Officials meet over sale of Spring Creek Canyon

By Brendan McNally

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the sale of the Spring Creek Canyon property that may allow Penn State students to get out of the classroom and learn about wildlife conservation under realworld conditions.

Penn State and Pennsylvania Game Commission officials met with local legislators Kerry Benninghoff, R-Centre, and Mike Hanna D-Clinton, to lay the groundwork for the sale of the 1,800 acres.

Penn State and the Game Commission have fought for ownership of the Benner Township property, which is prized for its scenic beauty and untouched natural resources. The land is currently owned by the state, but lawmakers are debating two bills determining who can buy the property.

Penn State hopes to use the wants to levelop woodlands for have interest in the land. hunting.

could incude provisions to allow site," she said. Penn Stare students and faculty to work drectly with the Game Commission to create educational opportunities.

"We're looking at opportunities where students, professors and the Game Commission can work A compromise is emerging on in tandem to create a real-world experience outside of the classroom," he said.

In the meeting, all the parties agreed to hold a town hall-style event on the sale, which Benninghoff hopes will happen sometime in late January.

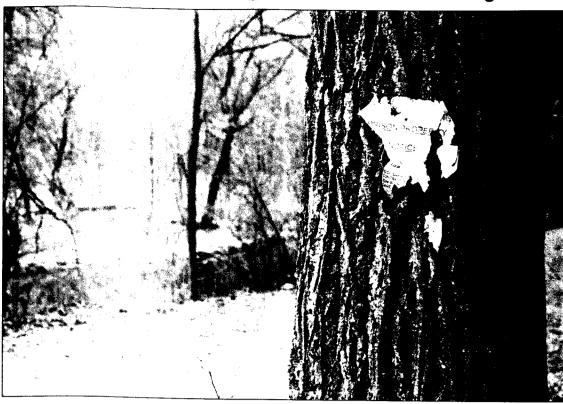
Last year, he introduced a bill that would provide for the sale of the property to the Game Commission, while Hanna introduced a bill that would sell the land to Penn State.

Jennifer Shuey, executive direcof the ClearWater Conservancy, said that either Penn State or the Game Commission could own the property, as long as they follow guidelines that protect the land's ecology.

She wants any future owner to develop the property based on the Spring Creek Canyon Master land for igricultural research, Plan, created by representatives while the Game Commission of dozens of organizations that

We want to make sure that all No concrete deal was agreed of the owners have a conservation upon in the meeting, but easement on the property and are Benninghoff said the compromise managing for the resources of the

expressed concern about the possibility of Penn State receiving the



Signs from Rockview State Correctional Institution edge the proposed Spring Creek Canyon Nature Reserve near Fisherman's Paradise. Penn State and the Pennsylvania Game Commission are currently debating the ownership of the property.

But some county residents have opposed to Penn State owning any also be developed under its ownportion. He's seen the university's rapid development of land surrounding the campus and is wor-

Richard Shreve, of Bellefonte, is ried Spring Creek Canyon might "Penn State does not have a repuership.

"I would like to see Penn State completely out of it," he said.

tation for doing the right thing for

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