

Timbering and Flooding
in
Fayette County, West Virginia

a research study administered by
John M. Brown

for the Timber Reform Research Project
of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

October 2002

INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, with support from the W. Alton Jones Foundation, has been studying timbering in West Virginia since 2000. The devastating floods in southern West Virginia in 2001 happened during this research project. The Conservancy's Timber Reform Research Project decided to look at the intersect between timbering and flooded areas in Fayette County.

This report, representing many hours of work by researchers and technical workers, contains maps of timber jobs taken from timber notifications filed with the Division of Forestry from June 1993 to September 2001. The study is limited to six topographic areas of Fayette County, which include eleven communities heavily affected by the floods, as identified by Steve Cruikshank, Fayette County Director of Emergency Services. Many other areas of the county were also affected by flooding. With limited resources, we decided to do a small pilot project, in part to demonstrate how to carry out such a study.

The Fayette County Timbering and Flooding Report includes a list of all timber jobs in the flooded areas including the number of acres reported as logged at each job. The maps show that flooding was not caused by large rivers rising up and out, but by water running off steep slopes and ravines below cleared logging and mining sites. We have included quotes from citizens who lived through the floods, confirming that the destructive flows came from above and contained debris from logging sites. The report also contains photos of flood damage in the areas below timber jobs.

Our research supports the findings of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Flooding Study — that timbering did contribute to flood damage of downslope residents. We hope that the Division of Forestry will map all logging jobs in order to assess the cumulative impacts of timbering on down-slope communities. A more comprehensive assessment should also be done by DEP, adding mining and construction projects to the mapping to identify and understand all cumulative impacts.

This report reflects data found on timber notification forms filed with the West Virginia Division of Forestry between June 1993 and September 2001 (approximately eight years). Although every attempt has been made to show exact boundaries of reported timber jobs, some variance may occur as hand drawn maps were converted into computer images. The exact coordinates of timber job boundaries were not available in a digital format. Referenced jobs are for illustration purposes only and may vary slightly from actual areas timbered. In some instances, timber notifications may have indicated more acres were selected for timbering than actually occurred. On jobs where boundaries were unclear, reasonable effort was made to approximate. Current Forest Service regulations allow hand-drawn maps. When timber companies provided hand-drawn maps, the boundaries of these jobs could not be determined and are not included in the mapping sections of this report, but are included in the database portion for reference.

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Key to Symbols



Heavily Affected Area



Topo Quad Boundary



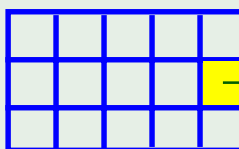
Timbered Areas



Timbered Areas with Job No.



Stripmine Areas



Quad Boundaries

Specific Quad Locator

On JULY 8, 2001

an average of five inches of rain fell on Fayette County, West Virginia within a 24-hour period. The heavy rain caused flash flooding throughout the county and left scores of families homeless. Fayette County was among 24 West Virginia counties that were declared federal disaster areas.

Due to the massive flooding, W.Va. highways 60, 61 and 16 were severely damaged. In several places, as much as half of the road fell or was ripped away causing huge chunks of the highway to be laid in nearby creeks or shoved into mountainsides.

“Fayette County roads sustained more than \$14.2 million in damage,” said Mike Browning director of communications for the West Virginia Department of Transportation. 154 county roads and 27 bridges were damaged.¹

The entire county was issued a boil-water advisory because of broken water and sewer lines. A gas transmission line was destroyed in the Guyandotte River. Allegheny Power reported that almost 885 customers throughout Wyoming and Fayette counties were without natural gas. Power lines were destroyed in mudslides. Railroad tracks were undercut by the water.

Although many surrounding counties sustained damage from the floods of 2001, Fayette County ranked 1st with \$14 million in road damage, 1st with \$11 million in damage to municipal water and sewer infrastructure, and 3rd in the number of homes damaged or destroyed.²

Timber sites with divided slopes and logging roads not properly banked or cleared turned into funnels for massive gushes of water and debris to collect and travel downhill into homes that sat on high ground.

“I woke up Sunday morning [July 8, 2001] and was instantly aware of how incredibly hard it was raining. I lay in bed another five minutes listening to the rain. I got up, got dressed and headed for the office. Today it wouldn’t be a matter of ‘will it flood’ but ‘where and how bad’.”³

Prior to the flood event of July 8, 2001, rivers and small streams were at normal to slightly below normal lows. Soil conditions in the region were normal to dry.⁴

County “flash flood values” for Fayette County on the morning of the 8th were 1.8 to 2.9 inches of rain within three hours needed to cause flooding conditions. Typical rainfall for Fayette County, WV for the month of July is 4.8”⁵

With its many streams and creeks flowing down steep mountains towards deep valleys and gorges, localized flash flooding has always been a concern. But since stringent zoning was instituted countywide, flood damage has been limited along most streams and creeks by requiring new homes and businesses be built out of the established floodplain.

July 2001 redefined flooding in the minds of residents. Up to this point, flooding in Fayette County was always localized, usually along a particular creek or streambed. This was the first time in recent history that widespread flooding hit the entire county during one storm event.⁶

“Timbering, deforestation from forest fires, and increasing amounts of development played key roles in the flooding throughout the county. It’s true, we have some limited strip mining, but I can’t help but think ‘if timber companies were held to standards like those imposed on mining, we’d be a lot better off.’”⁷

¹ *Charleston Gazette*

² Federal Emergency Management Agency storm damage totals

³ Steve Cruikshank, Director, Office of Emergency Services for Fayette County, West Virginia since 1985

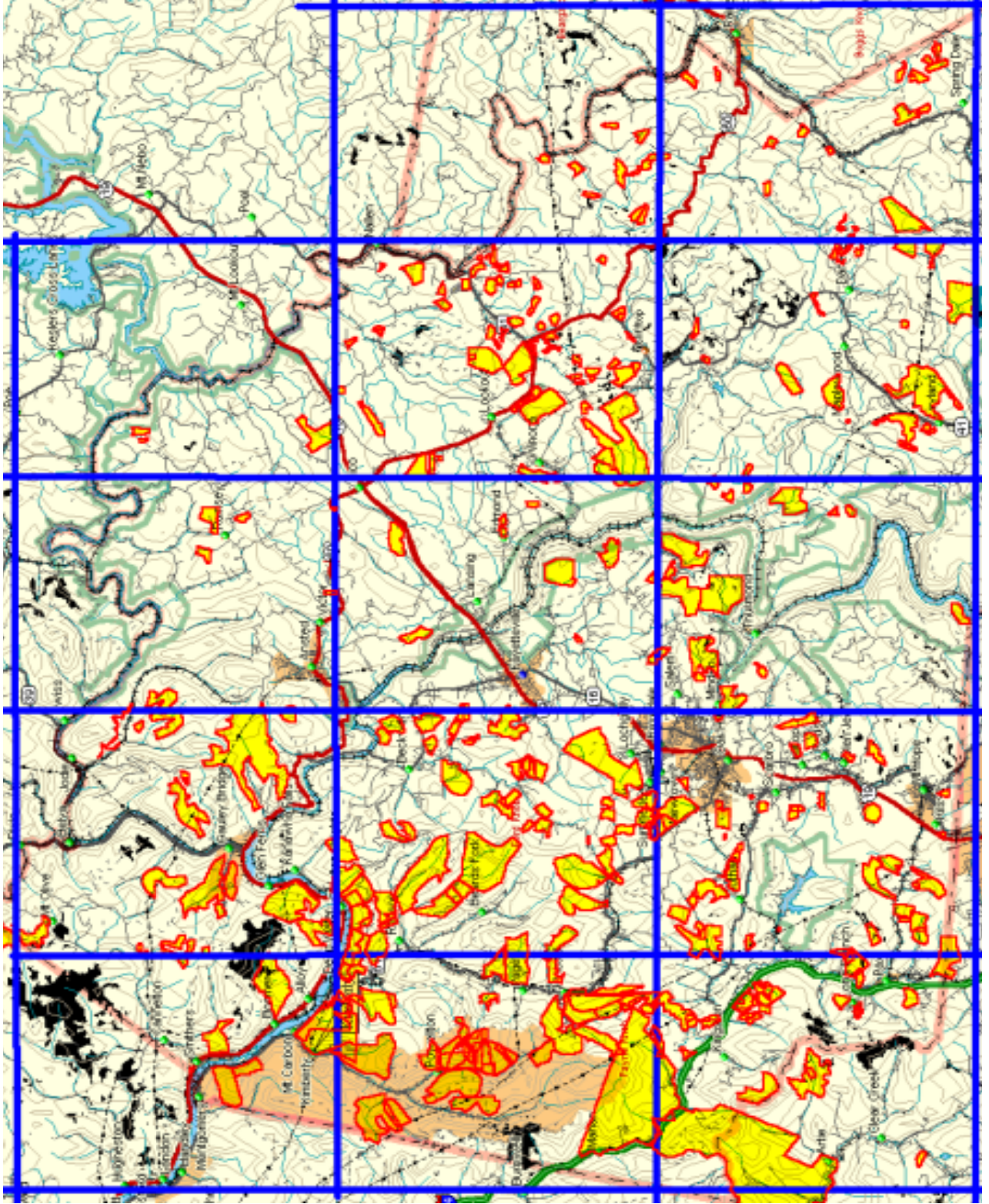
⁴ National Weather Service Hydrometeorological Storm Report

⁵ National Weather Service Hydrometeorological Situation Review

⁶ Article in Beckley Post-Herald

⁷ Steve Cruikshank

Fayette County Topographic Quads



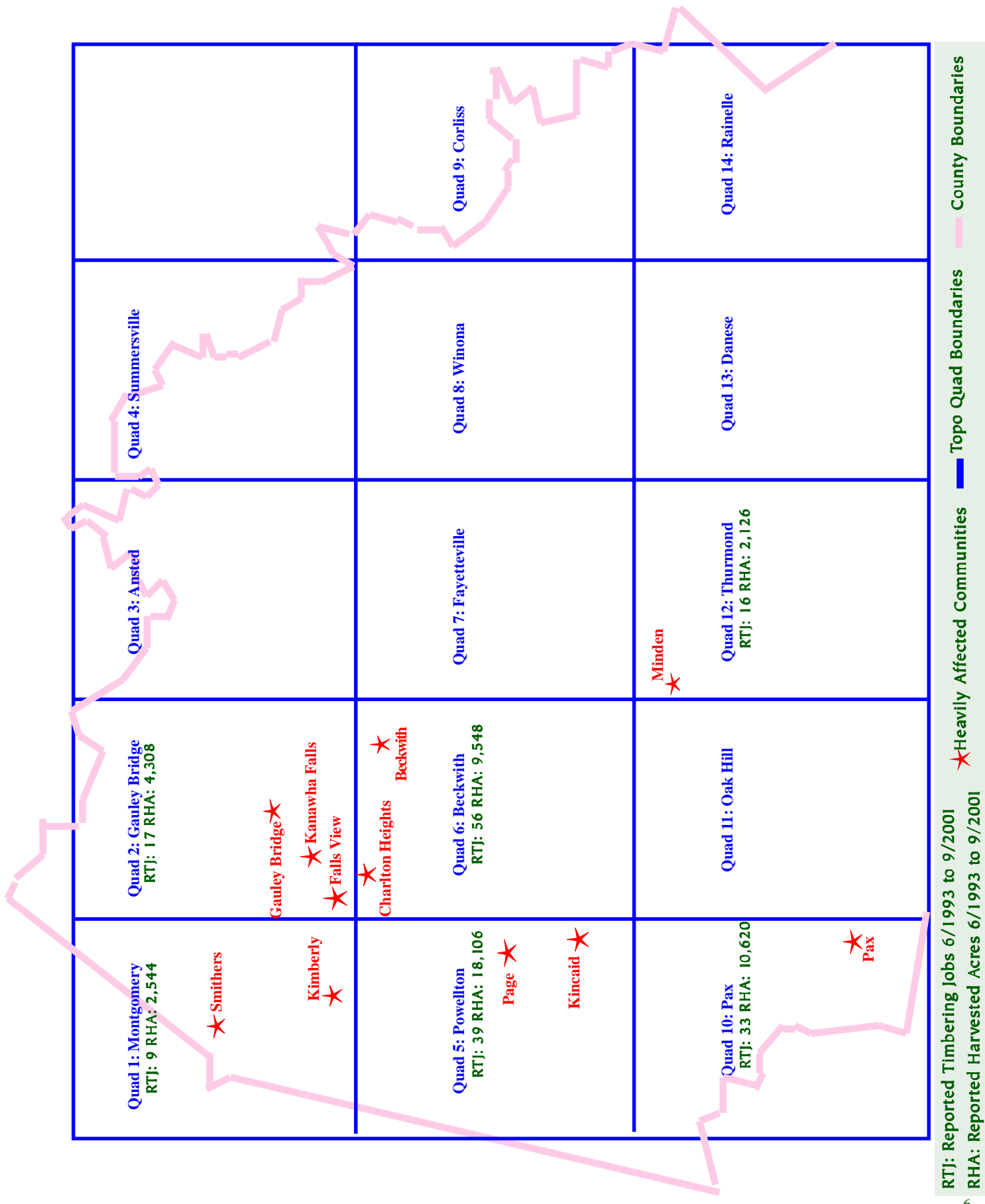
- █ Quad Boundary
- Timbered Areas
- Stripmine Areas

Topo Quad Key

Flood Study Areas

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13
		14	

- 1 Montgomery
- 2 Gauley Bridge
- 3 Ansted
- 4 Summersville
- 5 Powellton
- 6 Beckwith
- 7 Fayetteville
- 8 Winona
- 9 Corliss
- 10 Pax
- 11 Oak Hill
- 12 Thurmond
- 13 Danese
- 14 Rainelle



RTJ: Reported Timbering Jobs 6/1993 to 9/2001
 RHA: Reported Harvested Acres 6/1993 to 9/2001

★ Heavily Affected Communities
 ■ Topo Quad Boundaries
 — County Boundaries

★ Montgomery Quad

Heavily Affected Areas: Smithers & Kimberly
Timbering Jobs Reported: 9
Harvested Acres Reported: 2,544

Quad Locator





Smithers



The home of Jacqueline Barton in Smithers



Smithers Sewage Treatment Plant



Remains of a home in Fishhook Branch
Photo by Robert Gates

Kimberly



Five homes were completely destroyed and as many as twelve others damaged in Sunday's flooding along **Armstrong Creek** near Kimberly.

Source: FEMA storm damage totals

Job No	App Date	U/M	RHA	Logging Company	Timber Owner	Land Owner
120894-700b	Dec-94		700	White Oak Lumber	White Oak Lumber	Western Pocahontas
4021099	Jul-99		500	Butternut Logging	Cranberry Lumber	Pittston Coal
4001901	Dec-00		370	Thompson Logging	MCW Lumber Co	W. R. Johnson Coal
4017601	May-01		242	Bennett Logging Co.	Clonch Industries	W. R. Johnson Coal
1112001	Jan-01	*	230	Bennett Logging Co.	Clonch Industries	Mariner's Museum
4000500	Jan-00	*	229	Bennett Logging	Clonch Industries	Mariner's Museum
498005	Jan-98		150	Carlos Duncan	Riccardi Relastate	Riccardi Relastate
4026098	Aug-98		120	RC Hillbilly Logging	Ricarrdi Real Estate	Ricarrdi Real Estate
4009600	Mar-00		3	Stone Logging	Clonch Industries	Clonch Industries

Total Reported Timbering Jobs: 9

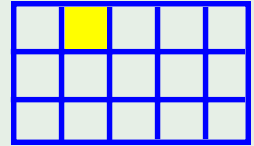
Total Reported Harvested Acres: 2,544

* Unmappable Jobs Totaling 459 acres

Gauley Bridge Quad

Heavily Affected Areas:
Gauley Bridge, Kanawha Falls & Falls View
Timbering Jobs Reported: 17
Harvested Acres Reported: 4,308

Quad Locator



★ Gauley Bridge



"I believe the settlement ponds saved the people along **Scrabble Creek**, near **Gauley Bridge**. If nothing else, the ponds slowed the flow of water from the barren mountainside. After the flood, a man told me 'just look at those settlement ponds – they're full of silt' and I thought to myself 'would you rather have the silt in the pond or in your living room?'"

- Steve Cruikshank

"From just before **Smithers** all the way to **Gauley Bridge**, the damage was severe. Washouts had covered the roads; the parking area at the National Guard Armory (a former school) in **Falls View** was smothered in mud. Mud and rocks surrounded the stately houses in picturesque Glen Ferris."

- Penny Loeb www.wvcoalfields.com

★ Kanawha Falls



"Mining definitely contributed. I've been here 35 years and there's nothing ever like this. Ever since they took the top off that mountain, the water has come harder."

- Mary Coleman
Scrabble Creek resident

Falls View ★

A washout along Route 60 near Falls View. Notice the numerous cut logs on the tracks and nearby. Tons of debris washed down from the hills onto the Roadway and tracks along a stretch of Rt. 60 from Falls View to Gauley Bridge.

T. Paige Dalporto – Beckley Newspapers

Job No	App.Date	U/M	RHA	Logging Company	Timber Owner	Land Owner
4013800	Apr-00		800	Melvin M. Pullens	Imperial Coliery Co	Imperial Colliery Co
4025698	Aug-98		550	White Oak Lumber	Cranberry Hardwoods	Pittston Coal
4024801	Jun-01		420	Melvin M. Pullens	Imperial Colliery	Imperial Colliery
4040100	Dec-00		400	E & G Lumber	Coastal Lumber	Appalachian Land
4005999	Feb-99		340	Stone Logging	Clonch Industries	Kanawha Stone
4011601	Mar-01		300	E B Logging	Coastal Lumber	Appalachian Land
4039998	Dec-98	*	250	BCT Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Cannelton Incorporated
4040098	Dec-98	*	220	BCT Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Cannelton Incorporated
4010200	Mar-00		200	Plymale Contracting	Cranberry Lumber	Pittston Coal
4031999	Sep-99		200	Stone Logging	Clonch Industries	TA Dietz Heirs
4040199	Dec-99	*	150	Stone Logging	Kanawha Development	Clonch Industries
10242000	Oct-00		138	Woodbine Logging	Clonch Industries	Cannelton Incorporated
4012101	Mar-01		125	Goldizon Exc. & Log.	Trus Joist Weyerhaeuser	Appalachian Land Co.
4018300	May-00	*	125	Stone Logging	Clonch Industries	Dietz Hs./Midvale Colliery
4023301	Jun-01		50	EB Logging	Trus Joist Weyerhaeuser	Appalachian Land Co.
4028300	Aug-00		30	J. Trucking	Clonch Industries	Dietz Hs./Midvale Colliery
4011300	Mar-00	*	10	J. W. Jones Cont.	John Shamblin	John Shamblin

Total Reported Timbering Jobs: 17

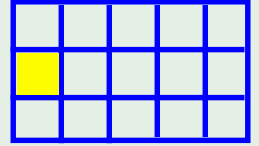
Total Reported Harvested Acres: 4,308

* Unmappable Jobs Totaling 755 acres

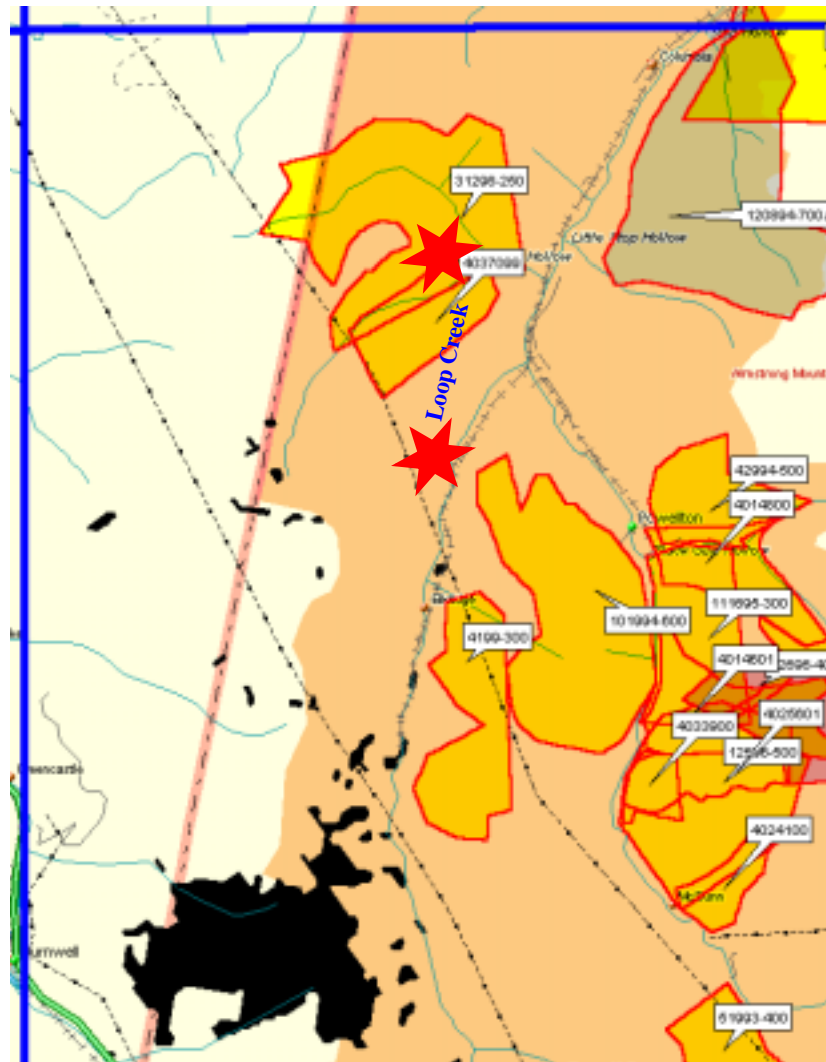
Powellton Quad

Heavily Affected Areas: Kincaid & Page
Timbering Jobs Reported: 39
Harvested Acres Reported: 18,106

Quad Locator



41995-300



Kenny Fenton of Page makes his way across Dunloup Creek. Note the crushed bridge in the background.
- T. Paige Dalporto - Beckley Newspapers



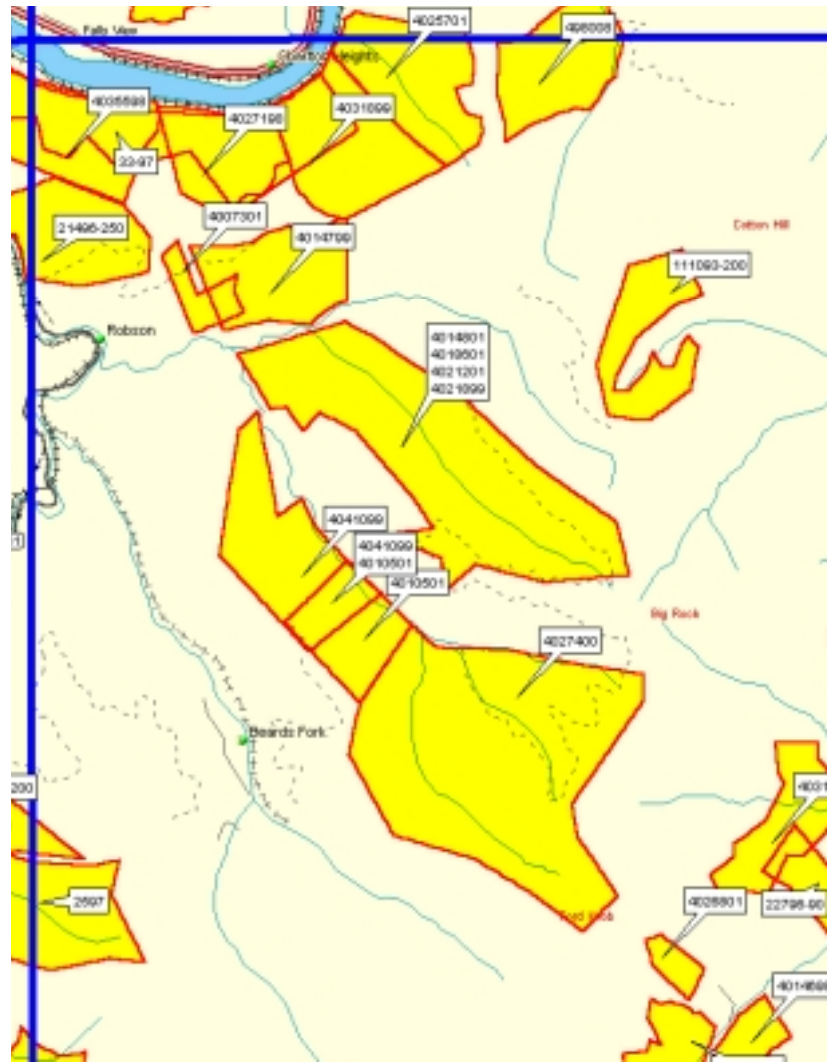
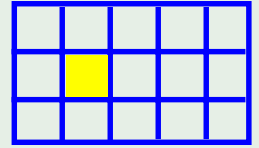
'Fifteen miles of destruction' - that's how the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) labeled the damage along the lower end of Loup Creek. The towns of **Kincaid** and **Page** lie next to each other along Loop Creek and Route 61 in Fayette County, about halfway between Montgomery and Oak Hill. "Swift waters took out bridges from one end to the other."

Job No	App.Date	U/M	RHA	Logging Company	Timber Owner	Land Owner
50394-4052	May-94		4052	Billy Thomas Lumber	Christian Colliery	Christian Colliery
4013100	Apr-00	*	3412	TBB Services	Christian Colliery	Christian Colliery
120894-700a	Dec-94		700	White Oak Lumber	White Oak Lumber	Western Pocahontas
92195-600	Sep-95	*	600	Ross Timber	Robert Pack	Eastern Associated
101994-600	Oct-94		600	Ross Timber	Robert Pack	Eastern Associated
4018701	May-01		560	Butternut Logging	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
4021699	Jul-99		500	TKL Logging Inc.	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Eastern Associated
12596-500	Jan-96		500	Ross Timber	Robert Pack	Eastern Associated
42994-500	Apr-94		500	S & G Logging	Robert Pack	Eastern Associated
172-97	Jun-97		400	Vance Lumber	MCW Lumber dba Pack	Eastern Associated
4026699	Sep-99		400	Butternut Logging	Cranberry Lumber	Western Pocahontas
82696-400	Aug-96		400	Wheatley Exc. & Tim.	MCW dba Pack Lumber	Eastern Associated
51993-400	Nov-93		400	Ross Timber	Pack Lumber Company	Eastern Associated
110593-300	Nov-93		300	A & W Logging	Western Pocahontas	Western Pocahontas
4021999	Jun-99		300	William Adkins	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Cypress Kanawha
4007801	Feb-01		300	Butternut Logging	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
4033998	Oct-98	*	300	TKL Logging Inc.	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Eastern Associated
111695-300	Nov-95		300	Ross Timber	Robert Pack	Eastern Associated
41995-300	Apr-95		300	Ross Timber	Robert Pack	Eastern Associated
4014601	Apr-01		277	Franks Trucking	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
4019899	Jun-99	*	275	TKL Logging Inc.	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
31296-250	Mar-96		250	C & B Logging	MCW Lumber	Eastern Associated
4002501	Jan-01	*	250	Butternut	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
4014800	Apr-00		230	Butternut	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
6212000	Jun-00		200	TKL Logging Inc.	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
10596-200	Jan-96		200	Franks Trucking	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
10296-200	Jan-96	*	200	Ross Timber	Robert Pack	Eastern Associated
4037099	Dec-99		200	Plymale Contracting	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
4008498	Mar-96		198	TKL Logging Inc.	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Eastern Associated
82796-190	Aug-96		190	Ross Timber	Cranberry Hardwoods	Western Pocahontas
4028299	Oct-99		150	Butternut One	Cranberry Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
4025601	Jun-01		125	Franks Trucking	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
4011299	Mar-99		110	TKL Logging Inc.	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
4022599	Aug-99		100	Butternut	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
4009101	Feb-01		100	Weese Equip. Svc.	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
4024100	Jul-00		90	Butternut	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
4007001	Feb-01		74	Franks Trucking	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
4033900	Oct-00		60	Franks Trucking	Cranberry Lumber	Eastern Associated
30995-3	Mar-95	*	3	Stewarts Logging	Robert Pritt	Robert Pritt

Beckwith Quad

Heavily Affected Areas: Beckwith & Charlton Heights
Timbering Jobs Reported: 56
Harvested Acres Reported: 9,548

Quad Locator



★ Charlton Heights

Above
& Below



Route 61 near Beards Fork Hollow

Beckwith★



ing on the moon, I didn't even
town meeting held by the

homes from **Falls View**
orris. "We're talking about
nowhere to go. Loaded with
umbering and high debris
hastily swept away homes
nd nowhere near a creek or
oune, *Raleigh-Register and*



Floodwaters surround the home of Percy Gilliams
- Photo by C.L. Gavin - Beckley Newspapers

Job No	App.Date	U/M	RHA	Logging Company	Timber Owner	Land Owner
4027400	Sep-00		1118	Franks Trucking	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
25-97	Jan-97		550	Higginbottom Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
33-97	Oct-96		523	Skaggs Trucking	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
4021899	Jul-99	*	420	Franks Trucking	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
11696-400	Jan-96		400	Skaggs Trucking	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
10594-350	Jan-94		350	Whitt Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
4031899	Jul-99		325	JJ Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Cypress Kanawha
4025701	Jun-01		316	Bennett Logging Co.	Clonch Industries	Cypress Kanawha
4035598	Nov-98		300	BCT Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Cypress Kanawha
91996-300	Sep-96		300	Kerns Logging	Penn Evergreen	North Hill Development
21496-250	Feb-96		250	Whitt Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
4019698	Jun-98	*	250	BCT Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
120594-230	Dec-94		230	Skaggs Trucking	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
498008	Jan-98		220	Franks Trucking	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Cypress Kanawha
999	Jan-00		210	TKL Logging Inc.	Pocahontas Land	Pocahontas Land Co.
111093-200	Nov-93		200	Skaggs Trucking	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
4014799	May-99		200	Franks Trucking	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
4027198	Aug-98		200	BCT Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Cypress Kanawha
4018601	May-01		185	Stone Logging	Wagner Forest Mgmt.	Gilbert-PLC Lumber
4010501	Mar-01		185	LG Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Wagner Forest Mgmt.
111495-175	Nov-95		175	Ransom's Trucking	White Oak Lumber	White Oak Lumber
21596-100	Feb-96		175	White Oak Lumber	White Oak Lumber	White Oak Lumber
4014801	Jul-01		175	J & J Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Wagner Forest Mgmt.
111296-150	Nov-96		150	K & S Logging	Penn Evergreen	North Hill Development
4009299	Mar-99		150	Plymale Contracting	White Oak Lumber	White Oak Lumber
4041099	Dec-99		150	Franks Trucking	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
4019300	May-00		142	Lone Wolf Forest Prod.	Columbia WV Corp	Columbia WV Corp
71294-137	Jul-94		137	Clonch Industries	Mahan/Hostetter	Mahan/Hostetter
4031800	Oct-00		115	Butternut III	Cranberry Lumber	Carl E. Spearen
4007301	Feb-01		100	Stone Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Wagner Forest Mgmt.
122195-100	Dec-95		100	L. D. Spence Logging	Penn Evergreen	Guy Baker
22796-90	Feb-96		90	Kerns Logging	Penn Evergreen	Tony Muckleroy
4021201	May-01		85	LG Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Wagner Forest Mgmt.
20695-80	Feb-95		80	James D. Mullins	Penn Evergreen	Adrye/Mizerny
42396-80	Apr-96		80	Coleman Logging	Wise	Wise
22096-80	Feb-96		80	T & S Timberlink	Penn Evergreen	T. W. Walter
4003201	Jan-01		74	KC Logging	Penn Evergreen	R. J. Parsons
70996-73	Jul-96		73	White Oak Lumber	Cranberry Hardwoods	New River Ranch
4027998	Aug-98		69	Fedukovich Logging	Cranberry Hardwoods	Harold Jones
4039599	Dec-99		62	KC Logging	Penn Evergreen	Penn Evergreen
4004500	Feb-00		62	KC Logging	Penn Evergreen	Penn Evergreen
120596-60	Dec-96		60	Coleman Logging	Richard James	Richard James
4008598	Mar-98		60	Bill Fedukovich Logging	Cranberry Hardwoods	Bill Fedukovich
121396-50	Dec-96	*	50	K & S Logging	Penn Evergreen	Fred Perry
110696	Nov-96		50	Shelton Trucking	Penn Evergreen	Maurice Alouf
4014801	Apr-01		50	Stone Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Wagner Forest Mgmt.
60596-45	Jun-96		45	Kerns Logging	Penn Evergreen	Guy Baker
4026801	Jul-01		40	E & B Logging LLC	Coastal Lumber	Caldwell
4006701	Feb-01		30	Bobby Roberts Log.	Rick James	Rick James
4014698	Apr-98		29	Shadow Creek Log.	Penn Evergreen	Janda Denoult
93096-25	Sep-96		25	Robert Spencer Cont.	Penn Evergreen	Scruggs
4002301	Jan-01		16	Intensified X 5	Cranberry Lumber	White Oak Lumber
81396-15	Aug-96		15	Robert Spencer Cont.	Penn Evergreen	Scruggs
101796-9	Oct-96		9	Timber Salvage	Evans/Floyd	Evans/Floyd
87-97	Mar-97	*	8	White Oak Lumber	Cranberry Hardwoods	Highland Machinery
4030398	Sep-98		5	K & S Logging	Ralph Chandler	Ralph Chandler

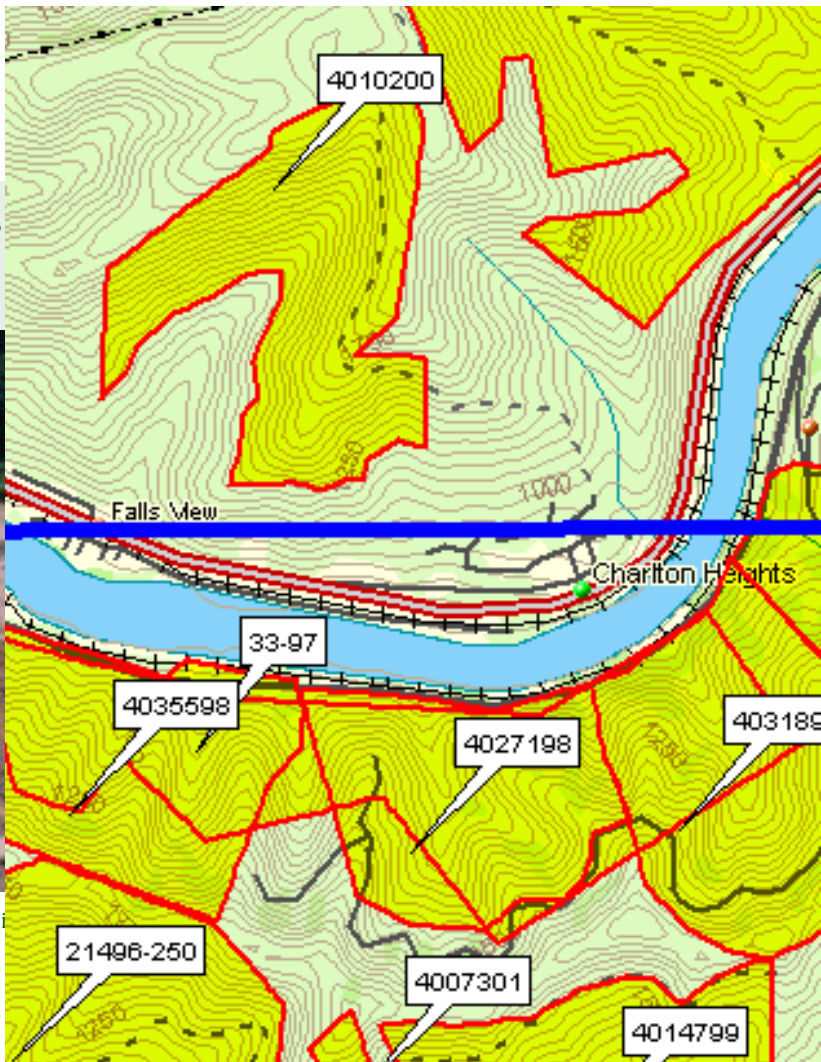
Total Reported Timbering Jobs: 56

Total Reported Harvested Acres:9,548

* Unmappable Jobs Totaling 728 acres



Scene of the aftermath in

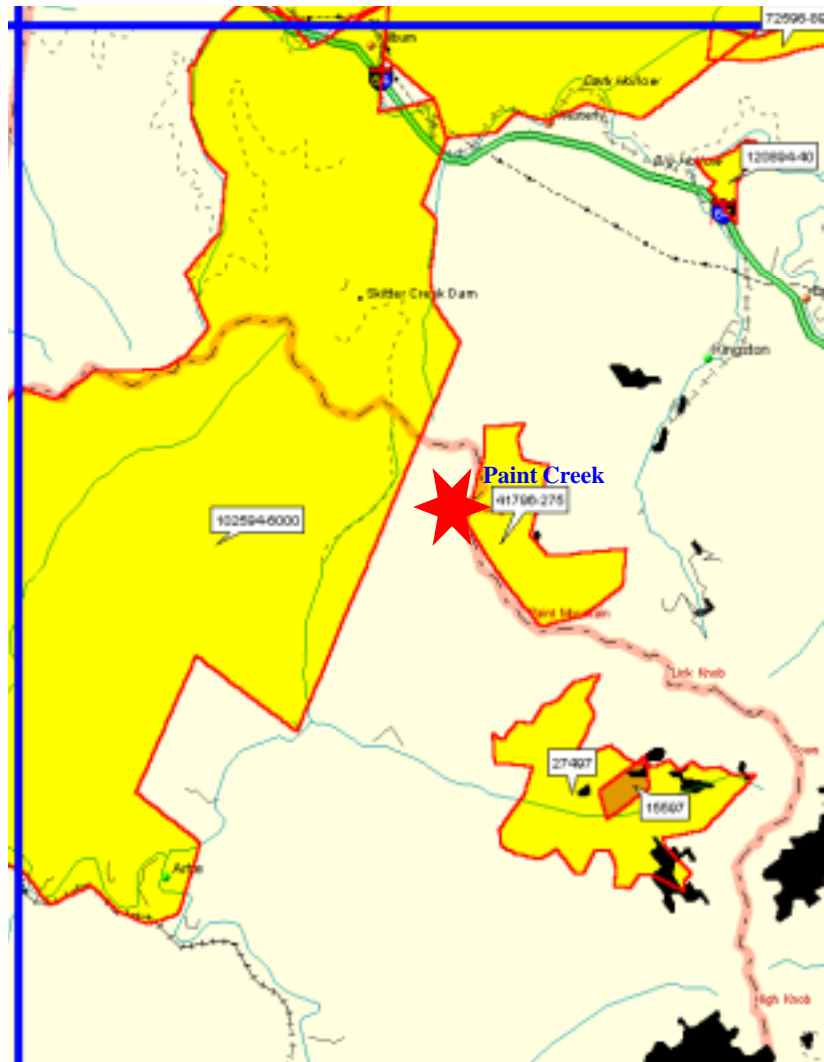
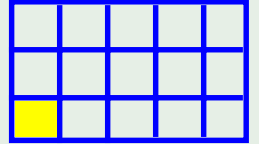


An uni

Pax Quad

Heavily Affected Area: Pax
Timbering Jobs Reported: 33
Harvested Acres Reported: 10,620

Quad Locator





"Boys from the rafting company were 'surfing' **Paint Creek**. They [guides from rafting companies] were pulling people from their houses and taking them to safety. Cars, trucks, and tires — you name it — we watched it float by. I've lived in **Pax** since 1924 and I've never seen it like this - the water ran down the skid roads like a river of mud."

*In front of the Lively home in Pax
- www.paxflood2001.com*



* Unidentified participant at a town meeting conducted by the Fayette County Commission.

Job No	App.Date	U/M	RHA	Logging Company	Timber Owner	Land Owner
102594-6000	Oct-94		6000	Billy Thomas Lumber	Eagle Land Company	Eagle Land Company
52896-1400	May-96	*	1400	Calhoun Logging	Eagle Land Co.	Eagle Land Co.
274-97	Oct-97		500	Whitt Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
41796-275	Apr-96		275	Whitt Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
121493-265	Dec-93		265	S & G Logging	J C Hamer Company	Ark Land
80294-200	Aug-94	*	200	Hilltop Logging	Eastern Hardwood	Ark Land
62593-200	Jun-93		200	Ru./St. Mullins Log.	White Oak Lumber	Ella Davis Farmer
52395-125	May-95		175	Log Ex	Ark Land Company	Ark Land
120693-160	Dec-93	*	160	Hilltop Logging		Dennis Keffer
60594-150	Jun-94	*	150	Hilltop Logging		Ark Land
60295-125	Jun-95		125	Jeff Burns		Ark Land
11894-118	Jan-94		118	Ralph Burns		Unknown
216-97	Aug-97		100	Log Ex		Western Pocahontas
22295-100	Mar-95		100	Jeffery D. Burns		Ella Davis Farmer
72596-89	Jul-96		89	Steve Nester Logging		Ark Land
60295-88	Jun-95	*	88	Higginbottom Logging	Gilbert-PLC Lumber	Ark Land
4014300	Apr-00		85	Paul A. Sears Logging	Grist Lumber	Pocahontas Land Co.
10496-70	Jan-96	*	70	Jeff Burns	Ella Davis Farmer	Ella Davis Farmer
71895-60	Jul-95	*	60	Nicholas Mining	John Pakovich	John Pakovich
12095-60	Jan-95		60	Log Ex	White Oak Lumber	Ella Davis Farmer
2102000	Feb-00		50	Tri County Fence	Penn Evergreen	Conte/Milliken
4005600	Feb-00		45	Paul A. Sears Logging	Blue Triangle Hardwoods	Wriston Heirs
340-97	Dec-97		45	Log Ex	Cranberry Hardwoods	Mr. Lilly
4002399	Jan-99		40	Ransom's Trucking	Columbia WV Corp	Biddle Williams
120894-40	Dec-94		40	James D. Mullins	White Oak Lumber	Ark Land
11895-35	Jan-95		35	H B Akers	Tyree	Tyree
22696-35	Feb-96		35	Dale Stewart Logging	Dale Stewart	Armstrong/Painter
155-97	May-97		30	Shelton Trucking	Penn Evergreen	Gentry Williams
73196-30	Jul-96		30	Dale Stewart Logging	John P. Slevin	John P. Slevin
4031401	Sep-01		20	Kenneth M. Hardy Co.	White Oak Lumber	White Oak Lumber
4031501	Sep-01		20	Kenneth M. Hardy Co.	Cranberry Lumber	Jack Bailey
122395-197	Dec-95		20	Nicholas Mining	Snoden Craddock	Snoden Craddock
281-97	Oct-97	*	15	Ronald McGinnis	Sally Williams	Sally Williams



Total Reported Timbering Jobs: 33

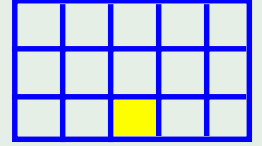
Total Reported Harvested Acres: 10,620

* Unmappable Jobs Totaling 2,143 acres

Thurmond Quad

Heavily Affected Area: Minden
Timbering Jobs Reported: 16
Harvested Acres Reported: 2,126

Quad Locator



4029799



4006001

Arbuckle Creek





Minden

Seven homes were swept away and eleven more damaged in **Minden** along **Arbuckle Creek**. "We've seen high water, but never like this – mud, thick yellow mud – everywhere you look. Boulders, trees and tops of trees that were leftover from the last time they timbered the hollow were everywhere."

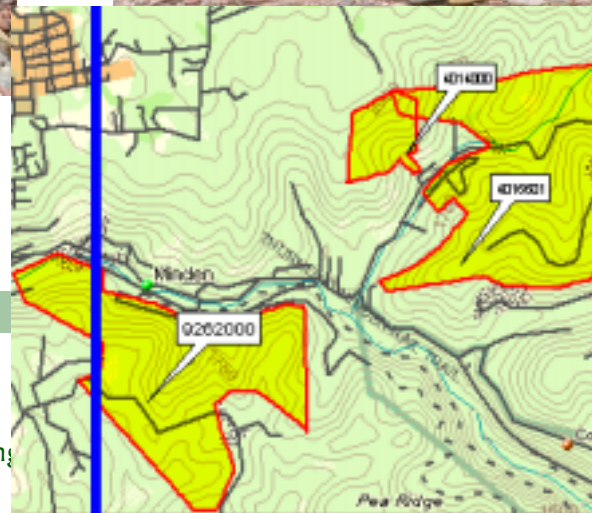
- Register-Herald



Rockslides damaged several homes in Minden after rains on July 8, 2001.
Sarah Garland – Beckley Newspapers



's backyard
July 8, 2001.
Newspapers



Job No	App.Date	U/M	RHA	Logging Company		
4007400	Feb-00		460	Butternut I		
4006001	Feb-01		317	Randy Waddell		
4006099	Feb-99		300	White Oak Lumber		
4016601	Apr-01		250	L. D. Spence Logging		
9262000	Sep-00		200	TKL Logging Inc.		
4017598	May-98	*	140	Harold S. Ramsey	Harold S. Ramsey	Westvaco Corporation
121493-100	Dec-93		100	Clayton Strader	Link Lumber	Jan Worthington
4025598b	Aug-98	*	80	McDowell Logging	Georgia-Pacific	Agricultural Timberlands
41294-73	Apr-94	*	73	Bobby McDowell	B D McDowell Logging	Westvaco Corporation
1051999	Oct-99		40	Fedukovich Logging	Cranberry Lumber	Cordia Miller
4003401	Jan-01		40	Franks Trucking	Cranberry Lumber	Rush Creek
4017599	May-99		35	Harvey Mentz	Grist Lumber	Little Firecreek
4014000	Apr-00		30	Fedukovich Logging	Cranberry Lumber	Thomas Wilson
4007798	Mar-98		21	N & N Timber	Little Fire Creek	Little Fire Creek
4014301	Apr-01	*	20	McKown Logging	Larry A. Berry	Larry A. Berry
4029799	Jun-99		20	Fedukovich Logging	Cranberry Lumber	Loren J. Fox III

Center

Total Reported Timbering Jobs: 16

Total Reported Harvested Acres: 2,126

* Unmappable Jobs Totaling 313 acres

In Conclusion

While flooding in the steep terrain of West Virginia is not uncommon, the floods of 2001 were of an unusual character. Gushing water came down timber skid roads, carrying dangerous loads of debris. Houses, cars, roads, and utility services were washed away in areas that had never flooded before.

This flooding was a wake-up call. Manmade disturbance of steep forested slopes in Fayette County (and other counties in Southern West Virginia) contributed to the deadly force of recent flooding. Such threats to life, limb and property are illegal and must be stopped.

Stricter timber laws must be enacted — and better law enforcement by the Division of Forestry must begin — or we will see a repeat of this type of severe flooding, with more lives and property lost.

Citizens will not be satisfied with a flood damage prevention program that relies solely on expanded flood plains and dams. This would be a cover-up. The causes of the flooding must be exposed and fixed. The DEP Study and Report was an excellent start based on sound science. It must not be swept under the rug.

Specifically, we recommend:

- * A stringent permitting process that requires a detailed Timber Plan.
- * Notice of the Timber Plan be published in the local newspaper and mailed to all adjacent landowners.

- * After publication, a period of 30 days would be allowed for public comment.

- * The regulating agency have authority to modify the Timber Plan to prevent runoff and protect downstream communities, taking into account slope and previous land disturbance within the watershed.

- * The regulating agency have authority to limit the number and placement of skid and haul roads.

- * Timbered areas and skid roads would be required to be reclaimed to the point where native forest species would be able to begin regenerating immediately (i.e. top soil, seeds, fertilizer and mulch.)

- * A bond would be required to assure that runoff and other timbering hazards do not threaten adjacent landowners for a period of five years. Bond release would be contingent upon approval of reclamation by the regulating agency.

- * A no-cut buffer zone between timber jobs and residential communities. No-cut buffer zones along roads and no-cut buffer zones along all streams and rivers to be at least 100 feet wide.

- * A regular inspections of the job site by the regulating agency throughout the job.

These recommendations would promote healthier forests and safer down-hill communities.