

The

Highlands Voice

SENECA ROCKS

Vol. 1, No. 6

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

December 1969

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The old adage that an ill wind blows no good is possibly not true in West Virginia where the ill wind of air pollution is blowing up a storm of public indignation which may some day provide us with an air pollution law which works.

Item: At a recent meeting in Vienna, mayors of the small communities in the Ohio valley were very critical of industrial air pollution and the lack of cooperation from both company and State officials in attacking this problem. The incidence of tuberculosis and related respiratory diseases in the Ohio valley is one of the highest in the nation.

Item: Housewives and mothers recently picketed the Monongahela Power Company's generating plant at Albright. Independent investigators from West Virginia University reported many months ago that the smoke abatement equipment at Albright was almost totally ineffective. The ladies, who fear for the health of their children, could have extended their picket line to the generating plant at Willow Island on the Ohio River and to the Virginia Electric Power Company's plant on Stoney River in the Highlands.

Item: The Union Carbide Corporation which bills itself in national advertising as the "discovery company" has eighteen plants in West Virginia none of which has yet discovered a means of controlling their heavy air pollution. Pick one of their plants, any plant; their chemical works in South Charleston, their metallurgical plant in Alloy, their carbon plant in Clarksburg. Without exception these plants are real leaders in their respective communities in the production of air pollution.

Conditions in West Virginia's air are becoming worse and the public-be-damned attitude of industry more obvious. Hopefully, the time is not far off when the voting public will tell it to industry the way it was told to strip mining: "Clean up or shut down."

TOM KING

MID-WINTER WORKSHOP

The weekend of January 31-February 1 has been set for the annual Highlands Conservancy Mid-Winter Workshop. The meetings will be held at Blackwater Falls and members desiring reservations must make them before December 31. This is the only notice you will get before the meeting, so don't lose the reservation information. Since this is one of the two general meetings held by the Conservancy, it is hoped that a big turnout will appear.

Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m., Saturday and a program on Otter Creek will begin immediately after lunch. Tentatively scheduled so far:

- A Pictorial Review Sayre Rodman
- The Wilderness Qualifications of
Otter Creek . . Arthur Wright, The Wilderness Society
- Forest Service Plans & Problems of
Otter Creek . . . Tony Dorrell, Supervisor, Monongahela N.
- The Mineral Picture in the Otter
Creek Drainage Speaker to be announced
- Some Legal Considerations Jim Moorman
- The Valley of Opportunity Vic Schmidt
- The Conservancy's Role George Langford

Saturday evening and Sunday morning will be devoted to a business meeting and policy formulations. Although an agenda has not been firmed up as yet, there will be plenty of issues to be discussed - the Cranberry Backcountry, the impending threat of more air pollution, a review of Dolly Sods, the plans of the Southeastern Power Administration for the Kanawha Basin, the deterioration of West Virginia's rivers, and many others. Members wishing to have matters placed on the agenda should get in contact with the editor or Tom King soon.

Let's hope the weatherman cooperates this year and provides a winter wonderland so that we may enjoy the surroundings more. Last year, instead of skis we should have brought our canoes. You will find a descriptive flier on Blackwater Falls enclosed that gives room rates, etc. Please make your reservations from this information to the park office before December 31.

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MORE ON NATIONAL TIMBER SUPPLY ACT

Information recently received from the Wilderness Society and

the Sierra Club (but unfortunately, not soon enough) indicate that the original fears of the Timber Supply Act have returned (HR 12025 and S. 1832). As reported in an earlier issue of the "Voice," we were led to believe that the initial crisis had passed and the original bills withdrawn in favor of more moderate measures. Apparently this is not the case.

The above organizations strongly oppose these bills primarily because the legislation would provide for undue and increased stress on timber production and subordinate esthetic, watershed, recreational, and wildlife values. They feel that the bills make it virtually impossible to protect more lands for recreation. The bills authorize the use of funds to road and log forests. Unprotected virgin forests, estimated at 5% of wilderness lands on the National Forests would be the first to go. Also, the bills seem to negate the multiple use concept, a contradiction of the 1960 Act.

The prime impetus for these bills seems to come from industry who claims there is increased demand for wood. Conservation groups say the demand is static and not increased and question the West Coast practice of exporting 4 billion board feet of logs and timber annually (ANS: They get a better price). Logging our last remaining virgin wildernesses wouldn't provide that much timber to satisfy any "demand" for very long anyway, so why sacrifice them?

The House Bill amuses and nauseates me at one and the same time since it uses the Madison Avenue ploy of referring to their version as the "National Forest Conservation and Management Act of 1969." Why not call it the "National Forest Conservation, Motherhood, God, and Boy Scout Act"? No one could oppose this!

Passage of these bills could well mean the end of places like Otter Creek and Cranberry. Such questions as should there be any clearcutting on the Gauley would become only academic. The bill provides money specifically for the Secretary of Agriculture to use in road building yet, as can be seen elsewhere in this issue, the USDA considers the main source of pollution on the upper Potomac to be sediment from such logging roads. Finally, since money is being provided for all of this, the government would in effect be subsidizing the timber and lumber industry in favor over that of competing industries who use other building materials.

The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club point out that we are not just talking about the National Forests in West Virginia, but those in all 50 states and urge Conservancy members all over the U.S. to write their Senators and Congressmen in opposition to these two bills. (In case the phrase "all over the U.S." is hard for you to swallow, did you know The Highlands Voice goes out to Conservancy members from D.C. to California and from Michigan to Georgia?). For those desiring more information on these matters contact Arthur Wright of the Wilderness Society, 729-15th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, or Bob Waldrop, Sierra Club, 235 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C.

P.S. The House bill has already been reported out favorably by the House Committee on Agriculture with only one dissenting vote.

IS ROYAL GLEN THE ANSWER?

The need for accelerated land and water conservation practices to insure quality of the Potomac River was cited recently by Dr. Ned D. Bayley, Director of Science and Education for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Speaking at the fall meeting of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin at Berkley Springs, Dr. Bayley noted that much work has been done to protect the quality of waters within the Potomac watershed. In the last 15 years, USDA and private landowners have spent many millions for technical and cost-sharing effort to conserve the land and water in the Potomac River Basin. He cited that among other accomplishments:

- * A million acres of enduring grass and legume cover planted.
- * About 1,500 acres of permanent sod waterways or sod on steep areas established.
- * 30,000 acres as contour stripcropped to prevent erosion on sloping fields.
- * 60,000 acres of trees and shrubs planted.
- * 4,000 new farm ponds built to keep sediment out of the streams.
- * Critical area rehabilitation including strip mine planting on 7,7000 acres.
- * Technical assistance to minimize soil and water movement from 350,000 acres of forest land has been provided.

In addition to these cost sharing programs, listed other government projects:

- * Construction of 86 floodwater-retarding and multipurpose dams (Soil Conservation Service type).
- * Effective fire control and prevention measures established.
- * Extensive conservation measures taken in both public and private forests.
- * Through the authority of the Farmers Home Administration to assist in the installation and improvement of waste disposal systems. About \$1.3 million have been used in projects in the Potomac Basin.

"There is no more effective way to control water pollution than to stop it at its source -- to prevent or significantly minimize the release or movement of potential water pollutants," he said. Dr. Bayley said 500 upstream small watershed floodwater-retarding and multipurpose dams are needed in the Potomac Basin. He said there is a need to accelerate the establishment of conservation treatment on many farm and forest land areas.

He saw a need to give greater attention to the stabilization of streambanks, roadsides and stripmined areas, to stream flow regulation, to water quality management and to impoundment of water for recreation. "Quality water is necessary for most forms of outdoor recreation." He further pointed out that roughly 70% of the 1,200,000 ton sediment load caused annually by logging on non-Federal lands in the Potomac Basin could be prevented or corrected. He noted that an estimated 1,620 miles of abandoned logging roads are significant sources of sediment. He felt that sediment is probably the most serious pollutant in the upper Potomac Basin.

WEST VIRGINIA'S LEGISLATURE

The W.Va. Legislature will convene in mid-January for a short session. Below appear the names of legislators involved in conservation matters. They can be reached by writing the appropriate house in care of the State Capitol, Charleston, 25305.

W.VA. SENATE

Hon. Lloyd G. Jackson, President

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Chr. Hon. John H. Bowling, Jr. (D)
V. Chr. Hon. Carl E. Gainer (D)

Members

Bernard L. Crawford (D)
O. G. Hedrick (D)
Walter A. Holden (D)
Robert K. Holliday (D)
C. H. McKown (D)
Bernard W. Smith (D)
Kenton J. Lambert (R)
Jack L. Miller (R)
John I. Rogers (R)

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Chr. Hon. Carl E. Gainer
V. Chr. Hon. John Pat Fanning (D)

Members

R. E. Barnett (D)
John H. Bowling, Jr. (D)
O. G. Hedrick (D)
Tracy W. Hylton (D)
Hans E. McCourt (D)
Wm. A. Moreland (D)
Mario J. Palumbo (D)
Bernard W. Smith (D)
Lyle A. Smith (D)
Frank J. Deem (R)
Kenton J. Lambert (R)
John T. Poffenbarger (R)
Brad Sayre (R)

W.VA. HOUSE OF DELEGATES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chr. Thomas J. Hawse (D)
V. Chr. Ervin S. Queen (D)

Members

Rodney B. Belknap (D)
Richard H. Bowman (D)
Gust G. Brenda, Jr. (D)
Billy B. Burke (D)
Thomas C. Edgar (D)
Robert K. Flanagan (D)
J. Dempsey Gibson (D)
Thomas G. Goodwin (D)
Irma M. Maple (D)
Wm. J. Parker (D)
Roger J. Perry (D)
Sam C. Savilla (D)
Mrs. W. W. Withrow (D)
Fred G. Wooten (D)
J. C. Butcher (R)
Russell L. Davisson (R)
Wallace L. Files (R)
Ward W. Keesecker (R)
John W. Kyle (R)
Fred L. Mulneix (R)
Larkin B. Ours (R)
Robert C. Polen (R)
Harlan Wilson, Jr. (R)

Sub. Committee Chairmen

Agriculture - Mr. Edgar
Game & Fish - Mr. Bowman
Natural Resources -
Mr. Goodwin

For openers you might remind these gentlemen that although they passed some good anti-water pollution measures in '69, they conveniently forgot to appropriate any money for the implementation of these laws. The appropriation for the Water Resources Division alone is terribly inadequate to say nothing of the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. Keep your eye out for air pollution measures - these will be vigorously opposed.

FROM THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

I understand the Board of Directors has voted to set the 1970 Highlands Review for the THIRD WEEKEND in October instead of the second weekend. This seems to have been done so those who stay in motels won't be crowded out by the hunters, since the second weekend opens hunting season.

But those of us who come and CAMP raise these two points: 1, the later it is, the more risk of uncomfortably cold weather (we got an unusual break this year on balmy weather); and 2, isn't this whole campaign to save the wilderness and the "pioneer zones" from the hotel-tourists, save them for the true outdoors lovers who will have to go into them by primitive means, and rough it while there?

Sam Shaw, Moundsville, W.Va.

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In answer to your call for comment on moving the '70 Review to Richwood -- I'm all for it! Many of our members have never seen the southern Highlands region and for general aesthetics and enjoyment, Pocahontas and Nicholas Counties can't be topped.

My greatest concern is that we will become known as a protective association for Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks . . . We must represent West Virginia while putting our emphasis on the Highlands - the TOTAL Highlands . . .

Carolyn Killoran, Charleston

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[Speaking of holding the Highlands Review '70 in Richwood] Not only would the conservationists be well received, but also we would welcome the opportunity to open up available facilities for their use . . . However, the autumn colors would show up better some 10 days earlier than the date [third weekend in October] mentioned in your letters.

L. W. Deitz, President
Richwood Chamber of Commerce

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AND WHILE NERO FIDDLES, THE COAL IS STILL BURNING

In response to our recent article about the air pollution at Mt. Storm, one of our Congressmen wrote us a standard reply and ended the letter with:

"It is my belief that modern technology can solve our separate problems of pollution, one by one. The important thing for all of us is to get the necessary scientists on the job. It will undoubtedly cost money to solve the problem, and then to apply the solution. All the costs of production, of living, will rise. These costs we must be willing to accept, if life is to go on."

This is the greatest myth of our age - that science can do anything, but if it can't, blame the scientists. Speaking as a scientist that works with immunity problems in infectious disease, let me point out that it is customary in the face of no known cures for an ill to either immunize or prevent infection (contamination). By the time "Science" figures out how to control SO₂ pollution, acid mine drainage, and solid waste disposal will there be any vegetation left, air to breathe, lungs to breathe it, or water that is fit for anything at all? Shall we permit the polluters to saturate our environment with excreta until a cure is found or do we simply avoid contamination?

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CLEARCUT, CHAPTER XV

WWVU-TV recently televised a documentary of the clearcutting business in the Gauley District. Produced and directed by Donnell Stoneman for the educational TV station, the 30 minute program gave an extremely candid and well represented picture of all sides to the question. Although Mr. Stoneman is not a conservationist, he demonstrated an amazing grasp of the many facets of this subject. The photography was excellent and other technical details of production were superb. Previously unnoted talents were discovered in the "actors" who participated in the production - Richwood Mayor Ed Buck, Chamber of Commerce President L. W. Deitz, Gauley Ranger Jack Weissling and of course Tony Dorrell. Congratulations, gentlemen!

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NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

At a recent meeting of the Natural Resources Council the following officers were elected:

Gerald Chafin	President
Charles Conrad	Vice-President
Carolyn Killoran	Secretary
Hall Dillon	Treasurer
Ben Linsky	Director-at-Large
George Neville	" " "
George Breiding	" " "

Three committees were also activated dealing with information, legislation, and membership. Conservation organizations interested in participating should get in touch with Sona Smith, 314 Center Street, Bridgeport, West Virginia, 26630.

FROM THE CONSERVATIONIST'S BOOKSHELF

"Biologically speaking, winter in our latitudes is a resting period. For the animals, the drives of pairing and of familial duties are over, migration has ceased, and the matter of sheer survival occupies their whole attention. But not all nature is sleeping: rabbits, squirrels, and many furbearers are about, and under the snow meadow voles are as busy as ever they were during summer. In the bark of trees and logs insect larvae and pupae await the stimulus of spring to resume their development, unless a passing woodpecker, chickadee, or nuthatch finds them first. Most plants are in a state of suspended animation too, outwardly lifeless. But although the tempo has slowed, the "dead" of winter is pure illusion. Life is everywhere. Much is happening of interest and great beauty, not the least of which is the snowy brilliance of the winter panorama itself."

Maurice Brooks, The Appalachians,
Houghton Mifflin Company.

Ed.- At least the Polluters have not yet learned how to profane the serenity and beauty of winter. The Highlands Voice extends the warmest of Season's Greetings to each of you.

Bob Burrell, Editor

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

Although the regular issue of the Highlands Voice will reach you near the end of the month, the ad hoc Wilderness Committee headed by George Langford deemed it important enough to circulate amongst you detailed information concerning the "clear cut controversy" in Richwood. The first enclosure is a detailed policy statement, made in April by Monongahela National Forest Superintendent, E. Leitch A. Derrail that announces a basic change in forest service policy as well as giving reasons for this change. The second enclosure is one of the letters written by Richard Wacker, of Commerce president, L.W. Dietz which outlines some of the fears and sentiments of certain people in Richwood. The third enclosure is Mr. Derrail's answer to these two letters. We understand privilege to circulate these letters has been obtained and indeed the Forest Service has supplied us with copies of their statements. At the end there appears an editorial opinion.

TIMBER HARVEST ON THE MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

Statement by Forest Supervisor F. A. Dorrell, April 16, 1969

Since my March 9 appointment as Forest Supervisor, I have given special attention to the timber management situation. A thorough review has been made of evenaged management procedures, including the practice of clearcutting which has created some controversy. I have met with the public and forest users, consulted professional foresters and resource managers, and examined the situation on the ground with the Monongahela Forest staff and rangers. It is my conclusion that although present timber sale procedures are in conformance with policy and guidelines, we must strengthen and intensify multiple use management of the forest resources if we are to meet future demands. Immediate action to be undertaken includes revision of the Forest's multiple use plans, and modification of timber cutting practices where necessary.

Research and experience have clearly demonstrated that the evenaged management system, which includes clearcutting, is the best way to manage our forest's timber stands. We, therefore, do not intend to depart from evenaged management as the basic timber management system on the Monongahela National Forest. However, in recognition of esthetic values associated with recreation developments, roadside zones, scenic areas, and waterside zones, we plan to modify the management of the timber resource in these areas. Such modification will include adoption of a selective system of harvest where dictated by area designation, ground conditions, and timber type. In these areas our goal will be to avoid unsightliness and enhance esthetic values whenever possible. In actual practice this will range from selective removal of individual diseased trees to patch cutting of decadent overmature stands. The prescription for any particular area will depend on the location and situation on that area. In all cases the harvest will be done with special care and intensive cleanup procedures will be employed.

It is probable that this modification of timber cutting in roadside and waterside zones will cause reductions in both quantity and quality of timber harvest from these areas. Because of this, it will be more important than ever that the general forest stands located away from these zones be managed intensively to insure sustained yields of timber and regeneration of the future forest. Clearcutting has proven to be the best regeneration method. The open conditions and ample sunlight favor the establishment of the most desirable and fastest growing tree species. The resulting stands of trees in the same age class are suitable for improvement cutting and cultural practices which will increase the yield. Much of the Forest's annual timber production comes from these intermediate and improvement cuttings. It is not true, as stated by some, that all of the harvest is with clearcut methods. Clearcutting is used

when the timber crop reaches maturity and regeneration of a new forest is required. I also want to emphasize that the kind of clearcutting practiced by modern foresters is not the same as the uncontrolled clearcutting which occurred in our forests years ago. The old fashioned clearcutting was unmanaged and took only the high grade trees, leaving behind a ragged stand of culls, small stems, and unmarketable species. It was done over wide areas with little concern for other resources or the future forest. Today's clearcutting as practiced by professional foresters is very different. The harvest is controlled, and special measures are taken following logging to establish and care for the new forest. This intensive management will help to sustain the important existing timber industry as well as help to meet the certain future high demands for wood products.

Even with this commitment for sustained yield of timber, we plan to soften the effects of clearcutting in the general forest areas. Forestry landscaping techniques will be applied in locating, designing, and shaping clearcut units. Shapes and sizes of harvest blocks will conform as much as possible to natural features of the terrain. Where terrain and timber conditions permit, the edges of cutting areas will be feathered to gradually blend into adjacent stands. Controls will be established to govern the amount and distribution of regeneration cuts in forest compartments. Our foresters will take all reasonable steps to coordinate timber management with general forest esthetics. In many of these areas the logging of decadent timber and its replacement with vigorous, young, green trees will be a contribution to esthetics in itself.

A special meeting will be held in early May for Monongahela Forest staff and rangers to review new multiple use management guides and discuss the revision of ranger district plans. I am also asking the rangers to examine present cutover areas for possible additional treatment and cleanup work. Many of the harvest practices are already in use. The emphasis will be on further refinement and intensification of forestry landscaping techniques. We must strive for uniformity and consistency over the whole forest. I am convinced that this intensive multiple use management of our public lands by professional land managers is the best way to meet the growing demands of the public.

In addition to our concern with esthetics, we are also interested in the effects of evenaged management on watersheds. Research and experience have proven that clearcutting does not adversely affect water quantity and quality. For a few years following logging there is a slight increase in water production during the summer months. Since this is the time of year when stream flow is normally low and water shortages occur, the fact of the matter is that clearcutting can be beneficial to water production. Quality of water is not affected by clearcutting but can be impacted by the roads associated with the logging. Poorly located and constructed hauling and skid roads can contribute silt to streams during spring runoff periods and after summer storms. For these reasons we carefully control the location and grades of roads used on national forest timber sales. Log hauling during the spring snow melt period is restricted.

When harvest is completed, skid roads, temporary truck roads, and disturbed areas are closed and seeded with grasses and cover plants. As a side benefit, these plantings are with species that provide food for game.

We have also added soil and water experts to our professional staff. These scientists are conducting examinations and surveys of soil conditions on the Forest. Their professional determinations are used in timber sale planning and development of the Forest transportation system. When soil conditions require minimum disturbance, we will modify timber harvest and road building procedures.

In this area of watershed management a definite point is made in favor of evenaged management. Because of higher timber yields made possible by clearcutting, it is not necessary to open up the amount of roads required by other cutting methods. It is possible to remove the same volume of timber from a much smaller area. The potential for disturbance is held to a minimum. Some of our critics have acclaimed the good job our timber sale administrators do in protecting the streams. We appreciate this but don't intend to rest on our laurels. I am asking our engineers and foresters to work even more closely together in the future. A step in this direction is the current decentralization of our engineering organization. This is intended to provide our engineers with responsibility for specific areas of the Forest. This will enable them to coordinate their activities more closely with ranger district personnel.

Another item involved in the clearcutting controversy is the effect on wildlife. It is not likely that biologists, foresters, and hunters will ever completely agree on quite a few of the facets of wildlife management, including some of the effects of timber cutting. Habits of the game animals change, wants of hunters vary, and the field is wide open for opinion. Because of this there is a continuous research program being conducted to reduce the amount of theory and increase the number of facts. In these circumstances the best we can do is to state positively the things we do know, particularly with regard to the effects of evenaged management on wildlife habitat.

We know that clearcutting creates forest openings which are beneficial to many game animals. The browse and plant cover which result from clearcutting definitely increase food available for deer, bear, rabbits, and grouse. By cutting in cycles we also assure that a high percentage of a total forest compartment is always in the older age classes of mast producing trees which are desirable for squirrel and turkeys. Research and experience have clearly shown that in most of our timber types, when selective cutting is practiced over wide areas, that browse declines, the variety of mast producing trees diminishes, and in many cases the tree species which produce less food for wildlife increase.

With evenaged management one of our wildlife concerns is the loss of den trees for squirrels. Because of this we take steps to reserve den

trees from cutting during timber harvest in areas of desirable squirrel habitat. My review has shown that we can further improve on this practice. We plan to work for better distribution of cutting units over large areas as well as more adequate protection for den trees reserved within clearcut areas. Patches, clusters, and strips of mast producing trees will be reserved from cutting in conjunction with den trees left within clearcut areas. We will continue to consult with State wildlife biologists during timber sale planning phases. We are also asking our researchers to intensify their studies of the den requirements of small game species. It is our intention to continue to seek additional ways in which timber harvest practices can be of benefit to wildlife. Managed timber harvest and cover manipulation is one of the best ways to assure future generations of suitable wildlife populations on the national forests.

This current clearcutting controversy is a reflection of population growth and increased demands for use of public lands. More and more people are desirous of obtaining more and more uses and values from the national forests. Naturally many of the individuals and groups are interested only in that use or land designation which serves their own special interests. Since there isn't enough land to go around, we have conflicts. Because of this I am certain that the only answer is a continued policy of multiple use management. This means that we will manage all of the forest resources in combination with each other as much as possible. We do not have to choose between timber harvest and tourism—we can have both. All interests will have to expect some modification in order to get along with others. Those people who would stop all timber cutting must realize that they are also dependent on wood and paper products for many of their daily needs. Those people who would convert all public lands into hunting preserves must understand that the public also needs developed recreation areas. The various uses of forest resources must be achieved in balance with each other. The Forest Service is one of the leaders in recreation development and expansion of tourism. We are also committed to sustain the existing economy and jobs provided by the timber industry. It is not necessary to sacrifice one for the other. With intensive management practices and high quality work by professional land managers, we can coordinate the multiple uses and minimize the conflicts.

One of the benefits of the current controversy has been an increased recognition by the Forest Service of the need to maintain communication with the public. I am a firm believer in such communication. We may not always agree entirely with what is being said, but we are going to listen. It is this combination of public opinion with our professional judgment that will produce the best resource management decisions. Some individuals and segments of the public will also have to recognize that everything won't go their way. The national forests are for all of the people and not just a few. We want to hear all viewpoints, but also feel that our position in the middle enables us to be objective and render fair judgments. We want public involvement in our affairs, but cannot relinquish the stewardship of the national forests charged to us by law. Complete subordination of professional judgment to the varying pressures

of special interests in the long run would probably destroy the very values such groups hope to protect. We all have more to gain by cooperation than by conflict. The Forest Service intends to go all out to work together with the people and manage the Monongahela National Forest for the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run. We trust that the people will extend to us a similar spirit of cooperation.

June 11, 1969

Frederick A. Dorrell, Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest
Elkins, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Dorrell:

We have carefully reviewed your release of April 17 outlining a basic Forest Management policy for the Monongahela National Forest. We sincerely trust that this does not indicate that you have polarized your position and that no further adjustment of policy is possible. After our meeting of March 14 we had hoped that a line of communication has been established and differences could eventually be ironed out. Of course if either party should take an unequivocal position, then there is no possibility of reaching a mutual understanding. The only alternative then is a direct confrontation between the parties concerned. This is a procedure to be used only as a last resort. We are trusting that the situation can still be considered fluid and that your outline of policy is subject to consideration for amendment.

The management of the Gauley Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest is of grave concern to the people of Richwood. Richwood is somewhat isolated and in the future will be quite influenced and to a considerable extent dependent as far as its economy is concerned on what transpires within the Gauley Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest. Many cities so isolated have not survived and the fact that Richwood has survived is partially due to the fact that its citizens have, through their initiative, brought it through a few economic crises. Only two or three industries serve as a basis of support for the economy of Richwood and the loss of any one could greatly influence its economy. We do expect a considerable slow down as relates to one of the industries now influencing our economy. As a result, it becomes necessary to carefully scrutinize any situation that may adversely affect our economy. It is of interest to note that practically every request made to the Federal Government for aid in such projects as housing, lakes, or industries has been refused. The brightest picture on our horizon for the future is the possible development of ski slopes, lakes, and recreation within the adjoining National Forest. In fact if Richwood is to survive we feel that it is absolutely mandatory that we look to these developments in our vicinity. Since the Even-Age Management of timber is not, in general, compatible with aesthetic, recreational, and wildlife values, we feel that it is necessary that we carefully scrutinize any plans for extensive clear cutting.

Without fully understanding the situation some may voice the opinion that the lumbering industry should be a sustaining force

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as relates to our economy. It is true that in the early part of the century Richwood was dependent upon the lumbering industry. However, at that time the lumber was manufactured into such items as clothes pins, paper, flooring, and much of the lumber supported a dimension mill. Now rough lumber is shipped out of the area hardly causing a ripple in the economy of Richwood or the state. We do not discount the fact that it has some beneficial effects, but they are very minor as compared to the potential that would result from ski slopes, recreation, fishing, and hunting. We feel that we have a legitimate complaint if the Forest Service is to follow a procedure that would seriously reduce the potential for developing programs beneficial to our future existence.

We recognize that you have made some basic changes from past policies and these indicate some corrective adjustments. We fully realize that these changes would have some beneficial effects. On the other hand we wish to outline specifically our views on the subject and perhaps you can better understand not only our concern but can more readily understand our viewpoint.

We are outlining our two main objections and the succeeding paragraphs will deal principally with these two objections.

(1) The multiple use concept involves such more than roadside and stream side zoning.

(2) If forest management for the production of timber is to play any major role along with the other uses of the forest, then no basic policy of timber removal, either even-age or uneven-age can be adopted. The succeeding paragraphs will clearly show that the forester must be governed by what the situation dictates. He must stand ready to use every known timber technique as he deals with variation in slopes, species of timber, altitudes, recreation potentials, economic factors, and other conditions.

Your release made it clear that the basic policy would be even-age management. We point out that the Gauley Ranger District is unique in many respects. It is one of the better mixed hardwood forests in the nation. This is an attraction within itself. The district is enhanced by the presence of the Cranberry, Williams, and Cherry Rivers. The presence of the Scenic Highway, the Cranberry Mountain Visitors Center, the Cranberry Glades, Hills Creek Falls, and Summit Lake can be the basis for future recreation and tourist attractions when considered in the light that it is the gateway from the hot, humid Kanawha Valley to the Monongahela National Forest. A great many of our supporters are believers in the principal of no timber cutting. Most of the people of Richwood do not share this view. We are believers in the multiple use concept, and we feel that timber production can play a part if the

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proper techniques are applied carefully and in a responsible manner. We agree that Even-Age Management can play a part and in certain areas perhaps could be used extensively, but it must be reserved for specific circumstances and conditions.

The Forest Service has argued very effectively that the selective cut was detrimental to those species requiring much sunlight and that the clear cut was required to correct the situation. We have no quarrel with this theory where it is clearly shown that the poplar and the cherry and the oak and other desirable species requiring sunlight are rapidly being eliminated. Let us discuss this situation as it applies to the Gauley Ranger District. However, we must discuss separately the lower elevations and the higher elevations for some of the species grow only at the lower altitudes and some grow principally at the higher altitudes.

Let us begin with the lower elevations. In the early part of the century, the removal of pure stands of hemlock, chestnut, and other species left the ground practically bare. This resulted in an over conversion to those species requiring much sunlight. This is particularly true of the poplar. There are few remaining good mixed timber stands at these lower elevations but they greatly enhance the appearance of the forest. They also provide the food and habitat for squirrel and other game. We should also point out that the squirrel population is found principally at the lower elevations, and their number has previously been greatly curtailed by the conversion to poplar and the gradual dying out or removal of den trees. The clear cut should be practically eliminated at these lower elevations at the present time. However, later when these younger stands of poplar mature we may find an ideal situation for a clear cut when the stands are not adjacent to highways and recreational areas.

The higher elevations create an entirely different situation, and these altitudes have not been over converted to those species requiring sunlight such as the cherry and the oak. However, past experience has shown that the clear cut has not always produced these desirable species. At these altitudes often the clear cut has resulted in a conversion to water birch, that seldom matures, or to other undesirable species. At these higher elevations the clear cut should only be used when it is clearly indicated that the conditions are favorable to a conversion to cherry, oak, and other desirable species.

We wish to point out also that at these higher elevations we find the greatest scenic beauty and recreational areas. It is also the principal habitat of the bear and the turkey. Due consideration must be given to all these factors and circumstances must dictate the proper technique to be used in timber removal.

We recognize fully that the even-age management technique has been used very effectively where one or two species of timber have

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been involved, and also used effectively under many additional circumstances. However, it loses much of its effectiveness when applied to a good mixed hardwood forest if there is retained in the new stands species that vary greatly in growth rate, and we cannot condone the elimination of slow growing species in order to make this technique effective. Often there is a desire to eliminate the maples, the beeches, and other slow growing trees in order to improve the effectiveness of even-age management. But we cannot condone their elimination for often they either enhance the appearance of the forest, or provide the food for wildlife in addition to habitat. These species are valuable in filling certain needs for the manufacture of lumber products.

In making a decision as to whether to apply even-age management to a forest, there are other factors that must be taken into consideration. It has definitely been proved that the exposure of soil to sunlight results in extensive damage. We must consider the fact that the market requirements for timber one-hundred years from now are totally unknown. Neither do we have any idea what species of timber may be attacked by a new disease. The ecologists and the general public are not only aware but concerned with the ecological changes that take place after a clear cut.

It may appear that we are entirely condemning clear cutting. This is not the case. Patch clear cutting within a forest is very beneficial to wildlife. These cuts let in sunlight, provide cover, and provide browse for deer. The clear cut can bring forth cherry, oak, and other species requiring a greater amount of sunlight when it is considered necessary. We recognize the advantage of a clear cut in mature stands of timber. The clear cut can be an effective tool when properly applied in a mixed forest.

In conclusion we would like to point out that we have no quarrel with any of the personnel of the Forest Service. These men are dedicated and respected individuals. Neither are we asking the Forest Service to relinquish their stewardship. On the other hand we are asking that they be responsive to all the factors, conditions, and situations that dictate a change in technique, and the uniqueness of the Gauley Ranger District and the specific conditions dictate that clear cutting must play a minor role and only be used where the situation clearly indicates that no other technique will serve the purpose.

It is our hope that you will carefully review our appeal for further adjustment of policy and that your outline of policy does not indicate a fixed position. If the situation is not considered fluid and subject to further adjustment, we would like to be so advised.

Yours very truly,
RICHWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

L. W. Deitz, President

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Monongahela National Forest
Box 1231, Elkins, West Virginia 26241

July 15, 1969

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Mr. Lawrence Deitz, President
Richwood Chamber of Commerce
Richwood, West Virginia 26261



Dear Mr. Deitz:

I have reviewed your letters of June 11 and July 10. Frankly, I am perplexed in that after two public meetings, a small closed meeting, two personal meetings, and an exchange of correspondence, that you apparently do not understand the Forest Service position. My position statement of April 16 clearly states that evenaged management will be the timber management system on the Monongahela National Forest; and that in recognition of esthetic values and in accordance with multiple use management, we will modify timber harvest in recreation developments, roadside zones, scenic areas, and waterside zones. These modifications are currently being implemented through revision of our multiple use plans. When these plans are finished, you will be given the opportunity to review them. Until that time I don't see how you can possibly state as you did in your letter of July 10 that we are giving only "token" consideration to esthetic, recreational, and wildlife values.

My statement was given wide distribution to our Congressional delegation, key people, public officials, and as a news release to all of the State's major newspapers and radio and television stations. It was endorsed by the Regional Forester, the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. It was given further distribution to other units of the Forest Service as a model statement of multiple use philosophy. I received over 20 letters from important people and officials in the State lauding the statement and supporting our position. Equally important was the reaction of the man in the street—the general public. Many people have told me they liked what we said and were confident in

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the Forest Service's stewardship of the national forests. I regret that you are not in agreement. Our position is based on years of research and experience. Our actions stem from the combined best judgments of foresters, silviculturists, landscape architects, wildlife biologists, engineers, and other professionals. I have complete faith in our determinations.

I know that we are implementing multiple use management fully in accordance with existing law, policy, and regulations. I firmly believe that our Monongahela multiple use plans will fully safeguard the resources required for future growth of recreation and tourism. I suggest that if you will wait until our plans are completed, you may gain a new insight into the true multiple use philosophy. By late this year, Ranger Weissling should have the Gauley District plan to a point that it could be reviewed. Procedures for zoning, mapping, etc., are thorough and complex, and considerable time is required. I am hopeful that you will find this wait worthwhile.

One of your apprehensions is the flexibility of Forest Service policy. I would like to point out that it is our policy to revise our timber management plans every ten years. This flexibility permits us to adapt to the current situation, most changing needs, and consider new forecasts for the future. It was just such a change that caused us to adopt evenaged management in 1964.

You are also concerned with stand composition or the mix of trees which results from evenaged management. As we demonstrated on our field trip, one of the distinct advantages of evenaged management is that it gives us some control over composition. Following the reproduction cut, the new stand contains a variety of all of the species present. During the improvement cuttings which are then made in the young stand, we can select the trees for the future forest. Adjacent stands, wildlife needs, and future timber needs can all be considered when we determine the mix. On the other hand, selective cutting limits the future forest to only those species which can grow in the shade. It is selective cutting which eliminates the variety in our forests.

I must now comment on your general viewpoint that the lumber industry is on the way out, and the future of Richwood will depend on a tourist recreation based economy. I do not share your viewpoint. I believe that the timber industry can continue to play a major part in the Richwood area economy. One of the reasons is that a sustained yield of timber resources will always be available from the National Forest. Our timber management practices will enable us to continue to meet increasing raw material demands, and also renew the resource while we continue to expand and further develop recreation. Tourist recreation will grow in importance but should not be counted on to provide the stable yearlong type of economy that is needed for a healthy community. In support of this, I quote from the Appalachian Regional Commission's report, Recreation As An Industry: 'Recreation alone almost never can provide a base for a viable economy. Where it is successfully exploited, however, it can provide significant and valuable supplementary benefits to a local economy based on manufacturing, mining, or agriculture.' This position has been adopted in the Comprehensive Development Plan for Webster County, which includes a large share of the Gauley Ranger District. I now quote from that plan, 'Except in areas where rare and diverse recreation facilities are available, tourism is unlikely to provide more than a small and seasonal economic gain.' This is the Forest Service position and is reflected in our resource planning. Evenaged management including clearcutting in the general forest areas enables us to practice the intensive timber management required as we gradually expand the area devoted to recreation. Widespread selective timber cutting as advocated by the Chamber of Commerce would eventually reduce the allowable cut and endanger the future of the timber industry. The loss of jobs and dollars in the economy could not possibly be made up by tourist recreation. Community stability will depend on the diversified economic bases provided by Forest Service multiple use management. Economic growth will depend on a sound wood products industry supplemented by tourism and recreation. We know that our combination of evenaged management in the general forest and selective harvest in roadside zones, scenic areas, and waterside zones will not impair the development of the recreation

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resource. A case in point is the fact that our recreation use has continued to climb since we adopted evenaged management in 1964. The outlook is for nothing but continued increases. Our great need is not to decrease timber use but to increase our facilities and services for recreation use.

I will also comment from experience on the nature of a tourist recreation community. I have lived and worked in West Yellowstone, Montana, a main gateway to Yellowstone Park. In spite of several million annual recreation visitors, exceptional big game hunting and fishing, dude ranches, and skiing and snowmobiling, our community practically turned into a ghost town for much of the year. Motels were boarded up, restaurants closed, and gas stations and stores shut down. The highly seasonal and fluctuating nature of employment also brought many transient, low-skilled job seekers to our town. Our school and social programs suffered, and law and order difficulties were not uncommon. I don't think the people of Richwood want that kind of community.

I will now comment very frankly on our relationship. The Forest Service has devoted many, many days of valuable time to an effort to listen to you, inform you, reason with you, and reach some sort of understanding. We have shared our thoughts and ideas. Our men are doing their best to produce high quality plans which recognize the needs of all the people. And now in your letter of July 10, you say that you will "take whatever action that is necessary to prevent the multiple use concept from being further violated." This is a harsh statement to make about the very agency that has developed the multiple use concept over the past 60 odd years. It is particularly disturbing to those of us who have spent our lifetimes perfecting our skills in order to be of better service to the people. As a public servant I accept your criticism. As a dedicated professional I challenge its validity.

In closing I again urge you to wait for completion of our multiple use plans. I also suggest you might examine the rigidity of your own position. I appeal to you to stop following a course which will curtail

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the established wood products industry, and instead to join with the Forest Service in constructively promoting the supplemental development of the tourist recreation industry. We can use your help. There are many positive things which your Chamber of Commerce can do to promote our common interests. Let us work together.

Sincerely yours,

FREDERICK A. DORRELL
Forest Supervisor

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Clear cutting Controversy

Mr. Frederick A. Donnell, Supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest (MNF), recently stated that the policy of the Forest Service in the MNF would be "even-aged management"; his statement is recorded here, together with a criticism of that policy by Mr. Lawrence H. Zeitz, President of the Richwood Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Zeitz is concerned that the recreational and scenic potential of the area surrounding Richwood may be harmed by excessive clearcutting and that the timber industry makes too small a contribution to the present economy of Richwood to justify this possible harm to the future economy. Following Mr. Zeitz's letter is a reply by Mr. Donnell in which he restates the Forest Service position that even-aged management is the best system for the MNF.

The relevant issue appears to be over the degree of clearcutting (arguments about the effects of even-aged management on forest composition and ecology are best left to the botanists and ecologists). In order to resolve this issue, one must have the specific facts and figures relative to the proposed amount of clearcutting*. The Forest Service ought to make these details public for the entire district before the relevant timber sales are made, before it is too late for those having valid interest to exercise their rights under the law.

One wonders whether the Forest Service mandate for multiple use is being followed here? Are not the trees in some areas (specifically, the Strawberry Pasture, Otter Creek, Holly Sods, and the National Recreation Area) worth more standing than as lumber? This question has not been resolved for the MNF and should be before the "golden goose" is gone.

The real struggle, however, is between the principally external economic interests who seek to remove West Virginia's assets "without leaving a ripple", and the people of West Virginia who by now must have had enough of this kind of exploitation.

The Conservancy's position should be to urge that the Forest Service notify the MNF so that some areas are retained entirely in their present wild state for the people of West Virginia and their neighbors as well as future generations, while the balance is managed for the highest possible perpetual site production.

George Langford, Chairman
Wilderness Committee
West Virginia Highlands
Conservancy

* Illustrative facts and figures will be published in the next Highlands Voice due out at the end of the month.