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## Premier Recreational Map Company Releases Bald Eagle State Forest "Lizard Map" Completes Trilogy of Central PA Recreational Maps

Purple Lizard Maps has just released a new map of <u>Bald Eagle State Forest</u>, completing a trilogy of recreational maps that serve as key guides for the boom in outdoor recreation and adventure tourism that has been sweeping through the heart of Central PA. <u>Purple Lizard's Central PA Lizard Trilogy</u> is the key to some of the best trail systems and wild areas in the Northeast. The Lizard Central PA Trilogy also includes Purple Lizard's widely acclaimed <u>Rothrock State Forest</u> and <u>Raystown Lake</u> Maps. The Lizard Trilogy encompasses over 350,000 acres of beautiful public land and hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails and scenic back roads in the heart of Central PA.

Central PA, once known primarily for its football and winding pastoral roads complete with Amish buggies, rolling valleys and beautiful farmland, is quickly becoming known among recreational enthusiasts as one of the hottest outdoor recreation destinations on the East Coast. The region lays claim to beautiful wild areas and streams, outstanding trail systems, and some of the most technically challenging trail systems for trail running and mountain biking in the nation, making it a prime destination for vacationers and adventure seekers alike.

Purple Lizard Maps is an independent cartographic design firm that creates recreational maps for outdoor enthusiasts. Founder and lead cartographer, Michael Hermann, is an award winning map designer whose passion is making maps that are known for their excellence in design and function. Hermann explains his decision have Purple Lizard design and publish maps of Central PA, including the new map of Bald Eagle State Forest, "We get requests to map a lot of areas, and we do maps of many beautiful places, but Central Pennsylvania is a real jewel in the world of outdoor recreation." Hermann, a Central PA resident himself, is proud to promote this area to the world. "I have lived in a lot of places, including Maine, Colorado, Utah and Arizona, among others. I believe Central Pennsylvania has some of the best recreation anywhere." As for why he published the Lizard Trilogy, Hermann explains, "All of these beautiful places form one continuous recreational corridor. Purple Lizard maps have helped to open these forests up to visitors and help make Central PA a leading outdoor recreation destination, and we love being a part of that."

"Each map covers hundreds of miles of trails, streams and back roads through stunning natural beauty," Hermann explains. Released just this month, the Bald Eagle State Forest Map was the final map in the trilogy because of its sheer size and scope. Bald Eagle State Forest is a popular destination for hikers, mountain bikers, and dual sport motorcyclists across Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic region. "Although it has some of the best recreation in the

state, Bald Eagle State Forest can sometimes feel overwhelming. The Lizard Map will help change that and make it more accessible," says Hermann.

Less than an hour away, Rothrock State Forest boasts some of the best-known technical singletrack mountain bike trails on the East Coast. The Lizard Map of Rothrock State Forest was first published in 1997, and the 5<sup>th</sup> edition was released this spring. Hermann, who lives just around the corner from Rothrock, explains its attraction, "Rothrock State Forest provides some of the most technically challenging mountain biking and trail running anywhere in the US along with stunning views and rich wildlife habitats."

The Purple Lizard Map of Raystown Lake, in Huntington County, has also obtained national attention. "Raystown is home to the Allegrippis Trails, one of the most well designed machinecut trail systems in the country, making it a nationally-known mountain biking destination." Dirt Rag's annual Dirt Fest mountain bike festival has given the world a peek at what Central PA offers. "The Purple Lizard Raystown Map helps visitors get the big picture of this playground, offering a complete guide to the Allegrippis Trail system, the lake, the hiking trails, parks and surrounding communities," says Hermann.

Why are the maps called "Lizard Maps"? All Purple Lizard Maps have little purple lizards sprinkled throughout different areas on the map, and the Bald Eagle map is no different. Hermann explains, "The little lizards represent overlooks and special places. Purple Lizard Maps are all about helping people get out and find their own lizards - find their own special places, and make their own adventures."

Purple Lizard will celebrate the release of the Bald Eagle Map at a public "Lizard Launch Celebration" at Elk Creek Café and Aleworks in Millheim, PA on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m.

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Based in rural Penns Valley, in the heart of Central Pennsylvania, Purple Lizard Maps works nationally on map design projects and has been publishing its own brand of trail maps since 1997. Purple Lizard's Recreational Maps are available on line at purplelizard.com and sold at local retailers. Sample maps and high resolution graphics are available to the media upon request.