Subject: : Conservation
Topic: : Save Spring Creek, Centre County
Re: Save Spring Creek, Centre County
Author: : troutbert
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URL:

Here's another reminder about the meeting this Wednesday. All flyfishers who live in the area and care about the future of Spring Creek, please put it on your calendars and make this meeting if you can! (Beer for all attendees. OK, I made that part up.)

Public Meeting Announcement

A public meeting, "Community Alternatives to the Rockview Land Transfer," will be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 30, 2008 at the Patton Township Community Meeting Room, 100 Patton Plaza Drive, State College. (across from the new Home Depot)

The Spring Creek Canyon Alliance, a coalition of 21 environmental, recreational, sportsmen and community groups representing over 150,000 citizens across the Commonwealth, is sponsoring the meeting.

At issue is House Bill 1657, (Hanna, D-76th District) which proposes dividing approximately 1600 acres of surplus Rockview land between Benner Township and Penn State University. Believing that ownership determines how the land will be utilized, the Alliance supports a single owner of the entire property with a mandate to protect the natural resources and assure public access for passive recreation in perpetuity.

"We have never had real public input," states Ed Perry, founder of the Alliance. "All previous meetings have presumed ownership of the property, and the public has never been asked the fundamental question, 'Who are the rightful owners of this public land?'"

Presented as a "routine land transfer," Rep. Hanna's bill has already passed the PA House and now resides in the Senate Rules Committee as an amendment to Senate Bill 740, (Corman, R-34th District). In anticipation of Senator Corman's promised Public Hearing on his bill, the Alliance hopes to develop alternatives to propose to the PA Senate that would keep the Rockview land in the public domain.

Open to the public, the meeting will be moderated by community organizer, Bob Leonard. After a brief explanation of the issues by a panel of respondents from the Spring Creek Canyon Alliance, Trout Unlimited, Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, ClearWater Conservancy and the Sierra Club, audience members will be invited to ask questions, offer suggestions, make comments and engage in dialogue.

Local state and county legislators have been invited to participate and it is anticipated that the audience will span a wide array of citizens from concerned individuals to officers and members of a variety of clubs and organizations. Everyone is invited.

C- Net coverage will be sponsored by Centre County Government.

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