

Two groups associated with ANF pushing for stimulus funds for the Allegheny

Two area groups associated with the Allegheny National Forest are pushing for funds from the federal stimulus plan to spend on the Allegheny.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides \$650 million to the U.S. Forest Service to be used for road, trail, facility and watershed projects.

The Allegheny Defense Project and Tionesta Valley

Snowmobile Club want a portion of the funds to be used for road decommissioning and deferred maintenance that has been building up on Pennsylvania's only national forest.

In 2008, the Forest Service proposed closing or reducing services at certain locations throughout the Allegheny. The two groups feel this money could be used to maintain the current level of service.

"Instead of closing campgrounds and eliminating services, the Forest Service could immediately put people to work to make the necessary infrastructure improvements that would keep these areas open to the public," said Cathy Pedler, ADP board member.

The groups would also like to see some of the money go toward rehabilitating the Corydon Cemetery, where Chief Cornplanter, a previous Seneca Nation chief, is buried.

"The cemetery was relocated

here due to the construction of the Kinzua Dam in the 1960s," said Karen Atwood, secretary for the Tionesta Valley Snowmobile Club and a member of the Corydon Riverview/Cornplanter Cemetery. "Since then, 70 to 90 feet of shoreline have eroded into the Allegheny Reservoir, threatening the stability of the cemetery. Our government owes it to the river valley families whose relatives were re-interred there as well as to Chief Cornplanter's heirs and to the Seneca Nation to stabilize the cemetery and protect this sacred ground."