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# THE Highlands Voice

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AUGUST 1974

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## EPA To Decide Shavers Fork Fate

A call for citizen monitoring of Shavers Fork water quality and a demand that cumulative effects of industrial activity on the beleaguered watershed be taken into consideration highlighted the nation's first Environmental Protection Agency hearing on a water discharge permit for coalmining.

Speaking before a crowded audience in the Elkins Federal Courthouse on July 30 Ed Light, Research Director for Campaign Clean Water, urged continuous pH monitoring of Shavers Fork water quality by citizen monitors in the event EPA decides to issue the water discharge permit to T & J Coal Company of Kingwood. Light further stipulated that the permit should provide for revocation of the permit in the event that citizen monitors are threatened with bodily harm by T & J employees. Light's comment was inspired by an episode earlier this year when DNR field officers were forcefully expelled from T & J property by gun-wearing T & J Personnel.

In other testimony before EPA attorney James Seiff, Dr. Robert Burrell, Rivers Chairman for the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, warned that consideration of water discharge permits or any other disruptive activity on Shavers Fork must be evaluated in view of its effect on the total river environment. Burrell noted that each striping permit, road construction, logging operation or deep mine application had been considered on its individual merits without taking into account the cumulative effect of such projects on the river.

Fred Hyde, secretary for the Mountaineer Chapter of Trout, Unlimited, stated that trout fishing in Shavers Fork and associated tourist activities had been estimated by the State of West Virginia to be worth \$37,500,000 over the next thirty years. Hyde warned, however, that Shavers Fork water quality is at a critical stage and that further pollution, however small, could tip the balance between life and death for the stream. In connection with Light's urging for citizen monitors Hyde stated that TV would be willing to fund and send citizen monitoring personnel.

The T & J discharge permit application will be reviewed by EPA and a decision will be issued later this year. The decision is expected to be appealed whatever the outcome.

by the Committee on June 13.

J. R. Rogers, Boone - \$900; Carl Galtner, Nicholas - \$500; T. E. Nyles, Fayette - \$500; Don Kopp, Harrison - \$500; Adam Toney, Fayette - \$500;

The following members of the House of Delegates received smaller amounts from the Committee for Better Government:

Charles Dooly, Joe Ratfield, Ernest Moore, Harry Paulay, C. E. Allen, Jean Roth, Leo Koptman, Fred Zabala, Jim Coppenaver, James Jeter, Tom Peltner, Cleo Jones, Charles Christian, C. E. Lehr, Robert Reed, Fred Mabeck, Glen Colombo, William Shingleton, James Cookman, and T. J. Scott.



CONSTRUCTION H hedges Bowden National Fish Hatchery.

(photo by D. Eshelman)

## Corridor H Finally Does It

Disaster has stricken the Federal fish hatchery at Bowden on Shavers Fork despite months of warning from environmentalists. Sometimes in June construction activities on Appalachian Highway Corridor H directly opposite the hatchery transgressed on the South Springs, one of two cold water springs which feeds the hatchery in summer. The ensuing mud flow into hatchery tanks checked to death 150,000 four inch trout scheduled for stocking next year in West Virginia streams.

Environmentalists warned the West Virginia Department of Highways before construction began on the Bowden sector of Corridor H that construction would threaten or destroy the Bowden Hatchery. Nevertheless the SDH roused the highway along Shavers Fork. Bowden Hatchery superintendent,

Ralph Malnam, stated that the hatchery expects to lose more trout before the summer is over. The hatchery lost nearly half its trout population in the June kill.

Trout Unlimited responded to the fish kill report with a warning that the worst is yet to come for mountain trout streams in the path of Corridor H construction. TU's Kanawha Valley Chapter President, Don Branson, has noted that construction beyond Wymer (about six miles east of Bowden) will endanger Gladly Fork, Laurel Fork, Blackwater River, Dry Fork, Red Creek, Big Run, Laurel Run, New Creek, Patterson Creek and Trout Run.

The Department of Highways is presently taking under advisement a variety of routes of Corridor H (see THE HIGHLANDS VOICE, June / July 1974).

## How To Win Friends And Influence Enemies

who actually ran against Gaberlin, got that much. If you were running against Lyle Ward, Senate Majority leader, you would have got \$200. Noch Floyd etc.

Altogether the Committee for Better Government poured \$12,857 into the May primary. Not all of the candidates who received funds from the Committee were elected, Krebs and Floyd among them. But several primary candidates, who happen to be incumbents, were who received contributions from the Committee. The following list of candidates who received contributions from the Committee for Better Government, and the amounts they received, has been gleaned from the financial statements filed

Ever hear of The Committee for Better Government? If you had been a candidate for the West Virginia legislature in last May's primary election, and if you had shown a favorable interest in strip mining at some time during your career, then the chances are good that you would have heard of The Committee for Better Government. Not only would you have heard of them, you probably would have received some financial assistance from them to help you with your campaign.

For instance, if you had been running against Sen. B. Gaberlin in Kanawha County you would have received \$2000 to help you out. Denny Krebs,



## Overlook

by Bob Burrell

This month we are making observations from the galleries of the U.S. House of Representatives. We are taking a close look at how West Virginia's elected representatives vote on environmental issues in 1973. It was a big year, the worst for conservationists. The politicians had a field day blaming the energy shortages on environmentalists but interestingly enough, a Gallup poll taken revealed that only a piddling 2% of the public agreed with them. Most people blamed the oil companies or the government.

There is a group in Washington called the League of Conservation Voters who make it their business to keep tabs on all Congressmen regarding how they vote (indeed, if they even vote) on environmental issues. They compile all of this information in tabular form and distribute it to interested parties. What follows has been extracted from their report. It is of interest that the League was most instrumental in unseating Colorado's entrenched, selfish, anti-environmentalistic Wayne Aspinall, then one of the most powerful men in Congress and one of the greatest obstacles to democracy ever elected to public office. What this means is that the League is an organization to be reckoned with.

The League selected 19 of the most important House votes for their barometer. However, they advise that the records of these votes do not reflect a Congressman's total position; it is merely a tip of the iceberg which may be deceiving. His behavior in committee may be much more important than how he votes on the floor.

Among the 19 important conservation measures used to assess each Representative were: Atomic Energy Authorization bill which would allow states to set stronger regulations for control of radioactive wastes and emissions, the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act dealing with pesticide controls, Alaska Pipeline Bill, Urban Mass Transportation bill amendment trying to delete funds necessary for certain important controls, National Emergency Energy Act which tried to suspend certain air pollution regulations, Indoor Energy Conservation Act which would have set better standards for building construction which would save on energy consumption, and a bill to create an Energy Research and Development Administration, what sounded like a good idea, but on paper appeared to favor energy purveyors more than safety and environmentally minded groups. The League purposely chose bills that had to do with energy so as to test Congress' claim that the energy shortage was due to the environmentalists.

The League set a "correct vote" for each of these issues on the basis of advice from leading conservationists throughout the country. In other words, a "correct vote" was one equated to be in favor of a well thought-out environmental position. For each Congressman, the percentage of "correct votes" (ignoring absences) was calculated from which was subtracted 2 points for every absence. Many important votes have been lost because members did not bother to show up for a vote. Unavoidable absences caused by illnesses and other important reasons were not counted or penalized. Here is how our team fared for the last three years:

	1973	1972	1971
Mollohan	47	0	33
Staggers	61	36	16
Slack	26	15	11
Hechler	89	100	93

In summary, draw your own conclusions.

While we are overlooking our legislators, let's take a gander at the funny geese that make up our state legislature. This was another do-nothing year for our state legislature, particularly in the environmental field. For our out of state readers, the following will give you some idea of the gravity of bills that get passed by our lawmakers. One of the few bills of any kind that passed was one changing the motto on our auto license tags from "The Mountain State" to "Almost Heaven." We should all be thankful that the Governor used his veto power on that one.

One of the measures before the legislature that the Conservancy had great interest in was an amendment to the Natural Streams Preservation Act. This in fact was the topic of our evening program last October at the Highlands Weekend Review. One of the bill's sponsors was present as well as the attorney who drafted the language. Early in the year, The Voice carried information concerning the bill and urged speedy hearings on it. Some of us were privileged to have a hand in the drafting of the bill. Errors were removed that might work against the bill's success, many volunteers alerted groups all over the state to respond, and in general great citizen input went into the bill, particularly from people living in Greenbrier County. County Courts and other official agencies went to a great deal of effort sending in statements about their wishes to protect individual streams. Public interest groups across the state responded similarly. With a backing like that, the bill's passage seemed imminent.

First, the powerful, business oriented Senator Carl Gainer, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee deleted two important streams from the bill he had agreed to introduce, the upper Greenbrier River and Knapps Creek. Secondly, he allowed the bill to be ruined by those who loaded it with other rivers, rivers well known to be of great interest to private business (e.g. the Blackwater) and if left in the bill, would kill whatever chances this otherwise good bill would have in passing.

In the House of Delegates, the bill's sponsors had to withdraw one important stream, the South Branch of the Potomac, to placate Delegate Tom Haws, the House counterpart to Sen. Gainer. Mr. Haws is an unalterable supporter of exploitation of the South Branch River. He then wanted to cripple the bill further by putting in a killer clause which would limit what rivers could be added in the future. Faced with the unhappy prospect of a bill that did not even resemble the original, the bill's sponsors were forced to withdraw the entire measure.

Thus the democratic process was essentially thwarted by only two very powerful men. Such a government is called a plutocracy, but is rather typical of how governing is done in Appalachia. For some reason, it has been an undemocratic tradition that the chairman of the House committee on natural resources is always awarded to someone in the eastern panhandle. That person for years has been Mr. Haws, who is just finishing his last term in office. Both he and his fellow Grant Countian, Delegate Larkin Ours have consistently voted against any measure towards protection of rivers. They have voted or acted against protection of the South Branch River time after time, they have refused to help effort against the Rowlesburg Dam, and have been in favor of the Royal Glen Dam on the South Branch for years.

Until West Virginia can send people to its legislature who have genuine concerns for the environment and until the parochial and anachronistic rules of this body are changed, it appears hopeless to expect effective legislation protecting our environment in the near future.



## The Reader's Voice

To the Editor:

I was uncomfortable writing the article on Timberline because I have no experience with real estate and am basically opposed to second home developments no matter how well they are planned. I don't know how this kind of development can be halted short of public acquisition of the land or at least of scenic easements. I am under the impression that growth is considered inevitable if not desirable in most of the land use planning legislation under consideration throughout the country. There is agreement only that environmental damage accompanying development must be contained.

I have no way of knowing for sure if Downs' intentions are what he says they are, or if so, that it will be possible to maintain Timberline indefinitely as it is now planned. In the brief time I had for writing and submitted the article I tried to find someone qualified to look for flaws in the proposal, without success. I decided to send it in anyway thinking that just putting the plan in print should be of some value. If the development turns out differently than promised, opponents of other developments could use the article. And if the land is being sold, isn't it better that it ends up in the hands of readers of the VOICE, who presumably are more concerned about the environmental quality of the Highlands than the general public?

Basically I am against vacation homes because buildings and roads are scattered throughout rural or uninhabited lands, making them more like the urban regions from which most of us seek temporary relief. Land

that was once used for the general public good--agriculture, forestry, and/or open space for recreation--is now set aside for the exclusive and narrow use of a few. Even if we could afford it, making lots and second homes available to every family that wants one isn't the answer. I doubt if there would be enough to go around, and still retain enough for growing food and fiber.

I don't agree that Timberline isn't as good as advertised because a clause in the deeds makes it possible that the 1,800 or 2,600 acres encompassed by the development will not be reserved for the exclusive use of the purchasers of lots and their friends. Perhaps Barnett fears that a public bathing beach or some other mass recreation facility will be built. We'll have to wait and see about that. I doubt if Timberline as now planned could be a significant tourist attraction. I hope that I, who will never buy a lot there, might still be permitted to ski, ride horseback, or even hike across Timberline. Before Allegheny Properties acquired the Harmon tract, we could do all these things and even hunt there.

Farmers and other permanent rural residents generally don't object to people hunting, hiking, or riding horses across their properties as long as they behave themselves. When land is subdivided and sold to urbanites, the NO TRESPASSING--NO HUNTING signs go up. The segments of the Appalachian Trail that cross private lands are in deep trouble because it has been sold for second home sites and is being closed to the public.

Please don't get me wrong. I hope other people take a good hard look at Timberline and other developments, ask embarrassing questions, and pass their conclusions on to other Highlands Conservancy members.

Helen McGinnis  
Pittsburgh, PA

## President's Comments

by David Elkinton

By now you may have heard that I have resigned as president of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy effective August 15, 1974. This was a hard decision because I had a number of projects and expectations I wanted to see through in the next few months. But I really had no choice.

Linda and I have been given the unusual opportunity to spend the fall semester in Wales and London studying. We have both wanted to travel overseas for years, but until now that was only a dream. For my part, I will be spending some time looking at how conservation and environmental concerns get expressed and the role of citizen participation in environmental policy making. You can see a stamp of Conservancy-related experience on that I am sure.

Since this will be my last column as president, I would like to make a few departing comments as I reflect upon this experience. When I was elected in January 1973, I said I believed strongly in the potential and past achievements of the Conservancy. That belief has only been strengthened over time. While I have come to know better our organizational and my personal limitations, my overall faith in our environmental commitment remains strong. The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is justly admired and respected by numerous individuals and organizations. It has provided me with an opportunity to give of myself and to know myself in a new role. For the most part the work has been exciting and educational. My regrets include my inability to get the job accomplished as I would have liked. I never got to the bottom of the pile of correspondence that was ever-present on my desk. I seemed too busy in the daily tasks to take adequate time to plan, reflect, and be as creative

as I would have liked.

But these regrets do not overshadow my very real satisfaction in having been a part of the Conservancy's accomplishments in the past two years. Like most of the Conservancy's work, a few individuals have carried out specific tasks, in most cases without requiring much direction from others in leadership. To mention but a few of these as examples: The Highlands Voice under Ron Hardway's editorship has become the best source of environmental news in the state, and is well-read and appreciated. Our several issue-oriented committees continue to keep vigilant on their respective arenas, Shavers Fork seems to be surviving Snowshoe, the Monongahela National Forest has had to rethink the Highland Scenic Highway and Eagle Lake, the DNR has been confronted on Bear Town, the Federal Power Commission is re-examining the Davis Power Project, the State Highway Department is facing united opposition on Corridor H, all these accomplishments have been the result of hard work by West Virginia Highlands Conservancy members and their allies. Our greatest success so far in terms of length of struggle has been for wilderness preservation of Dolly Sods, Otter Creek, Cranberry, and Laurel Fork. If we don't fall victim to the log-jam caused by impeachment in the House of Representatives, we are hopeful that the Eastern Wilderness Bill will be passed before the end of the year.

We are a vital, energetic, and important group of citizens. From the foregoing list of highlights, we can see that we can achieve results. Of course our challenges are staggering but yet we continue to do what we can. I hope we continue to thrive, and I have every reason to believe that we will.

I hope you share that same optimism.

To my successor I have already sent my condolences. His task will be time-consuming and tedious for the most part. I only hope he derives as much satisfaction from it as I have. And I know the members of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy will support him as they have me.

Thank you for letting me share my life with yours.

## 'Conservancy Honored By Audubon Society

At an awards banquet in June the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy was honored with the 1974 Conservation Award by the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society. The annual award is presented by Mountaineer to the individual or organization making the most outstanding contribution to conservation in West Virginia. The Conservancy is the first organization to receive Mountaineer's recognition.

President David Elkinton accepted the award on behalf of the Conservancy. Presented to Elkinton was a print entitled "Owls" by noted wildlife artist Don Allen. Also representing the Conservancy at the presentation were past presidents Tom King and Bob Burrell.

Previous awards from Mountaineer have gone to Congressman Ken Heckler and environmental columnist Robert Lee Smith.



## From The Editor

by Ron Hardway

# Protesting The Strips 1974

OR A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Room 322

Everyone has seen those concise Class III advertisements in the county newspapers where strippers are forced by law to declare their intentions of stripping yet another ton of flesh from the Appalachians. At the end of these advertisements there is a tongue-in-cheek invitation to protest the application by writing to Ira Latimer (the Izak Walton League's Conservationist of the Year), Director, DNR, Room 322, State Capitol. Anyone who does submit a written protest to any stripping application will receive a mimeographed form letter from Latimer's office stating that one's protest will be evaluated according to Sec. 8, Art. 6, Chap. 20 of the West Virginia Code.

Veteran stripping protestors learned long ago that a single written protest to Latimer's office was a wasted effort. We discovered, through trial and error, that the way to make an impact was to send carbon copies of our protests to as many politicians and environmentalists as we thought might have an interest. In this way several odious messes have been created which otherwise would have slid by unnoticed by anyone save the DNR secretary who opened the original protest and sent the mandatory form letter in reply. Things used to be accomplished once in awhile.

For instance, readers with long memories will recall that the Back Fork of Elk River, one of W. Va.'s two fish-for-fun streams, was the focus of a great deal of anti-stripping activity three years ago. The Charleston Gazette carried a long feature article on the situation, the same article was reprinted in Cleveland, Detroit and Washington newspapers, several environmental organizations joined the fray, and the old carbon copy trick brought numerous politicians into the effort. The company involved was a penny-ante outfit with no cash or knowhow, and they were easily harassed out of Back Fork. Its owner even got up at an Izak Walton League meeting and called everyone present a bunch of flower lovers. The company flew away one night leaving Webster County with a sizeable tax debt and several rusting pieces of machinery. But stripping was temporarily ended on Back Fork. Late in March of this year the Elkins Inter-

mountain carried a Class III from the S. S. "Joe" Burford Company announcing their desire to strip 95 acres of Hewett Fork on the Back Fork headwaters.

I wrote a lengthy protest to Latimer outlining the general reasons why the permit should not be approved, and specifically stating two methods by which he could legally deny the permit. I thought it was a well-done protest. In honor of the occasion I sent carbon copies all over the country. Leaders of the W. Va. Legislature received copies. So did Arch Moore and Ken Hechler. I sent copies to several heads of DNR divisions, one to the Burford Company, and I sent a handful to other environmentalists.

I contacted Bobbie Nagy, the Conservancy's Publicly Chairman at the time, and she cranked up her letter-writing committee to protest the application. I wrote a tear-jerking letter to Webster County newspapers urging Webster Complainants to protest the application, and the Conservancy issued a press release to a couple dozen state newspapers on the whole business. Then I sat back to observe the harvest of the crop I had sown.

But damn, how times have changed. India's food problem is a surplus compared to what I resented. In about a week the obligatory acknowledgment from Room 322 came in, and I was encouraged by the fact that it was not the typical mimeographed sheet, but was a personally typed letter signed by Ira S. Latimer. But the longer I looked at the letter the funnier it looked. I dragged out my two-inch thick file on Back Fork and eventually found some letters written to me by Latimer several years ago before the strip mining bubble burst. I compared signatures on the older letters with the one on the letter I had just received. In no way did they resemble one another. Someone had forged Sandy's name!

Although I should have been outraged at the duplicity I decided to accept it as another manifestation of today's maniacal urge of public office holders to do something unethical if at all possible. So I waited for other comments to drift in. I waited and waited. . . and waited.

As I write this I am still waiting. None of the politicians on whom I sacrificed a ten cent stamp replied. Not a single "I share your concern" or

"thank you for sharing your thoughts with me." I kept watching newspapers for the press release, and it finally came out in the Intermountain, but not as I had planned. "New Shavers Fork Stripping" burped the headline. The article went on to explain that a permit had been applied for on the Back Fork of Shavers Fork.

My tear-jerking letter to the local press did not even come out in time for readers to protest the application before the deadline. The local printer explained that his typesetting machine had gone on the blink and a lot of things had to be left out that week.

I have not received my carbon copies of protest sent by other environmentalists. Since I have always received copies in the past I must assume (1) no one protested the permit, or (2) ten cents is so much to spend on a carbon copy.

Ken Hechler did not reply, the first time that has ever happened. Since I collect stamps I was looking forward eagerly to a reply from Arch postmarked Peking. I would gladly trade a weekend's packtrip for a genuine envelope stamped and postmarked from the People's Republic.

None was forthcoming. Ed Henry and Dan Cantner, Water Resources and Wildlife Resources respectively were a big help three years ago. Not a word this time. And good old Don Greene, who can always be counted on for a letter, never answered.

But I did get one legitimate response to my protest. The Burford Company called me up and invited me to come and look at Hewett Fork and see what they're going to do. I went. In my protest to Latimer I had jokingly suggested that the only way litigation could be avoided in Back Fork if this operation begins would be to place the entire four mile length of Hewett Fork in a culvert. Frank Burford explained to my beggled mind that they are going to move Hewett Fork out of its bed and place it on an elevated spillway-type arrangement while work goes on around the creek.

If all of those folks out there who owe me a letter about Hewett Fork sorry applications have something like what to tell me, forget it.





ENJOYABLE WEST VIRGINIA PAST TIME--Trot fishing in Shaver's Fork?

## Mother Of Orphans

by Nick Zvegintsov

Here, courtesy of "Environmental Action" (May 11, 1974) are some more details on American Electric Power's massive advertising campaign, whose double theme is:

"Let us mine federal coal in the West; Relax clean air standards."

The ad campaign will cost 2.7 million dollars. It will consist of twenty full-page ads in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Time, Newsweek, U. S. News and World Report, Business Week, and all(ALL!) daily and weekly newspapers in AEP's seven-state operating area. The total audience of these outlets is roughly "one-half of the people in the U. S." according to AEP chairman Donald Cook.

Nevertheless not everything is going well for AEP. Its stock has been dropping. And so far this year two electric utilities, Consolidated Edison and Virginia Electric Power (VEPCO) have had their credit rating lowered on the New York bond market, making it impossible for them to borrow new capital.

The truth may be that the wreck of eternally expanding consumption on the rock of finite resources may be more clearly seen from the board room of AEP than they would like you to see from your living room. And AEP's advertising splurge may be like the prodigal partying of the spendthrift who knows that tomorrow he will declare bankruptcy.

### BOOK REVIEW:

## "Planet Steward"

by Paul Frank

How many people have told you "You've got to read this book!"-- and, of course, it turns you off immediately?

Read this book.

It's "Planet Steward," the journal of the wildlife sanctuary in the Arizona mountains, and for most members of the Conservancy, it's just what we need.

In 1969, poet-editor-ecologist Stephen Levine was offered the position as caretaker of the last cienega-marsh in southern Arizona. The offer came from the Nature Conservancy.

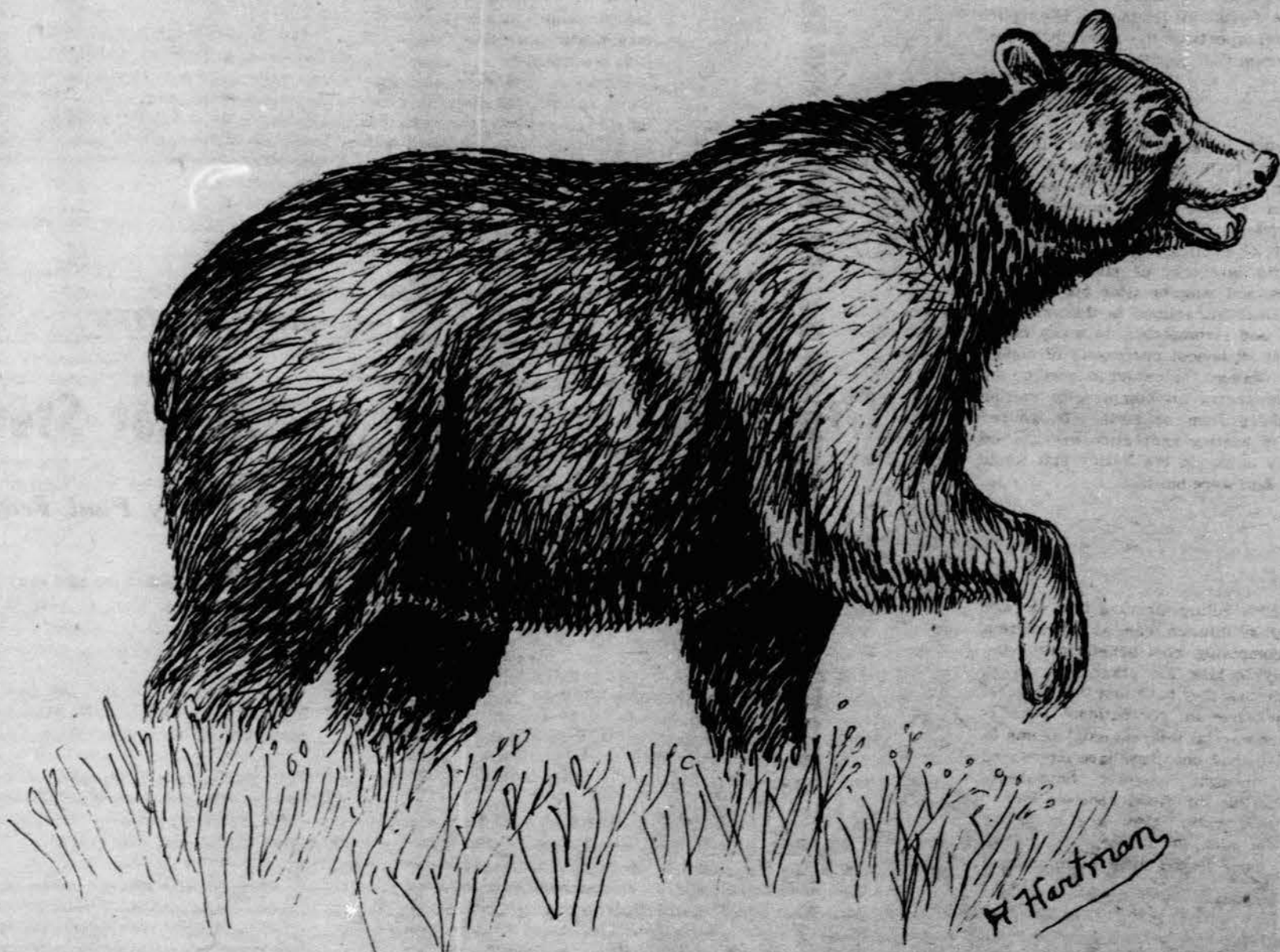
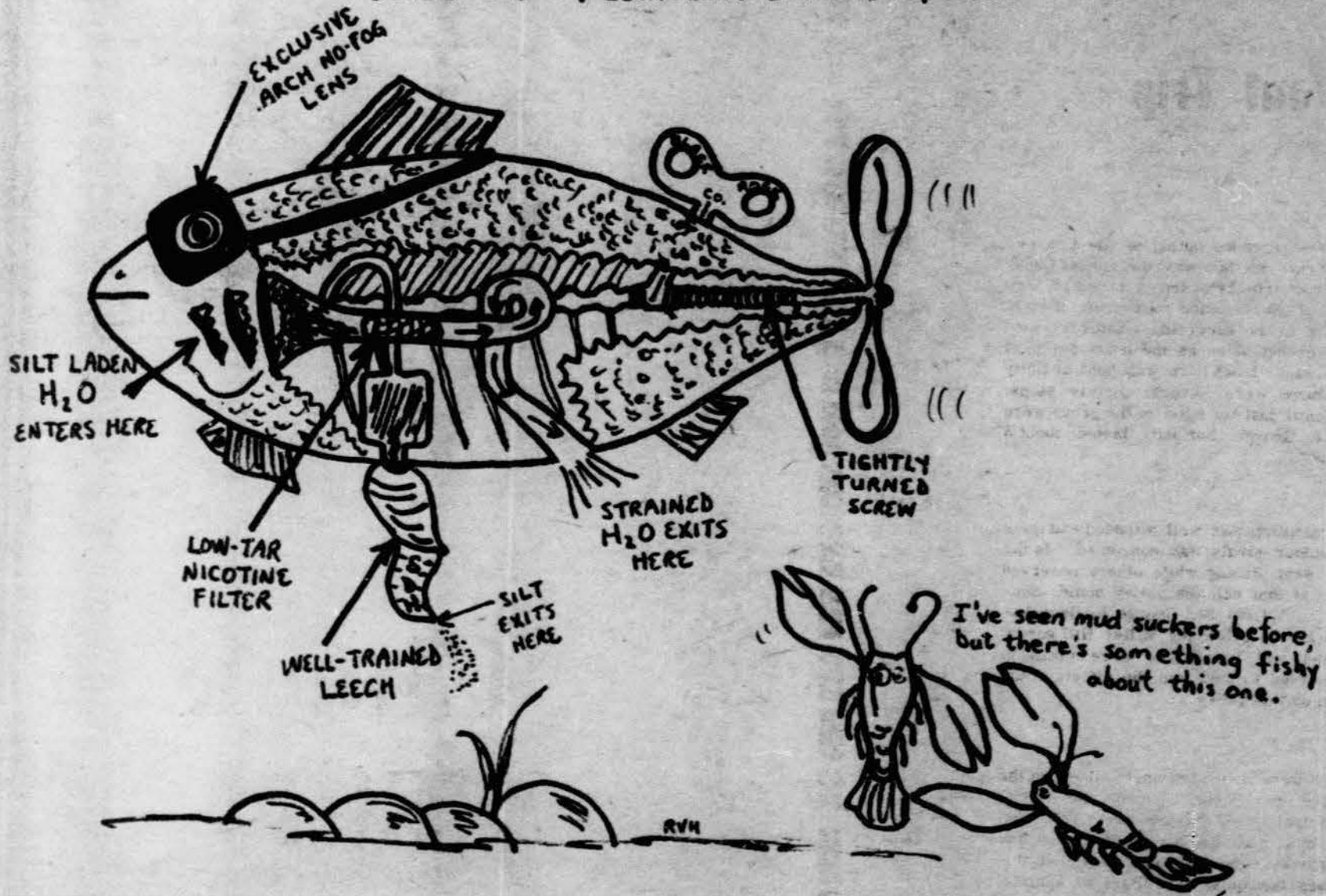
Although it's buried deep in poetic prose and flights of arid poetry (not at all the ilk of Appalachian flows), the speech of Planet Steward is of the same fibre that draws archetype--seeking Mountain Staters back to the land, back to their heritage. Due out June 15 from Unity Press, PO Box 1897,

Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Cloth is a heavy \$8.95, paperback not too cheap \$4.95, but well-bound with glaucous illustrations.



## WEST VIRGINIA GOLDBRICK TROUT (SHAVERIUS FORCAS)

DEVELOPED BY LEGISLATIVE CONCERN, INC.





# Cheat Valley Float Trip

Perhaps the best attended outing on the Conservancy's list of trips so far was the annual Cheat River Valley canoe trip held the weekend of May 18-19. A total of 58 assorted watercraft, mostly canoes, took part in the excursion. Saturday witnessed fairly overcast skies as the boats put in at Parsons. A pleasant lunch stop was held at Holly Meadows and there were several picture stops. The rains held until just as most of the group were taking out at St. George, but only lasted about 5 minutes.

The evening campfire was well attended and quite a variety of outdoor meals was consumed. In the morning a few went fishing while others observed the wealth of birds that call the valley home. Sunday's trip was held from St. George to Hamabsville with a lunch stop below the Miller Hill gorge. Descriptive maps and itineraries were given to each boat that served to point out the effects of the Bowlesburg Dam on this valley.

Although there were many beginners along on the trip, there were no upsets. Among the almost 100 people participating were Conservancy President Dave Edington and wife Linda, Vicks editor Ron Barbery, wilderness committeepersons Helen McGinnis and Bruce Sandquist, and Parsons District Manager Harry Mahoney who joined us in a rubber raft.

Recently, a "recreational study" of the Cheat River was completed by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for the Corps of Engineers. The report focused on recreational aspects of the river that could be improved by stream flow regulation.

As such it ignored hunting, fishing, biking, golfing, other forms of boating, and camping along the river and in the valley. It also chose to ignore recreation in Pocahontas County (Shavers Fork) for no stated reason. The report was the most uninformative study to be publically distributed in recent years since its inventory of river mileages, swimming, picnicking, and camping sites, hiking trails, and other recreational attractions in the area was greatly inaccurate and incomplete. In many cases there were outright dishonest portrayals of conditions in the area. Instead the report focused on the benefits that would accrue to commercial rafting should the Bowlesburg Dam be built. It ignored entirely the kind of boating recreation exemplified by the Conservancy outing in the Valley that would be destroyed if the dam were built.

Since a recent EPA ruling directed that storage of water for pollution abatement can no longer be a valid excuse for competing cost-benefit ratios the Corps is feverishly looking for other excuses to boost this ratio now that they have lost their biggest selling point. Increase in recreational benefits (as measured by commercial interest only) seems to be one of those. Another one they have introduced is what they call "through travel". Supposedly the Burnshurg Dam is for flood control, but to boost the cost-benefit ratio, they are currently looking at the other side of the coin also, i. e., what happens when there is too little water coming down the river.

It is hoped that each of the people who participate in a Conservancy outing will bring himself informed of the issues and initiate appropriate action as a result of your on the spot observations. Each person who participated in this float trip is much better informed than the author(s) of the BODR recreational report depicting numerous costs of PSD which also come from the river.



# Check This

The Earth belongs to all men to use and enjoy in a manner which leaves Man and Nature at peace with one another.

But sometimes individuals lose their respect for Nature. They have been away from the land so long that they have lost touch with the reality of the earth. Then we have strip mining, clear cutting, water pollution, air pollution, lit-

ter and other gnomes of civilized blight.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy strives to reestablish respect for our spectacular bit of earth, to enlighten man in touch with his natural heritage. It belongs to all of us - why not help us keep the peace? Join the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

- \$5.00 individual regular — \$20.00 organizational regular
- \$10.00 individual associate — \$30.00 organizational associate
- \$25.00 individual sustaining — \$60.00 organizational sustaining

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Make checks payable to the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. Mail membership forms and dues to:  
**Carolyn Killoran, Membership Chairman,**  
**6302 Division Rd. Huntington,**  
**W. Va. 25705**

Do You have a friend who might be interested in joining the WVNC? If so or else only know whom to contact? If you do fill in your friend's name and address on the form below and we will send them a complimentary copy of the VOICE and a membership brochure.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mail the above form to Don Haraway, 200 Union St., Wheeling Springs, W. Va. 26060, and he will do the rest.



# Staggers Polls On Wilderness

Second District Congressman Harley O. Staggers has released the results of his wilderness questionnaire sent to constituents in the highland counties early in May. Respondents overwhelmingly indicated that they favored immediate wilderness designation for Otter Creek, Dolly Sods, the Cranberry Back Country and Laurel Fork.

The questionnaire was sent by Congressman Staggers to voters in Webster, Randolph, Tucker, Grant, Pocahontas and Pendleton counties where the proposed wilderness areas are located. Voters were asked to indicate their preference for wilderness designation, study area classification or continuing the current status of the four areas. The county-by-county breakdown looks like this:

1. Do you think the approximately 10,315 acres in Tucker, Pendleton and Grant counties known as Dolly Sods should be designated as a wilderness area?

OVERALL	75% voted yes, 25% said no
Webster	97% voted yes, 3% said no
Randolph	85% voted yes, 15% said no
Tucker	69% voted yes, 31% said no
Grant	72% voted yes, 28% said no
Pocahontas	74% voted yes, 26% said no
Pendleton	40% voted yes, 60% said no

2. Do you think the approximately 598 acres in Pendleton County known as Laurel Fork and additional areas in Highland County, Virginia should be designated as a wilderness area?

OVERALL	73% voted yes, 27% said no
Webster	96
Randolph	81
Tucker	70
Grant	74
Pocahontas	69
Pendleton	34

3. Which course of action do you favor for the approximately 36,000 acres in Pocahontas and Webster counties known as Cranberry Back country?

OVERALL	%*
OVERALL	58% Wilderness Area 14% Study Area
Webster	91
Randolph	62
Tucker	51
Grant	52
Pocahontas	56
Pendleton	28

OVERALL	28% Continue Current Status
Webster	5
Randolph	22
Tucker	29
Grant	31
Pocahontas	40
Pendleton	58

4. Which course of action do you favor for the approximately 20,000 acres in Randolph and Tucker counties known as Otter Creek?

OVERALL	67% Wilderness Area 7% Study Area
Webster	93
Randolph	75
Tucker	58
Grant	56
Pocahontas	57
Pendleton	28

OVERALL	26% Continue Current Status
Webster	3
Randolph	18
Tucker	28
Grant	33
Pocahontas	36
Pendleton	60

Congressman Staggers has announced that he will make available the results of his questionnaire to the House Interior Committee. The Interior Committee is presently considering a companion bill, HR 13455, to the Senate-passed Eastern Wilderness Act (S. 3433).

When informed of the results of Congressman Staggers' poll, the U.S. Forest Service and the Interior Department noted that the survey is the first time a member of Congress has obtained the views of residents who live closest to proposed wilderness areas.

## Do Not Support Your Local Strip Mine

The following is a list of strip mining applications received by the Department of Natural Resources during the last month. Check the list carefully. If there is an application in your county or in an area you know well, get out your topo maps, find out what streams these strips would cross, what drainage system the streams belong to, and protest the hell out of the application on the basis of stream siltation. If you happen to know that the company involved has a lousy mining or reclamation record, or is of the fly-by-night variety, point it out in your protest. Send your protests to Ira S. Latimer, Director, DNR, Room 322, 1800 Washington St. E., Charleston, WV 25303. Latimer will never see it, but your protest will be entered in a file concerning the permit. If you can generate more than one protest to any particular application you may well hold up the operation until taxes come due at which time the company might take flight and solve all of our problems. Be sure to mention the SMA number in your protests. Good bitching.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED JULY 22, 1974

SMA 1212 - A & B Coal Co., 30 acres, Preston

County, Portland District.  
SMA 1213 - R. N. White Contracting Co., 110 acres, Lewis County, Skin Creek District.  
SMA 1214 - Sangamore Coal Co., 50 acres, Clay County, Pleasant District.  
SMA 1215 - C & C Coal, Inc., 72 acres, Kanawha County, Washington District.  
SMA 1216 - Grafton Coal Co., 53 acres, Lewis County, Hackers Creek District.  
SMA 1217 - Grafton Coal Co., 47 acres, Preston County, Portland District.  
SMA 1219 - Peach Creek Processing Co., 80 acres, Logan County, Triadelphia District.  
SMA 1220 - Peaker Run Coal, Co., 50 acres, Webster County, Glade District.  
SMA 1222 - Sterling Smokeless Coal Co., 100 acres, Raleigh County, Shady Spring Dist.  
SMA 1223 - Indian Coal Land Co., 75 acres, Fayette County, Plateau District.  
SMA 1225 - Carbon Fuel Co., 48 acres, Kanawha County, Cabin Creek District.  
SMA 1226 - Carbon Fuel Co., 20 acres, Kanawha County, Cabin Creek District.  
SMA 1227 - Carbon Fuel Co., 16 acres, Kanawha County, Cabin Creek District.

## Tourism State's Biggest Industry

by Edward Peeks (Charleston Gazette)

Travel sales dollars have a greater impact on West Virginia's economy than dollars from coal mining or chemicals. This conclusion is drawn in a study by Dr. James M. Rovelstad of the Bureau of Business Research at West Virginia University under a research grant from the State Department of Commerce.

Only 17.2 per cent of travel industry receipts leave the state to buy supplies and services, or to provide profits to out-of-state owners, Rovelstad points out. This is in striking contrast to the 33.8 per cent of coal mining receipts, and the 37.2 per cent of chemical industry receipts which go out of state.

The travel and tourist industry is big business in the Mountain State. Latest complete figures show that in 1972 this business generated about \$540 million in direct sales revenues, of which \$408 million came from travelers staying away from home one or more nights. The sum brought the

total impact of travel activity in the state to about \$680 million, or slightly more than 10 per cent of total personal income in the state.

Travel business sales employ 8 per cent, or 1 out of every 12 workers in West Virginia, the report notes. This ratio is about the same for underground coal mining and compares with a 1 to 20 ratio for the chemical industry, which employs 4.8 per cent of the work force not engaged in agriculture.

Most travelers to West Virginia come from the Mid-Atlantic Region. But almost as many travelers, about 41.7 per cent, come from the North Central Region, a very important finding. This shows that most of the existing travel market is located in nearby areas and should not be seriously affected by the gasoline problem, says Rovelstad.

## A Supplement To The Hiking Guide?

The Conservancy's new Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest, edited by Bruce Sundquist, is now available and fills a real need. However, many would-be hikers would like something more than just a description of each trail in the national forest--they want our recommendations on the most scenic and interesting circuit hikes. The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club publishes an excellent booklet, Circuit Hikes in the Shenandoah National Park, that I would like to emulate for the Monongahela. Each hike is described on one page with a detailed sketch map of the trail on the facing page. The booklet is complete in itself and can be used without reference to anything else but a road map.

Beyond helping hikers enjoy themselves in the highlands, the booklet will have two conservation purposes. First, it will get more people away from the roads into the woods, where they will have time to see for themselves the environmental consequences of clearcutting, strip mining up stream, new roads, off-road vehicles and other phenomena not obvious from a car shielded by a travel influence zone. Second, it should help divert people from the four proposed wilderness areas. The publicity necessary to get these areas to the atten-

tion of Congress has already mushroomed use of Otter Creek and Dolly Sods. If, and when, they are designated wilderness, even more people will come. Thanks to our guides, these areas are already the best known hiking areas in the Monongahela, yet they comprise only 7 1/2 per cent of the federal land there. The booklet will call people's attention to the other 92 1/2 per cent, and point out the presence of other trails almost as enticing as those in the wilderness areas.

If you won't mind sharing some of your favorite hikes with others, please tell me about them. Here are the criteria: it must be a hike that you can enjoy enough to recommend to others; the trail or route must be well marked or obvious to people who are not skilled outdoorsmen; no trips in the proposed wilderness areas will be printed; lengths can be an hour or so up to three days. If the trails are described in the large Hiking Guide, it shouldn't be necessary to write up detailed new descriptions. For overnight trips, indicate campsites for backpackers.

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