



# Allegheny Brambles

An informational article about the Allegheny National Forest

United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
P. O. Box 847  
Warren, PA 16365-0847

Contact: Stephen Miller  
Telephone: 814/723-5180, X198

April 19, 2006  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST – LAND OF MANY USES

The 513,325 acre Allegheny National Forest (NF) was established in 1923 by presidential proclamation, and is the only national forest in Pennsylvania. “Our national forests are an irreplaceable part of our America heritage, providing a wide variety of ecological, economic and social benefits to Americans,” said Steve Miller of the Allegheny NF.

The Allegheny NF is one of 155 national forests and 20 national grasslands covering 193 million acres (an area the size of Texas) managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Forest Service. National forests are different than other federal lands, most of which are managed for a single purpose. National forests are required to be managed to provide for multiple benefits in a sustainable way so future generations will enjoy these lands. These multiple benefits encompass wood, water, wildlife, recreation, minerals and grazing.

Forest Reserves were first established in 1891. The Organic Administration Act of 1897 defined their mission to “improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber.” In 1907, the Forest Reserves were renamed national forests.

Over time, various laws like the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 added benefits such as recreation, habitat for fish and wildlife, wilderness, heritage and grazing to the original mandates to provide watershed protection and a continuous wood supply.

### Economics

From 1987 through 2005, gross receipts from the Allegheny NF totaled more than \$330 million. Roughly **99 percent of the money was generated by harvesting trees, a renewable natural resource**, while the other 1 percent was primarily from special uses.

Either through the 25 Percent Fund Act or the Secure Rural Schools Act, the four counties around the Allegheny NF receive funds annually based on the receipts to the forest. In 2005, these receipts **totaled \$6.4 million** for the four counties combined.

### Wood

The average acreage harvested annually from 1987 through 2005 (19 years) has been 5,510 acres, and this produced an annual average harvest of 49.8 million board feet of wood. This wood supports log mills, chip plants, dimension lumber processes, and local economies.



Black cherry and oak produce high values for the wood harvested on the Allegheny NF. The all-time high price for black cherry saw timber was \$4,850 per thousand board feet in 2003. **Black Cherry veneer is extremely desirable for fine furniture and the black cherry on the forest is especially high quality with excellent color characteristics. Black cherry is truly the Allegheny's "claim to fame" and fills a unique niche among the national forests.** The Allegheny NF has roughly 1/3 of the world's supply of veneer-quality black cherry and 25% of the United States' black cherry sawtimber.

#### Oil and Gas

**Ninety-three percent of mineral rights on the forest are owned by someone other than the federal government.** The forest has about 7,000 acres of producing wells, covering about 5,000 acres of the forest. **The oil that comes off the forest is known world-wide for its high lubricating qualities.**

#### Hunting and Fishing

The forest has 770 miles of cold-water streams and 43 miles of warm-water streams. Two national wild and scenic rivers, the Allegheny and the Clarion Rivers, form the western and southern boundaries of the forest. Hunters and anglers view the forest as a premier place to hunt or trap wildlife, fish the streams or reservoirs, and view wildlife.

Six federally threatened or endangered species are known to occur in or near the forest. River otters were re-introduced in 1991 and fishers were re-introduced in 1997.

#### Recreation

**The forest's 106 miles of ATV trails are considered premier and attract users from a nine-state area to experience the well-constructed trails.** ATV use remains high. Two connector trails provide private services to the Timberline and Marienville ATV Trails.

The beautiful Allegheny Reservoir, created by the Kinzua Dam in 1965, is 27 miles long with 90 miles of shoreline and is the centerpiece of developed recreation. **The undeveloped shoreline is unique for reservoirs in Pennsylvania.**

The forest has 674 campsites in 20 campgrounds, 6 boat launches and a full service marina on the Allegheny Reservoir, 6 canoe access sites to rivers, 11 picnic areas, 4 beaches and 3 scenic overlooks.

Hikers can choose from 219 miles of hiking trails, skiers can select from 53 miles of X-C ski trails, and snowmobilers can ride 366 miles of trail when snow conditions permit.

The forest also contains '**special areas**' such as two national scenic areas, a national recreation area, two wilderness, a research natural area, two national wild and scenic rivers, an experimental forest, an national scenic byway, a national scenic trail and two national recreation trails, in addition to the general forest recreation areas.

#### Special Objectives for 2006

**The forest will offer 25 MMBF of wood for harvest this year.**

**The Record of Decision for the expansion of the Willow Creek ATV Trail is expected in the summer of 2006.**



**A revised DRAFT Forest Plan will be issued in May of 2006.**

**The newly reconstructed Red Bridge Recreation Area on the Allegheny Reservoir will re-open in 2006 with two shower/flush toilet buildings, four vault restrooms, an expanded parking lot at the bank fishing areas, reconstructed tent sites, and renovated campsites with electrical service.**

**The Kinzua Wolf-Run Marina on the Allegheny Reservoir will open its 2006 season with a newly paved parking area and upgraded docking slips, with water and electric. A 900-foot universally accessible fishing trail is being constructed.**

Write article here.

#



**Note to reporters: photos available upon request.**