent of the forest land is protected wilderness.

The less than 2 percent in Allegheny just doesn't cut it.

This is a forest that lies within a day's drive of tens of millions of Americans, who increasingly are looking for places where they can experience nature, where they can see wild plants and animals in their undisturbed natural setting, and where they can gain some sense of what this great nation was like when the pioneers first pushed across the Alleghenies.

You can try, but in the end you can't put a dollar value on the worth and benefits of untrampled nature. The argument is made that expanded wilderness will attract more visitors, who will spend dollars in the local economy and create jobs. And that is doubtless true. But this can't be about money because no one can calculate the entirety of benefits that wilderness provides, especially as truly wild land becomes increasingly scarce.

There is nothing radical about the proposed expansion of protected areas in the Allegheny National Forest. Back in 1974, Pennsylvania's two senators, Hugh Scott and Richard Schweiker, actively and enthusiastically sought official wilderness designation for as much as 50,000 acres in Allegheny, but it was not to be.

That missed opportunity should not be repeated. Those 50,000 acres that still contain sufficient wild characteristics to qualify for wilderness designation under the more liberal rules that apply to National Forests in the East need to be protected this time around.

Given the present and past aggressive exploitation of the Allegheny National Forest, such an opportunity may never come to Pennsylvania again.

2003 production note

This document was first designed & typeset in 2003 by J. Chadwick Johnson (online at www.uninsane.com) using Bembo and Foundry Sans typefaces in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Printing of the first run was completed by Triune Color in Cinnaminson, New Jersey.

2008 production note

This second printing was completed by Seneca Printing Express, Inc., in Franklin, Pennsylvania. Little has been changed from the original document, with the exception of correcting some grammatical and punctuation errors.

The listed size of, and number of wilderness areas contained within, the National Wilderness Preservation System has been updated to reflect current information as of December 2008 (page eight).

This printing could not have been completed without the extreme generosity of the Fund for Wild Nature, and an anonymous individual supporter of Friends of Allegheny Wilderness.