



*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*, the Hellbender

# Allegheny Defense Project

*Protecting and Restoring the Forests of the Allegheny Bioregion*

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February 4, 2009

Leanne Marten, Forest Supervisor  
Allegheny National Forest  
4 Farm Colony Drive  
Warren, PA 16365

Dear Supervisor Marten,

On January 16, 2009 you wrote a memo regarding two letters that you received from Region 9 Regional Forester Kent Connaughton. You wrote, in part, that:

“Both of these letters and their subsequent direction involve the oil and gas program on the Allegheny National Forest. My hope is that the sending of this memo, coupled with phone calls made and meetings held, helps ensure that this information is being widely shared.”

Unfortunately, we did not learn of these developments until February 2, 2009, over two weeks after your memo. We did not receive the memo from your office; nor did we receive a phone call or have any knowledge of “meetings” that were and/or are being held. We learned about the letters from a court filing by the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Industry rather than the Forest Service.

ADP has a long track record of being an “interested party” in Allegheny National Forest issues. We respectfully request to know 1) why ADP was not contacted by the Forest Service, 2) what “interested part[ies]” have been contacted, and 3) how many meetings have been held or are scheduled and who the participants of those meetings were/are.

Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience at (814) 221-1408.

Thank you,

*/s/ Ryan Talbott*  
RYAN TALBOTT  
Forest Watch Coordinator