

HELLBENDER JOURNAL

The Activist Journal of the
Allegheny Defense Project



Cryptobranchus alleganiensis, the Hellbender

Vol. 4, No. 3

Defending Allegheny Forests

Winter Issue 1998-99

ENDANGERED INDIANA BAT CONFIRMED ON ALLEGHENY!

Lawsuit Filed to Protect Endangered Species from Extinction

by Jim Kleissler

On January 21, 1999, Allegheny Defense Project (ADP) Attorney William V. Luneburg presented oral arguments in Pittsburgh Federal Court asking for Federal Judge Donetta Ambrose to stop all active timber cuts on the Allegheny National Forest. A motion asking for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against 61 active timber cutting projects had been filed on December 21, 1998.

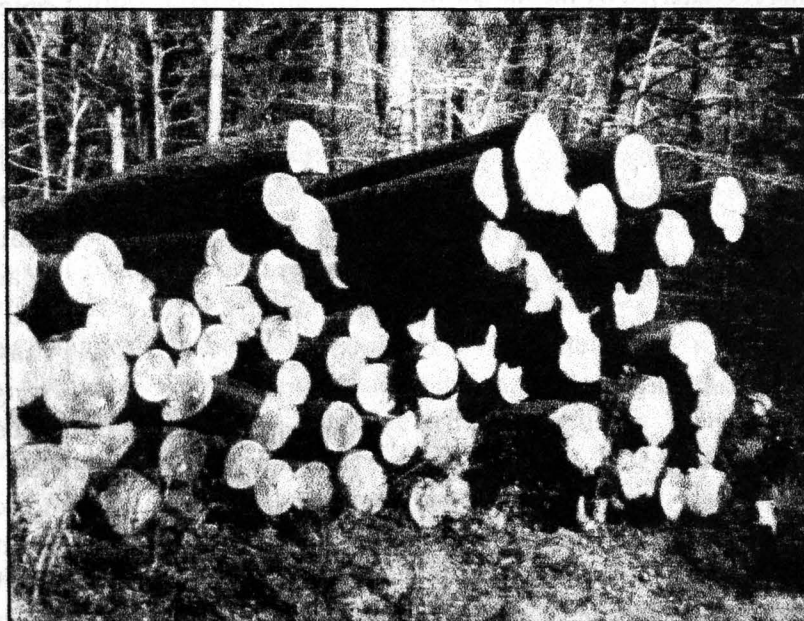


photo by Rachel Martin

Dr. David Pistole, a physiological ecologist, testified that the Forest Service's Biological Assessment and 7(d) Decision as required under the Endangered Species Act were "scientifically flawed." The 7(d) Decision documented the Forest Service's opinion that continued cutting would not harm the Indiana Bats. Forest Service Wildlife Biologist Brad Nelson testified to the Forest Service's destructive conclusion. Nelson testified that the Forest Service has *always* assumed that the Indiana Bat is present when considering impacts on the endangered bat. In cross-examining Brad Nelson, Luneburg raised the fact that Forest Service Biological Evaluations repeatedly drew conclusions based on the idea that the Indiana Bat wasn't present.

After a 6 hour hearing including both men's testimonies Judge Ambrose ruled that both a TRO and Preliminary Injunction would not be granted. The Judge's decision seemed to weight heavily on the testimony of Forest Service Wild-

life Biologist Brad Nelson and the declaration by Forest Service lawyers that logging *would* stop on April 1. In her findings of fact, Judge Ambrose emphasized that the Forest Service had stated and represented that logging would stop on April 1st.

The TRO was the latest part of a federal lawsuit filed to protect five endangered species: the Indiana Bat, Bald Eagle, Small Whorled

Pogonia (an orchid), Clubshell Mussel, and Northern Riffleshell Mussel. While the focus of the lawsuit was on the Indiana Bat, the current consultation process involving the US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will provide major benefits for all species on the forest. Already the USFWS has provided scores of scathing comments on the Forest Service's forestry plans regarding endangered species. Many of these comments address eco-

***...Judge Ambrose emphasized
that the Forest Service had
stated and represented that log-
ging will stop on April 1st.***

logical issues raised by the Allegheny Defense Project and Heartwood for years. If taken into account they will greatly reduce the ecological damage currently being caused by Forest Service practices.

The presence of Indiana Bats on the Allegheny was verified this summer by researchers working in conjunction with the Forest Service. After years of denying that the bats were here, this summer's research represented the first genuine effort by the agency to actually

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RHETORIC FROM YOUR FRIENDLY EDITOR!

DEAR ALLEGHENY SUPPORTERS,

Finally, the latest Hellbender Journal has made it into your mailbox after a long quiet fall. But don't think it's because we haven't been busy. In fact, we've never been busier. As these pages unfold before you we hope that you are as excited by the progress of our work as we are. It has been a truly stupendous 6 months with no shortage of victories - including the wonderful discovery of endangered Indiana Bats on the Allegheny! While we've always argued that they were there, the Forest Service has finally looked, and behold found them!

Thanks to everyone for letters that were sent in support of our attorneys. They have continued to represent us in a non-compromising fashion! As I write this we are coming off of an intense 6 hour Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) hearing this past Thursday that we hoped would stop all cutting on the Allegheny National Forest. This is the latest in legal battles over the Forest Service's economic and ecological abuse of our forests. ADP, as you will see, is also party to a national lawsuit challenging the Forest Service' failure to comply with the Resource Planning Act of 1975. While our TRO efforts fell short, logging will stop on April 1 until formal consultation is completed on the Allegheny.

For Indiana Bats and bald eagles, northern riffleshell and clubshell mussels,
for small whorled pogonias and all other endangered species,
Yours truly,

JAMES KLEISSLER, Editor

Deadline For Next Issue: February 28, 1999

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The Hellbender Journal

Vol. 4, No. 3

Winter Issue, 1998-9

*The Allegheny Defense Project
is a bio-regional organization
dedicated to finding community
based solutions for restoring
the ecological integrity and
building sustainable economies
benefiting the health of
all forest communities in the
Allegheny Forests.*

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The Hellbender Journal is a voice for citizens working towards the protection of Allegheny Forests. Our purpose is to keep folks informed with what's happening on the forest while helping to share information, strategies, and ideas that strengthen our resistance against oppressors of the forest.

Please send us your articles, drawings, photographs, poems, songs, ideas, info, and so on. We need help to keep the struggle going. Remember that you're all free to contact us with questions, ideas, comments, or even just to chat. And remember to spread the word about what you read here!

Send your submissions to:

The Allegheny Defense Project
P.O. Box 245
Clarion, PA 16214
814/764-5763
adp@envirolink.org
<http://www.enviroweb.org/adp/>

Contributors, both physical and mental:

Allegheny Earth First!, David Agranov, Mary Angeline, Bill & Mary Belitskus, Mike Bellinger, Lauren Bond, Alina Buggie, Peter Chowla, Kelly Compeau, Susan Curry, David, Reginald Darling, Theresa Darling, Eric Deen, Alexander Denmark, Tim Doody, Tara Doran, Andrew George, Mark Goldberger, Brian Hires, Shannon Hughes, John Jonik, Mike and Elly Kaizar, John A. Keslick, Jr., Jim Kleissler, Rachel Martin, Joe Martin, Jonah McGreevy, Patricia Meeley, Native Forest Network, Matt Peters, Brooke Smokelin, Josh Raisley, Cohn, and Margaret Young.

Hellbender Journal

CAMO

by Reg Darling

I wasn't hunting, but since I am a hunter, moving quietly is a long-standing habit. The camouflage I wore was simply the visual component of my quietness. I carried a longbow and wore a Lakota-style quiver under my daypack. I wasn't following a trail; I seldom do unless I'm very tired or making the first tentative explorations of new territory.

The young couple, clothed in candy-colored nylon, was visible long before they saw me. To avoid startling them at close range, I moved into the open, across the trail they were walking, as they approached.

I always have a bow with me in the woods and I always wear camouflage. I consider stump shooting to be one of life's basic pleasures, as well as the best practice for a hunter. It's not just a matter of shooting at unknown ranges -- carrying the bow cultivates a balance and grace in your gait that you'll need if you're ever to rely on anything more than dumb luck to get within bow range of a whitetail.

Strangers often pass by without seeing me; I only reveal myself as a matter of courtesy, to avoid startling someone. The courtesy is seldom recognized by anyone other than fellow hunters. Sometimes, I remain invisible for the same reason. Here in Pennsylvania, where there are wild places but not wilderness, respect for solitude of others is essential to the enjoyment and preservation of what remains of our land's wildness.

The man was carrying an infant in a backpack carrier. Both he and the woman glowered at me with obvious contempt. I smiled, said "Hi," and moved on.

Their reaction bothered me. Although it wasn't the first or the last time I've seen such responses -- college-age backpackers in particular (again the candy-colored nylon) seem prone to be

visibly dismayed, annoyed, or offended by the sudden presence of a camo-clad barbarian -- I wasn't used to it.

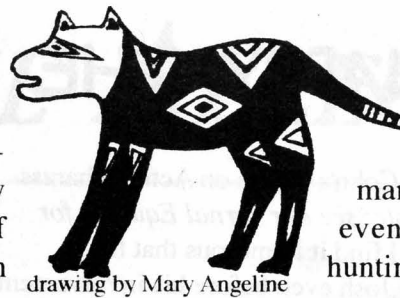
Perhaps it was the cumulative effect of several such incidents in a period of a few weeks. Encounters with other people are usually rare on my weekend hikes, but I'd been exploring an area traversed by a well-known and well-traveled hiking trail.

I asked several friends, both hunters and non-hunters, if they thought it was the bow or the camouflage that elicited the negative reactions. Everyone agreed; it was the camouflage. The longbow was probably seen as an oddity, or maybe it contributed somewhat to an already bad impression -- confirmed their suspicion of violent tendencies, if not actual intentions.

Being sensitive to the politically incorrect social position we hunters occupy, I considered changing the way I dress for my outings. I didn't want to contribute in any way to a worsening of our already embattled situation, and I certainly take no pleasure in offending other people, especially those with whom I share a love of the forest, however misguided they may be in other respects. That love is, after all, a very large common ground. Introducing one's infant child to the forest, for example, is something I respect and admire.

I thought about it, worked those thoughts out in my journal, and shared them with my two best friends -- one a hunter, the other a non-hunting hiker. After our discussion, the non-hunter asked to borrow catalogs so he could order camouflage clothes.

I won't give up my camouflage. I am not one of those pathetic, twisted souls who get some sort of fantasy thrill out of looking like a commando, nor



drawing by Mary Angeline

am I one of those "sportsmen" who hunt as if it were mock warfare. I understand the misgivings many people have about it, but even if I was to (gasp!) stop hunting, I still wouldn't give up my camouflage. (I'd keep my tree stand too, but that's another story.)

I will not give up my camouflage because those who are offended by it are wrong, wrong in a way that runs far deeper than the simple-minded discomfort they feel when they encounter someone like me in the woods.

The purpose of my camouflage is a conscious, functional gentleness in my relationship with the land and the creatures, human and non-human alike, who live in it. I seek always to minimize the impact of my presence -- not merely to stalk my prey but as a matter of treating this land, these places I love, with reverence, courtesy, and respect. I try to avoid broadcasting a harsh alien presence that would send ripples of fear radiating out through the forest around me. I can feel those ripples and the silences that follow them, as can anyone who knows the woods well enough without knowing how to be truly quiet. The land will not fully disclose itself to the careless.

Walking through wild places clothed in bright, conspicuous, wholly unnatural colors and noisy fabric is an act of careless, unthinking violence (perhaps the most dangerous kind). I see most of the hikers I encounter long before they see me, if, in fact they ever see me. They generate so much noise (both auditory and visual) that their presence relates to the surrounding environment as does an ambulance racing through a city with its lights flashing and siren wailing. There is an unnatural silence all around their noise. Sometimes I can feel that approaching wave of silence even before I see the bright purple, acid green, and swimming pool aqua flashing down the trail.

DEAR SNAPPY THE HELLBENDER,

Dear Hellbender,

I write in response to Mr. Cohn's article on Activist harassment on the Allegheny (*ed. note: see our Vernal Equinox for Josh Raisler Cohn's article*). I find it humorous that the harassers were intimidated by Josh even before his involvement in the Willamette action in October that has been so widely published in the local papers in the recent months. Either these people are extremely paranoid or they are psychic. I vote for paranoid. Josh seems to be getting quite the reputation as being the "bad man." What I found to be most disturbing is that the corporations even have control over the police. If the police are supposed to protect us it is frightening that they are being paid off as well. Not as if the police are generally friendly to activists anyway. In my limited activist activity, I have not as of yet been threatened and I certainly pray I can handle it as well as Josh seems to have.

Keep on keepin' on,
Bubba the treehugger

Dear Bent All To Hell,

My superiors have asked me to write to you to protest your policy of exclusion. Your last strategy meeting announcement states "No industry hacks. Period." and in asking FBI infiltrators to write letters protesting the lovely East Side Timber Sale, you claim "they gotta do something." We do do something - illegally interfere with your right as American citizens to have a say in the mismanagement of your public lands. Furthermore, your discussion of both sound environmental policy and radical non-violent direct action suggests that to be effective, one needs to know what one is talking about and be willing to act on one's beliefs. As government (and their parent multinational corporation) employees fulfill neither requirement, we are unable to help the Allegheny National Forest and cannot become part of the Allegheny Defense Project.

Yours (by assignment),

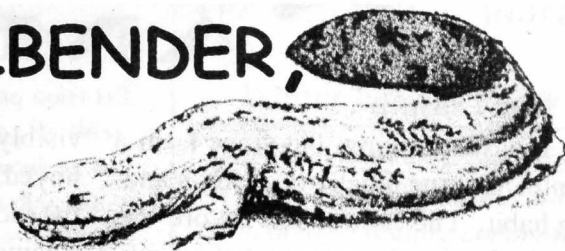
-- Take Only Pictures,
Trace Only Footprints

P.S. To respond to this letter, pick up the telephone and call your mother - or anyone. I'll be there.

Dear Editor.

I was somewhat offended when I read the US FOREST SERVICE Annual report for 1998. I believe the Honorable Judge Standish, though under pressure from people, who know nothing about forest health, e.g. Congressman John Peterson, had made an honest, lawful and much needed decision based on sound science in the interest of the Allegheny National Forest. However, the US FOREST SERVICE published this action as merely one stopping the planting of trees and their vitality. It's so silly, it's hard to even write about it anymore. Do I really need to remind anybody of what Mortality had as prescribed treatments which severely alter the chemistry of the forest soil? Then to add even more insult, the ADP was not even listed as

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an
asset or as
a volunteer.

-- John

'I'M SNAPPY. I BITE. I'M
THREATENED. AND A BIT
PARANOID ABOUT IT!'

Dear Snappy,

I am writing out of concern for my child who was recently flying through the Allegheny to visit some friends in New Jersey. You see, being Indiana Bats, we obviously live only in Indiana. When he was flying past your tree farm, my poor son flew into a mist net, and was captured by some crazy researchers who wanted to prove that we lived on the "Forest." I am very discouraged that we can't go to visit our friends and family without causing a ruckus. All we want to do is live our private lives. We wouldn't want to live on your forest anyway because from what we hear other bats say, they go to sleep in the morning and by mid-afternoon they are being thrown into a grinder at a chipmill. Maybe that is why we are endangered.

-- Mother Myotis

(*ed. note: From what I can tell this letter is legitimate*),

Dear Hellbender Journal,

I'm writing in response to your "article", "The North Fork". It's not really an article; it's a journal entry (*ed. note: this is the Hellbender Journal*). I don't think anybody cares about being turned back by snow banks or eating lunch in an old oil lease shack. As for seeing deer, I'm glad you felt blessed, the forest is crawling with deer, that's why we should save it!

Also, what's up with all these damn poems. I don't like poems. Look at the one on page 6 - written by a compost heap is right! As for Josh being harassed, all you guys should carry guns and let everyone know it! Keep up the fight!

-- Trey Nesbit

Dear Hellbender,

I like the cartoon on page 3 (*ed. note: check out the Summer Issue for cartoonish fun*).

-- Joe

Dear *Cryptobranchus Alleganiensis*,

It has come to my attention that I have been referred to in your publication as "The Walking Talking Bulldozer." I object strongly to this characterization, as I am unable to walk and talk at the same time. My public relations handlers have advised me not to comment on the fact that I am a bulldozer.

"Sincerely,"

-- Johnny "Greased Palm"-H

...Dear Snappy Editorials Continued on Page 14

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ACTION IN THE ALLEGHENY

by Peter Chowla, SEAC

Access to the Keystone Chip Mill in Lantz Corners, PA was shut off for half a day on October 20th as students and environmental activists from across the country blockaded the only access road to the plant, which is operated by Willamette Industries. Two students, one from Ohio and one from a nearby university in Pennsylvania, held the blockade for half a day while the rest of the close to thirty demonstrators were moved off Willamette property.

The demonstrators arrived just before dawn at which point they erected a tripod in the darkness before the opening of the mill for the day. Logging trucks had already begun lining up at the gate, but the activists continued with their plan despite potential conflict with the drivers of the trucks. Once the tripod was up and the two students had locked down to it, the demonstration commenced with chants and songs, which continued throughout the day.

Josh Raisler Cohn, a senior at Oberlin College, sat in a climber's harness atop a 30 foot metal tripod placed in the middle of the road.

Shannon Hughes, a senior at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, locked herself to the leg of the tripod, right in front of the gate in the road. The courageous activists held this position for more than 6 hours while state troopers, county sheriffs, log trucks, and the handful of people the chip mill employs lined up on the access road to the mill.

The action attracted much news media. Several TV stations, local radio stations and newspapers, and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette covered the event. The shutdown of the mill was mentioned on both CNN and NPR, according to the demonstrators.

"I have an open mind but I am a man of convictions," said Raisler Cohn, when talking with a representative from Willamette who came to the site. "There are things I am willing to go to great heights to achieve."

Hughes indicated that "We have to start looking towards our future." It is a future that they believe is in jeopardy because of the destruction of wild lands and the dismantling of our ecosystems.

The first ever tripod erected as part of a civil disobedience



A log truck blockaded at the entrance to Willamette Industries' Keystone Chipping plant in Lantz Corners, PA, at sunrise. Photo courtesy of Allegheny Earth First!.

ence action in the Allegheny National Forest region was a resounding success, and followed closely upon the heels of the first civil disobedience in the region several months earlier at a regional Forest Service office. This time, however, the target was a private corporation, Willamette Industries, one of the worst destroyers of forests in this country.

The multi-national corporate giant was hit by several demonstrations throughout the country in the weeks preceding and following this action - including a demonstration at their headquarters in Oregon.

The activists, largely students from Pennsylvania, but including forest activists from as far away as Oregon and Montana, held the demonstration in support of the growing national resistance to corporate monsters such as Willamette.

Raising a banner demanding: "Willamette: Stop Devouring Our Forests and Our Future," the demonstrators also showed their support of local residents who have been fighting the chip mill as a bad neighbor for 2 years now. They have been demanding that the mill reduce its noise level. These neighbors have also repeatedly had wooden signs, which lambasted the chip mill, in front of their houses taken down, burned, or broken.

Despite the support that the activists offered the local residents, the level of tension and antagonism between these two groups in the Allegheny region is extremely high. The

Continued on page 18...

WILLAMETTE WEBSITE: FAQ OR FICTION?

by Lauren Bond

After hearing about the Allegheny Earth First! action against Willamette's chipmill in Kane this October, I was very curious about what Willamette had to say about their environmental commitment and the chipmills on their website, which is found at <http://www.wii.com>. I discovered a FAQ section about chipmills that I found very humorous. What follows is a sample of the "information" that Willamette included in their FAQ.

On the discussion about noise caused by chip mills, this is an excerpt of their response:

Willamette recently invested more than \$390,000 to enclose our chip mill, Keystone Chipping, in Kane, Pennsylvania. The Rev. Theodore Benson, who lives across the road from this mill, recently wrote in the Kane Republican: "I think that the thousands of dollars that Willamette spent to reduce the sound of the debarking and chipping at the Keystone Mill have been effective. There is no noise problem at the mill...." (found at: <http://www.wii.com/chipfaq3.htm>)

A few exciting tidbits of information that they neglected to mention was that this money was spent quite a few years ago, not actually "recently". Also, though Rev. Benson does in fact live near the chip mill, the noise is actually worse in other directions, as noted by the multiple signs that can be found in people's yards in the vicinity of the chipmill that ask Willamette to quiet down.

On the question of Willamette's exportation of wood products, the response is:

We might export chips to maintain operations at our chip mills, or when one of our mills temporarily curtails operations. (found at: <http://www.wii.com/chipfaq7.htm>)

I find it very interesting that they neglect to give us statistics on exactly how much wood is exported, since research has shown that a fair amount of wood is, in fact, exported by Willamette Industries.

The discussion on clearcutting gave me the most laughs:

Before indigenous peoples began managing the forests, natural forces predominated. An old, mature forest would be hit by lightning and hundreds, sometimes thousands, of acres would burn. Shade-intolerant species such as Douglas fir, loblolly pine, oak and hickory would spring up from the ashes of the fire. Under them would grow the shade-tolerant species

such as hemlock, beech or maple. This created a rich, diverse forest. Clearcutting recreates these same conditions. (found at: <http://www.wii.com/chipfaq5.htm>)

Any college student who has taken a basic Biology course knows the benefits of natural forest fires. Many trees have seeds that have a hard coating around them that must be burned off for the seed to grow, and therefore the diversity of the forest remained after regeneration of an area hit by forest fire. Of course, they fail to mention that these seed coats are NOT burned off during a clearcut, so natural regeneration cannot occur. Instead, "profitable" species of trees are replanted (such as the Black Cherry in the Allegheny), and diversity is lost.

Also, indigenous peoples didn't clearcut. If a tree was cut down for human use, an elaborate ritual of thanks to the Earth is what ensured the regeneration of the forest in most Native American cultures. In addition, they only took what they needed, leaving the rest of the forest alone. This, of course, is why the indigenous cultures living in the area that is now the United States of America lived for thousands of years (in the Pacific NW, for instance, evidence shows that people have lived on the Washington coast for 9,000+ years), and after only a few HUNDRED years of technology and corporate control of the logging industry, less than 5% of

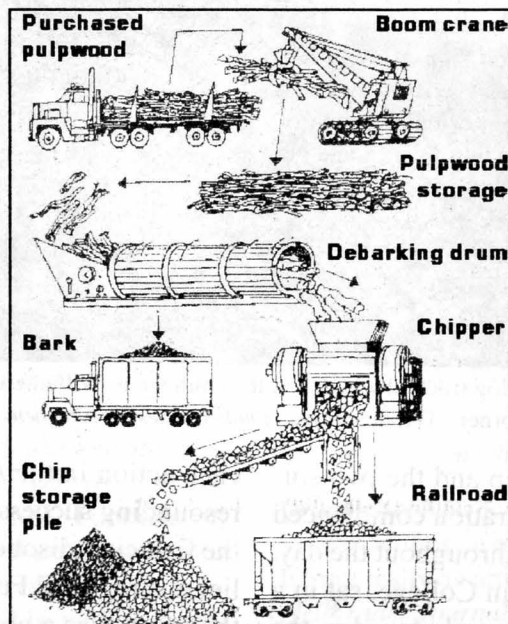
the old growth forest that the Earth provided us in the USA still stands. Our resources will not endure in current conditions.

One more part of the clearcutting FAQ:

Many songbirds and other types of wildlife require open areas for nesting and food gathering. Others animals require mature stands for nesting or calving and shelter. The best landscape for wildlife is one that provides a mix of forest ages and open areas. (found at: <http://www.wii.com/chipfaq5.htm>)

Then why did these species do just fine before they had to deal with human interference? Why are species becoming extinct at a rate many times higher now than ever before?

An interesting FAQ, I believe. Check it out. Willamette's website is <http://www.wii.com>. A response (or any additional questions) can be sent to Willamette using the form found at: <http://www.wii.com/emailENV.asp>. FAQ, or fiction? You decide.



Propaganda from the Willamette Industries Web page. Note Willamette's alleged depiction of the pulpwood they use. www.wii.com/CHIPMILL.HTM

WILLAMETTE PERMIT APPLICATION DRAWS PROTEST

Kentucky - On October 15, 1998, the Kentucky Water Division held a public hearing to gather input on permitting Willamette Industries' Hawseville, KY, paper making plant. Willamette hopes to receive waste-water permits for their \$600 million plant expansion. This plant expansion has spawned the building of two new chip mills in Union Mills, North Carolina and Mill Springs, Missouri.

More than 25 citizens from Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Indiana, and Virginia attended the hearing, most in opposition to the permit renewal. Many speakers raised concerns about the wide impacts this plant and the associated chip mills are having on forests, rivers and local economies.

"We have broadened the level of debate in a remarkable way" said Cielo Sand of the Dogwood Alliance. Several speakers also spoke out against Willamette's plans to continue using chlorine-based bleaching which will contaminate the Ohio River with dioxin or other toxic organochlorine compounds. Jack Wilson, Director of Kentucky Water Division praised the polite, respectful behavior displayed by the participants, but denied a request for an extension of the comment period. The Dogwood Alliance and its member groups are calling for involvement of federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a region-wide study of chip mill impacts.

"You could write a horror movie about what Willamette has done to this community," says Caroline Freeman of Malvern, Arkansas. A Willamette medium-density fiberboard plant has dumped small wood fibers soaked in formaldehyde and other chemicals on this community for more than a decade. A citizen's lawsuit and pressure from the federal EPA was necessary to force Willamette to install pollution control devices early in 1998.

Ms. Freeman feels the problem has not yet been solved, however. Malvern residents have suffered from skin rashes, respiratory and sinus problems, and a high rate of cancer. Ms. Freeman has voiced her frustration with the company, state agencies, and federal agencies, which she feels have done a poor job of enforcing environmental and health laws. "Willamette doesn't care about anything but manufacturing and making money. We were nobody that mattered," she says.

PROTESTORS TARGET WILLAMETTE HEADQUARTERS

North Carolina - On October 19th, 1998, Katuah Earth First! held a peaceful protest at Willamette's new Southeast headquarters in Fort Mills, South Carolina. Twenty-seven people gathered to hear speakers and hold signs urging a moratorium on new chip mills in the region.

John Johnson, a Chattanooga, TN representative for Katuah Earth First! said, "Chip mill related clearcutting destroys important forest habitat and undercuts the region's vital sawtimber and tourist economies."

A small delegation went inside to present Willamette with requests to use alternative fibers for paper and to support a region-wide study of the cumulative impacts of chip mills and a moratorium on new chip mill construction. Katuah EF! has expressed particular concern about Willamette's Union Mills, North Carolina chip mill which is now running two shifts, six days a week, at full capacity chipping hardwoods from the beautiful Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Residents from across the state have opposed the construction of Willamette's high-capacity chip mills. On July 22, 1996, over 800 citizens attended a community protest in Rutherford Co. to demonstrate massive public opposition to Willamette's chip mill. To date, the mill has not been the target of civil disobedience.

Compiled by Andrew George, Executive Director of the Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project

ALLEGHENY EARTH FIRST! SUPPORT COMMITTEE



"Help Defend the Defenders"

The Allegheny EF! Support Committee is dedicated to raising \$ so our activists are "free" to fight another day. Contact us for more info or please send a contribution to:

Allegheny Earth First! Support Committee
1146 Michael Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
(412) 884-0993
Allegheny EF@usa.net

BELITSKUS VICTORIOUS IN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL BID

by Kelly Compeau

Although Bill Belitskus, the Green Party candidate for the 5th congressional district in Pennsylvania, did not garner majority vote in the election in November, he made wonderful progress in promoting the vision of the Green Party and spreading the word about Zero Cut. He ventured across the many counties of northern PA that are included in the district speaking to community members from all walks of life.

Belitskus made numerous attempts to debate with John Peterson, the Republican incumbent, but even after Peterson said he would debate he failed to show up at five different public forums. Usually the excuse of working in Washington was heard, but Peterson never had trouble making it back to his district for fund-raising events. Unfortunately for the people of Pennsylvania, Peterson was able to buy more than 50% of the vote and keep his seat in the House of Representatives.

All of the work that Bill had done for the months preceding November paid off on election day. Bill walked away with gaining the respect and the vote of over 15% of the people of the district, and in some districts achieved up to 44%. The Allegheny Defense Project needs a politician who will stand up for what is right, and not who has the most money. Bill Belitskus is that person.

NATIONWIDE COALITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, HUNTING AND FISHING GROUPS FILES LAWSUIT WHICH SEEKS TO HALT LOGGING ON U.S. NATIONAL FORESTS

The Allegheny Defense Project (ADP) and more than 20 other groups from around the U.S. filed suit over the US Forest Service's failure to finalize nationwide Forest Plan and prepare an Environmental Study of the effects of logging and other activities on more than 191 million acres of National Forest land.

A diverse, nationwide coalition of 22 environmental, hunting and fishing groups, and guide outfitters filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court in San Francisco, California charging that the U.S. Forest Service failed to issue a final management plan pursuant to the federal Renewable Resources Planning Act Program (RPA) and also charging that the Forest Service did not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Administrative Procedures Act by failing to prepare a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the 1995 RPA Program.

The 1974 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) mandates the preparation of the RPA Program. The RPA Program consists of dozens of studies and a final document several hundred pages in length which guides the management of the National Forest system as a whole for a period of five years. In 1975, 1980, and 1985 Environmental Impact Statements an (EIS) were prepared for the RPA Program. In 1995, the Forest Service did not prepare an EIS for the RPA Program and has failed to issue a Final RPA Program for 1995. The lawsuit asks for an

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ZERO CUT UPDATE

by Rachel Martin

The September Zero Cut meeting went well, with some important decisions made. The biggest news was the decision to open another office in Washington, D.C. We are currently working on finding a Campaign Coordinator for the office.

The two zero cut lawsuits are underway. The Southwest Center for Biodiversity/Heartwood suit, which was filed in September, centers around the Forest and Rangelands Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which focus on planning and public participation. The Forest Guardians lawsuit, which is sponsored in part by the Zero Cut Campaign, appeals every timber sale in the country on the grounds that the Forest Service has illegally refused to adequately show the net public benefits of the timber sale program. Under numerous pieces of legislation, the Forest Service is required to demonstrate that the timber sale is in the net best interest of the public. This lawsuit was filed on December 16.

The Zero Cut Ruckus Camp was a success, with over 60 attendees. Participants learned how to use direct action to promote Zero Cut, how to work with the media, build strategy, and take the Zero Cut message back home to their bioregions.

The Boulder Daily Camera in Colorado recently became the first western newspaper to endorse the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act. Other papers in the west have also followed the Daily Camera's lead.

Also, a big Zero Cut hug to Bill Belitskus of Pennsylvania and Karyn Moskowitz of Oregon, Green Party candidates who ran on the Zero Cut platform. Both candidates made impressive showings and put in a lot of hard work getting the message out.

SUPPORT ZERO-CUT!

Help Protect the Allegheny National Forest. Put your energy into the grassroots movement by supporting the Allegheny Defense Project (ADP)!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

e-mail: _____

ADP Membership \$ 20.00

Members receive a full years subscription to our newsletter, the Hellbender Journal, Environmental Action Alerts, and Special Event Invitations.

ADP Activist Corps ☐ **check here**

Volunteers who contribute 5 hours or more of service to the ADP are awarded full member status as part of the ADP Activist Corps.

Additional Contribution \$ _____

Your donation directly supports grassroots organizing, ongoing appeals and litigation, and education and outreach projects.

TOTAL DONATIONS - \$ _____

I would like to receive Action Alerts by:

☐ e-mail ☐ fax ☐ mail

☐ I would prefer to read the Hellbender Journal on the internet rather than receive it by mail.

Allegheny Defense Project

PO Box 245

Clarion, PA 16214

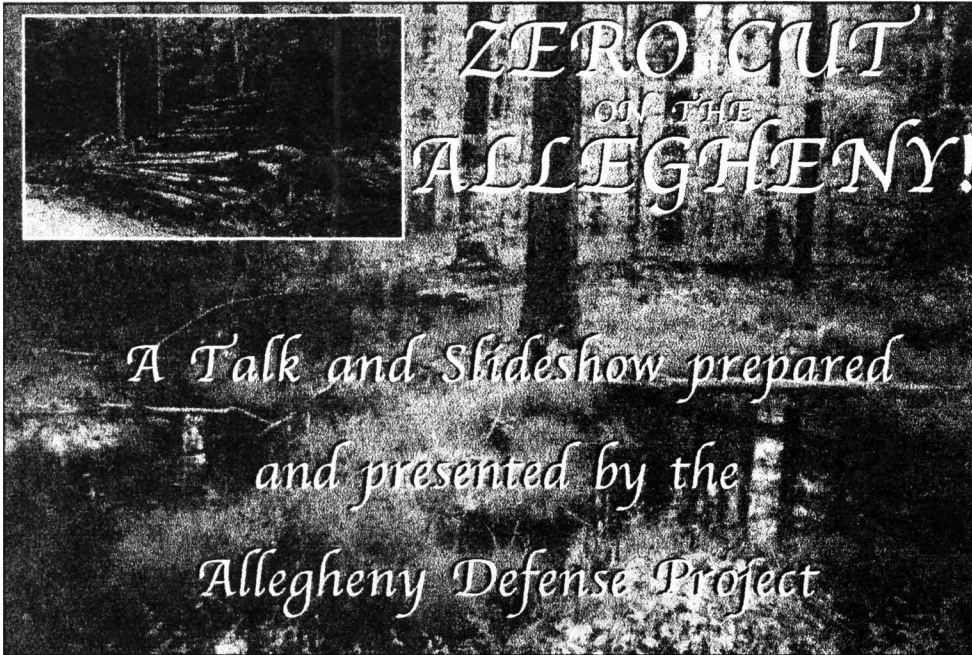
(814) 764-5763

adp@envirolink.org

www.enviroweb.org/adp

***Make checks payable to the Allegheny Defense Project.**

MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU!



by Lauren Bond

Beginning in March, ADP activists will be traveling to universities, senior centers, churches, and other groups in the region with a multimedia presentation about the Allegheny National Forest. The presentation will include a talk, slide show, discussion, and some musical entertainment, tentatively with sing-alongs of activist folk songs.

The ADP presentation will begin with an introduction to the beauty that can be found in our National Forests, specifically the Allegheny. There will be a discussion on clearcutting and herbicide use, chip mills, and corporate abuse of the forest's natural resources. The presentation will chronicle the community struggle sur-

GET DOWN AND INTO IT a radical dissertation on colors

by compost heap

fly my friends like two orange coated swings mounted to the underside of the Ben Franklin Bridge. sway together. eat away at the corrosion. dream if you will. gasp and suck in that static cling. wipe it off with a fat cloth from the Principal's office. let it all in. thin emaciated children of the radical. get down and into it. get down. get into it.

get down there on the streets. let pavement flatten your feet. climb where you can. on what you can. find a pole a crane a bridge a skyscraper run and armed by some faceless beast. and climb. bring a message if you will. drop it. down and into it. read it aloud.

now if you can. rest on a swing. swipe it with blasts of orange paint. create a ruckus on a toll bridge. let it hang. mount it i say! look for the one that is the body the flesh of freedom in America. go there to the city of brothers and alleged love. climb atop an osage avenue row home. hang it from the colors of Ben. swing it on the back streets near Baltimore. sink down and drown in a Powelton basement.

and bleed yourself. leave a trail down chestnut street. ride a bike. throw a brick. get yourself a ride in a boxcar. take it to 30th street. watch the platform for a lineup of 500 pin striped white male grays. look on for the struggle. watch..

500 weightless cans of spray paint
and one oversized limbless crayon'

..wipe out the marginalized pale faced masses. laugh aloud. let it all out. this ain't no fucking colorized wizard of oz. the age of colors has begun. the time to free Mumia has begun. get down and into it friends. get down and into it.

Hellbender Journal

rounding the fight for the Zero Cut bill, which will end commercial logging in the National Forests and will include alternate, sustainable uses of the forest including recreation, which is a primary part of the Allegheny's economy.

If you are interested in having us visit your community, please contact the Allegheny Defense Project.

ECO-TERRORISTS MACMILLAN-BLOEDEL SELL OUT TO TEMPLE-INLAND, INC.

INCINERATOR IN THE WORKS

by Jim Kleissler

Multi-national corporation MacMillan-Bloedel has sold their Clarion, PA, medium-density fiberboard plant to another corporate giant, Temple-Inland. In the deal, which cost Temple-Inland \$50 million, Temple-Inland gets the plant's starting air permit extended for another year. Despite the fact that the plant has been in operation since November of 1996, they have never complied with the Clean Air Act and are still operating under their start-up permit which is supposed to be very temporary. Temple-Inland is supposed to be installing improved pollution 'control' equipment to reduce the formaldehyde emissions which have terrorized neighbors causing many of them to develop a variety of symptoms such as asthma.

Temple-Inland's plans for pollution 'control', however, includes the construction of an 8 unit incinerator on a hill that towers over Clarion. Local residents are currently researching the proposed facility. Residents are extremely wary of the proposed pollution 'control' equipment. Look for a complete update in the next Hellbender Journal.

THE INDIANA BAT: ENDANGERED AND EMBATTLED

by Rachel Martin

Newspapers throughout the region have been bearing headlines about a mysterious little flying mammal, *Myotis sodalis*, the Indiana Bat. Rapidly becoming known as the "Spotted Owl of the East", this small (less than 2" in body length), insectivorous mammal is making quite a stir. When a male bat was finally discovered in the Allegheny National Forest, it sent the Forest Service into a tizzy. So who exactly is this little guy causing all the commotion, anyway?

The Indiana Bat is one of eight bat species inhabiting the Allegheny. Part of the reason that the bat had not been discovered until recently (besides a lack of effort on the part of the Forest Service) is that the Indiana Bat closely resembles the Little Brown Bat, who also inhabits the Allegheny. Unlike the Little Brown Bat, the Indiana Bat is a slightly different color (dull grayish chestnut rather than bronze fur and pinkish lips rather than black-brown.) Indiana Bats are medium-sized for their genus, and range from northern Alabama up through New England, with the largest populations living in Kentucky and Missouri.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that 270 bats hibernate in Pennsylvania, with the total population of bats in the U.S. is estimated to be about 352,000. Currently, no one knows how many bats summer in PA-- but thousands of bats hibernate in surrounding states, and may very well have summer roosts in the Allegheny.

The bats have an intriguing life cycle. In the winter, they congregate and hibernate in caves and mines. They generally do not inhabit buildings, but there is a hibernacula of bats inhabiting a building near Altoona, PA, the only building in which Indiana Bats have been found. In the spring, the bats migrate to their summer roosting areas, which can be hundreds of miles from their winter hibernacula. They perform this migration without having eaten anything all winter, and the females are pregnant at this point.

The males often don't fly as far as the females, and roost during the day under the loose bark or in the cavities of dead and dying trees in forest environments. The females form nursery colonies in one to several roost trees, in either a riparian (stream-side) environment or upland forest up to 2 miles from an open body of water. The females crawl under the bark of dead and dying trees and will give birth to just one or two young in June or early July.

The bats are "loyal" to their roosting areas, as well as

their hibernacula, and will return to the same area year after year. While the roosting trees may differ as trees lose their bark or fall over, the bats will go to the same area, therefore requiring a constant supply of suitable trees.

In the fall, the bats fly back to the cave or mine to hibernate. But first, they engage in an activity called "swarming", during which they mate. The females, however, are able to store the sperm throughout the winter and do not actually become pregnant until the spring when it is time for them to fly to their summer habitat.

For roosting, Indiana Bats require a forest canopy of at least 60-80% coverage and large dead and dying trees. For foraging (they are ravenous insect-eaters),

they require areas with 50-70% canopy closure. It is thought that the loss of these trees due to forestry is one of the reasons Indiana Bats are endangered. The cutting of dead and dying trees and lack of suitable forest canopy coverage affects their ability to roost and forage. Another thought is that pesticide use in their foraging areas has led to contaminated insects and water. They may absorb these chemicals while feeding in treated areas.

Indiana Bats are very helpful to the ecosystem in that they act as biological insecticides, and help control pest insects like the Gypsy Moth. The threats that face them are threats to all wildlife. Mature forest-dependant wildlife throughout the country, including the Indiana Bat and the Northern Spotted Owl, are on the decline. The loss of dead and dying trees due to salvage logging affects many forest species. Trees that the Forest Service claims are useless are important food sources and shelter for woodpeckers, squirrels, screech owls, nuthatches... the list goes on. In addition, trees that are allowed to die, fall, and decompose return nutrients to the soil-- nutrients that are lost when trees are harvested, leading to serious soil depletion and regeneration failure. Herbicide use in our National Forests may be toxic to Indiana Bats and to other wildlife.

In essence, like the Spotted Owl, the Indiana Bat can be thought of as an indicator species-- a sign that the incredible and widespread loss of mature and old growth eastern forests and the forest health scam are having a detrimental effect on biodiversity. The struggle for our Forests is not just an issue of saving a bat or an owl or a Riffle-Shelled Mussel. The struggle is one to preserve biodiversity and to restore areas to their natural states.



Indiana Bats require a certain amount of forest cover for their survival. photo by Jim Kleissler.

ENDANGERED SPECIES LAWSUIT

...Continued from page 1

look. The timing of the research is indicative of the recent pressure put on the Forest Service by Heartwood and the ADP - in the form of three Notices of Intent to Sue under the ESA in the past year and a half.

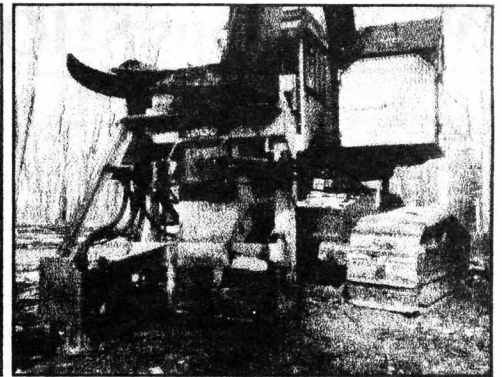
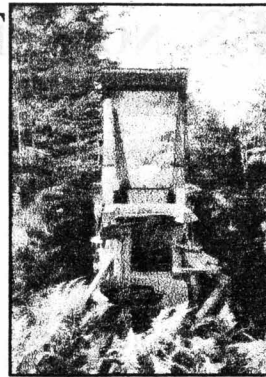
History of the Indiana Bat on the Allegheny

The Indiana Bat has been listed on the endangered species list since 1967. Since then its population has dropped dramatically. In order to attempt to recover this species a team of experts from USFWS, called the Indiana Bat Recovery Team, developed an Indiana Bat recovery plan. Originally this plan identified decline at winter hibernacula, hibernation dwellings such as caves, mine shafts, and old barns as essential to the protection of the species. More recently, focus has shifted to the Indiana Bat's summer habitat range as a concern. The Allegheny provides such habitat.

Before this summer, the US Forest Service position was that Indiana Bats were not present on the Allegheny. This was done despite the fact that the Indiana Bat Recovery Plan identifies the Eastern Maternity Range, which includes the Allegheny, as almost certain occupied habitat. The Forest Service conclusion was drawn despite the lack of a legitimate effort to identify the presence of this species on the Allegheny. Instead the Forest Service cited two research studies, one of which wasn't even on National Forest lands and another which utilized a device that measures bat sonar - even though this last study didn't even attempt to differentiate species within the *Myotis* genus. To make matters worse, while the Forest Service was publicly contending that the Indiana Bats were not present, they were privately stating the opposite. The agency was knowingly lying to the public.

When Forest Service Wildlife Biologist Brad Nelson testified he had stated that the Forest Service had always assumed that the Indiana Bat was present on the Allegheny. However Nelson also testified that 14 timber sales needed to be altered to comply with the *minimum* acceptable mitigation standards set in the Draft Indiana Bat Recovery Plan. In essence, if the Forest Service had assumed that the Indiana Bat was present before, why did they need to make these

Hellbender Journal



Feller Bunchers (pictured above) are one of the newer tools being used by industry to cut the Allegheny faster with less labor. Under ideal conditions, one worker operating one of these can clearcut 10 acres a day. *photos by Jim Kleissler.*

changes? The Forest Service was clearly assuming that the Indiana Bat was *not* present. As usual the Forest Service had drawn a false conclusion. The corruption never ends when it comes to getting the cut out.

Discovering Indiana Bats

In response to pressure put on by Heartwood, the ADP, and USFWS, the Forest Service finally gave in and contracted out to Mike Gannon, bat researcher at Penn State University, to look for the endangered Indiana Bat. Gannon

and his researching team set up 25 research sites and began looking for the bats in May. Within the month they confirmed that Indiana Bats were present on the Allegheny National Forest. To date the Indiana Bats have been confirmed at 3 locations and the data continues to be analyzed.

Formal Consultation

On December 18, 1998, the Forest Service entered into formal consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service. When the agency enters into such consultation they are required to make a determination as to whether or not existing cuts will harm the endangered species - hence the 7(d) Decision and Biological Assessment. This process will conclude in April with a Biological Opinion that will be issued by the USFWS. When that Biological Opinion is issued the Forest Service will likely be required to amend their Land and Resource Management Plan for the Allegheny. The Biological Opinion will shape if or when logging activities can continue. The ADP will be monitoring activity in the meantime.



Plaintiffs Kleissler (left) and Kaizar (right) inspect a cut at Four Mile Run. Note the scars on the tree caused by machinery. *photo by Jonah McGreevy.*

WE'RE IN HIS SHOES, NOW LET'S GET IN PALMER'S PANTS!

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Goal: 8,206 Letters

by Shannon Hughes

Great job everyone on all the letters written. Unfortunately, we have a long way to go!

According to our last File Review, there have been 292 letters written in protest of the horrific East Side Timber Sale on the Allegheny National Forest. Some of these letters were filled with personal experiences, emotions and honest concerns. Those of you that took the time to address your concerns should realize something. The Forest Service took your personal letters and marked them

292 Letters

0 Letters

"GENERIC." Hence, the generic letter you received in return. The insensitivity exhibited here is just another example of why the Forest Service can no longer be trusted with our valuable National Forests. They lack emotion, passion, even character. They are faceless, ruthless, and untrustworthy. How can they label a personal experience generic? Are non-profit actions by real live individuals worth nothing in corporate America? Well.....

Without haste, we must continue to list our grievances. We MUST produce a letter for every acre of our forest! That means mad letter writing campaigns. We have to believe that what we say, how we feel, and what we care about matters to our elected officials. Even if we know the truth, what grounds would we have to take action, direct action against the machine that not only rapes our mother, but steals from our children.

We are compassionate to those of you that are bogged down with many things to do in a limited amount of time. To make your lives a bit easier and their's a little harder, we have enclosed a form letter for you to sign and send. For those of you that experience great joy by personalizing your letters with humor and compassion, have fun!! We encourage your creativity and applaud your determination. It is up to us my friends! Let 's get in Palmer's Pants!!!

STOP THE EAST SIDE MASSACRE!

In October of 1997 a Federal Court ruled that the US Forest Service's salvage logging plan for the Allegheny National Forest, called 'Mortality II', violated two major federal laws. In April of 1998 the Forest Service repackaged Mortality II. They nearly doubled the cut, tripled the road building, and renamed it 'East Side' - presumably because it will destroy large portions of the eastern side of the Allegheny.

'East Side' has since been delayed by aggressive citizen action combined with endangered species concerns but we expect the Forest Service to come full charge with it in 1999. We must stop this sale! Please help us meet our goal of 8,206 letters (1 for each acre intended to be logged) against this sham.

The East Side Timber Sale will result in:

- Logging of 8,206 acres of Pennsylvania's only national forest
- 3,156 acres of clearcuts
- 90.5 miles of logging road construction work at the taxpayer's expense
- 17.2 miles of new logging roads
- 3,082 acres to be sprayed with the toxic herbicides RoundUp and Oust
- destruction of forest inhabited by endangered species
- sedimentation/erosion in dozens of stream watersheds, including wilderness trout streams
- A corporate subsidy that will cost taxpayers while destroying an important ecological resource!

WHAT THE HELL IS A LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN?

- *getting together with friends or family to reflect on fond memories in the forest... write them down and share them with the Forest Service
- *at the beginning of a community or organizational meeting set some time aside to write a letter to your favorite Congressmen
- *at the beginning of class- ask your professor to allow five minutes for a discussion of the issues and two minutes for letter writing
- *table at special events on campus or in the community with copies of the form letter for the masses to sign (have a special can for spare change to take care of postage!!!)
- *tell the Forest Service how you really feel about them, sock it to 'em!!!

Address all letters to Palmer himself....

John Palmer, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest
PO Box 847
Warren, PA 16365
814/723-5150

From: _____

John Palmer, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest
P.O. Box 847
Warren, PA 16365
ph (814) 723-5150
fax (814) 726-1465

Dear Mr. Palmer:

I am writing in protest of your proposed East Side Timber Sale. Please provide me with a written response to each of my comments. The following are my public comments on the East Side EIS for the public record:

1. I object to the cutting of 8,206 acres of my public lands.
2. I understand that you intend to log 3,109 acres as "shelterwood seed/removal" cuts, "regeneration" cuts, "removal" cuts and other types of clearcuts. I object to all forms of clearcutting.
3. I also object to all other forms of even-aged management. I understand that "Thinning" cuts are cuts done in preparation of future clearcuts and I object to this cash-induced management of my national forest. I further understand that "Two-age" cuts are cuts in which nearly 50% of the trees are removed in order to create two even ages of forest in an area. I object to this and other forms of even-aged management which damage watersheds and plant life, create a tree-farm out of a forest, and increase fragmentation (the leading cause of losses in biodiversity).
4. I object to the 5,646 acres of salvage logging included in this project. Your own research (*see data from Stout et al 1997*) indicates that the assertion that logging increases forest health is dead wrong. Salvage logging results in the loss of biodiversity, habitat, and water quality. Salvage logging is a hoax that cannot be scientifically supported.
5. I object to the proposed use of the toxic herbicides Roundup (Glyphosate) and Oust (Sulfometuron methyl) on 3,082 acres of national forest. These pesticides can be harmful to wildlife and people and should not be used on public lands.
6. The endangered Indiana Bats, Bald Eagles, Northern Riffleshell Mussels, Clubshell Mussels and other endangered and sensitive species must be given the utmost protection as required by Congress in the Endangered Species Act. For these reasons this logging project should be halted. Salvage logging which targets dead and dying trees, the primary habitat for Indiana Bats, must be foregone. The recovery of endangered species is a top priority.
7. I object to the massive amount of road construction proposed in this project. I object to the 17.2 miles of new roads. I also object to road "reconstruction" planned for 73.3 miles of logging roads on the Allegheny National Forest. This road work will lead to direct ecological damage as well as secondary problems created by stone pit development and increased access into the Forest.
8. I object to the development of 12 new and 7 existing stone pits. These pits are a scar on the landscape and a hidden subsidy for logging our public lands.

Please select the following as your preferred alternative in your analysis. Please consider an alternative that would incorporate ecological restoration. This alternative should involve obliteration of logging roads, restoration work in and around streams, replanting (using only native species) of old clearcut areas that have failed to regenerate, and the development of education programs to minimize future damage to our national forests.

For the Alleghenies,

WE'RE IN HIS SHOES, NOW LET'S GET IN PALMER'S PANTS

by Shannon Hughes

Great job everyone on all the letters written. Unfortunately, we have a long way to go!

According to our last File Review, there have been 292 letters written in protest of the non-fire East Side Timber Sale. At

Some of the letters were filled with errors and

STOP THE EAST SIDE MASSACRE

In October of 1997 a Federal Court ruled that the Forest Service's salvage logging plan for the Allegheny National Forest, called "Mortality II," violated federal laws. In April of 1998 the court ruled that the plan violated the National Forest Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act. The court also ruled that the plan would destroy large portions of the eastern hemlock forest.

The court also ruled that the plan would destroy large portions of the eastern hemlock forest. The court also ruled that the plan would destroy large portions of the eastern hemlock forest.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

John Palmer, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest
re: East Side Timber Sale
PO Box 847
Warren, PA 16365

THE PALMER WHO STOLE THE FOREST

by the Allegheny Bobsleigh Team

{Pro-Log}

*Here's the story of a forest around us,
And a band of Cryptobranchus Alleganiensis*

*Who ask, "is it a need,
to feed corporate greed?"*

We think it's what's worst for the forest."

There once was a ranger named Palmer,
Who went to the forest to harm her,
Armed with an axe,
And chemical attacks,
With the evil intent to farm her.

Palmer did not heed the warnings,
Of Hellbender rants and stormings,
So with a "heave" and a "ho",
And a "c'mon boys let's go",
He lied to send corporate profits a-soaring.

Now the Hellbenders gathered and said "Damn it!
Let's get rid of G-P, MacBlo, and Willamette."
They decided to sue,
"Stop Palmer's Mortality II",

And Judge Standish reviewed the sale and canned it.

But ranger Palmer got stark raving mad,
Said "I've got to do something even more bad",
So he thought and he thought,
He thought quite an awful lot,
"Double the cut" was the thought that he had.

So the East Side slaughter was born,
To much of the Hellbenders' scorn,
The people all gathered,
Said, "we'd all much rather,
That the forest not be tattered and torn!"

Then the Indiana Bat was discovered,
And Palmer's evil deeds uncovered,
"Zero-cut" was the plea,
"Let us not cut another tree",
And the forest was saved for the future of others.

{Epi-Log}

*So kids, tell your fathers and mothers,
And gather your sisters and brothers.*

*Remember these words,
That you have just heard,*

*So next time that stinkin' freddie Palmer and his multi-
national corporate cronies seek to destroy your
bioregion (and by the way export to far-off countries
while destroying local economies), using chipmills and
other job-destroying, union-busting technologies de-
vouring the future for short term gain,*

*You'll know it's not sane,
When the clearcuts reign,*

*So use non-violent direct action and lawsuits to
cause them pain,
again, again, again, and again.*

Hellbender Journal

GET INVOLVED!

So, it's winter again. As we all settle into our warm homes; we find ourselves venturing outside less and less. After our eyes have been affixed to the television for endless hours, we ask ourselves, "what else can we do?"

Well, the Allegheny Defense Project (ADP) is in need of help. Frankly, we're swamped, and there are a gazillion things to be done. So instead of spending your weekend in front of the "tube", come out to the Alleghenies, or you can help the ADP by organizing in your own community.

For more information on how you can get involved, please contact the ADP at:

Allegheny Defense Project
PO Box 245
Clarion, PA 16214
(814) 764-5763
adp@envirolink.org

THE FIRST DAY OF BUCK SEASON

By Alina R Buggy

Three womyn, in bright orange t-shirts, one '82 Chevy celebrity with a tank full of gas, and handfuls of "Hunter Outreach Brochures", heading towards the Allegheny National Forest via Route 66.

We set out on our adventure in search of hunters sympathetic to our Zero-Cut cause. As we traveled down the 66 we saw an obvious hunting spot, filled with trucks and ORVs. This was a find. As the Chevy crawled down the road, Tara and Shannon jumped out to leaflet the vehicles.

Shannon had a most amazing encounter with a few hunters who were supportive of Zero-Cut. They were upset that their favorite hunting ground was marked to be CUT by the U.S. Forest Service. She explained to them what they can do to stop it and handed them a brochure. Overall everyone was extremely supportive and positive.

We should all try to do some outreach in our local communities. The ADP currently has the following informational brochures and packets to be spread in your communities:

- ◆ Hunter Outreach Brochures (excellent for sporting clubs in your area)
- ◆ Business Outreach Brochures (for local "friendly" businesses in your area)
- ◆ Educational Packets (created for use in elementary schools)

For more information on how to do outreach in your area contact an Allegheny Defense Project coordinator near you (see back page for coordinator contact info).

DEAR SNAPPY THE HELLBENDER

...Continued from Page 4

Dear Hellbender Snappy,

I know that everyone has had a lot of great expectations for the Endangered Species Act lawsuit that is going to shut down logging on the National "Forest," but I need to come clean. I have been living with a lie for too long and the guilt is starting to consume my body causing pain in every aspect of my normal life. I did it. I brought an Indiana Bat to the Allegheny in an effort to end the timber program. I also have planted small whorled pogonias, and have placed clubshell and northern riffleshell mussels in the Allegheny River. I also confess my greatest hoax of bringing the Bald Eagles to the Allegheny (there really aren't any, it is all an illusion using mirrors). I am sorry if I have caused any problems.

With most sincere apologies,

-- William Ett

Dear Snappy,

Regional school districts in the Allegheny are funneling money into the Allegheny Forest Alliance, a front group for the timber industry. The money that they hand over is coming from their federal kickback from logging. The guidelines are strict i.e. the money must go to curriculum and not into funding political/ corporate interest groups. Instead of computers, these schools are placing the money into law suits and advocacy groups that promote timber cutting on national forests (as if the corporate empire doesn't have enough quid to fund these operations). If this sets the precedent, where can school funds be expected to turn up next? A pro-life rally? "You see kids, the Supreme Court belongs in a womyn's uterus," a bio teacher explains to her second period class. Perhaps funds can be allocated to bring in further McDonalds development "They create a wonderful career path," the vo-tech teacher says in between bites of burger from a cow that grazed where an acre of rain forest once stood. The possibilities are endless. There is a strong and scary correlation between the privatization of schools and public school money feeding the private sector.

For a sustainable future,

-- Tim Doody

Snappy the Hellbender Editorial Policy: All letters to Snappy are subject to an immediate and toothy response. Don't expect Snappy the Hellbender to respect your sorry humanoid perspectives. That's right Snappy bites and he sure doesn't digest letters of more than 350 words - although he may choose to print them anyhow. Send your letters to:

Snappy the Hellbender
PO Box 245
Clarion, PA 16214
adp@envirolink.org



PENGUIN ICEPLEX, SOUTH POINTE

By Margaret Young

Names new-minted, cold in the mouth, hard like the big carved entrance sign and map

Telling which green-roofed, glass-striped office (Plex, Park, Pointe) is which and You

are Here among flush condo clusters, swellings of bad architecture

blister the fields between tree stands, asphalt scars where apples fell,

cows grazed just five years back. Now smooth iceeee lit fluorescent

holds the bladed glide of children below bleachers (watchers, chasers)

and a tableful of birthday party: wish on fire from square cake

flat and white as ice but blossoming with green-blue curls of sugared fat.

Dip fingers in and lick, kids: it's spring here too.

PRESIDENT CLINTON CONDEMNS 'JOE CAMEL' ADS FOR MAKING TOBACCO PRODUCTS 'COOL' TO KIDS. - news item

BOY! THESE TOY MODELS OF DANGEROUS, POLLUTING, RESOURCE-WASTING, SPRAWL-ENABLING, INSURANCE CO. ENRICHING CARS ARE REALLY COOL!



THOSE ARTERY-CLOGGING, CHEMICAL-CONTAMINATED, RAIN FOREST-DESTROYING, FAT-FILLED COW-BURGERS ARE SO COOL!



HEY! FOREST-WRECKING, ECOCIDAL, SPECIES-DESTROYING, UNREGULATED, LAW-VIOLATING, SUBSIDIZED LOGGING IS COOL!



WOW! KILLING FOREIGNERS FOR U.S. BUSINESSES, GETTING LOW PAY AND MYSTERY DISEASES, OBEYING ILLEGAL ORDERS AND DRAINING THE NATION'S BUDGET IS AWESOMELY COOL!



ADP 5TH ANNUAL FALL GATHERING!



ADP Organizer Rachel Martin discusses the benefits of zero-cut with a trucker from Warren, PA. Photo by Kelly Compeau.

by Rachel Martin

ADP's 5th Annual Forest Defenders' Fall Gathering was held September 18-20 deep in the Allegheny. Folks from all over the region, including Buffalo, Ithaca, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia came to enjoy the Forest, learn a bit about the issues, and just generally have a good time.

Things started out well on Friday night with folks arriving, a good hearty lentil stew for supper, and a glowing campfire brightening the sky—and our spirits—as we looked forward to a week-end of education and camaraderie.

The evening was punctuated by arriving activists—our excitement growing as each new car pulled into the gravel pit that served as our make-shift parking lot. When four pickups came tear-

ing in, however, our hearts sank as we realized that our gathering site's whereabouts had been released. Now we had 10-15 loggers to contend with. They came up the hill, rowdy, drunk, and yelling. My hands began to shake as visions of the arson at Cove/Mallard in Idaho and David Chain's recent death at Headwaters leaped into my mind.

The loggers were fairly calm at first. They spread out and cornered activists in meaningless onslaughts, demanding to know if we live in houses, use toilet paper, have jobs—the usual. But as the night wore on and the loggers became more and more inebriated, they became more and more menacing and aggressive, making threats like, "If you get what you want and end logging here, you'd better not come in this forest again without armed guards." Tim Doody, a Clarion coordinator, received several personal threats.

Shortly after the loggers arrived, another activist and I slipped down to the parking lot where we had a cellular phone we had brought for just such an occasion. I called 911 and reached the Warren County Sheriff's Office and was directed to a Deputy Hodge, who was not so interested in our plight as knowing whether we were "the ones they call treehuggers." After getting nowhere with him, we decided we were on our own.

Finally the loggers left, after throwing stones, smashing beer bottles, and hitting cars. About an hour and a half later, after another call, the state police showed up. Big help.

Believing they had had their fun and would not be returning, we hit our tents, completely exhausted. At about 5:00 am, we were awakened by flashing headlights, car door slamming, and beeping horns. Here we go again I thought. There were two more pickups in the parking lot and an obviously drunk man stumbled out. After a little discourse

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LESSONS IN NON-VIOLENCE

by David Agranov

I am far from your average forest defender. I do not fit a single one of the stereotypes most people have in mind when one thinks of a tree hugger. I wear a tie to protests not ratty second hand clothes. I listen to heavy aggressive music and get bored listening to acoustic guitar at a campfire. Despite what brought me to the Fall Gathering of Allegheny forest defenders I was there.

It's not an untypical thing for me, I devote a great percentage of my life to activism mostly on behalf of our mother earth. However there is another difference that clearly set me apart when I stepped on to the camp site deep in the Allegheny Forest.

I found the desire to save the earth coming off the heels of a violent social clique who reinforced in me a need to lash out at the things that attacked me. As I read more and more about our relationship with mother earth I was disgusted at the attacks against the very foundation of life itself. I saw these as the worst crimes imaginable.

At times I questioned my anger and I tempered the hopeless sounding warnings of Aldo Leopold with emotions of Dave Foreman. Damn right we should get emotional this is our earth they are destroying. I began to see enemies everywhere. Anyone who was not actively fighting the destruction to me became that enemy.

When I heard that "loggers" had come by threatening violence I could not believe the reaction was one of nonviolence. Having always resorted to my hatred and violent tendencies the idea of passively reacting to "the enemy" making threats at our lives seemed insane. When the screams

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LESSONS IN NON-VIOLENCE

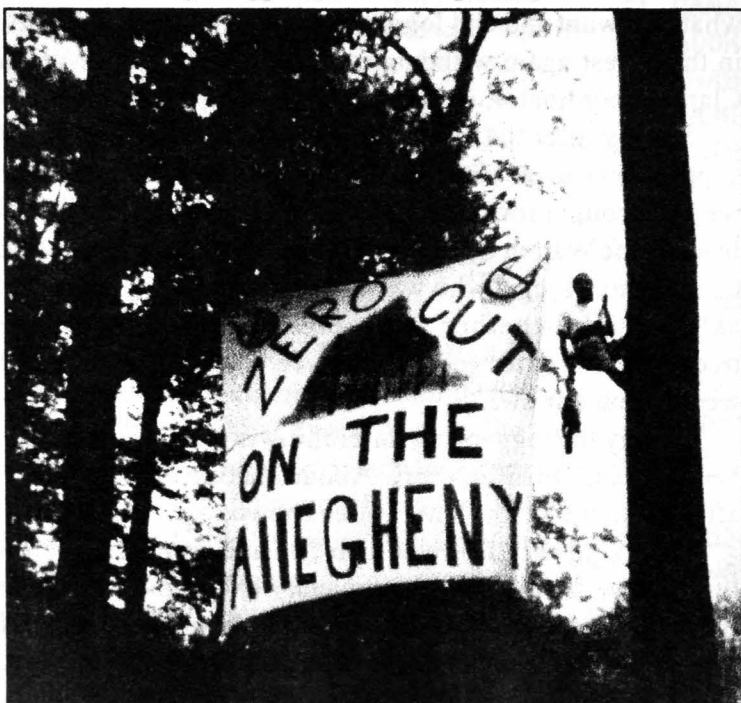
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awoke me in my tent I admit my blood started to boil at the concept and as I rose from my sleep my fists clenched.

I would never have believed had I not witnessed what happened. Tipsy loggers and friends who admitted to coming with the intent to "kick our ass" were disarmed by kindness. After a half an hour of listening to them speak I could see for the first time that they were not demons intent on destruction, they were humans just like me wanting to put bread on the table. We shared at love and concern for the forest.

The two sides of the debate suffered mostly from a lack of communication. And to quote a fellow ADPer I saw how "weak intolerance can be". This completely changed my outlook on Activism and the struggle to defend our Environment. Before this weekend I saw it as a grand battle between good and evil. I see now it is not an issue of right or wrong. If the forest is to stand, answers have got to be found that keep everyone happy, or the battle will rage on. If people can not express what they need, the forest will remain a battlefield for egos. I don't believe the forest spent millions of years evolving just to be a playground for our power squabbles.

I can't say I am a pacifist 100%, I think it is an absolute I personally cannot accept; however, we must remember how change happens, with an open heart and mind.



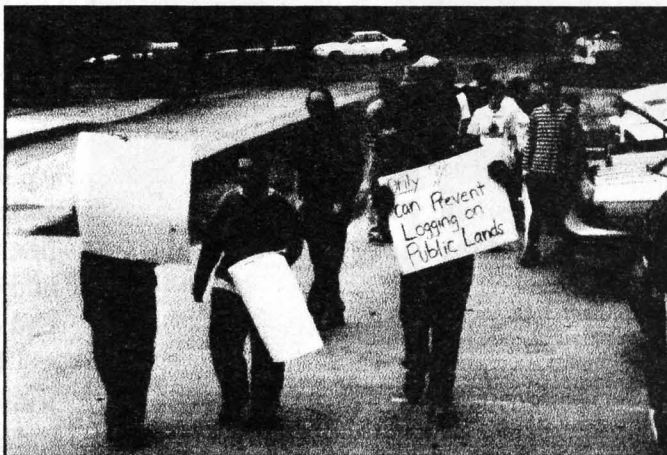
ADP Organizers Tim Doody (left) and Jim Kleissler (right) take the zero-cut message high into the sky outside of the Bradford Ranger Station on September 20th. photo by Kelly Compeau.

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5TH ANNUAL FALL GATHERING

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between two activists and the four men, they came up the hill while the rest of us formed a circle, holding hands, to show neither fear nor aggression. We welcomed them to



Activists converge upon the Bradford Ranger District's Office in Marshburg, PA. Photo by Kelly Compeau.

our circle, and began with introductions. By the time the circle got to them, they were quite calm. (One even fell asleep.) Jim Kleissler and one of the loggers entered into a civil discussion on logging in the Forest, each listening to what the other had to say. Finally, they left as the sun was just be-

ginning to peak her head over the hills.

Saturday was filled with workshops ranging from logging on the Allegheny to a bird hike to herbicides to Zero Cut. All went well and eventually came the big decision-do we stay or do we leave that night? After a circle discussion, this fearless gang decided not to give in-we would stay. Green Party Candidate Bill Belitskus was the highlight of the afternoon, with an excellent "stump speech" (he sat on a stump) on the Green Party.

That night David Rovics cheered and calmed us with his folk songs and old Wobbly tunes as the campfire burned on. We set up an all-night watch, but the night was without incident and all was well.

In the morning we set up for the day's big event-- a demonstration at the Bradford Ranger Station. Jim Kleissler and Tim Doody climbed trees in front of the station hanging thirty-five feet in the air with the infamous "Zero Cut on the Allegheny" banner. Andrew Gianni of Buffalo NY played a terrific Smokey Bear, toting a sign reading "Only You Can End Logging on Public Lands." Alina Buggey of Indiana PA and Jason Brady of Buffalo NY zipped up and down Route 59 with cans and a banner reading, "Jobs and Forests: Just Married" attached to the bumper of Alina's car.

While the cops were too busy to come out to check on a group being harassed and threatened, they managed to find the manpower to keep two cars at the Ranger Station for a completely legal protest.

The Forest Defenders' Fall Gathering is a time for folks to get together, learn, share, and enjoy the energy that flows between so many committed, beautiful people. Despite the nighttime interruptions, everyone had a wonderful time, and most left stating their intentions to return next year.

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THE FERTILE FOREST

by John A. Keslick, Jr.

First, please, allow me to define a few terms. You do not have to agree but you will know what I mean.

- A *Forest* is a highly ordered arrangement of living organisms living in, on and around (dead, dying & living) trees in such a highly ordered fashion it assures high quality survival for all.
- *Soil* is a substance made up of sands, silts, clays, decaying organic matter, air, water and an enormous number of living organisms.
- *Survival* means that you stay alive and you stay in a working state under conditions that have the capacity or the ability to kill you.

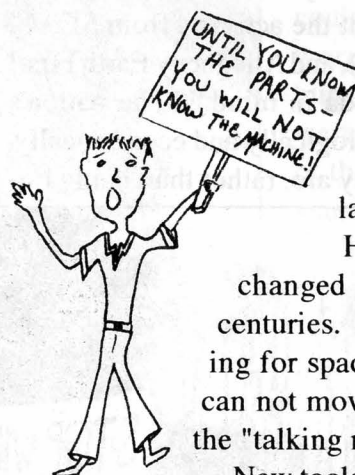
It goes without saying, UNTIL YOU KNOW THE PARTS YOU WILL NOT KNOW THE MACHINE. Our once fertile forest was somewhat of a machine. Parts and processes so highly ordered in their connections, above and below ground, that they repeated. The problem, connections are being broken too fast. You can not blame the US Forest Service of the past for not knowing about the value of such parts as nurse logs for forest health.

However, the valueless tree, which contributes nothing to forest health, whether it be dead, dying, alive, downed or so called "rotten", is a myth of the past. This myth, however, still motivates many people in the Allegheny area. The idea of the never ending forest and "trees the natural renewable resource" are now starting to find rest with the flat earth, and the heart rot concept.

To know where we are going, it is important to know where we are at and how we got here. Our misconceptions of trees dating back to 1620 arise from a time when trees were considered the enemy. For everything they wanted to do, the blasted trees were in the way. Whether they wanted a garden or they wanted to go visit their neighbors, the dang trees were in the way. They used to get together on weekends just to go out and burn some blasted trees! Clearcutting an area was no big deal, until now. Over time, the value of trees did increase, but the belief in endless forests continued. When a wave hits the beach, the crash back into the water is much more intense than the inward rush of water.

Now we are seeing that trees are not coming back the way they were; we see the crash back. Soil depletion - disruption - dysfunction, herbiciding (altering the natural succession of plant life above and below ground), road building, planting grass, changing of water patterns and much more are overlooked, while deer, drought, insects and fire are blamed for forest decline.

Man has evolved along with trees as a friend as well as



a foe. Man has had a "talking relationship" with trees, but this was no real problem because land that supported trees was so much greater than land that supported man.

However, this situation has changed extremely during the last few centuries. Man and trees are now competing for space. Man can move, while trees can not move. Man still wants to continue the "talking relationship."

New tools and machines have accelerated the taking of trees. Yes, trees are needed by man, and yes, trees should be cut. But, the taking process is much more than the removal of trees. Not only are trees being wounded during the taking processes, but forests are being wounded: soil compaction, disruption of water drainage patterns, disruption of soil temperatures, disruption of soil organisms. Reviewed Published Research states we need to separate our forest from our tree farms. Tree farms are where trees are the crops.

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CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE SHUTS DOWN WILLAMETTE CHIP MILL

...Continued from page 5

residents perceive that their economy will take a big hit without logging on public lands. But the activists from SEAC, the Native Forest Network (NFN), and Allegheny Earth First! had a decidedly Zero Cut agenda in mind. "The nation's forests are far more valuable ecologically and economically, standing and growing where they are, rather than being liquidated for short-term gain," said Jake Kreilick of the NFN, one of the demonstrators on site. The demonstrators cited both the costs of logging on the national forest to taxpayers and the ecological damage caused by this logging in their arguments for no more logging in the National Forest.

But, the overriding message of the day was about chip mills. "Chip mills are springing up all over the east, and they are voracious in their appetite," continued Kreilick. In fact, there are over 140 chip mills in operation in the northeast today with over 100 of them being built in the last 8 years.

Chip mills are large plants which can process thousands of pounds of wood in a very short amount of time. They take in both trimmings and other waste wood from lumber mills as well as whole logs and salvage logs which are deemed to not be useful for lumber. But sometimes the plants take in whole logs which could be used for lumber that could be used to make products such as furniture. The chip mill produces wood chips which are then either turned into paper pulp and then used in paper manufacturing, or used to make particle board or other wood by-products.

However, the activists claim that these mills are not good for the local economy. Each of Willamette's chip mills employs only six people. Susan Curry, a forest activist with the Allegheny Defense Project in Clarion, PA, said that is too few new jobs to trade for the public's forests.

"Outfits like Keystone Chipping typically have a local life span of only a few years," Curry said, "after which they disappear, leaving the resource base in shambles and future generations without clean water, abundant wildlife or quality recreation."

Chip mills are a hot issue in the northeast these days as

increasing amounts of the forest are being turned into chips to be made into paper pulp. While industry representatives claim that they are recycling wood that couldn't be used for other purposes, activists on site at Keystone Chipping could plainly see whole logs in piles waiting to be chipped. Additionally, they estimate that up to 50% of the wood for the chipper comes from public lands such as the National Forest.

Furthermore," said Kreilick, "we estimate the mill draws timber and logs from as far away as 125 miles."

The activists indicated that they would not stop as long as the mill was in operation. They vowed to return to continue their activities in the future, letting Willamette know that they do not approve of their "use" of the forest.

The action also coincided with Forest Products Week, as declared by Pennsylvania's anti-environment governor, Tom Ridge. "We want to highlight the hypocrisy of selling the state's forests for short-term gain," Kreilick said. "Pennsylvania's forests are already showing signs of fragmentation and are at a crossroads. There's still a chance to prevent the devastation that occurred when the state was clear-cut around the turn of the century."

However, most of the people on site tended not to agree with the environmental activists. With as many as eight logging trucks, police cruisers, and pickup trucks backed up along the road, the loggers and employees had plenty of time to express their opinion. Their attitude was pretty clear from the start when, within a few minutes of the commencement of the protest, one enraged truck driver began threatening videographers with a crowbar. One logger caught asleep at the gate when the tripod went up said, "Why don't these young people go find a job and do something more creative with their time." But this driver was not immune to worry about ecological problems citing strip mining as a huge problem that he thought the activists should work on.

Environmental concern seemed further from the mind of Chris Mullen, a purchaser for the Johnsonburg paper plant, which is also owned by Willamette Industries. He thinks

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Allegheny Earth First! Activists hoist banner while log and chip trucks lining up at the gate of Willamette's chip mill are denied entry. photo courtesy of Allegheny Earth First!

ACTIVISTS AND WILLAMETTE GOING TO TRIAL!

by Shannon Hughes

On December 21, 1998, Josh Raisler Cohn and myself, along with a handful of enthusiastic supporters, headed back to Kane for our preliminary hearing. The Native Forest Network (NFN) and Earth First! action was in response to the great and growing concerns over the forestry stewardship of Willamette Industries on the Allegheny and other public lands across the country.

It truly was a beautiful day, seeing all those concerned faces. Although the rain may have kept some people away, we know their spirits were with us. The beautiful irony of a court hearing is that it truly does bring us all back together. It was wonderful to have everyone's support!

It is clear that we are all concerned with the health of the forest; I wouldn't be writing this and YOU wouldn't be reading this. There is a common ground on which we all stand. There is no doubt about our convictions. What there is doubt over is if our voices are being heard.

Time and time again we list our grievances, we petition for Zero-Cut, we relentlessly participate in those futile public comment polls and all of this with a smile! When all of this fails we must stand up and demand to be heard. When doing this, we have to remember that we are not alone!

Josh and I did not stand alone on October 20. We were representing more than Earth First! and the NFN. We were



Author Shannon Hughes Locked to the tripod. photo courtesy of Allegheny Earth First!

representing local concerned individuals, who because of harassment could not come out on their own. We were more than a bunch of tree huggers with nothing better to do. We were standing in the shadow of 70% of the American public that does not want logging on our national forests!

Those Americans that continually plead with the Forest Service, that continuously write letters to their representatives, those that are looking past their selves and are genuinely

concerned with the future— we stand in their shadows. We stand in the shadows of generations to come so that they may enjoy the beautiful grandeur of our forests. They are the ones that will suffer most if this onslaught continues. For those that cannot stand up to the machines that rape the earth and destroy habitat— we stand in their shadows.

There is a passion that dwells within each and every one of us. This passion is what led us to Keystone Chipping on the morning of October 20. This passion is what will keep us united and will allow us to continue in our endeavors to save our national forests.

With jury selection now set for April, Josh and I are looking forward to the trial and the chance to directly talk about the issues that plague not only this community but many others across the country. We know that we are not alone. For the Alleghenies and all that is wild, we thank you for standing with us on common ground.

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that Willamette is "in the business of growing trees and that is what [they] like to do." In his mind, Willamette is preserving the culture of the region, while the activists are merely doing this for the glory of it. He continued, "I don't think they give a shit about the forest!"

As the morning turned into day the log trucks were forced to leave as there were no signs that the protesters planned to leave the site. Most just turned around and left. Several others dumped their loads on the side of the roads before leaving the site. The sign of log trucks leaving buoyed the spirit of the protesters who cheered at the site of them turning around. But they were careful to indicate that they did not want to hurt or target the drivers of the trucks - it was Willamette they were after.

While the demonstrators were forced to move to the easement of the highway, the two activists who were locked down to the tripod stayed, as did two people who were providing them with direct support. Finally, at around 11:30am, after

long negotiations with the authorities on site, Raisler Cohn and Hughes agreed to leave the site. They were arrested shortly thereafter and charged with criminal trespass, failure to disperse, and disorderly conduct. They were released on bail the next morning and must return to McKean County for hearings on their case.

Action on and around the Allegheny National Forest is continuing at a blistering pace. Due to the discovery of a small population of the endangered Indiana Bat in the area, it seems that logging will at least temporarily be stopped on the entire national forest. But activity continues to halt the chip mill operations and to prevent a resumption of the destructive practices on the national land. This is combined with new efforts aimed at stopping logging on state forest land as well.

Pete Chowla is the Development Director for the National Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC). To learn about SEAC call (215) 222-4711 or visit www.seac.org.

THEY MIGHT HAVE A FILE ON YOU!

by Jim Kleissler

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is famous for keeping tabs on U.S. Citizens who participate in public activities such as civil rights, womyn's rights, and even environmental work. The FBI's anti-citizen Counter Intelligence Program (CoinTelPro) became famous in the 1970s when it was exposed by the Black Panthers. What you might not expect is that your local forest management agency may very well be keeping tabs on you too.

In response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request filed by the Allegheny Defense Project and Heartwood we obtained some very educational documents covering Forest Service monitoring of forest activists. In response to our FOIA request filed in September the Forest Service turned over approximately 50 pages of materials and 3 photographs. Another 20 documents were withheld under various FOIA exemptions. We have appealed the Forest Service's decision to withhold these documents.

Here are some of our findings:

- Over the past couple of years we have received many reports that Mary Hosmer, a public affairs employee in Warren, uses the internet (and potentially other resources) to keep tabs on the Allegheny Defense Project. Files retained from the Forest Service show that in fact this is true. In one particular document she researches Allegheny activist Mark Goldberg, determining that Mark "has it 'in' for commercial activities such as logging, export agriculture, cattle ranching, mining and oil exploration." According to Mary, Mark is a "professional protestor" even though she also states that "I wonder what he does for a living?" The memo goes on to speculate that a SEAC planning/policy meeting held in Clarion was more than it actually was. She con-



cludes, "When organizations with the reps that some of these others have start getting involved in little ole East Side, it means to me that ADP has upped their ante."

- Since early March, Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Steven S. Burd (you all might remember his famous photo from page 7 of the last *Hellbender Journal*) had been sending weekly memos to the Warren County Sheriff's Office and the Warren County Pennsylvania State Police Barracks updating them on the activities *and* associations of the Allegheny Defense Project - apparently in anticipation of civil disobedience actions at Minister Valley. Here are some excerpts:

March 10, 1998: "No "visitors" to either sale have been observed or reported since last week."

April 3, 1998: "There have been no observations or reports of any "visitors" to either job site. Timber Contractors are making regular visits to the sites to check on equipment and have not reported any problems to date. Forest Service Law Enforcement and Timber Sale Administration staff continue to make random visits to the sites."

April 7, 1998: "Two dates to take note of for increased possibility of 'protest' activity; 1) April 9-15. Easter Break at Clarion University, 2) May 15-17. Sierra Club based in Erie

It's the summer of 1998 and Law Enforcement Officer Steven Burd has stopped to investigate the legal presence of Allegheny activists on their publicly owned national forest. A dialogue ensues:

Steven Burd: I got a report that a few things were missing from this site a few days ago.

Maarkvark: That wouldn't be the trees that were stolen from here would it?

is planning a weekend at the Minister Creek area."

April 22, 1998: "Reminder; May 15-17, 1998, the Sierra Club based in Erie will be hosting a 'visit' to the Minister Valley. Their published intent is to visit the valley and see what is happening and perhaps perform some trail maintenance. I will advise as soon as I know anything more of their plans."

May 31, 1998: "Those interested in taking direct protest action on the ANF have obviously gone beyond the original Allegheny Defense Project group. [The next 3 lines are blacked out] The weekend prior to the demonstration at the Warren Office a SEAC planning/policy meeting was apparently held at Clarion University. This was more likely a strategy and planning session for the activities on the 20th."

June 5, 1998: "In their spring newsletter the ADP is advertising a 'Field Trip' on June 19-21. At this time we have no idea what they have planned but we will be attempting to find out and will keep you advised."

June 24, 1998: "Today I learned that James Kleissler, one of the principals of the Allegheny Defense Project, just attended a 5 day workshop sponsored by the Ruckus Society. The Ruckus Society is an organization based in Montana that trains people in environmental activism and civil disobedience. My guess is that this means he is planning to move his organization to the next level."

September 17, 1998: "The ADP has scheduled a "Fall Defender's Gathering" for Sep 18, 19 and 20th. A copy of this [gathering] schedule is attached for your information. At this time contractors are actively cutting both the

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Hellbender Journal

EYES ON THE FOREST SERVICE

The ADP guide to Timber Sales on the Allegheny National Forest!



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) PUBLIC COMMENTS PROCESS

NEPA, passed in 1969, mandates that all National Forest Actions of environmental consequence must undergo a public comments process. The process, as dictated by U.S. Forest Service regulations is outlined as followed.

Scoping: The Scoping Notice is an official announcement of a proposed timber sale. The scoping letter is followed by a 30 day public comment period.

Draft Environmental Document: The Pre-Decisional Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Environmental Assessment (Pre-EA), or Categorical Exclusion (CE) documents the environmental impacts of the proposed action and any other actions that were considered. EIS projects have the most significance while CE projects are considered by the Forest Service to have minimal impact. This document (except for CEs) is followed by another 30 day public comment period.

DN/FONSI: The Decision Notice and Finding Of No Significant Impact. The DN/FONSI is followed by a 45 day appeal period.



Timber Sale Project Calendar!

| <u>Project Name</u> | <u>Status to Date</u> | <u>What's Next?</u> |
|--|---|--|
| Forest Wide Projects | | |
| FOREST PLAN REVISION | The Forest Service held public hearings in 10/97. | Forest Service will still take comments on Need For Change. |
| EAST SIDE EIS PROJECT (MORTALITY II) | Scoping period closed in 5/98. | Delayed by Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation. ¹ |
| Bradford Ranger District | | |
| BULLY HOLLOW | Scoping period closed in 8/97. | Delayed by ESA Consultation. ¹ |
| COUNTY LINE/FOUR MILE WATERSHEDS PROJECT | Forest Service is gathering data. | Delayed by ESA Consultation. ¹ |
| FARNSWORTH PROJECT | Scoping period closed in 5/97. | Delayed by ESA Consultation. ¹ |
| FR 446 SALVAGE | Joined into East Side EIS. | N/A (see East Side Project) |
| GRUNDER RUN | Draft-EA being revised! | Delayed by ESA Consultation. ¹ |
| MINISTER VALLEY | Part of Lawsuit dismissed. Appealed. Being cut. | Waiting for Court Rulings. |
| NORTH FORK CHAPPEL | Draft-EA comment period closed in 5/98. | Delayed by ESA Consultation. ¹ |
| S. BRANCH WILLOW CREEK | Part of Lawsuit dismissed. Appealed. Being cut. | Waiting for Court Rulings. |
| Marienville Ranger District | | |
| BIG RUN | Proposed cut being developed. | Delayed by ESA Consultation. ¹ |
| BROOKSTON | Draft-EA comment period closed in 6/98. | Delayed by ESA Consultation. ¹ |
| BRUSH CREEK | Scoping period closed in 5/98. | Delayed by ESA Consultation. ¹ |
| COAL MINE | Joined into East Side EIS.. | N/A (see East Side Project) |
| GOOSE POND | Scoping period closed in 5/98. | Delayed by ESA Consultation. ¹ |
| ROCKET JOHN | Joined into East Side EIS. | N/A (see East Side Project) |
| THOMAS ROCK | Joined into East Side EIS. | N/A (see East Side Project). |

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information on ongoing Projects contact:

John Palmer, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest
PO Box 847
Warren, PA 16365
814/723-5150

John Schultz, District Ranger
Bradford Ranger District
Route#1, Box 88
Bradford, PA 16701
814/362-4613

Leon Blashok, District Ranger*
Marienville Ranger District
Star Route #2, Box 130
Marienville, PA 16239
814/927-6628

Robert T. Jacobs, Regional Forester**
Region 9, US Forest Service
310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Rm. 500
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Allegheny Defense Project
P.O. Box 245
Clarion, PA 16214
814/764-5763
adp@envirolink.org

**Ridgway and Marienville Ranger Districts have merged into the Marienville Office.*

***Appeals go to the Regional Office.*

¹ Currently, the US Forest Service is consulting with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on how to manage for the endangered Indiana Bat, Bald Eagle, and Northern riffleshell and clubshell mussels. Until USFWS issues a Biological Opinion all pending projects are delayed and active cutting will stop on April 1.

1999 ALLEGHENY DEFENSE CALENDAR 1999

February 17: WARNING: US Forest Service (USFS) Propaganda Event. *SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS ON NATIONAL FORESTS*. Dr. Grace Wang, Penn State. At the USFS Forestry Sciences Lab in Warren, PA. Call 814-563-1040 for info.

March 14-20: SEAC RUCKUS SOCIETY ACTION CAMP in Florida. A week long training in civil disobedience skills and tactics for student activists across the country. Visit the SEAC webpage at www.seac.org or call 215-222-4711.

March 16: WARNING: USFS Propaganda Event. *CENSUSING WILDLIFE BY CENSUSING HABITAT*. Dr. David deCalesta and Linda Ordiway. *see February 17 for more information.*

March 19-21: *NEW* ADP ACTIVIST CORPS WEEKEND. Join the ADP by working for the forest. Put in five hours of work and become a full fledged member of the ADP Activist Corps. This is a great opportunity for members to become **actively** involved and as a learning experience. Activist Corps weekends include anything from leafletting to office work to field work in the forest!

March 20: ALLEGHENY DEFENSE PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING! Join us for our first ever public meeting in Clarion, Pennsylvania. The meeting will include a special feature (such as our freshly updated slide show) and discussion involving the destruction of the Allegheny National Forest.

April: MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL SEAC CONFERENCE in Lewisburg, PA.

April: NEW YORK REGIONAL SEAC CONFERENCE in the Finger Lakes.

April 13: WARNING: USFS Propaganda Event. *OLD GROWTH FOREST MANAGEMENT: PLANNING FOR THE UNEXPECTED*. Dr. Chris Haney, the Wilderness Foundation. *see February 17 for more info.*
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May 11: WARNING: USFS Propaganda Event. *LANDSCAPE-LEVEL PLANNING FOR FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT*. Dr. Marc McDill, Penn State. *see February 17 for more information.*

May 14-16: *NEW* ADP ACTIVIST CORPS WEEKEND. Join the ADP by working for the forest. *see March 19-21 for more information.*

May/June: NATIVE FOREST NETWORK (NFN) NORTHEAST FOREST ACTIVIST TRAINING. Week long training in civil disobedience and forest protection. Contact NFN for more information at (802) 863-0571 or nfnena@sover.net.

June 12-13: *NEW* ALLEGHENY DEFENSE PROJECT FAMILY WEEKEND. Come out for our first annual ADP Family weekend. The weekend will provide education workshops, hikes, skills trainings, entertainment, and great food. There will be fun and educational children's activities all weekend!

June 18-20: *NEW* ADP ACTIVIST CORPS WEEKEND. Join the ADP by working for the forest. *see March 19-21 for more information.*

June 30 - July 7: ALLEGHENY BASE CAMP AT NATIONAL RAINBOW GATHERING in Allegheny National Forest. The ADP and coalition partners will be sponsoring an information tipi and activism center. More than 10,000 people will gather around July 4th holiday to pray for peace, harmony and love in our sacred woods. Thousands will be asked to join us in defending the Allegheny!

June 30 - July 7: NATIONAL EARTH FIRST! ROUND RIVER RENDEZVOUS in New Mexico. Contact the *Earth First! Journal* for more info at (541) 344-8004.

July 23-25: ZERO CUT MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING. An opportunity for zero-cut activists in the region to share information, ideas, and tactics for end-

ing commercial logging on public lands. This gathering will include folks from New York to Washington D.C. and New Jersey to West Virginia. For more information contact the ADP.

July 30-August 1: *NEW* ALLEGHENY DEFENSE PROJECT "KICK BACK" FIELD TRIP. Come out for a weekend of campfires, hikes, and a good ol' time in the Allegheny woods.

September 17-19: *NEW* ADP ACTIVIST CORPS WEEKEND. Join the ADP by working for the forest. *see March 19-21 for more information.*

September 24-26: 6TH ANNUAL ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST DEFENDER'S GATHERING! Mark your calendars now for this super annual event. Join us this year for more workshops, protests, talks with loggers, and recreational hikes!

October 8-10: *NEW* ADP ACTIVIST CORPS WEEKEND. Join the ADP by working for the forest. *see March 19-21 for more information.*

October 9: ALLEGHENY DEFENSE PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING!

December 3-5: *NEW* ADP ACTIVIST CORPS WEEKEND. Join the ADP by working for the forest. *see March 19-21 for more information.*

THINGS TO WATCH FOR

ALLEGHENY DEFENSE PROJECT ZERO-CUT VIDEO. This year we will be unveiling a great new video on the struggle to protect the Allegheny National Forest.

BENEFITS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS. As usual tis year promises many fun and education events that aren't listed here.

ZERO-CUT ON THE ALLEGHENY ROADSHOW. This Spring Allegheny activists will be hitting the road with slide show and music in order to spread the grand zero-cut word. Contact the ADP to set them up for a show in your area.

Hellbender Journal

NATIONWIDE COALITION FILES LAWSUIT FOR ZERO-CUT

..Continued from page 8

injunction on the Forest Service from awarding any timber sale contracts until the 1995 RPA Program is finalized and until an EIS is conducted on the 1995 RPA Program.

The draft Forest Service 1995 RPA program concluded that recreation, fishing, hunting and other non-commodity activities contributed 32 times more jobs and income than did logging on the National Forest system. Industry groups and anti-environmental members of Congress viewed the 1995 Draft RPA Program with alarm, as the Forest Service draft document acknowledged the huge money losses associated with the timber program and the massive economic input the U.S. receives from hiking, bird watching, rafting, fishing and hunting on National Forests.

In 1997, Congress at the request of panicked industry groups passed a rider prohibiting the Forest Service from finalizing the 1995 RPA Program until September 30, 1998. With the September 30, 1998-deadline looming, the coalition of environmental, fishing and hunting groups had decided to take the issue directly to Federal Court to force the Forest Service to finalize the 1995 RPA Program and finally admit to the public that the commercial timber program on

the National Forest system does not make economic or ecological sense and that it costs the U.S. economy hundreds of millions of dollars annually in subsidies and lost income from prime recreational, fishing and hunting grounds destroyed by logging and road-building for logging.

Jake Kreilick, President of the Native Forest Network based in Missoula, Montana stated, "The findings of the RPA Program are important to setting management direction for the National Forest system. The timber industry clearly wants the plug pulled on the RPA Program because the facts are showing that the U.S. Forest Service's policy of clearcutting and road building in our wild country must end." Kreilick added, "The result of the Forest Service preparing an EIS for management of the National Forests is that the Forest Service will have to admit for all the public to see that continued commercial logging of our National Forests is not in the public interest of the U.S. taxpayer and should be halted."

The lawsuit is the first ever in the U.S. to demand a halt to additional commercial logging on the entire National Forest system.

FOREST SERVICE KEEPS FILES ON FOREST ACTIVISTS

..Continued from page 20

Rocky Grove and McMichael's Mills timber sales in the Minister Creek area. The Forest Service has advised the contractors of the planned ADP activity. At this time we have no information that the group intends to purposely disrupt any logging or protest at any location. Forest Service personnel will be monitoring the group at various times throughout the gathering. Although at this time we have no information that anything is planned it is always a possibility that there will be some sort of counter demonstration or gathering. We will keep you advised of any potential problems that may require action by your agencies."

- An odd attachment included copies of a police report on a civil disobedience action on the Wayne National Forest in Ohio dating back to November of 1996. In the report, 3 activists have asterisks next to their names. The report identifies them as 'Main Players.'

- From a memo titled, "CONFIDENTIAL, NOT FOR FOIA RELEASE, INTERNAL USE ONLY, MINISTER WATERSHED PROJECT":

"12 people were again at the Rocky Grove Timber Sale site. [LEO Robert] Crawford responded to the site and spoke to a group of approximately 12 people walking through the area... The Group did tell Crawford that they were from ADP and several in the group did make comments regarding how terrible it was that the trees were being cut..."

"The Allegheny Defense Project (ADP) is an environmentalist organization based in Clarion, PA. The two principles of the organization are Jim Kleissler and Susan Curry..."

"Kleissler and Curry as individuals as well as ADP as an organization have a history of appealing virtually every timber sale project pro-

posed on the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) for the last 5 years. On two different occasions in the past Kleissler and Curry have been part of a group of individuals staging generally peaceful protests of chanting, singing, and dancing, etc... on the sidewalk in front of the Forest Supervisor's office in Warren.

"ADP has held numerous gatherings on the Forest to discuss issues among themselves and their invited guests. The agenda for these meetings include "classes" in civil disobedience and protesting.

"The ADP has now been joined and is being supported by numerous individuals and organizations "supporting their cause." These groups include some who have a history of practicing and supporting acts of civil disobedience and criminal vandalism on National Forests throughout the Country. These groups include: Sierra Club, Earth First, Buckeye Forest Council, Heartwood, Others

....
"The Allegheny National Forest Supervisor has the authority to close portions of the National Forest to public use for the protection of health and safety if he feels it is necessary..."

[The next 23 lines of the memo are blacked out]

This is just the tip of the iceberg. There is more information on forest activists in the Forest Service' files. While we have been able to obtain or review some of the information there is clearly more to be obtained. Recently Jim Bensman, Forest Watch Coordinator for Heartwood, has recently caught the US Forest Service shredding documents that are supposed to be released under the FOIA. Don't be shocked if the shredder gets your file before you do.

CONTACT AN ADP COORDINATOR NEAR YOU!

ALLEGHENY AREA

Kelly Compeau/Jim Kleissler
PO Box 245
Clarion, PA 16214
814-764-5763 ph/fax
adp@envirolink.org

BUFFALO, NY AREA

Andrew Gianni
716-639-0781
aggianni@buffalo.edu

CLEVELAND, OH AREA

Rodger Clarke
3784 Claque Road, Apt. 3
North Olmsted, OH 44070
440-777-1150
roclarke@stratos.net

INDIANA, PA AREA

Alina Buggey
12 North 12th Street
Indiana, PA 15701
leenajellybeans@yahoo.com

Renee Goepfert
1140 School Street
Indiana, PA 15701
724-465-8606

CONTACT AN ALLEGHENY DEFENSE PROJECT COORDINATOR IN YOUR AREA AND GET INVOLVED!

ITHACA, NY AREA

David Agranov, Finger Lakes Education for a Sustainable Future
P.O.Box 165
Ithaca, NY 14851
fingerLESF@aol.com

Kristin Ruether
114 Overlook Road, #2R
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-257-3671
kfr1@cornell.edu

LEWISBURG, PA AREA

Lauren Bond
#C0078, Bucknell University
Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-577-4973
bond@bucknell.edu

NEW YORK CITY AREA

Maarkvark
305 Park Street
Up. Montclair, NJ 07043
973-783-9281
meg3417@is2.nyu.edu

James Hansen
Federal Lands Action Group
P.O. Box 458
Old Chelsea Station, NY 10011
212-627-2007

PHILADELPHIA, PA AREA

John A. Keslick, Jr.
treeman@chesco.com
Ph 610-738-9145
fax 610-738-9245

PITTSBURGH, PA AREA

Alexander Denmarsh
1146 Michael Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-3946
ph 412-881-0238
fax 412-884-0993
tadranch@earthlink.net

Mike and Eloise Kaizar
mkaizar@envirolink.org
elly@envirolink.org

ROCHESTER, NY AREA

Rachel Martin
6158 Hunters Drive
Farmington, NY 14425
716-924-9248
rmartin@envirolink.org

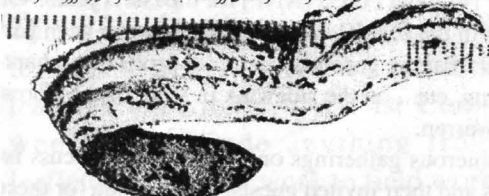
STATE COLLEGE, PA AREA

Gina Giazsoni
142 West Hamilton
State College, PA 16801
gmg9@psu.edu

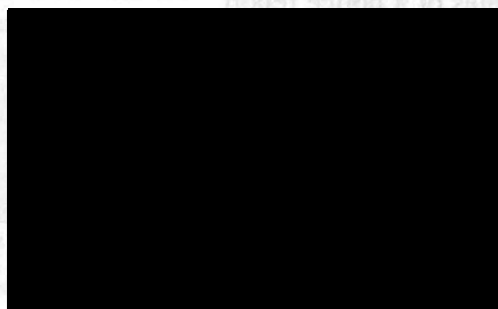
WEST COAST REGION

Jim Ace, c/o Ruckus Society
2054 University Avenue, Ste. 204
Berkeley, CA 94704
510-848-9565
ace@ruckus.org

Cryptobranchius alleganiensis, the Hellbender



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Allegheny Defense Project
PO Box 245
Clarion, PA 16214

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