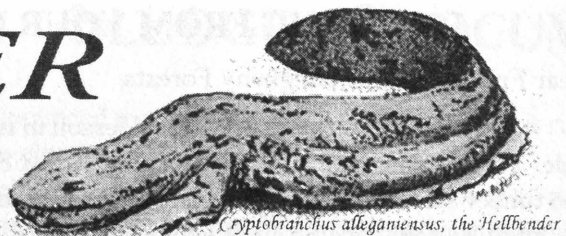


HELLBENDER JOURNAL

The Activist Journal of the Allegheny Defense Project



Cryptobranchus alleganiensis, the Hellbender

Vol. 6, No. 1

Defending Allegheny Forests

Vernal Issue 2000

The North Country Trail UNDER SIEGE!

By Kirk Johnson

The development and preservation of the North Country Trail (NCT), a National Scenic Trail administered by the National Park Service, is in many ways still at the beginning stages of development but is poised to make large strides in the near future. It is important that everything is done to protect segments of the trail that have already been established such as that which runs through the Allegheny National Forest. Unfortunately, it is clear that sincere protection of the North Country Trail is not a priority for the Allegheny Forest Service. There is clear evidence throughout the Allegheny that recreation is taking a back seat to resource extraction.

Just north of the Fork Run drainage in the southwest portion of the Allegheny, the NCT passes through part of a timber sale known as "Hammer". This is a healthy section of forest that is making its way back from the heavy logging of a century ago. Unfortunately, as documented in the last issue of the *Hellbender Journal*, paint slashes mark these healthy trees that are destined to be cut unless sufficient resistance to the project is mounted. There will be absolutely no buffer between the cutting and the trail — an unacceptable outcome. And this is only one of many areas where pending clearcuts threaten the trail.

Also as documented in the last issue of the *Hellbender Journal*, the proliferation of drilling for gas and oil in the Allegheny has become a major threat to the integrity of the NCT corridor. While the Forest Service is not directly responsible for the oil drilling, future drilling can be avoided in many places through the purchase of mineral rights beneath the Allegheny. The Forest Service has never made such purchases a priority,

thereby virtually inviting private oil companies to come in and dissect the Forest to gain access to the oil. The only significant area within which the Forest Service has ever purchased mineral rights are those that lie beneath the 8,663 acre Hickory Creek Wilderness. Overall, only 13,960 of 513,187 (2.7%) possible acres of Forest Service owned land on the Allegheny are off limits to mineral development!

On January 20 of this year the Forest Service released their "National Recreation Area (NRA) Boat Access Campground Rehabilitation Project" which will open up 2.5 miles of the North Country Trail near the Allegheny Reservoir as a road for heavy machinery—to replace toilets, of all things! Many Hellbenders have sent their comments in on this highly questionable project, and the forest creatures and NCT aficionados thank you for that! Many of us have been working with Bob Tait of the North Country Trail Association on this issue, as the

preservation of the NCT is an issue of national significance. As of this writing, the Forest Service is proceeding with their environmental analysis of the project as planned, but judging by the large number of public comments they have received over this violation of the trail, we are hopeful that the project will not be implemented.

Most recently, during the month of February, the Forest Service closed a 4-mile section of Forest Road 145 in the Marienville Ranger District for the express purpose of allowing private oil companies exclusive access to the area to con-



Oil drilling along the North Country Trail between Little Salmon Creek and Guiton Run. Note uncontained brinewater discharge. Photo by Kirk Johnson

Continued on Page 17...

RHETORIC FROM YOUR FRIENDLY EDITOR!

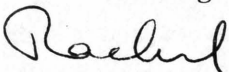
Dear Friends of the Allegheny Forests,

The last month has been a real lesson in not letting yourself get too comfortable. For the past couple of months, the Forest Service has been relatively quiet, on the timber sale front anyway. This has allowed us to concentrate more on the North Country National Scenic Trail and other recreation issues, and to begin the difficult task of ending oil and gas drilling on the Allegheny. We've also traveled throughout the Allegheny region, giving presentations and informing and involving folks.

On March 2, however, we were greatly surprised when the Forest Plan Amendment and 15 timber sale Supplemental Environmental Assessments all appeared in our mailbox. Five more Supplemental EA's and the long-awaited new sensitive species list arrived shortly thereafter. It is clear that this barrage from the Forest Service is an attempt to overwhelm the public with projects to comment on. We are going to have a very difficult time reading 900 pages of new materials and 5,000 pages of supplemental material, perform site visits, *and* write meaningful comments. I imagine you all will too.

But, on a lighter note, we have the opportunity to mobilize mass outrage against these projects. You'll find more on this later in this issue of the Hellbender.

For a wild Allegheny,



Rachel Martin, Editor

Deadline For Next Issue: June 1, 2000

Inside this issue...

The North Country Trail...Under Siege!	cover
Earth Police Cite Senator "Sludge" Slocum	p. 3
Allegany Birthday Party	p. 4
Bad County Payments Bill in Senate	p. 6
Allegheny National Cherry Tree Farm?	p. 7
Historic Avonworth Community Park Threatened	p. 8
...And the Charade Continues... <i>Forest Plan Amendment Won't Protect Threatened and Endangered Species</i>	p. 9
Temple-Inland: <i>Devouring Forests, Polluting Communities</i>	p. 10
Cougar in Pennsylvania: Fact or Fiction?	p. 13
The Truth about "Shifting Pressures"	p. 14
ADP Pittsburgh Growing Fast!!!	p. 18
Pittsburgh Area Calendar	p. 18
<i>In the Rings of the Tree</i> by Thomas Watkiss	p. 19
Pittsburgh Grassroots Globalization Network	p. 19
The Lorax: Alive in the Alleghenies	p. 20
Allegheny Defense Project 2000 Calendar	p. 21
Gas Drilling Threat Renewed on Finger Lakes NF	p. 22
New Species Added to Allegheny "Sensitive" List	p. 22
Toxic Fumes and Kids Don't Mix	p. 23

Funding for the Hellbender Journal provided in part through a generous grant from the Fund for Wild Nature.

The Hellbender Journal

Vol. 6, No. 1

Vernal Issue 2000

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.

.....

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 those that would harm 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

phone: 814/223-4996

fax: 814/223-4997

adp@envirolink.org

www.alleghenydefense.org

Contributors, both physical and mental: Larry Beahan, Mike Bellinger, Jim Bensman, Kelly Compeau, Eric Dee, DEP, Andrew Gianni, Chad Hanson, John Henderson, Laurel Herendeen, Shannon Hughes, Kirk Johnson, John Jonik, Jim Kleissler, Rachel Martin, Jonah McGreevy, Matt Peters, Snappy the Hellbender, Jesse Strock, and Thomas Watkiss.

By Rachel Martin



Special Agents Ally Ganey (left) and Justice N. Earth (right) *Photo by Kirk Johnson*

While Slocum has been state senator, he has also repeatedly spoken out loudly and harshly against the Allegheny Defense Project and others who seek to protect the Allegheny. His escapades reached a head in 1998 when he held up funding to try to get the University of Pittsburgh to reprimand professors Bill Luneberg and Jules Lobel for their role in the successful 1997 Mortality II lawsuit. In an act of what can almost be seen as karmic retribution, Senator Sludge now faces up to six years in prison and \$600,000 in fines.

During Senator Sludge's 1998 election bid, he was confronted with his actions. He replied that he had broken no laws, and that he was innocent—a blatant lie. Just after he signed his plea in January, a reporter asked him if he thought he owed an apology to the people of Youngsville. He said no. After being denounced by several newspapers and in countless articles, Slocum decided that he did want to apologize after all—and contacted the Warren Times-Observer for an opportunity to do so. When the paper told him that they would do the interview only if it was to be “no holds barred,” Slocum declined and took out a paid ad in the paper stating his apology for “the damage [he] has done to the image of the community.” But no mention of the damage he did to the creek or potentially to the health of his community. Despite his illegal actions and countless calls from citizens and the press for his resignation, Slocum, backed by local Republican party lead-

On January 18, Pennsylvania State Senator Bill Slocum (R-Warren) (nicknamed "Sludge" by the local press), plead guilty to six counts of federal misdemeanors and criminal negligence for his role in dumping at least 3.5 million gallons of

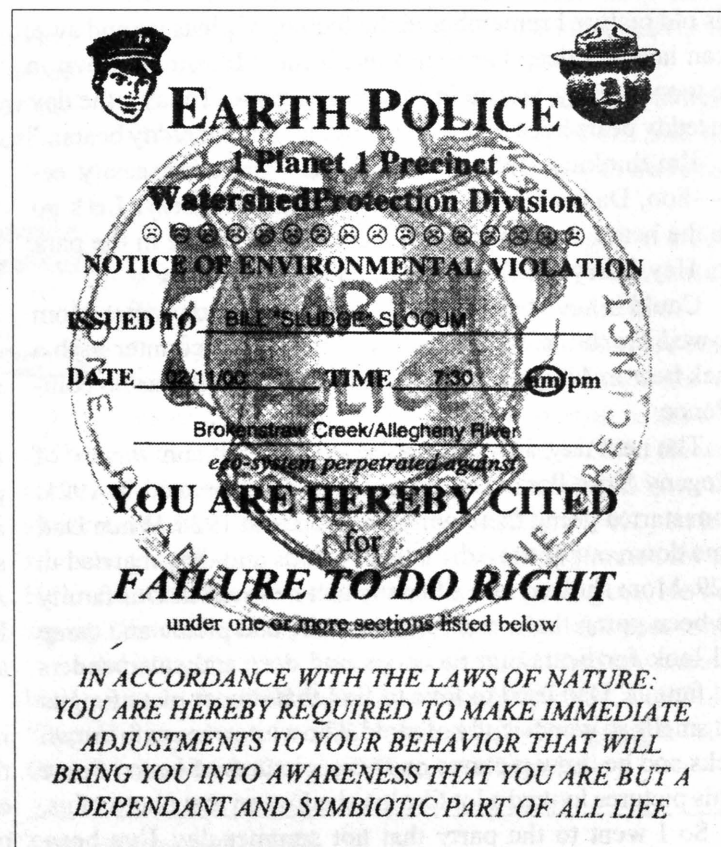
ers, has announced that not only will he not resign, he is running for re-election.

On February 11, The Watershed Division of the Earth Police (One Planet, One Precinct) learned that Senator Sludge planned to make an appearance at the Franklin Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Breakfast, held at the posh Franklin Club in downtown Franklin, PA. That morning, Special Agents Justice N. Earth and Ally Ganey were on the scene to present Senator Sludge with a citation for “Failure to Do Right.” They charged Slocum with twelve counts including, “Ignoring Environmental Impacts,” “Degrading a Wild and Scenic River,” being “Blindly Self-Serving and Thoughtless,” and “Risking the Health of [His] Community,” among others.

The officers were rather quickly removed from the scene. As they left, one heckler in the audience rather creatively shouted, "Get a job!" to which Special Agent Earth informed him, "I have a job. It's called Justice."

The action was picked up by several newspapers, including the Erie Times-News, which did an excellent piece on the event. (And called once again for Slocum to resign.)

A civilian videographer was also present to tape the proceedings. You can find the video on the Allegheny Defense Project's website at www.alleghenydefense.org/multimedia/earth_police_110200.mov. Slocum's plea can be found on the web at www.pasenate.com/PressReleases/slocumplea.htm



ALLEGANY BIRTHDAY PARTY

By Larry Beahan (C)

This is a story from the other Allegheny, the one they spell funny, up in New York. It's a 60,000 acre beauty, covered with 90 to 350 year-old forest, and lies directly adjacent to the Allegheny National Forest. They have problems with oil and gas and lumbering but activists from the Friends of Alleghany coalition have been holding their own there against a state bureaucracy that may be coming around to see that the Park's forest environment is worth more than its fiber and petroleum.

I am virtually sure of it, a black bear, a big black bear took a picture of me. Look at this snapshot. Mom found it beside the cushion of my father's favorite chair. It is me. Mom says Dad took it in 1932. She says the shadow in the foreground is him sighting down through our old Kodak box-camera.

Look at it. Does that shadow look like my father? Forgive me, you wouldn't know. That is not the shadow I would expect my father to make. To me, it is unmistakably the shadow of a large bear. See the ears and the sloping shoulders and the bulk of that body.

Some people believe you can tell more about a person by looking at his shadow than by looking directly at him.

It does not seem possible that I could remember anything from such an early age. Yet the moment Mom showed me this old picture I remembered the feeling of pleasure and awe. I can hear his deep baritone teasing me, "If you go down in the woods today, you're in for a big surprise. Today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic. Picnic time for teddy bears..."

I'm thinking, because talk did not, yet, come easily, ee-ya—hoo, Daddy's home early from work. Hooray! Let's go see the bears, the other bears. Let's have a picnic in the park too. Hey, hurry up, Daddy Bear, come pick me up.

Could it have been a coincidence that the day after Mom showed me this picture I had that amazing encounter with a black bear in Alleghany State Park? I think not. It was no coincidence.

The next day, July 30, I attended the 75th anniversary of Alleghany State Park. The gates of the Park opened in 1921. Mom started going there with girl friends in 1924. When Dad came down out of the Adirondack woods and they married in 1929, Mom showed him Alleghany and he loved it. Our family has been going there ever since, to hike and picnic and camp and look for bears and raccoons and deer and salamanders and fungus. Dad used to love to find that dinner-plate fungus that smells so wonderfully of mold. The white ones with brown backs and he drew pictures on them, pictures of bears. Some of his pictures looked a lot like his shadow on that photo of us.

So I went to the party that hot summer day. I've been worried about the Park. The lumber industry has been trying



to persuade the State to let it harvest the ninety-year-old black cherry that grows there in abundance. National Fuel Gas owns a gas lease under the nine-thousand-acre stand of two-hundred-and-fifty-year-old hemlock. They want to cut it up with roads to re-bore old gas wells and make the dome at the center of the Park a vast natural gas storage tank. Bears and pileated woodpeckers and eagles are not comfortable around a lot of roads, neither were me and Dad. We like deep woods to hide in.

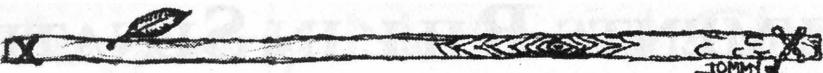
Last year a general outcry came from the public. Assemblymen Sam Hoyt of Buffalo and Joe Pillittere of Niagara Falls articulated it well for us. If Dad were still alive he would have spoken up too. I certainly did. At the last minute a promise came from Gov-

ernor Pataki that he would not allow the commercial exploitation of our Alleghany woods. Still there are dangerous rumblings.

The day of the party it was storming. On the way to Alleghany it gradually cleared. Then a glorious sun lit the green woods and hills and the speech made by the Commissioner of Parks. It was as if nature had magically colluded with the Parks Department and ordained a holiday truce for dear old Alleghany's birthday. At the end of the day the torrential rain recommenced and this place so loaded with memories still seemed under threat.

The celebration centered about the museum that the Park authorities had made of the old Larkin Company Store. Its porch was draped in red, white and blue bunting. On the porch a bluegrass band blared out joyously. There was a flapper with shingled hair and a short slender dress like Mom used to wear. A sheriff's deputy dismounted and helped her onto his horse. Kids laughed as a pair of ponies pulled a cart full of them up and down the road.

In her speech Commissioner Castro skirted most of the important issues. She pointed to the commercial success of the Larkin Company Store in the Park. She made no mention of those loyal battlers Hoyt and Pillittere but she promised to name a part of the Park after a legislator who had not opposed logging and other commercial enterprises there. Ominously,



Background and News on Allegany State Park

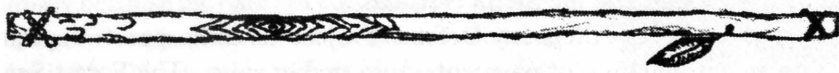
Master Plan: Proposed Master Plans came out about twelve years ago and then again a few years ago. Both called for large-scale logging in the Park. The Friends of the Allegany (with a little help from the likes of Natalie Merchant, a Jamestown native) raised hell and they backed down. Governor Pataki publicly promised, "there will be no commercial logging in the Park," and spoke of a committee of scientists that would make recommendations about management of the forest. Hopefully this statement will soon be formalized in a new master plan proposal. There has also been a rumor that the plan is finished, and waiting for the right political climate to be released. (Extraction-friendly climate, that is.)

Snowmobile Trail: This dispute was over a snowmobile trail for which the proper environmental reviews were not done, and which would have crossed a popular cross-country ski trail. Friends of the Allegany were able to halt this trail.

Mineral Rights: Over the last couple years, National Fuel Gas has gradually bought up large amounts of mineral rights in the Park. Meanwhile, the Park has made no effort to purchase the rights themselves. National Fuel has also attempted to expand their fuel storage wells into the 350-year-old Hemlock forest in the heart of the Park.

The Friends of the Allegany (FOA) are currently working as Friends of Zoar Valley to try to save old growth forest areas along Cattaraugus Creek. Some members of FOA, particularly the Adirondack Mountain Club, are working to restore an old firetower in the Park.

For more information on the Allegany State Park, contact Larry Beahan, larry_beahan@adelphia.net or Bruce Kershner at bskershner@adelphia.net



she spoke of her hopes for the financial independence of the Park.

After the speech we all crowded inside to share a big chocolate cake decorated with a frosting map of the Park. People in shorts and tee shirts, officials in suits and dresses, costumed men in long black coats, women in big hats and bustles milled about stuffing themselves with cake as they congratulated one another on the success of the Park. My heart sank as the National Fuel Gas Corporate team laughingly dug an oversized chunk out of the heart of that map.

I got my cake and snuck out the back door to hike up to Dad's favorite spot, the three bear caves on Bear Cave Trail.

On my way out I met my first bear of the day, a sweating girl pulling off a bear suit.

Koniag Eskimo women of Kodiak Island don bear skins while their men are hunting whales. They find that it helps the hunt. The Koniag also believe that people can become bears by eating bear meat. I suppose the opposite might also be true. Dad's dad used to go out after a bear once in a while, to carry them through the winter. Pickings were kind of thin up in the woods sometimes. Maybe that's how Dad got to be a bear.

Even under that dense canopy of maple and cherry, it was hot work climbing the trail to the caves. Sweating, I arrived at the long ridge of house-sized rocks where those three caves are supposed to be. I could not find the cave entrances. I am glad Dad didn't see that.

Fortunately, a man with his eleven-year old son and three other cave rats came up the trail. They offered me a flashlight and invited me along, after informing me that a ranger told them there were twenty-five bears in the Park. You can have your politicians and your speeches. Give me the woods and the bear caves. This is what I come to Allegany for.

Yet, there were moments when I started to question my dedication to the spelunking part of this expedition. The cave entrances are small. Inside they are dark and cool but some places are quite narrow. I would not like to surprise a bear there. One of the caves goes down and back more than thirty feet. I stuck it out, though, and explored all three caves almost as fully as the kids.

There were to be more speeches and I felt obliged to attend them. I thanked my companions and left them. I started the drive back to the Larkin Store following a Park police cruiser.

A big black bear, definitely not a girl in a bear suit, strode across the road in front of the cruiser. The cop got on his radio and was he animated.

I pulled over to watch. So did the bear. He lumbered twenty feet into the brush and turned his tan snout and big black ears and brown eyes to take us in. Then he went up on his hind legs for a better look. He was enormous, those great big paws and the teeth. It was him. I'll swear it was him. He gave me a grin that I know well, just like when he got off work early and had something planned for us. He knew about that birthday cake. He was teasing me. He was saying, "Save me a hunk of that birthday cake, will you, son?"

I did not get a good look at his shadow. I had my camera but I was too absorbed to think to take his picture. I told him "Pop, we're going to do better than that. We're going to save these whole woods for you." Then he was gone.

Story written summer 1996

BAD COUNTY PAYMENTS BILL IN SENATE

By Rachel Martin

In 1908, Congress passed a revenue-sharing program to compensate counties which contain national forest land. As a result, to this day, 25% of the funds received by the Forest Service for timber sales is given to state governments to be used for county roads and school budgets.

This set up has created a scenario whereby local communities are forced to promote more logging of our national forests in order to fund their schools and roads. In addition, these payments fluctuate widely from year to year. In a year in which timber sales are down due to environmental and other factors, schools which have become dependant upon these funds receive less money.

In the Allegheny area, we've been hearing a lot lately about school funding from the Allegheny dropping over the past year. Repeatedly, communities in the area have blamed the Allegheny Defense Project for the fact that their schools have less funding this year. But whose fault is it, really? And how much funding do these schools really receive?

First, the schools in the Allegheny area actually receive a very small portion of their overall funding from the 25% Fund. Most of the area school districts receive between 2 and 5% of their funding from timber sales.

The Allegheny Defense Project has long been promoting a de-linking of these payments from timber sales. This would ensure that schools received a reliable amount of money from year to year. The industry, however, has been strongly opposed to this idea. The former executive director of the Allegheny Forest Alliance, a local wise-use group, went so far as to state that his organization does not support de-linking, as "with decoupling in general, there is nothing that would give the Forest Service an incentive to produce a timber sale program that generates gross receipts." Basically, to the industry, rural kids are nothing but pawns in the timber game. (As an added note, in 1998 most of the area school districts opted to give 5% of their 25% Fund receipts to the AFA. One must wonder if the schools realize that the AFA is actively working against their interests!)

A bill entitled the Community and Schools Funding Revitalization Act, which purports to solve the school payments problem, recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives. Backed by Allegheny-area Congressman John Peterson, this bill does almost nothing to de-link the payments from timber sales, but does much to ensure that industry will continue to get its fill of public lands timber. This bill is now in the Senate, under the guise of the "Secure Rural Schools and Com-

"With decoupling in general, there is nothing that would give the Forest Service an incentive to produce a timber sale program that generates gross receipts."

~ Former Allegheny Forest Alliance
Executive Director Steven Troha

munity Self-Determination Act of 1999" (S. 1608). But, of course, there is nothing "secure" about it.

This bill basically sets a threshold below which payments to counties are not to fall. Payments will continue to come from timber sales, but, in the event that the timber sale receipts drop, the Forest Service will need to make up the difference. How? Well, mostly through receipts earmarked for other programs such as watershed protection, recreation, and wildlife. And if that's

not enough to make up the difference, the Secretary of the Treasury is required to find that extra money from unappropriated funds. So, basically, this bill does not at all provide guaranteed payments for schools and townships.

The bill then gets even weirder. It takes 20% of the funds that are supposed to go to schools and townships for things like computers, textbooks, and roads, and gives the money to "investment project advisory committees" for "resource management, stewardship, restoration, or development" projects. Money received from these projects will then be split between the counties and the Treasury. So, of course, these committees will be forced to propose projects that will make money....like timber sales. If they do spend the money on restoration projects like road obliteration, then they will simply lose 25% of their funding. And if they don't spend the money? It gets taken from the county and redistributed among other counties. Who will serve on these committees? "Local resource users, environmental interests, forest workers and organized labor representatives, county elected officials, school administrators, teachers, and other local interests..." Sounds a lot like the Quincy Library Group, a notorious committee made up of "local interests" that resulted in doubling the amount of logging in the Sierra Nevadas.

The Allegheny Defense Project instead supports the true decoupling of payments from timber sales. The Forest Service itself has issued a proposal for decoupling which would provide guaranteed payments to counties. (Many folks in the region have been concerned that delinking payments would result in the problems that have been seen with the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT.) PILT, however, is not a guaranteed payment, and this is a huge difference.) The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act, HR 1396, would also provide for the guaranteed payments to counties, as well as end commercial logging on our national forests, and redirect subsidies to restoration, worker retraining, and alternative fiber research.

To see the text of either S. 1608 or HR 1396, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

Allegheny National Cherry Tree Farm?!



Above: The Allegheny Forest Service black cherry genetic experimentation plot, about 5.5 miles north of Marienville on the west side of Forest Road 128. Below: Sign along FR 128. Photos by Kirk Johnson

By Kirk Johnson

As recently as 200 years ago northwest Pennsylvania's Allegheny Plateau was covered by a vast mature forest made up of enormous living trees over 150 feet tall (some white pines soared over 200 feet); massive standing dead trees ('snags') which were home to a variety of mammals, birds and insects; huge fallen trunks which were also homes for animal life and provided nutrients for fungi and plants; middle-level trees 30 to 100 feet tall; young trees just a few years old and a few feet high; and scattered canopy openings where some of the giants had recently fallen allowing sunlight in. In short, it was a healthy, functioning ecosystem which was operating at a climax state of natural succession as forests should be.

There are obviously some major differences between this Allegheny forest that existed here for thousands of years, and what we find in today's Allegheny National Forest. For one thing, the trees are much smaller than they once were, simply because they are not particularly old. Virtually the entire Plateau was wantonly clearcut about 80-120 years ago. Most of the forest that grew back dates from that time period. Many of the trees that existed before this period of heavy cutting, however, were 300 to 400 years old.

Another important distinction to be made is in species composition. According to an 1814 survey conducted on 174,000 acres of Allegheny Plateau land¹ and other air-tight evidence, Allegheny forests were historically dominated by white pine, eastern hemlock, and American beech. Black cherry, a mid-successional sun-loving species, was barely present at all, making up less than one percent of the trees.

After the period of heavy clearcutting, black cherry trees were one of the most common species to colonize the battered land due to their affinity for the full sunshine conditions cre-

ated by the logging. Previously this species had been suppressed by the mostly closed canopy of the existing mature forest. Today, black cherry comprises over 25% of the trees in the Allegheny National Forest according to the Forest Service.

With such an overpopulation of black cherry you would think the Forest Service would not want to plant anymore, right? You would think that an agency charged with the stewardship of Pennsylvania's only national forest would want to recover the forest, which was once so irresponsibly obliterated, by planting native species such as white pine, beech, and hemlock, and allowing the more short-lived black cherry to subside to natural levels, right?

Well, think again. Black cherry is extremely valuable commercial timber. It's not actually used much for anything practical like lumber for building houses, but does make extremely valuable luxury furniture, paneling, and other unessential lavish items. According to the 1986 Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan):

"Timber on the Allegheny National Forest is a valuable economic resource, especially the many stands of high-value black cherry trees....the forest floor on the Allegheny National Forest is covered with a dense understory of fern and striped maple. This understory, combined with excessive deer browsing, is sufficient to prevent the growth of black cherry and other desirable seedlings. The most effective treatment

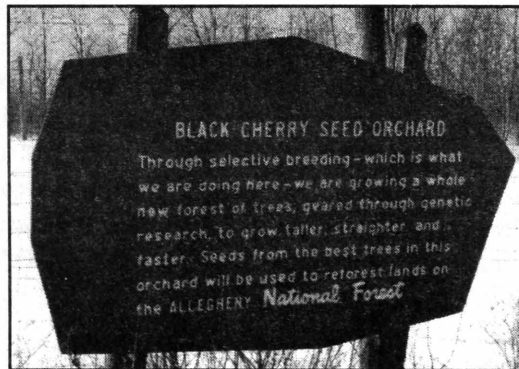
of this dense understory is to use herbicides to kill the fern and striped maple. ...Resolution: ...Emphasize financial returns from production of high-quality sawtimber"

So the Forest Service *deliberately* retards natural succession by planting black cherry throughout the Allegheny to this day, and uses thou-

sands of gallons of *toxic herbicides* such as Oust (sulfometuron methyl) and Roundup (glyphosate) on our Allegheny forest to suppress regeneration of less commercially desirable, but naturally occurring tree species!

The Allegheny Forest Service is currently revising their Forest Plan under the 1976 National Forest Management Act. Please write or call Allegheny National Forest Supervisor John Palmer at P.O. Box 847, Warren, PA, 16365, (814) 723-5150 and tell him to include in the new Forest Plan a ban on planting black cherry anywhere in the Allegheny National Forest ever again. There are currently far more than enough to ecologically glut the Allegheny with an elevated black cherry pres-

(Cont. on page 18)

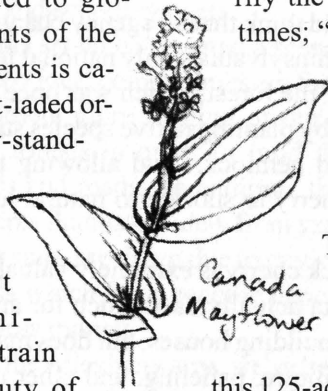


Historic Avonworth Community Park Threatened

By Shannon Hughes

Once upon a time, tucked away in the hills of Appalachia, Camp Horne was maintained to benefit the hundreds of children that worked for the Joseph Horne Dry Goods Co. In 1910, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* framed its worth to the community: "unique and fascinating camp Horne at Emsworth, where juveniles are given a royal summer outing." The Gazette continued to glorify the camp through historical accounts of the of tents is ca-fruit-laded or-tury-stand-

sort
fami-
by train
beauty of



Canada
Mayflower

times; "The charm of this white city ressed by running brooks, chards, environed by cen- ing forests is a perfect masterpiece of nature." With the 1920's came child labor laws.

The camp then served as a re- for employees and their lies. Folks would commute from the city to enjoy the

this 125-acre estate. In 1923 the Allegheny County Commissioners paved the 2-mile path that was traveled by hundreds of visitors every summer. This was to be known as Camp Horne Road.

Camp Horne was a favorite recreation area for people of all ages. When memories are stirred thoughts of children racing dashes and adults playing ball come to mind. Throughout the century, Camp Horne has truly proven to remain in the hearts of the surrounding Pittsburgh communities of Kilbuck, Ohio Township, Emsworth, Ben Avon, and Ben Avon Heights. With the help of funds produced by the Pennsylvania State Legislature in the 1960's, the Avonworth Municipal Authority purchased the 125-acre estate from the Horne's Company. This Municipal Authority is made up of equal representatives from the five communities mentioned above. The park then was leased to these same communities. The grants that made this possible have become known as the Project 70 grants.

With the help of Project 70, community members saw the birth of Avonworth Community Park, also known as ACORD Park (Avonworth Community Organization for Recreational Development). This community park is located just north of Pittsburgh off of Rt. 279. Through the years, the park has remained a very popular destination for recreationists. The Park has grown over the years with the help of more recent grants. They have added a community center, a water slide to the community pool, and newly constructed ball fields. Unfortunately, a new plan for Avonworth Community Park has recently come to the attention of community members. This plan is to sacrifice the integrity of the second growth forest within the park's boundaries in exchange for development. I was invited to spend the afternoon with one community member, Paul Brown, hiking through this historic park. Mr. Brown shared with me the plans to cut down 637 trees in Avonworth Community Park. When one hikes the few miles of trails through the park, the

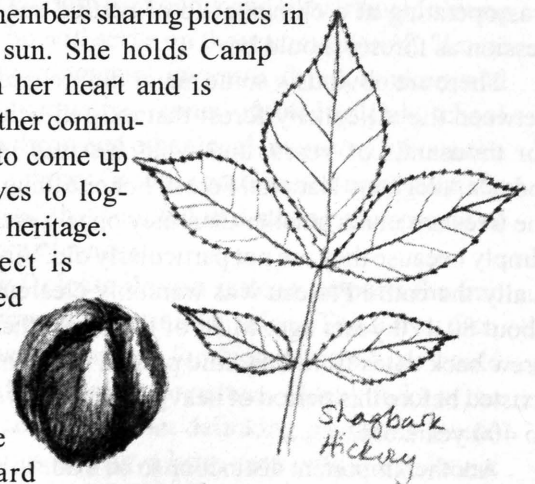
future of the park is all too obvious. The fate of the selected trees is determined by blue paint. While the majority of the trees marked for cut are black cherry, there are others such as pine and hemlock. Overall, there are 12 species identified for the cut. In total, 18% of the trees would be removed, or about 12 trees per acre, as explained by one of the consulting foresters.

The estimated \$50,000-\$60,000 profit from the timber project would go to renovating the park. One of the projects listed is a parking lot. While community members admit that the present parking lot could use improvements, many are not willing to compromise the integrity of the surrounding forest. Hiking through the forest, and seeing the fatally marked trees, there is little doubt that in order to reach these trees, serious road construction would be needed. As in any forest, logging roads are a serious detriment to the forest that is left standing. Being such a small forest, these roads would prove to be even more fatal. Fragmentation and erosion would surely become a problem within the park boundaries and surrounding areas. Park officials stated that old logging roads would be used. While Mr. Brown and I hiked the majority of the acreage, we only stumbled upon the shadows of one old logging road.

To complete this project and access the marked trees, this forest would truly be desecrated. As one community member, Harriet Bolkey, pointed out, "For every tree taken, five more will surely fall." Ms. Bolkey has long since retired from the Horne's company after working as an interior designer for 40 years. She remembers Avonworth Community Park as Camp Horne. She remembers sharing picnics in the afternoon sun. She holds Camp Horne deep in her heart and is working with other community members to come up with alternatives to logging the park's heritage.

This project is highly debated amongst many community members. In fact, one of the ACORD Board

members was quoted in the *Greensburg Tribune Re-view* stating that, "We are so arrogant that we think we can intercede into nature and make it more beautiful. Nature made this beautiful. God made this beautiful." Another board member admits that the money raised from the timber project would only be a "drop in the bucket" in the grand scheme of things. The irony of this proposed cut is that the planning officials of the project seemed to have forgotten the purpose of Avonworth



Shagbark
Hickory

(Cont. on page 17)

...AND THE CHARADE CONTINUES...

Forest Plan Amendment Won't Protect Threatened and Endangered Species

By Jim Kleissler

On March 1, the Forest Service released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Proposed amendment to the Allegheny National Forest "Forest Plan" to protect and recover threatened and endangered species. The Plan amendment focuses on the Endangered Indiana bat, Clubshell mussel, Northern riffleshell mussel, and the Threatened Bald eagle and small-whorled pogonia. Unfortunately, it won't provide the protections they need.

It has become routine practice for the Allegheny Forest Service to use every tool available to them to make public scrutiny of timber sales virtually impossible.

One way in which the Forest Service obstructs public involvement is by intentionally overwhelming the public with projects to scrutinize. So it was that on the same day the Forest Service released this Draft EIS they would make sure to release 15 timber sales for public comment at the exact same time. Citizens protested this obvious maneuvering by the Forest Service and demanded an extension to public comment periods. The Forest Service responded two weeks later by denying the extension on the comment periods and releasing 5 more timber sales for public perusal.

A second way in which the Forest Service manipulates the public participation process is simply by lying about what that process requires. They did this last Fall in a measure aimed at denying citizen's their right to appeal. Now the trickery takes on a new level. With the release of the Draft EIS the Forest Service attempts to exempt the amendment as being "insignificant" under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). To do this they understate the importance of the amendment throughout the EIS (they virtually ignore the logging issue) and even resort to lying about when their regulations say an amendment should be considered significant. The difference is that a significant amendment requires more thorough public involvement - something they would prefer.

As for the amendment itself it does very little for the protection of these species. While some of the more minimal requirements of the Biological Opinion

are included in the proposed amendment many of the requirements are either proposed for an obscure, unenforceable "Conservation Plan" or not proposed at all. For example, in their June 1999 Biological Opinion the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made it a mandatory condition that the Forest Service revise the Plan to make safeguards against erosion and sedimentation into streams mandatory and minimum enforceable guidelines. The Forest Service refuses to make these important changes that would help protect the mussels.

Another significant problem is the Forest Service's refusal to amend the Plan to protect 17 new plants and animals that were recently added to the list of Sensitive species on the Allegheny. These plants and animals are all at risk of becoming endangered themselves if they are not better protected.

We need your help to strengthen protections for threatened and endangered species. Please take the time to send a letter to the Forest Service asking them to:

- Extend the public comment period by 90 days to give concerned citizens more time to get involved in this very important step for the Allegheny National Forest.
- Hold a series of public meetings on this important plan in all of the major cities (such as Buffalo, Pittsburgh and State College) throughout the Allegheny region.
- Institute a moratorium against all timber cutting, road construction, and herbicide application to be in effect until a more comprehensive plan for the protection of ALL federally endangered, threatened, and sensitive species is completed.
- Select Alternative 4 of the EIS (End Logging on the Allegheny National Forest) for the protection of federally endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. This alternative would help reduce the danger of releasing sediment into streams and preserve larger acreages of forest for endangered species such as the Indiana bat.
- Expand the scope of the EIS to include 17 species recently listed as Federally Sensitive. These species, from the Gravel chub (also a state endangered species) to the Yellow-bellied flycatcher, are in desperate need of aggressive and far-reaching recovery efforts.
- Tell the Forest Service that their failure to complete a detailed analysis of the uneven-aged (selection cutting) alternative is a violation of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) which *requires* that they de-emphasize even-aged cutting methods (those practices that end in clearcutting.)

Send your letters to:

John Palmer, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest
P. O. Box 847
Warren, PA 16365
(814) 723-5180, ext. 196
fax: (814) 726-1465

Robert T. Jacobs, Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service Eastern Region
310 West Wisconsin Ave, Suite 580
Milwaukee, WI 53203
(414) 297-3646
fax: (414) 297-1748

The draft EIS is available on the web at
http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/allegheny/t_e_species_amendment.html

Temple-Inland: *Devouring Forests, Polluting Communities*

by Jim Kleissler

On December 17, as folks across the globe prepared to enter the 21st century, Temple-Inland solidified their position as one of Pennsylvania's largest and most polluting forest destroyers by purchasing the Allegheny Particleboard and Allegheny Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) operations based in Mt. Jewett, PA.

In fact, Temple-Inland, following their 1998 purchase of MacMillan Bloedel's MDF operation in Clarion, PA, is now the largest producer of MDF in North America, with more than half of that production coming from their operations in Pennsylvania, which in turn feed off of forests - public and private - throughout Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio.

Each year Temple-Inland's three facilities in the Allegheny region emit 300,000 tons of the cancer-causing toxin formaldehyde and feed off of more than 25,000 acres of publicly and privately owned forestlands.

Allegheny Particleboard (a.k.a. Tansar)

One of the most commonly used rallying cries that industry proponents use to try and discredit the opinions and concerns of forest defenders is to label all of us as "outsiders." But as we are learning, it is the industry themselves that find their roots in origins far from our region's boundaries.

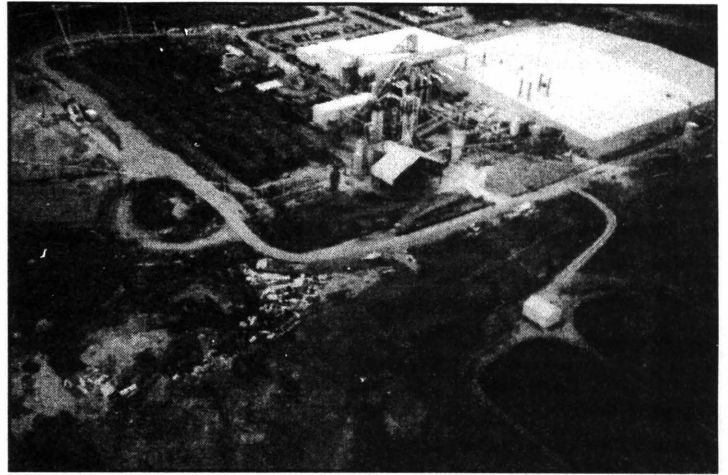
In the mid-1980s, corporate interests based in Atlanta, Georgia initiated what would become Temple-Inland's "engineered wood" empire here in PA. Incorporated as the "Tansar" corporation in Connecticut and with financial backing from the General Electric Capital Corporation, a man named Volker Stockman went about coercing corporate welfare out of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the form of generous support such as low-interest loans, grants, and "job credits."

Stockmann wrote to Governor Casey in 1988 outlining the state's generous contributions:

As you are aware, the Commonwealth's total support consists of a \$1 million DCA loan, a \$1.5 million PIDA loan, a \$2 million Sunny Day Loan, a \$3/4 million BID loan, a \$3/4 million BID grant and an estimated \$1/2 million in job training credits.

Volker Stockman's thank you to Governor Casey does a good job of characterizing how these corporate hogs were able to feed from the public trough:

Mr. Mike Schaul from your Response



Temple-Inland's Particleboard plant in Mt. Jewett, PA. Department of Environmental Protection (D.E.P.)

Team also deserves credit for greasing the wheels of state departments processing our loan applications.

The Allegheny Particleboard plant has been in operation since 1990 and has produced more than one billion square feet of particleboard. Conservatively we can say that this plant has resulted in the clearcutting of more than 50,000 acres of forest and the introduction of more than 600,000 pounds of formaldehyde into the air. Allegheny Particleboard has had virtually no emission controls ensuring that they are not likely in compliance with Clean Air standards.

What is Particleboard?

Particleboard is an "engineered wood" product made from chipped fibers that are combined with a resin (glue) and bound together under heat and pressure. Particleboard is the world's dominant furniture panel and is often used for flooring, wall panels, and sheathing.

What is Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF)?

MDF is an "engineered wood" product composed of fine fibers combined with a synthetic resin or other bonding system and compressed together under heat and pressure to form large panels. MDF is used for residential and office furniture, laminated flooring, kitchen and bath cabinets and retail and institutional fixtures.

What are the alternatives?

Like most wood products there are a number of readily available alternatives. Particleboard and fiberboard can easily be made from straw by-products - and there are several mills now doing this. In most cases the use of straw is far superior to wood because it does not require formaldehyde based resins. Straw has a natural bonding quality that reacts well to heat. The result is an "engineered wood" that far exceeds industry standards for wood-based products.

Allegheny MDF (a.k.a. Saratan)

Shortly after getting Allegheny Particleboard up and running a man named Suda Bhagwat from Lewisville, Texas, resumed the siege on Pennsylvania's forests by pursuing the establishment of an MDF plant at the site in Mt. Jewett. Using a new corporate shield named "Saratan" (or Tansar rearranged), Bhagwat incorporated in Connecticut. Bhagwat, a man who proclaims to have started up these types of operations in 6 different states prior to 1990, then, in true form, coerced the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

We have had discussions with your team regarding the possibility of building a Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) project near Kane, Pa. However, the definition of the exact amount of grants/loans available to the project had to wait... on October 23, 1992, I advised Mr. Dan Kennedy - Governor's Response Team - the need to now define these financial incentives. We

need to select the location - Pennsylvania or another state - within four weeks.

Mr. Bhagwat emphasizes his point to the Governor:

Please note that this project is a real thing. We need to pull all the stops out to bring it to Pennsylvania.

The Allegheny MDF plant went into operation in 1996. Since then the plant has resulted in the clearcutting of more than 15,000 acres while emitting over 200,000 pounds of toxic formaldehyde. Like the particleboard plant the MDF plant lacks good environmental controls virtually ensuring high releases of the cancer causing formaldehyde.

Clarion Fiber Limited Partnership (a.k.a. MacMillan Bloedel)

While neither Saratan nor Tansar can claim to be responsible for the horror that would tower over the Clarion River from the "Riverhill" area, the circumstances of the MDF plant in Clarion are strikingly similar to those that established the Mt. Jewett facilities.

Formed as the "Clarion Fiber Limited Partnership," partners from British Columbia, Washington, and Arkansas teamed up with a Clarion University economics professor to bring in what was at the time North America's largest MDF plant. Once the plant was established the ownership was transferred over in its entirety to MacMillan-Bloedel - Canada's largest timber corporation at the time.

This plant was built shortly after ADP organizer Susan Curry and myself had moved to Clarion and established ADP's primary office here. I had a working knowledge of MacMillan-Bloedel having in the past protested their clearcutting of the largest tract of temperate rainforest left in the world. And so, with a skeptical mind, we began to research MDF.

We learned from folks who had been struggling with Willamette about what to expect from a fiberboard plant: large emissions of the toxin formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is known to cause all kinds of problems from skin rashes and eye irritation all the way up to cancer. But MacMillan-Bloedel promised that the plant would not have any dangerous emissions. Local residents mostly believed them.

In the fall of 1996 the Clarion MDF plant began to operate. People have suffered ever since. For three years the plant released high quantities of volatile organic compounds contaminated with formaldehyde. It took close to two years for the corporation to acknowledge it.

In the Spring of 1997 I was fortunate enough (sort of) to tour the facility. My class in environmental economics se-

lected the fiberboard plant as a case study. Before entering the manufacturing section Mike Barnes, the plant manager, warned us about the "blue haze" we might notice. He assured us that it was a problem with the process that they were working on.

Before taking the tour there had been some dispute about whether or not the plant was emitting formaldehyde impregnated fibers. While neighbors of the MDF facility had collected the fibers in plastic bags and ran tests on the fibers, the managers of the plant claimed that it was only wood chips and sawdust blowing off of the chip and sawdust piles in the yard.

After touring the chip storage yard we stopped adjacent to a large garage like structure filled with chips. One of the plant

managers began to explain to us what we saw around us. As he began to explain why the neighbors were imagining the fibers that were falling in their yards the main stacks suddenly shut off and formaldehyde impregnated chips started to shoot out into the garage like structure. And so it was that we watched these fibers also shoot out into the air without any pollution controls. I stuck out my hand and waited as some that didn't shoot as high into the air fell down into my palm.

After that incident we went inside, into the pressing room. Here the "blue haze" struck us sharply. While our eyes began to water and sting our stomachs began to become nauseous. We were eager to leave. Some folks reported headaches and related symptoms for hours after leaving the MDF plant.

As it turned out, the plant managers figured out who we were (ADP organizer Susan Curry was also in the class.) I received a call from one of the managers who assured me that if he knew who we were he would have never let us tour their plant.

PEACE and HOPE

Clarion is a quiet but incredible community. There are a number of folks dedicated to protecting their community from being damaged by toxins. The Clarion community had formed a group called PEACE (Protect the Environment And Children Everywhere) which prevented a toxic incinerator from coming to town a decade ago. More recently PEACE has successfully fought off a proposal to use a local strip mine as a toxic dump - so far anyway.

So when residents on the Riverhill would protest the pollution, PEACE would be there to help. One of the most vigilant and effective community groups I've ever seen, PEACE has really given the Riverhill residents the tools they needed to build coalitions around their problem.

The folks on the Riverhill formed a group called HOPE

What is Urea-Formaldehyde resin?

Urea-Formaldehyde resin is the primary glue used in "engineered wood" products such as particleboard and fiberboard. Formaldehyde is a clear pungent-smelling gas that the EPA characterizes as causing watery eyes, burning sensations in the eyes and throat, nausea, and difficulty in breathing (high concentrations can trigger asthmatic attacks.) Formaldehyde is known to cause cancer in animals and is a probable carcinogen for humans.

What are the alternatives?

The use of straw to make particleboard and fiberboard allows the producer to use alternative resins that do not contain formaldehyde. In addition, the straw has its own binding qualities that allow for the lower application of the glues that are used.

Manufacturers are now using alternative resins in the application of MDF. The Timber Products Company, for example, is one producer that is making a lower emission MDF from 100% recycled fibers. The formaldehyde-free based strawboard products on the market tend to be stronger and more water resistant than traditional MDF.

(Home Owners Protecting the Environment.) Unfortunately, HOPE had to overcome some problems when many leaders and neighbors were bought out by MacMillan-Bloedel. Several residents have stood strong in their struggle to protect their health and families.

Planfosur and Free Trade

Just one example of Temple-Inland's international ventures, Planfosur (a subsidiary of TI) moved into southeast Mexico in February of 1994 - one month after the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect. Planfosur has influence there on more than 390,000 hectares (or 963,300 acres.)

Currently Planfosur has 21,000 hectares of eucalyptus plantation that is planned for short rotations. Many of the eucalyptus are genetically engineered and Temple-Inland has potentially worked out deals with Monsanto to continue with genetically engineered trees. In addition, Temple-Inland uses large amounts of the Monsanto chemical glyphosate (a.k.a. Roundup.)

The eucalyptus plantations are planned to be clearcut and replanted with the genetically engineered trees. The wood will then be chipped and exported for pulp or particleboard.

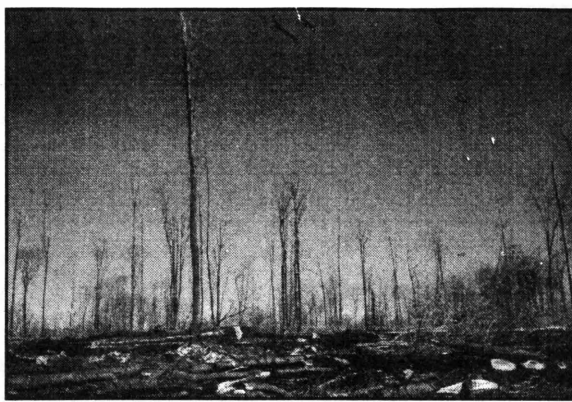
Temple-Inland, Inc.

Oddly enough, this corporate giant's roots are on the positive side of ethics. According to their web page, Inland's founder started the company after refusing to tow the company line at another corporation where he started his professional career.

Temple-Inland's original forest stewardship missions went along with that ethic. In 1900 the company's forest policy was based on a "Perpetual Forests" philosophy. Following in suit in 1939 the company established a "Single-tree selection" cutting system to emphasize "'all age' forests" as the standard for their pine and hardwood forests.

In 1973, however, Temple-Inland took a sharp turn for the worse when they adopted the "Plantation system" for all of their forest lands. Pine, according to the company, would now be cut on **35** year rotations!

Today Temple-Inland is the 9th largest landowner in the United States, is North America's largest producer of MDF (MDF) is the largest source of formaldehyde emissions in homes (according to the EPA), and is exploiting free trade opportunities to grow genetically engineered tree plantations in southeastern Mexico - including the state of Chiapas where the Mexican government continues to suppress indigenous peoples.



The Future of Temple-Inland in the Alleghenies

Currently, Temple-Inland is working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to expand the capacity of their Allegheny Particleboard (16% increase) and Allegheny MDF (33% increase) mills in Mt. Jewett. Subsequently Temple-Inland is seeking to permit the two mills as a major source under the Clean Air Act.

Temple-Inland is asking for higher allowances for both volatile organic compound (VOC - includes formaldehyde emissions) and NOx emissions.

Unfortunately, if Temple-Inland has their way there will be an increase in off-site clearcutting. The result will be equal to 4,000 more acres of clearcuts annually - or a total equivalent of more than 30,000 acres of clearcuts in potential annual off-site impacts related to all three temple-Inland mills in the region.

What You Can Do!

You can help by writing the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and making these demands:

- Do not allow any increase in NOx emissions or VOC emissions.
- Require that Temple-Inland take aggressive measures (other than incineration) to **reduce** both NOx and VOC (especially formaldehyde) emissions at ALL three plants in northwest Pennsylvania by using formaldehyde-free soy bean based resins.
- Conduct an environmental impact statement (EIS) to look at cumulative off-site impacts to air quality and forests due to Temple-Inland's three massive facilities in northwest Pennsylvania.

Send your letters to:

Steve Beckman, NW Director
D.E.P.
230 Chestnut Street
Meadville, PA 16335

Bradley Campbell,
Reg. 3 Administrator
U.S.E.P.A.
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Take the time to write Temple-Inland. Demand that instead of retrofitting the Allegheny Particleboard and MDF facilities to increase the destruction of our native forests that they instead retrofit these facilities to process recycled wood-fibers or non-wood fibers such as straw. Be kind but be blunt - the continued devastation to our region's forests is NOT acceptable by any standard.

Send your letters to:

Kenneth M. Jastrow II, CEO
Temple-Inland, Inc.
P.O. Drawer N
Diboll, TX 75941

COUGAR IN PENNSYLVANIA: FACT OR FICTION?

By Kirk Johnson

The rolling forested Appalachian mountains, including the Alleghenies, were once extensively roamed by the cougar, one of this continent's supreme predators. Originally, the cougar had the broadest geographic distribution of any mammal in the Western Hemisphere, except the hominid *Homo sapiens*, ranging from northern Canada, throughout the United States and all the way south to Patagonia in South America. With European settlement of the Americas, the range of the eastern cougar steadily declined due to trapping, relentless bounty hunting, decimation of forest habitat and the overhunting of white-tailed deer, the eastern cougar's main prey. By the late 1800s, the cougar, like the wolf, bison, elk, and deer was virtually eliminated from Pennsylvania. Cougars are timid, however, and can live in close proximity to humans without being detected. It is therefore possible that some cougars are still present in Pennsylvania.

Thousands of people claim to see cougars in the Appalachians every year, but state and federal agencies, on the basis of no solid evidence, insist there are no wild born cougars left east of the Mississippi River with the exception of Florida. Contrary to government opinion, however, there is strong evidence that some survive in the wild. A hopeful new study released this past December by the Appalachian Restoration Campaign (ARC) refers to documented sightings and details potential habitat for the endangered eastern cougar (*Puma concolor*) in the Central Appalachians. The study shows that there is plenty of habitat and abundant food for cougars, especially in areas of our own Allegheny National Forest.

Using comprehensive computerized GIS map layering software, the ARC analysis identified suitable cougar habitat in Central Appalachia, including the Allegheny, according to landscape characteristics such as prey density, road density, human population density, and land use. According to the ARC study, there are several areas with an extremely high suitability rating. One of the regions identified as being ideal cougar habitat lies in Warren and Forest counties of northwestern Pennsylvania, both of which include large portions of the Allegheny National Forest. As stated in the ARC paper, "A large portion of the cells which received a high suitability rating in the final composite map...are located along the Appalachian mountain chain and specifically within the northern Allegheny plateau."

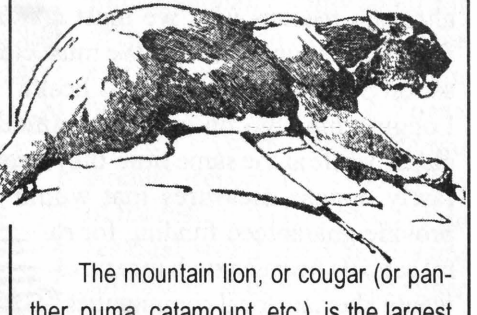
The ecology of the Allegheny region would benefit greatly through the restoration of the eastern cougar. Predation has been identified as a major factor elsewhere in stabilizing dense deer herds like those present in northwest Pennsylvania. A renewed presence of cougars could potentially bring deer populations to lower historical levels. This would lessen the agricultural damage caused by deer browsing and allow greater native forest regeneration. Recovery of keystone predators such as cougar and gray wolves can also have numerous smaller positive ripple effects throughout the entire ecosystem. For example, more deer carcasses from cougar kills means more food for scavenging animals like foxes and birds. It can also increase the diversity of various insects which utilize such carcasses.

As mentioned, acknowledgment of the presence of the cougar in the east and recovery of the cougar has been hampered over the years by the stubborn refusal of federal and state agencies to concede that remnant populations of the eastern cougar exist and have been sighted consistently by numerous individuals. The ARC paper states "Unfortunately, moving these agencies toward a legitimate cougar recovery plan may involve future legal action...Any plan forwarded by state or federal agencies must include significant public involvement."

Suitable habitat and a sufficient prey base clearly exists for the cougar throughout the ARC Central Appalachian study area, including the Allegheny National For-

(Cont. on page 23)

Cougar Profile



The mountain lion, or cougar (or panther, puma, catamount, etc.), is the largest North American feline animal. Adult cougars have short yellowish brown fur which is a shade paler on the belly. Sides of the muzzle are black with white on the chin and throat. Much of the ears are also black. Adult males weigh approximately 145 to 225 pounds and females weigh 80 to 135 pounds. Cougars begin breeding at three years old, and litters number from one to six kittens with the most common litter size being three. Cougars live to be about 15 years old at the most in the wild.

Cougars hunt silently, mostly during the night, with deer being their main prey. They will stalk a deer and pounce at the most opportune moment, killing the animal with one or a few crunching bites to the back of the neck and throat. The cougar will then drag the carcass to a secure location and eat its fill, covering what remains with leaves, sticks, and soil for later meals. An adult cougar will kill about one deer per week, with other prey including raccoons, foxes, porcupines, skunks, rabbits, mice, birds, and even insects.

For further information on eastern cougar recovery efforts, contact:

Appalachian Restoration Campaign
P.O. Box 2786
Charlottesville, VA 22902
(804) 971-3898
arcmaps@firstva.com
www.heartwood.org/ARC

Eastern Cougar Foundation
P.O. Box 74
North Springs, WV 24869
(304) 664-3812
(24 hr. cougar sighting hotline)

The Truth about "Shifting Pressures"

By Chad Hanson

The timber industry is a master of the political subterfuge. In recent years, they have developed a series of supposedly altruistic reasons why we must continue selling them trees from our national forests. We must clear broad swaths of forest on public lands for "forest health" purposes, they tell us. Logging must go on in order to fund rural education, they claim, while at the same time they steadfastly oppose measures that would provide guaranteed funding for rural schools because such measures would alleviate local communities' dependence on timber revenue. Now they ask us to believe that we cannot end logging on our national forests because they are "concerned" that such a move will result in "shifting economic pressures" to increase logging in forests abroad. In essence, they intend to persuade us that forest protection causes deforestation.

The leading proponents of this rhetoric are, unsurprisingly, the timber industry's primary mouthpieces in Congress. Last year during Senate floor debate over national forest policy, notoriously pro-timber Senators Larry Craig (R-ID), Gordon Smith (R-OR), and Slade Gorton (R-WA) repeatedly used this argument to push for more logging on federal lands.

Sadly, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck, who typically portrays himself as somewhat of a progressive, is now parroting their line. In the Fall of 1999, the Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation urged Dombeck to support an end to the timber sales program on this nation's National Forest System. He refused their request, citing the need to continue deforestation on U.S. federal public lands so as not to shift our demand for wood products to nations with lesser environmental regulations, such as Canada and Brazil.

What Dombeck seems to be forgetting is that less than 3% of the wood consumed annually by the U.S. now comes from national forests. So, even if industry's claims were true, any shift in demand would be minuscule in the global timber market. What's more, even industry's own trade journals provide little support for the "shifting pressures" rhetoric. The most recent investigation found that, for every 50 acres of forest protected in North America and Europe, only 2.5 acres of forest would be lost in Asia, South America, Africa, and the former Soviet Union due to a shift in wood demand (Sohngen et al, "Forest Management, Conservation, and Global Timber Markets", American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Feb. 1999). This represents a twenty to one ratio in favor of forest protection. What's more, this study failed to take into account the extent to which demand would shift to non-wood alternatives for paper and construction materials, or to increased recycling. Certainly, as more forest is protected and timber prices

rise, these alternatives will become more competitive and will see an increased market share. We may see a shift in demand resulting from stopping logging on U.S. federal lands, but that shift will likely go in an entirely different direction than the timber industry would have us believe.

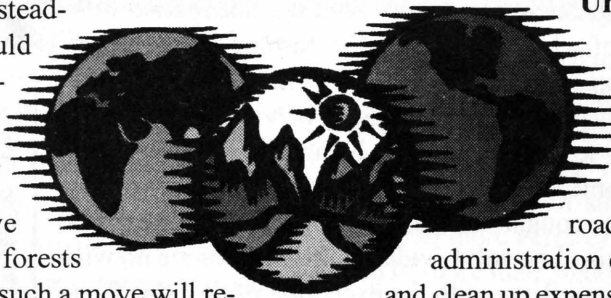
Unfair Competition

The timber sale program on national forests now operates at a net loss to taxpayers of over \$1 billion each year. Taxpayers, not the timber industry, pick up the tab for logging road construction, timber sale planning and administration costs, replanting, and even restoration and clean up expenses. Meanwhile, not only does the timber industry get most of its overhead costs gratis, courtesy of the American taxpayer, they also typically get a sweet deal on the price of the trees from the outset. The result is that the market is filled with artificially-cheap, subsidized public timber.

In 1996, two conservative economists made the argument in a Wall Street Journal editorial that "government dumping" of cheap timber makes the market unpredictable for private-sector commodity suppliers, reducing their incentive to manage land responsibly." They concluded that "It's time for the Forest Service to abandon its role as a producer of commodities" (Wall St. Journal, 5/22/96). In other words, many private timberland owners are overcutting their lands to compensate for lost profits as they struggle to compete with the subsidized public timber in the market.

What's more, the timber sales program on national forests is also making it difficult to reduce wood consumption in the U.S. Producers of tree-free and recycled products for paper and building materials are getting less market share than they otherwise would. The very existence of the federal timber program, and the artificial market conditions it creates, makes it hard for these alternative products to compete. Examples include not only recycled paper, but also tree-free products such as straw bales for housing construction, and paper made from waste straw left after the harvest of major grains. William Ruckleshaus, former EPA Administrator, once asserted in a speech that the timber sale program on national forests was choking off the recycling of newsprint by artificially lowering the market price of wood pulp (Sacramento Bee, 10/07/91).

Michael Roddy, President of Green Framing Systems, has repeatedly made the same argument with respect to recycled light gauge steel for housing construction. If not for the unfair market conditions created by the federal timber program, Roddy argues, current demand for building materials would be filled by recycled steel significantly more than it is today



(See, e.g., Michael Roddy, "Subsidies Block Alternative Building Materials", *Headwaters Journal*, Spring 1996). As he points out, the overall costs of building with light-gauge steel are only 3% greater than wood. But this seemingly small difference becomes substantial when it comes to competing with wood framers in the bidding process.

Contracts, of course, go to the lowest bidder, and when wood framers can consistently bid slightly under steel, the result is much closer to a "winner take all" scenario than a mere 3% difference in business. Nevertheless, as logging levels continue to decline on federal lands, Roddy and others in the steel framing industry are increasingly finding a larger market share, as they have long predicted. Ten years ago, Roddy points out, steel framing controlled only 1% of the market. Today, as logging levels have declined on national forests, steel controls over 3% of the framing market, and Roddy predicts that, due to new innovations, it may rise to over 20% within the next five years.

Waste and Inefficiency

Perhaps the biggest flaw in Chief Dombeck's reasoning is his assumption that the current demand for wood is an absolute figure that must be met by continuing, or increasing, current logging levels. In truth, there is a demand for certain products, such as paper and building materials, but that does not necessarily mean that much of these can't be produced by redirecting waste materials, using alternatives, and increasing recycling. For example, while Dombeck claims that his agency must continue its timber sales program on public lands in order to "meet demand", he apparently fails to realize that the federal government itself (including the Forest Service) is the largest single consumer of paper products in the world. The Executive Branch alone consumes 20.9 billion pages of copy paper each year (Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, 1999), as well as a similarly enormous but unknown amount of paper for printing and writing.

While federal agencies have improved the recycled content of their copy paper in the last two years, thanks to Executive Order 13101 which was issued September of 1998, over two-thirds of their paper is still comprised of virgin wood fiber. While the amount of paper consumed by the Judicial and Legislative Branches of the federal government are unknown,

it is likely that the total federal consumption of paper, including all three branches of government and all types of paper, might easily exceed the equivalent of 100 billion sheets of 8.5 x 11 paper each year—roughly equal to the amount of paper produced through the commercial logging program on national

forests annually (Only about half of the timber cut on national forests is sawtimber used for lumber, according to the Forest Service's Timber Sale Program Annual Report, FY 1997. Most of the rest, as well as much of the residual wood from processing sawtimber, is used to make paper. Overall, anywhere from one-third to one-half of all timber cut on national forests is used to make paper products.).

Executive Order 13101 required federal government suppliers to produce paper with at least 30% post-consumer recycled content. When it was proposed, paper manufacturers and some federal agencies howled, claiming that they could not comply with such a requirement any time in the near future. Nevertheless, only two years after the issuance of the

Order, the paper suppliers managed to adjust without incident, and federal agencies are now in 95% compliance. There is no good reason why the government couldn't be required to use 100% post-consumer recycled paper, or paper made from agricultural residue.

But what about the other half of the timber cut on national forests—the sawtimber for lumber products? Figures recently released by the Forest Service's Forest Products Lab in Madison, Wisconsin show that 29.6 million tons of recoverable, usable waste wood is produced in the United States each year from three major sources: municipal solid waste; construction and demolition; and the timber milling process (See *BioCycle Magazine*, December, 1999). Every year, this amount of timber ends up in landfills instead of being utilized. This needless waste is more than fifteen times greater than the amount of sawtimber cut from national forests annually. Clearly, we do not need to log our national forests in order to meet our demand for wood. We need only be more responsible with our wood usage. And the federal government itself has perhaps the greatest responsibility to lead the way.

As shocking as the waste and inefficiency figures are regarding wood, they pale in comparison to agricultural residue. Nearly 200 million tons of waste straw are produced in the U.S. every single year from major agricultural crops (The *Straw Bale House*, 1994). The material is either burned, cre-



ating air pollution problems, or sent to landfills, despite the fact that this waste straw could be used for straw-bale housing construction, and made into paper products. To put this into perspective, if even half of this agricultural residue was utilized instead of wasted, it would be enough to build over a million homes each year, and relieve our entire domestic demand for wood-based paper.

The fact is, there is not a demand for wood so much as there is a demand for paper and construction products themselves—products which can be easily made out of non-wood sources. What's more, much of the "demand" that does exist today may be driven more by commodity producers, who are eager to find or create a market, than it is by consumers. Campaign contributions from the timber industry to Congress pave the way for more logging subsidies and pro-timber tax breaks, which in turn artificially manipulate market conditions such that recycled and non-wood products have difficulty competing. Is it really about demand or does it have more to do with politics?

In addition, the timber industry's well-publicized predictions of rising wood demand have turned out to be more wishful thinking than reality. For example, global consumption of wood in 1998 was about the same as it was in 1984 (Timber economist Roger Sedjo, Feb. 1, 1999, lecture, U.C. Berkeley). In fact, global wood consumption and production peaked in the late 1980's, but have decreased slightly since then. Industry reports incorrectly predicted that by the year 2000 wood consumption would be over 70% higher than it actually is currently.

Logical Flaw

Another thing the timber industry and its political apologists hope we don't realize is the inherent logical flaw in their argument. They want us to believe that we can't protect our national forests from logging without "shifting pressure" to domestic private lands and foreign nations (As if they are really concerned about such things!). However, if this reasoning is followed consistently, we could not protect the magnificent coastal redwood forests of northern California because to do so would shift pressure onto old growth stands on national forests in the Sierra Nevada. We couldn't protect Clayoquot Sound's irreplaceable ancient forests because it would shift pressure to Brazil, or Siberia. And, any state-wide ballot initiatives to curb the rapacious logging practices on private lands in the U.S. would have to be opposed by conservationists for fear of shifting pressure back onto the National Forest System. Accepting the timber industry's fallacious argument is tantamount to accepting the current levels of timber production and consumption, which is precisely what industry wants. If well-meaning people are misled by industry's ruse it could

also have the effect of pitting various facets of the conservation movement against one another, which, again, benefits only the timber industry and its political allies.

"As much as we appreciate direct support from people in the U.S., the most helpful thing you could do for us will be to stop logging in your own National Forests."

~ Mauricio Fierro of Geo-Austral,
a forest protection organization
in Chile

Political Demand

As compelling as the economic arguments are for ending the federal timber sales program, perhaps the most important reason has more to do with the tides of social change. The United States, for better or worse, has an incredibly influential role with regard to international economic and conservation policy, as well as a pivotal role with the United Nations. The U.S. was widely blamed by conservationists for the 1992 Rio Summit's failure to produce a meaningful forest protection treaty. Less developed nations pointed out that the U.S. is still logging its last remaining ancient forests—even on public lands. Why, they argued, should they institute strong forest protection measures when we ourselves have yet to do so?

Ending logging on national forests in the U.S. will set an international precedent, cause a significant favorable shift in the political realities of forest protection both domestically and globally, and facilitate greater U.S. leadership in the international arena. For all of the timber industry's self-serving fear-mongering, the truth is that forest protection begets forest protection. By building the movement to stop logging on U.S. federal lands, we not only increase demand for forest protection overall, but also create the opportunity to shift the pressure of that political demand onto U.S. private lands and forests abroad once U.S. national forests are protected.

A number of prominent forest activists in other nations, from British Columbia, to South America, to Indonesia, have made this very observation. Says Mauricio Fierro of Geo-Austral, a forest protection organization in Chile, "As much as we appreciate direct support from people in the U.S., the most helpful thing you could do for us will be to stop logging in your own National Forests." Chris Genovali of the British Columbia-based Raincoast Conservation Society observes, "Ending logging on U.S. national forest land will set an important precedent for ancient forest protection and will create positive political momentum internationally, which in turn could end up helping forest protection efforts in British Columbia."

The reality is that the timber industry will say almost anything to confuse or scare us into allowing them continued access to national forests. We can choose to be swayed, or we can do what we know is right, and end the timber sales program on U.S. federal public lands. Future generations will thank us for it.

Chad Hanson is a national director of the Sierra Club, and is the Executive Director of the John Muir Project.

North Country Trail *(Cont. from pg. 1)*



The "Hammer" timber sale along the North Country Trail.

Photo by Jim Kleissler

duct oil drilling and the accompanying logging that goes along with the oil drilling. Curious, I hiked in to the area to document what was happening. I was not too surprised to have my suspicions confirmed that there were numerous new wells that had been and were being drilled throughout the area near the confluence of Little Salmon Creek and Guiton Run. Oil access spur roads cross streams, cut across and obliterate large portions of the North Country Trail, leach sediment into the Salmon Creek watershed, and create unsightly road cuts through an otherwise relatively undisturbed forest that is no longer of high scenic value to North Country Trail hikers. This oil activity also fragments the habitat of a recovering ecosystem that will have low value for wildlife for years to come — after the oil wells have been removed and capped and the roads have been obliterated and rehabilitated decades from now.

There are numerous locations along the 95 mile stretch of trail in the Allegheny where the Forest Service has or will in the near future conduct timber sales next to, and otherwise within the trail corridor of the NCT. Most or all of the trees are to be removed in a method known as even-aged, or clearcut logging. Near the Minister Road traveling east on the NCT, you will see signs posted along the trail that indicate the area was sprayed with the toxic herbicide Oust (sulfometuron methyl) on or shortly after 9/13/99. This is a treated timber sale area and the herbicide was used to generate a forest composition of the desired commercial species — health and safety of NCT hikers be damned!

I was also disappointed to see the ruts where folks had driven their ATV's back and forth across the sensitive riparian zone of Fork Run - an area where use of these types of vehicles is supposedly illegal. Also disappointing is the illegal snowmobile use on the NCT this past winter in the section of the trail between Forest Roads 116 and 419. The Forest Service should make illegal access of this sort impossible through the installation of boulders, root wads, and other natural barriers at the trail heads.

As many ADP folks have seen, now is the time to pay attention to development and preservation of the North Coun-

try National Scenic Trail. In 1990, the North Country Trail Association set a goal of '2,000 by 2000' — 2,000 members and 2,000 certified miles by the year 2000. They have reached their membership goal in fine fashion, going from 322 in 1990 to 505 in 1996 to 2,046 as of January 1, 2000. It remains to be seen if the mileage goal will be met by the end of this year. At the end of 1999, 1,600 miles of an eventual total of over 4,000 had been certified. Still, there is strong growth in the popularity of the NCT. Now is not the time for timber sales and oil drilling in and around the NCT corridor in the Allegheny.

Please contact Allegheny National Forest Supervisor John Palmer at (814) 723-5150, or P.O. Box 847, Warren, PA 16365 and demand an immediate cancellation of all "resource management" activities in and near the NCT corridor within the Allegheny National Forest. While Zero Cut Forest-wide on the Allegheny is our ultimate goal (keep your eyes on the prize!), please also ask that a permanent policy be enacted, through the revised Forest Plan, which forbids any and all commercial "resource management" within a two mile wide corridor (a half mile to either side of the trail) for the entire length of the NCT through the Allegheny. Ask also that the purchase of mineral rights beneath the Allegheny be made a priority under the NCT corridor, Tionesta Scenic & Research Natural Areas, and all roadless areas.

For further information on the North Country National Scenic Trail, check out the following excellent websites:

<http://www.nps.gov/noco>

<http://www.northcountrytrail.org/index.htm>

Avonworth Park *(Cont. from pg. 8)*

Community Park. Because the park was purchased with Project 70 funds, the fate of the park lies with the five communities that lease the park. This means that the timber project will have to be approved by each separate community.

While this may not prove to halt the project completely, it is likely that it will postpone the project for nearly a year. This will allow community members, like Paul Brown and Harriet Bolkey, time to find alternatives and bring them to the attention of the Board and other officials.

The Avonworth Community Park is rich in history and is treasured by surrounding communities. It would truly be a shame to see the exploitation of the forest that day after day brought these five communities together for nearly a century.

Thanks to community members for providing information and contributing articles for this printing. To help find solutions for communities everywhere when faced with projects such as this one at Camp Horne, contact your regional ADP representative. For more details about this project or community efforts to protect the Avonworth Community Park, contact Paul Brown at (412) 734-1624.

ADP PITTSBURGH GROWING FAST!!!

By Shannon Hughes

The growth of the Allegheny Defense Project is truly evident when looking at our regional offices. The Pittsburgh group has existed for many years. We have sponsored several events, the most popular being our annual benefit concert, "For The Allegheny." The concert series is always a sure hit with the Pittsburgh community and is also a fun way to educate the community about the Allegheny National Forest. Still, there is so much more to our regional office and I would like to take this opportunity to share what these city folks have been up to!

ADP Pittsburgh is working diligently to find ways to educate our community. We have recently formed coalitions with other environmental groups in the area, building bridges throughout the city. We are currently working with the Pittsburgh chapter of the North Country Trail Association to enhance the trail through the Allegheny as well as to protect the trail from logging and road building.

We have joined hands with local colleges and universities. Student volunteers have always been such an important part of ADP's success. Unfortunately, students in the city have trouble commuting all the way to the forest. ADP Pittsburgh offers these folks a chance to volunteer their time and energy toward protecting the Allegheny National Forest. Look for ADP activities on the Pitt, CMU, and Duquesne campuses.

We are also working with individual members of the Pittsburgh community. There are many forests of great value right here in Pittsburgh, albeit smaller than the Allegheny. These green spaces are so very important for a multitude of reasons. These green spaces are scattered all throughout the city and surrounding areas and are often overlooked due to their size. Yet they are so valuable to the community that surrounds them. ADP Pittsburgh is actively working with these communities in protecting these parks by offering resources, experience, and most of all support.

In light of the IMF and World Bank meeting in Washington D.C. on April 16 and 17, Pittsburgh labor and environmental groups are planning teach-ins, panel discussions, and an Earth Day Rally in efforts to raise awareness of globalization and what that means to folks in Pittsburgh. Look for these educational events happening throughout March and April.

Some ADP events that are happening in the near future are our annual Earth Day celebration, For the Allegheny Benefit and our Day of Action that will fall on April 19! I would like to extend an invitation to folks to come out and join in our efforts. We will be having a community meeting coming up in April--call Shannon Hughes for more information. We will be talking about these and other upcoming events and recruiting volunteers to help out. There is much to do and many different ways to get involved right here in the city! This concrete jungle is humming folks, come on out and enjoy the fun!

Pittsburgh Area Calendar

March 29 Teach-In. Indiana, PA. The Allegheny Defense Project will be addressing how economic globalization is affecting forests here in the U.S. and abroad.

April 5 Economic Globalization Teach-In. Carnegie-Mellon University. Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Grassroots Globalization Network. 7:00pm.

April 6 Future Talk. Pitt Law School. *The Allegheny National Forest: A Case Study in Poor Federal Stewardship of the Environment*. ADP will be presenting to the public the struggle to protect the Allegheny National Forest. Contact Beth Pillsbury (412) 624-9943, pillsbury@pennfuture.org

April 12 Allegheny Defense Project Slideshow Presentation. University of Pittsburgh. 7:00pm.

April 15 Third Annual For the Allegheny Benefit. Bee Hive Theatre, Oakland, 7:00.

April 17 Tax Day Press Conference. ADP folks will be holding a press conference to let taxpayers know where their money is really going!

April 19 Allegheny Day of Action!!! In Pittsburgh this will consist of letter writing campaigns and spreading the word about Zero Cut!

April 22 Globalize This! An Earth Day Festival dedicated to the Free Trade of Humanitarian and Environmentally Sensitive Ideas. 12:00pm at Mellon Park.

For more information about Pittsburgh events, contact:

Shannon Hughes
ADP Pittsburgh Coordinator
(412) 751-4551
shughes@envirolink.org

Black Cherry (Cont. from pg. 7)

ence for many years. Ask that management policies make restoring historic species composition on the Allegheny the top priority *Forest-wide*.

The Allegheny National Forest is public forest land that should be a place of watershed protection, a place where endangered and threatened species can recover undisturbed, and where old-growth conditions are allowed to return. It should not be treated as a black cherry tree plantation for private timber industry exploitation!

¹H.J. Lutz. 1930. "Original Forest Composition in Northwestern Pennsylvania as Indicated by Early Land Survey Notes". *Journal of Forestry*. vol. 28: pp. 1098-1103.

In the Rings of the Tree

By Thomas Watkiss

Within the darkness of night upon fertile ground,
All stands still, only humming trees make sound.
Alone I look and see, the kingdom howling unto me,
For soon I am granted to fly forever free.

All truths and vision I've revealed to be lies,
No deception takes place beyond the skies.
The rocks and castles have lost the battle with the sea,
Empires vanish in the mist. Claims the rings of the tree.

When you grow you rise and hold knowledge to keep,
The secrets from the beginnings and ends rest in your sleep.
The owl tells your tale, with silence I pay my fee,
Whom embrace will be embraced, by the rings of the tree.

The rings of the tree hold the rings of time,
Wind forms wisdom with the circles and all are taught in rhyme.
Eternity, destiny, moments and epochs will remain to be,
In the wings of the free and in the rings of the tree.

Pittsburgh Grassroots Globalization Network

The Allegheny Defense Project has joined hands with Labor Unions, Human Rights Advocates, as well as Community Development groups in forming the **Pittsburgh Grassroots Globalization Network (PGGN)**. We are proud to be a part of the first network of organizations to address the economic globalization issues here in Pittsburgh, how they affect our jobs, our environment and our world!

The actions of the World Trade Organization, World Bank and the IMF are not just for economists to address. What we saw in Seattle was a wave of consciousness taking over. The violence that occurred was in response to the mighty bridge of solidarity that was built. As a Global Community we need to address the issues of pollution, living wages, working conditions, depletion of our rainforests, as well as many others that affect our brothers and sisters as well as the earth in which we live. PGGN has grown from this consciousness and in the spirit of Seattle will continue the fight for environmental, social, and economic justice.

We will be educating ourselves and then passing along this valuable information onto the community through different educational events. We will then mobilize our Pittsburgh community into action and join the thousands of others in Washington D.C. on April 16 & 17 to rally against the IMF and the World bank and there destructive developmental policies.

There is no question that we are living with a global economy. Trade is encouraged as long as it is fair: fair for the children, the workers, and the environment! By joining hands with PGGN, the ADP has strengthened the bridge of solidarity. By acting on a grassroots level, we can take back our Global Economy!

Please see calendar of events for Pittsburgh area for PGGN events.

Hellbender Journal

Help Defend Allegheny Forests!

Support the Allegheny Defense Project

Your financial or labor contribution will help protect these Allegheny hills from industrial extraction that threatens forests, wildlife, recreation, and communities.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

A donation of a mere \$20 or five hours of volunteer time will get you full a year's subscription to the Hellbender Journal, Action Alerts, and will help keep the defense of the Allegheny alive! Of course, additional donations are always appreciated.

Amount Enclosed* \$_____

I plan to donate _____ hours of work.

Allegheny Defense Project

P.O. Box 245

Clarion, PA 16214

The official registration and financial information of Allegheny Defense Project, Inc. may be obtained by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Students!

**Don't miss an issue of
the *Hellbender*!**

If your address is changing for the summer, please let us know. E-mail or call us at adp@envirolink.org or (814) 223-4996 to let us know where you'll be this summer.

The Lorax: Alive in the Alleghenies

By Kelly Compeau

Many people know the story of *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss. The Once-ler, a pioneering spirit enters a wonderful place and empties it of its beauty in the name of greed. The Lorax, however, is the voice for the trees and animals that are being destroyed. Although the Lorax offers constant warnings, the Once-ler continues with the dirty deeds, and soon the forest is destroyed. But is *The Lorax* fiction? It might be the story of the Alleghenies.

The story starts off with a beautiful place — full of peace, full of bliss. Then the Once-ler came in and saw the beautiful trees, and knew those trees could be turned into dollars. So, the Once-ler built a small factory and started to chop. It's the same situation with the Alleghenies. The beautiful hillsides filled with animals and covered with plants of all kinds are truly majestic. The timber industry came along and saw the trees, and knew they could make some quick cash. The industry set up shop, and the saws started buzzing.

When the Once-ler had begun production, the Lorax appeared to question the purpose and need of destroying the beautiful trees. The Once-ler responded with saying how necessary his service is, and that he was doing no harm by cutting the trees. It all sounds familiar to us in the Allegheny region. When the industry took over the area, the Allegheny Defense Project soon followed asking why. Why do you need to remove our forest to make your goods? The products of the timber industry can be produced using alternative fibers and improved recycling. The hasty logging of the Allegheny National Forest is unnecessary.

Of course, the industry responds with "forest management leads to a healthy forest." They fail to recognize that a monoculture and ferns is *not* a healthy forest.

The Once-ler's industry expanded, and more people had to rely upon it. Soon, the industry had to chop trees faster than before, and needed to introduce the Super-Axe-Hacker to cut down four trees at once. Here in the Allegheny, the feller-buncher has taken over the forest, with one person now doing the job of several. The ADP asks what is the benefit and what is the cost? The benefit is more profit for the timber industry, the cost is fewer jobs for the local people.

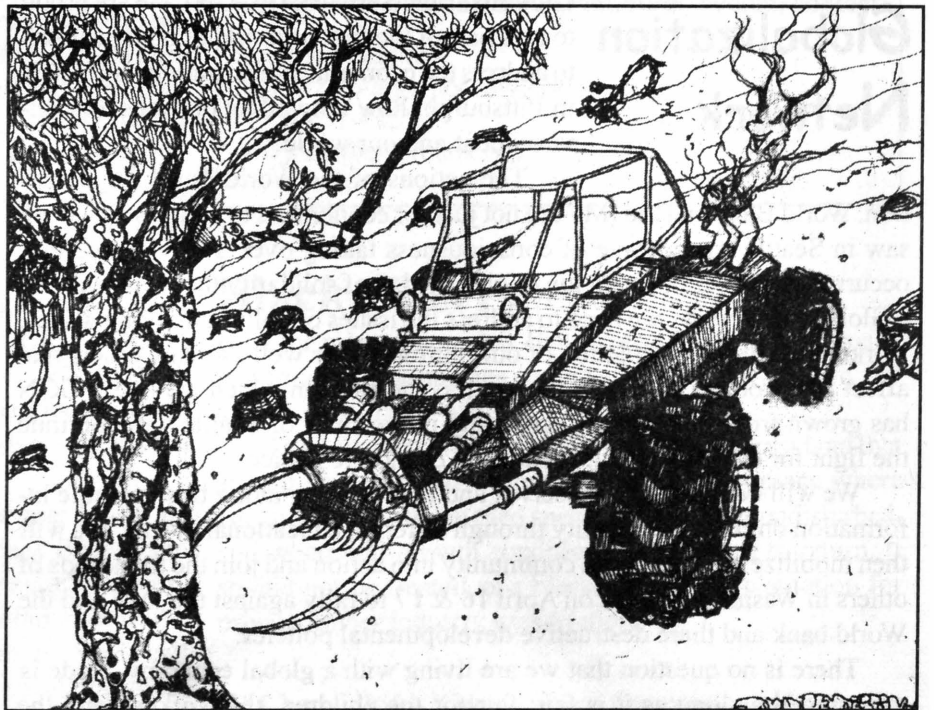
In no time at all, the trees the Once-ler cut threatened the survival of the animals that needed them. Here in our forest, many organisms need the trees that are here to keep from becoming extinct. The endangered Indiana bat lives under the bark of trees throughout the

Allegheny. If we remove the trees, the bats will be forced to move. Like the Brown Barbaloots, we can only hope they survive the long trip they will have to take towards safety.

But with the Lorax, the lack of trees weren't the only problem. The Once-ler's factory also filled the air and water with pollutants that are unsafe for any living thing. Back home in the Allegheny, we have industry violating the Clean Air Act on a regular basis, as well as creating noise pollution that harms our homes and families. But the air isn't our only problem. The streams that provide a home for many plants and animals, as well as drinking water for humans, are filled with toxins from an uncaring industry.

Then a sound is heard. The loudest of hacks when the last tree of all is chopped to the ground. No more trees, no more products, no more work to be done. All of the people the Once-ler employed pack up their bags and move on. Is this the future for the Allegheny? It could be.

The timber industry already has its sights on bigger trees in other forests. We need to take action to provide clean air and water, beautiful forests, vibrant wildlife, and sustainable jobs to the people of the Allegheny region. "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing's going to get better. It's not."



Drawing by John Henderson

Allegheny Defense Project 2000 CALENDAR

March

31 Oil and Gas Field Training Weekend Begins. Come and learn about the problems with oil and gas development on the Allegheny National Forest and what to look for when field monitoring!

April

1-2 Oil and Gas Field Training Weekend Continued.

3-4 Oil and Gas File Review. We'll be looking through files on oil and gas in the Allegheny at the Forest Service and DEP offices. We hope to gather information that will help us to protect the Allegheny from harmful oil and gas development.

15-16 IMF/World Bank Action in DC. Contact Antonia Juhasz at American Lands Alliance, antonia@igc.org

19 Allegheny Forest Day of Action! Plan an event in your "neck of the woods" to bring attention to the plight of the Allegheny Forests! Contact Rachel Martin at rmartin@envirolink.org or (814) 223-4996 or for ideas and materials.

22 Earth Day. An opportunity to bring forest protection issues to Earth Day 2000 events planned in your area.

May

19-21 Forest Watch Monitoring Weekend. Come out to the Forest to help out with on-the-ground field monitoring!

26-29 Heartwood Forest Council and Dogwood Alliance Gathering in Kentucky.

Heartwood is a coalition of groups and individuals working to protect the forests of the Central Hardwood region, of which ADP is a part. The Dogwood Alliance is working to protect forests and communities in the Southeast from the proliferation of high-capacity chip mills.

June

9-11 Forest Watch Monitoring Weekend.

July

1-4 Forest Watch Monitoring Weekend and Activist Corps Outreach. Spend July 4 in the woods! We'll be doing on-the-ground monitoring during the weekend, and reaching out to recreationists through July 4. This promises to be lots of fun!

August

4-6 Forest Watch Monitoring Weekend.

September

1-4 Labor Day Outreach Weekend. This will be another chance to make recreationists aware of the preference the Forest Service places on timber extraction over other uses of the forest!

22-24 Seventh Annual ADP Fall Gathering! Mark your calendars! This is ADP's big annual event. The Fall Gathering will include camping, music, workshops, hikes, great food, and a chance to

meet up with forest activists from around the region. Not to be missed!

October

6-8 Heartwood Reunion in Paoli, Indiana. This is Heartwood's other big event (see May calendar.) The annual Reunion is a time to develop strategies for the Central Hardwood Region, meet great people, enjoy great food, and have TONS of fun!

13-15 Autumn Leaf Festival Outreach Weekend. The Autumn Leaf Festival is the big event in Clarion, PA, where our main office is based. This is a great chance to reach out to the Clarion community and visitors.

December

30-31 The ADP Annual Winter Meeting Begins. The Winter Meeting is a week-long annual event. This is where we develop our strategies for the upcoming year, and includes strategy sessions, working group meetings, and hikes. The 31st is traditionally a New Year's Eve party.

Most events above, unless stated otherwise, take place in the Allegheny National Forest area. Folks will either be staying at Allegheny Farm (an old 40-acre farm 10 miles from the National Forest) or we'll be camping out in the woods.

For more information and updates on the events listed above, check out our webpage at www.alleghenydefense.org or call or e-mail us at (814) 223-4996 or adp@envirolink.org

Gas Drilling Threat Renewed on Finger Lakes NF

By Laurel Herendeen and Jesse Strock

Despite enormous public outcry, the Forest Service plans to proceed with a project that threatens the entire Finger Lakes National Forest: forest-wide drilling for natural gas. The Finger Lakes National Forest (FLNF) is New York's only National Forest, located near Ithaca, NY.

This project first came to the attention of local forest-watchers when the FLNF sent out a scoping document last spring. According to the letter, the Forest Service was considering granting a request to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to lease lands over most of the Forest's 16,000 acres to two private oil and gas companies. The BLM, which owns the subsurface rights to the area beneath the forest, must receive permission from the Forest Service in order to do the surface work associated with drilling and maintaining the wells. The Forest has not released the names of the companies, but they have said that they are based in Pennsylvania. The capital gained by the companies would therefore not remain in the Finger Lakes area.

In response to the scoping notice last spring, the FLNF received an unprecedented 500 comment letters on their proposal, as well as an uncomfortable amount of press coverage in the Ithaca area. They stated that the project was on hold until the year 2001, when they could receive funding.

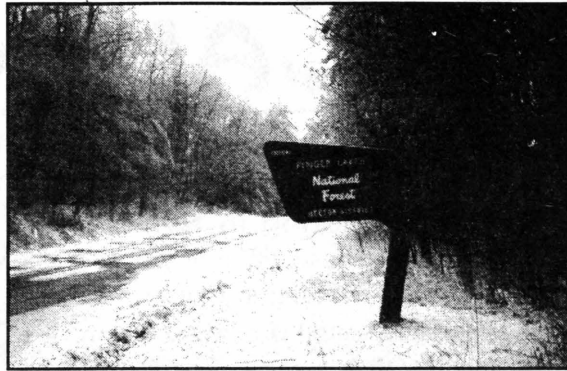


Photo by Rachel Martin

However, when pressed, the Forest Service recently stated that they have received funding for the project and are planning to hire an outside contractor to conduct the environmental analysis. The Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be out within the next four months.

Drilling for oil and gas is unacceptable for many reasons. Clearings and cleared access paths (essentially a long clearcut strip 50-100 ft wide) usually accompany each well, resulting in large devastation on the surface. Additionally, the wells are checked frequently, usually by truck, which will result in compacted soil and soil erosion. Finally, the noise of the initial drilling, the smell of leaking gas, and leaks from any drilled oil wells would affect both recreational use and wildlife.

Currently, activists in the Ithaca area are writing letters to the Forest Service to let them know that this plunder of our public lands for private profit is unacceptable. If you would care to join us, please send a letter addressed to:

Martha Twarkins, District Ranger
Finger Lakes National Forest
5218 State Route 414
Hector, NY 14841

New Species Added to Allegheny "Sensitive" List

By Jim Kleissler

On February 29, 2000, one day prior to the release of the Draft amendment to the Allegheny Forest Plan for threatened and endangered species, the Regional Forester in Wisconsin released the new list of sensitive species for the Allegheny National Forest. Seventeen species of plants and animals that are at risk of becoming endangered were added to the list.

The current list of sensitive species includes:

- **Yellow-bellied flycatcher:** This bird is a ground-nester known to nest in bogs and large tracts of mesic old growth forest. Considered a state endangered species, the yellow-bellied flycatcher's only known population on the Allegheny National Forest can be found in the tornado blow down in the old growth at Tionesta Scenic Area. Threats to this species include habitat degradation and loss due to logging within its summering and wintering grounds as well as migration hazards such as radio towers.

- **Longsolid mussel:** The Longsolid mussel is a freshwater bi-valve that has been documented in Tionesta Creek. This rare mussel is especially at risk due to its small isolated population. The primary

threats to the Longsolid mussel appears to be potential impacts to water quality as well as potentially limited habitat.

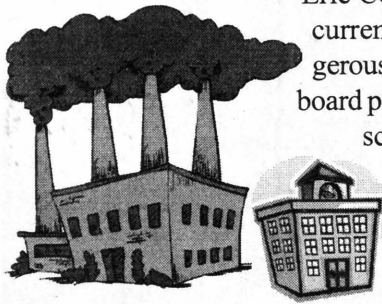
- **Gravel Chub:** The Gravel chub is a Pennsylvania state endangered species. Populations of the Gravel chub are declining due to impacts to water quality. This species is especially sensitive to sedimentation. Threats on the Allegheny National Forest include activities such as road construction, logging, and herbicide use.

In addition to those listed above the Harpoon clubtail, Rapids clubtail, Mustached clubtail, Midland clubtail, Zebra clubtail, Ski-tailed Emerald, Uhler's sundragon, Maine snaketail, Creeping snowberry, Thread rush, Rough cottongrass, Timber rattlesnake, Channel darter, and Gilt darter were also added to the Allegheny National Forest's Sensitive Species List. Unfortunately no specific protections have been designed to help conserve these species.

For more information on all of these species visit our web page at www.alleghenydefense.org.

TOXIC FUMES AND KIDS DON'T MIX

By Kirk Johnson



Erie County's Corry school system currently finds itself at a very dangerous crossroads, where the school board possibly holds the fate of 1,300 school children in their hands.

But it seems clear from recent evidence, however, that they are not prepared to take that responsibility seriously.

The Corry school board, in an extraordinarily obtuse resolution, has decided to locate a new consolidated Corry school building within 700 yards of the manufacturing facility known as Foamex. As the name might imply, Foamex produces foam padding for furniture made by Sealy. Winds blow from the direction of Foamex toward the proposed location of the new school 78% of the time during the spring and winter, which would place the grade K-5 children (and eventually grades K-8 when a new middle school is also built on the same site) at risk of exposure to probable carcinogens such as TDI, barium, antimony oxide, and methylene chloride. Also, if the worst were to occur and the Foamex plant were to burn suddenly and uncontrollably, the smoke from the burning polyurethane foam would be highly toxic and there is no way, logistically, that the children could be evacuated without being exposed. At a recent Corry school board meeting, a local firefighter explained that it would take at least an hour for a full HazMat squad from Erie or Warren, which would be needed under the described circumstances, to arrive on the scene.

Another concern is that the 166 acres on which they are planning to build the school was previously owned by the Troyer Farms corporation (Troyer Farms paid \$32,000 for the land according to records at the Warren County Court House). Before that the land was farmland on which the highly toxic chemical insecticide DDT was used. DDT, of course, is well known for its long-term persistence in the environment.

It is difficult to understand why the school board stubbornly clings to the misguided plan to locate the school near the Foamex plant. Possibly it has something to do with one or more of the school board members wanting to do a favor for the landowner who they are purchasing the land from (the Corry school system would pay \$425,000 for the land — well over 10 times the amount paid by Troyer Farms). To build the new proposed school would cost nearly \$20 million while simply renovating the existing school buildings would cost only approximately \$7 million. There is no guarantee that the students would get a better education at the proposed school — certainly not \$13 million worth of better education.

Even if the board decides to stick with the consolidated school plan, it does not have to be located at this poor site as numerous acceptable alternative sites have been identified.

The Corry school board has been consistently unresponsive, if not outright belligerent, to the concerns of Corry school district residents over this issue. Please write to the school board and ask them to reconsider their highly dubious plan to locate the school near Foamex as a matter of responsibility to the health and safety of the children in the Corry school system, and the residents of Corry as a whole. The school board claims that if something were to happen to any child as a result of locating the school near Foamex that they cannot be held responsible as long as they acted "in good faith." It is important that they be warned over and over again beforehand that this is a bad idea. Letters to the school board should be sent to: Mr. John Wood, Corry School Board President, R.D. 3, Box 83, Spartansburg, PA 16434

Cougars in PA? (Cont. from pg. 13)

est. According to Jason Halbert, ARC Coordinator, "The habitat is there, the sightings are there and verified tracks have been found. It's only a matter of time before we re-discover the animal."

Since being confronted with evidence such as sightings, scat, tracks, and even dead cougars in the east, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) officials are taking the position that this evidence cannot be the result of remnant eastern cougar natives, but must be due to released or escaped pets born elsewhere. Therefore these eastern cougars have not been afforded protection under the Endangered Species Act. Unfortunately, many state and Forest Service officials have followed the USFWS lead and have adopted a similar stance.

If you would like to help, please write a letter to Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt asking him to rule that all cougars living in the wild in the eastern United States be classified according to recent extensive genetic research finding that all North American cougars (north of Nicaragua) should be recognized as a single subspecies, *Puma concolor cougar*. Once such a recognition takes place, all cougars living in the wild in states east of the Mississippi River will be afforded full protection under the Endangered Species Act, and this will greatly aid in the recolonization and recovery of eastern cougar populations. Send comments to: Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, Interior Building, Room 6156, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Sources

- "Cougar in the East?" 1999. *Earth First! Journal*. V. 20, n. 3. 24.
- Genoways, Hugh H. and Fred J. Brenner eds. 1985. *Species of Special Concern in Pennsylvania*. Carnegie Museum of Natural History Special Publication No. 11. Pittsburgh.
- Merritt, Joseph F. 1987. *Guide to the Mammals of Pennsylvania*. University of Pittsburgh Press. Pittsburgh.
- Taverna, Kristin, Jason E. Halbert, and David M. Hines. 1999. *Eastern Cougar (Puma concolor cougar): A Habitat Suitability Analysis for the Central Appalachians*. Appalachian Restoration Campaign. Charlottesville, Virginia.

CONTACT AN ADP COORDINATOR NEAR you!

ALLEGHENY AREA

Jim Kleissler, Rachel Martin,
and Kirk Johnson
PO Box 245
Clarion, PA 16214
814-223-4996 ph
814-223-4997 fax
adp@envirolink.org

BUFFALO, NY AREA

Meghan Fay
196 Winspear Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14215
716-838-6020
mafay@acsu.buffalo.edu

CLEVELAND, OH AREA

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

Sarah Green
OCMR 938
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-775-6516
sarah.green@oberlin.edu

HARRISBURG, PA AREA

Arthur Clark
1055 Old Mountain Rd.
Dillsburg, PA 17019
717-432-3595

aclark@envirolink.org

ITHACA, NY AREA

Laurel Herendeen
228 Wait Ave
Ithaca NY 14850
607-257-6651
lbh7@cornell.edu

LEWISBURG, PA AREA

Andrew Taylor
c6072 Bucknell University
Lewisburg, PA 17837
ataylor@bucknell.edu

Lauren Bond
c0078 Bucknell University
Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-577-4917
bond@bucknell.edu

NEW YORK CITY AREA

James Hansen, FLAG
P.O. Box 458
Old Chelsea Station, NY 10011
212-627-2007

Wetlands Preserve/NYC EF!
(212) 966-4225

PHILADELPHIA, PA AREA

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

Raji Malik/Jon Sinker

Clean Air Council
135 S. 19th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-567-4004 ph
215-567-5791 fx
jsinker@cleanair.org
rajimalik@yahoo.com

Philly Earth First!
efphilly@envirolink.org

PITTSBURGH, PA AREA

Shannon Hughes
13692 Ridge Rd.
N. Huntingdon, PA 15642
412-751-4551
shughes@envirolink.org

Alexander Denmarsh
1146 Michael Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-3946
412-881-0238 ph
412-884-0993 fx
adenmarsh@home.com

Tom Watkiss
RR #1 Box 190
Irwin, PA 15642
724-446-1165

STATE COLLEGE, PA AREA

Olena Welhasch
142 West Hamilton

State College, PA 16801
814-867-8392

Maho Hisakawa
140 W. Hamilton
State College, PA 16801
814-867-0201

WEST COAST REGION

Jim Ace
2845 Madeira Ave.
Oakland, CA 94619
510-261-4537
jimaceman@hotmail.com

Andrew Gianni
ADP Webmeister
aggianni@nwserv.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Heartwood, Inc.
P.O. Box 1424
Bloomington, IN 47402
(812) 337-8898
info@heartwood.org

Susan Curry
National Forest Prot. Alliance
PO Box 1891
Charlottesville, VA 22903
804-971-5990 phone
scurry@firstva.com

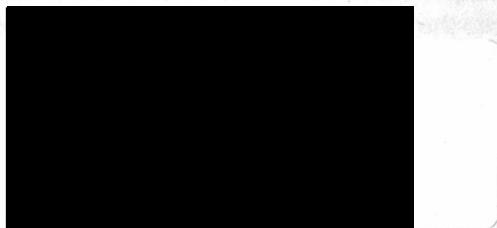
Allegheny Defense Project

PO Box 245

Clarion, PA 16214

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Clarion, PA
Permit No. 16

Address Service Requested



Printed on 50% Kenaf, 50% Recycled Processed Chlorine Free Paper



Cryptobranchus alleganiensis, the Hellbender