

Below the surface beauty of this forest lies another treasure

The long and highly charged dispute over oil development and environmental protection in the Pigeon River Country State Forest has been resolved—and we think to the benefit of the people of Michigan.

On the surface, the natural beauty of the forest has always brought enjoyment to the people. Now they can begin to enjoy the second great treasure of the forest: the bounty of crude oil and natural gas buried below.

Here's how the fortunes of the forest benefit everyone:

1. The crude oil and natural gas production will be a much-needed addition to Michigan's energy supply.
2. Oil development will take place in harmony with nature. Safeguards will protect wildlife and ensure that people can continue to enjoy the natural beauty of the Pigeon River Forest.
3. Oil development also will mean continuing jobs and economic growth in northern Michigan. Otsego County will benefit from taxes the oil industry pays on equipment and property.
4. Taxes and royalties from oil development will help boost state income. For instance, the state royalty on oil and gas production will go to the State Recreation Land Trust Fund (also known as the Kammer Trust Fund), which is used to purchase additional recreation land for the people of Michigan.

The people of Michigan will enjoy *both* natural resources. And that's the real beauty of the Pigeon River Country State Forest.

