

# the Highlands Voice

Vol. II, No. 2

April 1970

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

On a visit to Jamaica in February I made it a point to visit the bauxite mining operations of the Reynolds Metals Company. The red ore produces an objectionable dust when it is mined and loaded and the mining process is almost exactly like our strip mining for coal.

Unlike West Virginia, however, the government of Jamaica made a single wise rule when the mining was first started several years ago. The rule, "Put the land back the way you found it," has preserved that most precious of natural resources for these island people who possibly hold it in greater esteem than we do.

Like ours the terrain is very mountainous and slopes which are too steep to fully restore are simply not mined. Once an area has been mined out even the topsoil is replaced so that the area can be fully productive for farming as it was in the beginning.

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I read in the Charleston Gazette where the Air Pollution Control Commission had held hearings with representatives of industry on an important new regulation which would control the amount of air pollution in our large plants.

If you wonder why members of the Conservancy don't attend such meetings and participate in such discussions it is because we just don't get the word until after they have happened. The air Pollution Control Commission is fully aware of our interest in these matters and I have made it a point to ask Mr. Beard, the Chairman, to notify me when such hearings are planned. No such notification has ever been received by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy which is one of the State's most active conservation organizations, and whose interest in such matters is certainly as great as industry's. You would think we had, "bad breath," or something.

Tom King

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION FORMED  
AT WEST VIRGINIA TECH

Ernie Nester forwards information that indicates that the folks in the Alloy-Montgomery area are willing to do more than talk about air pollution. They adopted the following policy statement:

The goals of the Committee on Environmental Pollution are implicit in its slogan "clean air, clean water, clean community."

Whereas the decade of the sixties was one of growing recognition that locally and nationally we were destroying our environment to the detriment of our health, our welfare, and our ability to enjoy our surrounding, the Committee believes that the decade of the seventies must be the one of action.

Effective action to combat the slow but steady destruction of our environment must take several forms. Among them are research, dissemination of information, political action, and possibly direct confrontation with individuals, government agencies, and industrial organizations who thoughtlessly and needlessly contaminate our air, our water, and our communities.

Although the Committee will concern itself with state and national pollution issues and problems, its first and immediate concern is with the immediate community in the London - Montgomery - Gauley Bridge area of the upper Kanawha River.

To this end the Committee will seek broad community support and participation in the following:

- I. Identification of air, water, and community pollution sources in the area.
- II. Continuous monitoring of serious pollution sources, combined with action to have them removed or abated.
  - A. Research.
  - B. Observation.
  - C. Reporting of polluting agencies.
- III. Familiarization with the laws and the agencies responsible for pollution abatement.
  - A. Examination of their strength and weakness.
  - B. Recommendation for corrective action where necessary.
  - C. Broad dissemination of the necessary information.
  - D. Encouragement of effective community and political action.
- IV. Conferences with those responsible for the pollution and the agencies having abatement responsibility.

V. Although the Committee will involve itself in action against the entire spectrum of pollution offenses, and may act concurrently in several areas, it will establish priorities for action.

VI. A first priority will be action against the serious air pollution generated by electrometallurgical furnaces and steam generating electric plants in the immediate locale. The plan of action shall be as follows:

- A. Familiarization with applicable laws, regulations, and agency action.
- B. Familiarization with planned abatement program and its timetable.
- C. Examine efficiency of plan and recommend modifications, if necessary.
- D. Stimulation of community action where needed.

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#### HOUSE VOTES AGAINST EVEN CONSIDERING TIMBER BILL

In an unusual move February 26, 1970, the House by a vote of 150 yeas to 228 nays refused to even consider H.R. 12025, the "National Forest Timber Conservation and Management Act" (Report No. 6, page 69) and thereby issued a stinging blow at commercial lumbering interests which had sought special concessions on national forests. It also was a rebuke to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development, who had endorsed the controversial proposal.

Mr. John D. Dingell (Mich) condemned the bill as offering the possibility of mismanagement. He also said that every conservation organization was opposed to the bill. Mr. John P. Saylor (Pa.) followed with even stronger language, saying: "I know of nobody who knows what is in this bill who is for it, *outside of a few people who have a special interest or who will gain a special benefit.*"

Mr. Leonard Farbstein (N.Y.) pointed out that the original impetus behind the bill was a sudden rise in the price of lumber in 1969. He said, however, that lumber prices now have fallen back almost to their 1968 levels. As a representative of a central city, he said he is extremely concerned with the housing crisis but could not regard H.R. 12025 as a housing bill. "It is simply a legislative windfall for the timber industry," he declared, attributing the housing crisis to high interest rates, antiquated zoning laws, and out-of-date construction technology.

National Wildlife Federation

Ed: Significantly, almost all speaking for the bill were from big timber industry states, e.g. Oregon. All five West Virginia Congressmen voted against the bill.

## SULFUR OXIDE CONTROLS ARE AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON - Technical processes are now available which electric utility power plants can use to meet even the strictest sulfur oxide control regulations now in effect, a coal industry spokesman told the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy Wednesday.

James R. Garvey, president of Bituminous Coal Research, Inc., Monroeville, Pa., an affiliate of the National Coal Association, said installation of the sulfur control equipment now available would increase the cost of electricity to residential users at least 3 and perhaps 8 per cent. But he pointed out that President Nixon in his recent environmental message to Congress had said that the cost of clean air and clean water would be high.

Mr. Garvey said four companies are now offering for sale sulfur oxide recovery systems which would allow utilities to use high sulfur fuel and still keep sulfur oxide stack emissions to the equivalent of coal with a sulfur content of one-half of one per cent or less.

Mr. Garvey said that in October of 1967 he predicted that within three years an economically attractive approach for the recovery of sulfur oxides from flue gases in power plant stacks would be developed.

"The purpose of my testimony here today is to bring to your attention the fact that this prediction of about two and one-half years ago was correct," he said. "We now have commercial processes available for use, although their economic attractiveness may not be all we desire."

Mr. Garvey presented to the committee statements from three companies describing their control processes. They were Monsanto Co., St. Louis; Wellman-Lord Co., Lakeland, Fla., and Chemical Construction Corp., New York. The fourth company he mentioned was Combustion Engineering, Inc. Windsor, Conn.

"All four processes have some similarities and some basic differences," he said, "Because of these, one or the other may have certain advantages in application to a given power plant depending upon size, location, age and available space. But all have in common the desirable advantage of upwards of 90 per cent elimination of sulfur oxide emissions."

Mr. Garvey said the use of these processes to control sulfur emissions would be less costly than the widespread use of natural gas and imported foreign fuels.

"We feel the means are available to supply the needs without sulfur pollution by use of our vast reserves of coal, most of which are high in sulfur," he said.

Article in Morgantown Dominion-Post

Ed: At least there are some counter claims to those of industry who say there are no such controls.



## DAMS AND AIR POLLUTION

What does the building of dams on the New and Gauley Rivers have to do with air pollution? The dams among other things are being forced on the public to provide increased flow rates in the Kanawha Valley that will allow pollution dilution, further industrial growth, etc. Take a look at the Kanawha Valley now:

1. In the Kanawha Valley from 1959 to 1968, the official death rate from bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma more than tripled. (These aren't miners - mine workers declined by 1,000 men in this same length of time.)

2. West Virginia leads the nation in Social Security disability awards for respiratory diseases.

3. The state Air Pollution Control Commission operates on a skeletal budget of about \$324,000. Governor Moore cut \$9,000 from the new budget and the legislature agreed. This will cause a loss in Federal matching funds.

4. There is a weather inversion in the Kanawha Valley about 66 per cent of the time and an average wind speed of only four mph.

5. Carbide-Institute, Carbide-South Charleston, duPont-Belle, Appalachian Power Co., (the one that wants to put in the Blue Ridge Dam), and FMC were asked to supply information regarding the sulfur dioxide emission of their stacks. Of those that even bothered to respond, they all declined comment and yet industry cries about being persecuted.

6. The Federal Government made a costly study in 1964-65 of air pollution in the Kanawha Valley. The "confidential" results have not been made public. Why? The public is expected to pay for it, but not to have access to the results. How does that grab you, fresh-air fans?

\* \* \* \* \*

## HELP NEEDED ON THE CRANBERRY

The Wilderness Committee needs field information about the Cranberry Backcountry. When you visit it, and especially when you travel off-trail to fish, hunt, or just find peace and quiet, please send George Langford (1535 Sylvan Terrace, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15221) the following information, preferably marked on a map:

Area Visited \_\_\_\_\_

Unusual Natural Features and Locations of:

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. Cliffs    | 5. Lakes or Ponds |
| 2. Caves     | 6. Mature Timber  |
| 3. Bear Dens | 7. Thickets       |
| 4. Bogs      | 8. Springs        |

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 9. Waterfalls                      | 12. Prospects        |
| 10. Permanent Structures           | 13. Stream Siltation |
| 11. Trails not on Official<br>Maps | 14. Timber Sales     |

They also need aerial photos of Rough Run, Desert Run, Middle Fork of Williams River, in the "before" condition if possible.

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#### STATUS OF DOLLY SODS

The staff of the Monongahela National Forest is completing work on its management plans for a Dolly Sods Scenic Area of about 10,000 acres. Presumably these plans will be sent to the Regional Forester in Milwaukee before they are made public.

Although nothing definite has been released, it is known that the proposed Scenic Area will lie entirely north of Forest Route 19. Route 75 will probably be included, and recreational developments will be confined mainly to the east side of this road. The southern boundary apparently will be considerably north of Route 19, coinciding roughly with the limits of the forests containing commercial quality timber. The southern end of the Rohrbaugh Plains, Little Stonecoal Run, the southern portion of the Cabin Mountain Trail, and the lower part of the canyon of Red Creek will be excluded. Although these areas are little known to people who confine their activities to the strip of high country along Route 75, they are favorites with backcountry hikers who enjoy the wilderness aspects of the Dolly Sods. Some timber sales have been made here in the past and no doubt others are planned. There are also indications that the primitive road along the North Fork of Red Creek may be improved and opened to public vehicles as far as the mouth of Big Stonecoal Run. Probably the main reason would be improved timber access.

The main advantage of designating a Scenic Area is that the Director of the Department of Natural Resources will have firmer ground to stand on if he chooses to deny any future applications to strip mine in the area, based on the aesthetics clause of the 1967 Surface Mining Act. How Scenic Area designation will modify Forest Service management of the Dolly Sods compared to how it would have been managed if a Scenic Area had not been recognized is uncertain.

Including Route 75 in the Scenic Area reopens the possibility of including the Roaring Plains-Flatrock Plains area as well. Originally conservationists recommended against this because the plains are "invaded" by a single road and a gas pipe swath. They did not push for inclusion of the canyons of the South Fork of Red Creek and Flatrock Run because most of the commercial quality timber is there. Apparently the Forest Service feels it cannot spare any significant acreage of quality forestland from logging anywhere in the region.

From another source I have learned that budget cuts make it virtually impossible for the National Park Service to begin any work on the proposed Allegheny Parkway for at least five years. In the Dolly Sods area, the Parkway is tentatively routed past the Bear Rocks and along the crest of Cabin Mountain. An alternative route farther west, which would do no damage to the remote quality of the Dolly Sods area, has been proposed.

Helen McGinnis  
February 16, 1970

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#### WILDLIFE, OTTER CREEK AND THE MCGOWAN MOUNTAIN ROAD

Information supplied by wildlife biologists in the Department of Natural Resources at Elkins suggests that keeping the Otter Creek basin as an undeveloped wilderness is as important to hunters and fishermen as it is to naturalists, hikers and backpackers.

Department of Natural Resources biologists recognize the Otter Creek area (including the north slope of Green Mountain, the western flank of McGowan Mountain and the watershed of the Little Black Fork as well as the drainage of Otter Creek) as the northern most of the four remote areas in West Virginia large enough to support stable breeding populations of black bears. About 50 or 60 bears inhabit the area, or about one per square mile, which means that it is very favorable bear country. The number of bears killed by hunters each year has varied widely--12 in 1968, 5 in 1967 and 4 in 1966--but the total population is probably stable at present.

As anyone who has visited our more popular national parks can testify, bears and people can co-exist. However, in these parks there are extensive wilderness areas, essential for the survival of the bears, beyond the roads and campgrounds. West Virginia bears have even more need for such remote retreats. In 1963, wildlife biologists recognized six areas in the state that were large enough to support stable bear populations. Since then, the bears abandoned two of these (Shenandoah Mountain and Monroe County) when public access roads were constructed. Although hunting and poaching may have accounted for some, most of the bears apparently migrated from the disturbed areas. When roads are kept gated and closed to public motor vehicles, as in the Cranberry Backcountry, bears continue to thrive even when logging proceeds. (In fact, clear cutting is probably beneficial to bears.)

The biologists are quite concerned about the effects of the McGowan Mountain Road on the Otter Creek bears. If the Forest Service carries out its plans to extend it to Stuart Memorial Drive via Yellow Creek and the upper portion of Otter Creek and if it opens it up to the public, the bear area will almost be cut in half. Quite possibly the bears will then depart, as they did from Monroe County and Shenandoah Mountain. If the Department of Natural Resources



has its way, Otter Creek would be set aside as a wilderness. "Excess" bears would make their way to peripheral areas accessible by road, and there they would be "harvested" by hunters. Permitting hunters to drive into the middle of the wilderness, however, might well "kill the goose that laid the golden egg."

The Forest Service's refusal to permanently gate the McGowan Mountain Road despite the recommendations of wildlife biologists, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy (which fears that unrestricted public access by automobile will destroy much of the solitude and remoteness of the area) and researchers working in Fernow Experimental Forest, who do not want the public disrupting their experimental plots. Many such roads are permanently gated elsewhere in the Monongahela National Forest. Apparently the answer lies in the justifications used to get funds to finance this expensive cut-and-fill road. Although logging access is undoubtedly the main reason, administrative use (to enable the Cheat District Ranger in Parsons to quickly reach the southern portions of his district) and recreational access were also cited. If recreational access had not been used as a reason, it is possible that funds to construct the road might not have been granted.

Before the early logging days, Otter Creek supported a healthy trout population. Later the water became too acidic. The exact cause is not known, but logging may well have been responsible. The revolving drums filled with limestone chips that have been installed on the headwaters of Otter Creek have been very successful in neutralizing the water, and the native brook trout are now freely reproducing and growing larger. All of Otter Creek between Condon Run and Moore Run is still closed to fishing to allow the number of trout to build up. The only stream in the Otter Creek area capable of supporting a thriving trout population without treatment is the Little Black Fork, which is contiguous to the southwest corner of the Wilderness Area proposed by the Conservancy. The Forest Service plans extensive clear cuts and a temporary logging access road in this now completely roadless stream valley. Its possible effect on the trout is not known.

On two different occasions, the last in November 1968, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources wrote letters to the Supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest requesting that the Otter Creek area be set aside as a wild area, with road building prohibited. Apparently the Forest Service found the demand for lumber too great to accomodate these requests.

Helen McGinnis  
February 16, 1970



THE FOREST SERVICE AND SPRUCE : )B-SENECA ROCKS LAND ACQUISITION

The Grant County Land and Water Protective Association circulated the following figures to support their contention that landowners have been forced into expensive court battles in order to obtain fair value for their property.

|                                | Acres       |  | I<br>Filed<br>Court  | II<br>Govern.<br>Appraisal               | III<br>Court<br>Approved | IV<br>% Offered<br>by Govern. |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--|----------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cletus Sites                   | <u>39.4</u> | House & Outbldgs   | 13,667               | <u>13,388</u>                            |                          |                               |
|                                | <u>6.</u>   | Park   | <u>6,404</u>         | <u>6,079</u>                             |                          |                               |
|                                | 45.4        |  | 20,071               | 19,467                                   | 60,000                   | 33.45%                        |
| W. I. Hedrick                  | 91.7        | 1 Field no<br>improvements   | 12,307               | 11,500                                   | 36,000                   | 34.18%                        |
| Samson Bland                   | 18.6        | Home & Outbldgs<br>Souvenir shop                                     | 22,570               | 23,331                                   | 85,000                   | 26.55%                        |
| B. S. Armentrout <sup>A</sup>  | 133.3       | 40% Seneca Rocks<br>Brick Home<br>Farm Buildings<br>20 A Bottom Land | 33,998               | 33,213                                   | 108,000                  | 31.47%                        |
| Barden H. Harper               | 62.9        | 60% Seneca Rocks   | 7,919                | 12,287                                   | 175,000 <sup>F</sup>     | 4.5%                          |
| Van Bland <sup>B</sup>         | 14.7        |  | 8,358                | Settled between<br>parties for<br>17,500 |                          | 47.76%                        |
| Barden H. Harper <sup>C</sup>  | 10.         | Huffman Tract  | 3,549                | 3,486                                    | 10,000                   | Settled<br>between<br>parties |
|                                | <u>16.8</u> |  | <u>Combined</u>      | <u>Combined</u>                          | <u>16,000</u>            |                               |
|                                | 26.8        |  | 3,549                | 3,486                                    | 26,000                   | 13.65%                        |
| Allen R. Patchett <sup>D</sup> | .87         |  | 4,000                |  |                          |                               |
| A. W. Prince                   | .71         | Partially<br>Constr. Motel   | 1,048                | 6,900                                    | 12,900                   | 8.12%                         |
| Totals                         | 394.98      |  | 101,462 <sup>E</sup> | 110,184 <sup>E</sup>                     | 502,900 <sup>E</sup>     | 20.17%                        |

LAND CONDEMNATION BY U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Explanation:

Column No. I is the amount filed in Court by U.S. Government as "estimated to be the just compensation."

Column No. II is the amount assigned by the U.S. Government's own appraisers.

Column No. III is the amount awarded by the jury.

Column No. IV is the per cent of the amount filed in Column No. I as to court award in Column No. III.

Notes:

- A - First trial resulted in hung jury, \$108,000 resulted from second trial.
- B - \$8,358 filed but settled between attorneys for \$17,500.
- C - Amount filed and Government appraisal for two (2) tracts combined - 10 acres settled by attorneys - 16.8 went to jury.
- D - Amount filed was not contested.
- E - Totals are exclusive of Van Bland and Patchett.
- F - Mr. Harper's troubles are not over. The Forest Service has appealed this decision and Mr. Harper must now face further expense at an Appellate Court in Richmond, Va.

ANOTHER CONSERVANCY SERVICE

The Highlands Voice, in a sincere attempt to reach all interests among our readers, is reprinting a ballad written by Clish McCleaver. It originally appeared in the Morgantown Dominion-Post. Folk music buffs will recognize the melody as that of the mournful tune known variously throughout the Appalachians as "Willow Garden" or the "Ballad of Rose Connely".

The musical score is written on a grand staff with a treble clef. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words split across lines. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at various points. The score ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

Down in that love-ly val-ley Where once a clear riv-  
er did seep, A ham-let now lies bur-  
ied neath murk - y wa-ters so deep. 'Twas Tuck-er's old-  
est vil - - - lage Which man- y will nev-er  
know. No bells can be heard from her church spire  
now un-der the wat-er be-low.



Second Verse

Meadows and farms are all drowned  
And gone without a fight.  
When mudflats cover Horseshoe  
'Twill be a dreadful sight.  
When the Big Cheat is stilled and all silent,  
Her swift waters no longer will flow.  
A tribute to man's undertaking-  
This valley so charming to spoil.

Third Verse

When St. George mounts the scaffold  
Oh, where will the mourners be?  
Who will weep and sing a hymn,  
Their heads bowed respectfully?  
His race is run beneath the sun  
A cruel fate is in store for he,  
For we will murder a place we love  
And bury its corpse at sea.

Incidentally, the title of this is the "Ballad  
of St. George". --Ed.

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YOUTH SPEAKS

From April 3-5, 1970 over 300 high school students belonging to the Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y organizations from all over the State convened in Charleston to participate in 2 model Legislatures, a Gold Legislature and a Blue Legislature. Each Legislature was comprised of a House of Delegates and a Senate which met at the State Capitol in the respective chambers to pass on bills and resolutions submitted by the students.

The following resolution was submitted to both groups (House of Delegates and Senate) in both Legislatures on April 5, 1970 by the Morgantown contingent and was unanimously approved by both groups in both Legislatures.

WHEREAS there is a great need for and a desperate shortage of preserved Wilderness Areas in the East.

WHEREAS the State of West Virginia abounds in sections which could be classified as Wilderness Areas - OTTER CREEK, DOLLY SODS, AND CRANBERRY BACKCOUNTRY.

WHEREAS the Great Smokies Wilderness Area in the South attracts over 6 1/2 million visitors each year, and the West Virginia areas lie within 300 miles from 1/3 of our country's population.

BE IT RESOLVED, the 9th YMCA Model Legislature of West Virginia supports the efforts to gain Wilderness Areas (Otter Creek, Dolly Sods, and Cranberry Backcountry) for the State of West Virginia

HELP SAVE OTTER CREEK . . . . .

. . . . . Here's what you can do.

Should we retain for West Virginia a valuable national wilderness, believed to be the largest roadless area in the central Atlantic states, to preserve the beauty and ecological complexity of a mature Appalachian forest, as well as to provide a central core for a stable and high quality recreation industry in the surrounding communities?

If you believe that outdoor recreation and the protection of wildlife and watershed should be given as much consideration as lumbering in the Monongahela National Forest . . . If you agree that the Otter Creek basin should be spared from logging and road building so that your children and their children can continue to hunt, fish, hike and enjoy nature in a wilderness setting free from the sights, sounds and smells of civilization . . . If you are concerned about the deteriorating quality of our nation's environment and would like to do something about it . . . . Then we invite you to join us in our efforts to establish an Otter Creek Wilderness Area.

The situation is URGENT because:

. . . The Forest Service plans to let contracts for the completion of the McGowan Mountain Road and the proposed Shavers Lick Road this July. Their surveyors have been at work outlining the route of the latter road for several weeks; it will provide logging access into the Coal Run drainage in the northeastern portion of the Otter Creek basin. There may be no way to stop the Forest Service from building roads and selling timber until a wilderness bill has been introduced to Congress.

. . . If the McGowan Mountain Road is completed and opened to public motor vehicles as planned, black bears in the Otter Creek area will suffer greatly and may well be eliminated entirely. The area is the northernmost of four bear breeding areas in the state. If bears are eliminated there, they will also disappear from peripheral areas such as Backbone Mountain, Canaan Mountain, and the Red Creek area, which do not contain enough remote country to support stable breeding populations of bears. In recent years two bear breeding areas in the state were eliminated when roads open to the public were built through them.

. . . The demand for coal in the immediate area will increase when a proposed coal-burning power plant is installed near Davis. The owners of the mineral rights in the Otter Creek basin may wish to take core samples in the near future. If a wilderness bill has been introduced, the Forest Service may be able to regulate the amount of damage done, but probably will not be able to prevent either prospecting or mining.

The Forest Service plan for Otter Creek proposes dividing the basin roughly into thirds. The central third (about 7,000 acres) would be designated a Pioneer Management Study Area, to be managed as wilderness except that administrative use of vehicles might be permitted. Two Back Country units would occupy most of the remainder of the basin. Logging and other "regular" forests uses would be permitted, but roads would be closed to public motor vehicles. Corridors about 1/2 mile wide would enclose Otter Creek, the McGowan Mountain Road and the proposed Shavers Lick Road; here logging practices would be modified to

protect esthetic values. The drainage of Condon Run would not be given any special designation. The Highlands Conservancy maintains that the Forest Service plan is not adequate to protect the wilderness resources of the basin because it envisions road building and heavy timbering.

More people must become acquainted with the Otter Creek basin before its wilderness qualities are destroyed. It is vital that they let the Forest Service and their U.S. Congressmen know that they are concerned about the future of Otter Creek. Remember that the Forest Service is a government agency entrusted with the care of your national forests. Congressmen represent your interests in the federal government. They are anxious to learn the opinions of their constituents, realizing that if they ignore their wishes, their chances of re-election will diminish. Your letters, which can be concise and to the point, are the most valuable contributions you can make to the drive to establish an Otter Creek Wilderness. A preliminary version of a bill that would set aside three wilderness areas in the Monongahela National Forest - in Otter Creek, in the Dolly Sods area and in the Cranberry Back Country - has been drafted and presented to Senator Jennings Randolph for his consideration. Now is the time for concerned West Virginians to let him, Senator Byrd and their U.S. Representative know that they support this bill.

\*\*\*If you live in the Second Congressional District of West Virginia, you are in a particularly advantageous position to help because bills to establish wilderness areas are almost always initiated by congressmen from the district in which the area is located. Please address your letters to:

The Honorable Jennings Randolph, United States Senate,  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
The Honorable Harley O. Staggers, House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, United States Senate,  
Washington, D.C. 20510

\*\*\*If you live elsewhere in West Virginia, please contact Senator Randolph, Senator Byrd, and the U.S. Representative from your own congressional district.

\*\*\*If you live outside West Virginia: Until formal wilderness bills are introduced to Congress, the future of Otter Creek is almost entirely in the hands of the West Virginia congressional delegation and the West Virginia residents they represent. Once they are introduced, concerned people throughout the nation can write to their own congressmen urging them to support these bills. If you would like to help now, you might consider writing to the three men listed above, stressing the fact that you visit West Virginia (or plan to) and that you spend money while you are there.

If you would like to become deeply involved in the Otter Creek controversy or would like detailed information on topics discussed in the guide and in this supplement, including an economic analysis of the Conservancy plan vs. the Forest Service plan, you can write to the chairman of the Wilderness Committee--George Langford, 1535 Sylvan Terrace, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15221.



STATE TO GET BIG SHARE OF WATER PROJECTS  
OR SPARE US YOUR FAVORS

\* WASHINGTON (UPI) -- West Virginia has been earmarked for a large share of \$2.6 billion proposed for water resources projects in the 13-state Appalachian region by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Included in the recommendations by the engineers is a \$29 million reservoir project near Petersburg, Grant County, \$24 million in watershed projects in the Monongahela River basin, and land treatment measures estimated at \$69 million.

Senator Jennings Randolph, D-W.Va. said the recommendations stem from a five-year study of Appalachia water resources authorized by the Appalachian Redevelopment Act of 1965, which was drafted largely by Randolph and Senator Sherman Cooper, R-Ky.

The major project for West Virginia is the proposed construction of Royal Glen Reservoir near Petersburg. It would lie at the confluence of the Northfork and main stem of the South Branch of the Potomac River.

The project is similar to one proposed in the early 1960's, but the engineers' report indicated the new dam would be 100 feet lower. It would be a major gateway to the Spruce Knob recreation area.

The project would protect 500 acres of developable land in Petersburg from flood hazard and would creat about 7,600 jobs.

"This report represents perhaps the most comprehensive study of water resource development ever made," Randolph and Cooper said in a joint statement.

Results of the \$5 million study will be sent to the Appalachian Regional Commission, then to President Nixon, who may request specific project authorizations from Congress.

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FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

Bruce Sundquist and the Pittsburgh A.Y.H. have done it again. This time they have produced a highly informative book "Hiking Guide to Western Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia." This guide is crammed with information for the casual as well as the serious hiker. Detailed directions and descriptions are given for many of the trails in the state despite the title of the guide. It is characterized by a bounty of helpful information and a professionalism characteristic of Bruce. Copies may be obtained for 75¢ each from Pittsburgh Council, A.Y.H. Headquarters, 5300 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15232

# the Highlands Voice

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## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The Conservancy finds itself today in the unenviable position of having to oppose the wills of two powerful adversaries to preserve the pristine beauty of the Otter Creek basin.

The U.S. Forest Service which is adamant in their insistence that two thirds of the area should be given over to timber production and that construction of the McGowan mountain road through the headwaters of Otter Creek should be started without a moment's delay. This is the first of our opponents and the Conservancy has been roundly criticized from several quarters for taking up the Forest Service's valuable time by filing an appeal, as provided by their own regulations, from these decisions which were made without a shred of public participation. We will continue to oppose the Forest Service's stated course of action by any means which is available to us.

Our second adversary is the Island Creek Coal Company which has declared their intention, in recent weeks, of core drilling five sites within the valley to prospect the Sewell coal which underlies much of the area. They are entitled to do this under the law and to construct the necessary roads for moving their equipment from place to place. The law also provides that these roads be approved by the Forest Service in advance and that they be fully restored and reseeded after drilling is complete. The letter from Tony Dorrell to the coal company is most thorough in delineating these responsibilities and I call on every member of the Conservancy to see that they are carried out to the letter. To those of you who are photographers, I urge that you make several trips into Otter Creek this summer for the express purpose of observing these activities of the company. Select your best slides and send them to Dr. Herb Eckert, 24 Bates Road, Morgantown, 26505. The Forest Service office in Elkins will be able to tell you where drilling is currently in progress. By summer's end we need a complete file on the activities of the coal company within the basin. Remember the coal belongs to Island Creek, but the surface belongs to you! You have as much right to the preservation of your property as they do to their's.

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ITEM: Congressman Ken Hechler of West Virginia has introduced a bill in Congress calling for a wilderness designation for the Otter Creek Basin, the Cranberry Backcountry, and Dolly Sods. The number of the bill is H.R. 17535.

Congressman John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania is expected to introduce an omnibus wilderness bill in the near future. It will contain several areas in the west plus the same three in the east contained in Mr. Hechler's bill.