



THE Highlands Voice

Vol. 6, No. 1

JANUARY 1974

The Highlands Voice, published monthly by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, is entered as second class matter at the post office in Marlinton, W. Va. under the postal act of March 3, 1879. Main business offices are located at PO

Box 177, Marlinton, W. Va. 24954, while supplementary editorial offices are located in Webster Springs at 206 Union St. and in Elkins at P. O. Box 1121. Executive editor, Ron Hardway; managing editor, Human Services, Inc. Postmaster address forms 3579 to P. O. Box 1121, Elkins, W. Va. 26241.

An Open Letter To Governor Moore

December 10, 1973

Governor Arch A. Moore, Jr.
Office of the Governor
State of West Virginia
Charleston, W. Va. 25305

Dear Governor Moore:

Our one and only meeting, brief though it was, left me with the distinct impression that you are a man of reason and dedication to your beliefs.

It is upon that basis that I presume to write this letter.

I would first like to assure you that I am not a "frantic environmentalist".

I am however, an accredited and deeply concerned specialist in the combined field of natural resources and coexistent environmental hazards.

My educational background began with Johns Hopkins University and ended with special credits from the University of Virginia in environmental effects.

I have been a full-time staff writer with Hearst Newspapers for the past 18 years and have devoted most of that time to my specialty.

With apologies for the preamble, I will get on with the reason for this letter.

The subject is Shavers Fork and the mineral rights controversies of which I have been aware for at least the past five years.

I do not credit myself as qualified to make a value judgement either for you, as Governor, or for the citizens of West Virginia.

On the contrary, I merely wish to present what I consider to be a few pertinent and practical factors in the hope that you may find them useful in your upcoming decision-making efforts regarding Shavers Fork.

First, the value of mineral deposits to be found amid the watershed regions of Shavers Fork is finite, calculable and, as I understand it, largely confined to coal reserves.

(cont. on p. 6)

APCC Upended By Fuel Crisis Board Threatens To Resign

The Grim Reaper, called in some circles "The Fuel Shortage," has whacked off the head of its first victim - the West Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission (APCC).

At its January meeting the APCC was informed by the Chassis System, the Kingsford Company and the Roseville Charcoal and Manufacturing Company that they could not meet APCC deadlines for emission controls because they couldn't obtain the necessary fuel oil for switching their operations from coal burning facilities.

The Chassis System had intended to convert its power plant at its Huntington

(cont. on p. 4)

Lusk Crosses For Strippers, Committee Turns Off

Ben Lusk, executive director of West Virginia strippers, took his traveling sideshow to Charleston on January 6, to perform for a legislative interim Subcommittee prior to the opening of the West Virginia legislative session for 1974. The audience was polite, but he was not asked for an encore.

Lusk urged the sub-committee not to consider complete highwall elimination due to the fact that jobs are carried out in many types of terrain. Thus Lusk admitted, in effect if not in actuality, that some terrain is unsuitable for strip mining since high-walls cannot be eliminated in all cases.

(cont. on p. 4)

FPC Hearings Postponed

The Federal Power Commission has once again postponed the hearings on the Davis Power Project in Cansan Valley until March 18, 1974. This action, taken January 4, 1974, was in response to a request made by the FPC's own staff that additional time was needed in which to further evaluate comments made by intervenors to the staff's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Conservancy and other intervenors raised such points as the lack of regional plan-

(cont. on p. 6)

Moore Calls For Coal Commission

In his State - of - the - State message delivered to a joint session of the West Virginia legislature on January 10, Gov-

ernor Moore called for the creation of a new commission to develop coal resources in West Virginia, in view of the energy slow-down in the United States.

Moore's commission would be called the Governor's Commission on Energy, Economy and Environment. He envisions its make-up composed of several departmental heads within West Virginia state government whose responsibilities are presently related to the commission's goal of solving various national energy problems by using coal.

In his comments before the legislature Moore noted that he considered the present energy situation as a "second golden opportunity" for coal. He warned, however, that any coal policy must take into account environmental impact, and that coal must be developed in a way compatible with the environmental health of West Virginia.

Among the duties delineated by Moore which would be of concern to the commission were: (1) identification of all sources of demand for energy and attempted allocation of available reserves; (2) determination of the actual amount of

(cont. on p. 6)

Future Planning Needs Ideas

The Future Planning Committee of the Highlands Conservancy would like to hear from individual members concerning the direction in which the Conservancy is to move during the next year. The committee is interested in problem areas as well as methods of approach to problem solving.

If you, as a Conservancy member, are aware of a particular problem or crisis which you think the Conservancy should handle, please communicate with FPC chairman, Laurie Cameron, Box 42, Clover Lick, WV 24979. Laurie would also appreciate hearing about solutions to existing problems as well as definite plans of action in dealing with any conservation question put before the Conservancy.

Highways Headline Workshop

A small but inquisitive crowd gathered at the Department of Natural Resources Operations Center near Elkins for the annual Mid Winter Workshop, January 26-27.

Many members ordinarily in attendance at the annual gathering were missing this time due to uncertain gasoline sales throughout West Virginia and surrounding states. But for those who did make it to the Saturday sessions several interesting meetings captured their attention.

The Wilderness Committee held center-stage Saturday morning as spectacular slides and informed commentary added new life to the struggle to bring Dolly Sods under the protection of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

The Sods never looked better as the committee went to great lengths to point out the exquisite beauty of this unique area. Much time was also spent in discussing various problems concerning the Sods. Among

questions raised were controlled burning, hiking and camping permits, vehicular use in the area, and future planning in general on management of the Sods.

Other committee meetings held in the morning covered Land Use Planning and air pollution. The land use planning meeting voted to recommend to the Board of Directors that a permanent Land Use Committee be created.

The major thrust of Saturday's session was an afternoon panel discussion centering on highway development in the scenic Highland region. Sitting on the panel were John McBee, representative for the Federal Highway Administration, Al Troutt, Supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest, and Jim Hinson, Conservancy member and highway problem expert.

(cont. on p. 6)

President's Comments

By David Elkinton

It has been one year since I assumed the position of president of the Conservancy. At that time about all I knew about the job was that I believed in the Conservancy and what it could do to make West Virginia a better place to live and love. I saw the Conservancy, despite its rather modest membership, as a vehicle for changes that were and are still needed. Its diversity of membership and its interest in the broad range of environmental concerns and their inter-relationships seemed to be its greatest strengths. What other organization so well spans the generation gap; has members of all walks of life and professions; all geographical areas that surround West Virginia, but centers within the state; and brings together such a variety of concerns in a forum and structure that allows for full participation, including disagreement, but resolves issues in such a democratic way: We indeed have an organization to be proud of! And to recognize and voice that pride from time to time will serve to remind us all what can be done by citizens who are involved in public issues.

These accomplishments are not the work of any one individual or even of a small group, but rather of all the membership. From positions of leadership, one is privileged to see more clearly what is happening throughout this widely dispersed group. As we close up 1973 and begin a new year, it is appropriate to look back on what has been accomplished by the Conservancy.

1973 was capped by progress in the Conservancy's efforts to gain protection for West Virginia's wilderness areas. After extensive lobbying and letter writing, plus testimony at Senate committee hearings, Dolly Sods and Otter Creek were reported to the Senate floor as areas for immediate protection and the Cranberry area will be studied further. Passage is expected from the full Senate, followed by House consideration. The progress has been slow, but sure.

More controversial was the court ruling by District Judge Robert Maxwell in Elkins (who previously granted an injunction to the Conservancy to protect Otter Creek from core drilling) declaring that clear-cutting was in violation of existing law. This ruling has been interpreted by the Forest Service as halting all timber harvesting in the Monongahela National Forest. The Conservancy was only a co-plaintiff, while other conservation groups took the lead, but many of our members followed this controversy closely.

Shavers Fork continued to receive more than its fair share of problems. Snowshoe, a resort unparalleled in the state's history, has been announced for Shavers Fork's headwaters. Further downstream new permits for strip mining and deep mining have led to Conservancy testimony. Highway construction, namely Appalachian Corridor H, has further deteriorated this magnificent river even further down. Legislative protection has so far not been successful.

The Davis Power Project continues to wait for FPC hearings, rescheduled several times this past year. The Conservancy has prepared legal documents, including extensive comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and continues to prepare expert testimony for presentation at the hearings. Many of the Conservancy's views will be focused on this project which, at a time of an energy crisis, will require more electricity to run it than it will produce. Conservation of energy, thought impractical or even laughable by power companies and government representatives only a year ago, is now a fact of life.

Organizationally, 1973 has been a very good year for the Conservancy. We have seen and liked the expansion of the Highlands Voice into a highly readable newspaper of conservation activities. A most successful Highlands Review Weekend was held in Greenbrier County, marking a conscious effort by the Conservancy to broaden its geographical base of interest within the Highlands. Membership continues to increase to all-time highs, over 650 at the Fall Weekend, although a campaign to double the membership during 1973 was unsuccessful. Changes have been made in the by-laws and other internal matters have been attended to by the Board of Directors and various committees.

It would be impossible to list all the accomplishments for the past year. Those listed cover only the highlights. Generally it was a good year, but as always our work

(cont. on p. 3)

Overlook

By Bob Burrell

I'm looking out from the Hawk's Nest Overlook this month. You know, the one where so many travel photos have been taken showing the New River being crossed by a double spanned RR bridge. For those of you who have never taken in this sight for yourself, you may have wondered along with me why the camera always pointed upstream and captured the same view upstream. Why is it that photographers don't aim their cameras the other way, downstream? Because downstream isn't

very photogenic? You betcha. An ugly dam is right in view this month from the Overlook or any month from Hawk's Nest.

What have I got against dams? Same thing I've got against four lane highways through Dolly Sods, Cabin Mountain, etc. They don't belong there. Among so many other things, they function as silt traps, destroy valuable bottom land, interfere with the natural scouring action of free running rivers, totally change the ecology of a body of water, foster a false sense of security against floods amongst those living downstream causing these folk to invest in costlier riverside construction which always results in more expensive flood damage when the next flood, occurs (and one always does occur), are too often living memorials to some politician who foisted them on us, are expensive, ugly, result in more unplanned "development", etc. etc. The list could go on and on.

Spit in any direction and you will see some empire builder with plans to rape another river in West Virginia. Lovely Royal Glen above Petersburg on the South Branch, a fascinating rock formation resembling a huge gate, but luring the Corps of Engineers to permanently close the gate with one of their concrete tombstones. The Moorefield Gorge, in my opinion one of the most beautiful settings in the entire state, but one repeatedly looked at by several power companies for one of their pumped storage wastecans. A couple of years ago there were at least three different agencies or companies interested in damming up this gorge which incidentally is privately owned by the Trumbo family who live near the Hardy-Pendleton line. For weeks Mr. Trumbo noticed helicopters flying low over his fields and canyon. Not one person in any of these companies or agencies thought it courteous enough to let Mr. Trumbo know what they were doing.

Then there is the specter of Rowlesburg permanently flooding one of West Virginia's most historic sites, St. George, and one of Tucker County's very few flat bottom agricultural lands, the Cheat Valley. A political plum for years, local opposition has almost made it a prune. And then there is Blue Ridge, not a W.Va. dam, but one which would change the entire character of central West Virginia's incomparable New River. And of course Canaan Valley, a land of great natural and historic significance about to be sacrificed in the name of the "energy crisis" and to alleviate crowded, impossible living conditions back East. Can any intelligent person even remotely familiar with the Davis Power Project deny that the upper valley will indeed turn into one of these areas of crowded, impossible living conditions if the project is completed?

"But if you don't like Rowlesburg or Moorefield or Canaan Valley", Reddy Kilowatt and Colonel Damsite ask us, "where would you like us to build the dam, Cheat Canyon, Glady Fork, Otter Creek?" Which of course is akin to asking, "Would you like your wife or your daughter raped?" It is remarkable how the engineers, the technologists, and the politicians make the unchallenged assumption that to build dams is good no matter who or what gets hurt. I nearly caused double apoplexy in a Washington bureaucrat imbued with a sense of converting West Virginia into another Minnesota, a state where they are trying to construct mountains, when I suggested that the Kanawha Valley really shouldn't grow any more (over industrialized and air polluted already, hence more growth . . .). He turned as purple as a Senator who had just lost a highway.

For those who need being reminded, West Virginia is the Mountain State, a geographical designation which connotes things associated with mountains, i.e. clear, cold running trout stream; massive, wild canyons; broad, pastoral valleys; all picturesque, tourist promoting, wildlife teeming, income generating in their own right of course, but more importantly, a place, indeed a unique place, for people to live in dignity and beauty, for those of us who call West Virginia home.

As we would take steps to safeguard our homes against termites, rats, cockroaches and other vermin, so let us take steps to protect our West Virginia home against dam-building vermin. Before the

(cont. on p. 3)

From The Editor

By Ron Hardway

With this issue The Highlands Voice becomes a monthly newspaper. The decision to go to a monthly has been mulled over for nearly a year. We saw problems with expenses, time, contributions and ability. After a year of trying to reach an acceptable point of efficiency in the above categories, we finally decided that regardless of the consequences, the Voice would go monthly.

So here it is, Vol. VI, No. 1. Faced with the energy crisis the Conservancy's activities in environmental protection, indeed its life, are threatened. Things are happening quickly, inspired by panic, misunderstanding and lack of knowledge. We hope the Voice can now serve as an effective publication to counter-act the ignorance and cupidity being foisted upon a gullible public.

The rapidity and seriousness of almost daily events which affect the Conservancy have run away with the Voice's former bi-monthly deadline. With a monthly we will no longer be in the awkward position of reporting crucial events long after those events have been lost in the shuffle of some new crisis.

In addition to reporting the occurrence of events, within the readers' memory spans, we hope the monthly issue will enable more members to keep tabs on vital legislation, both in Charleston and Washington. Perhaps now pleas for letters to Congressmen and legislators will have some immediate relevance to Conservancy members, and more letters will be written to lawmakers. The Voice exists solely to disseminate information to the public with the hope that the public will act if aroused. Only by gaining public support can the Conservancy's goals for protecting the highlands succeed.

But the readers of the Voice have a right to know something about their editor. He is, in a word, frantic. He is not at all certain that the general membership is going to respond to the monthly Voice in the form of contributions. The printer is expecting to print eight pages for us each issue. Your editor is simply damned about where he's going to get the material to fill it up.

Ninety per cent of Voice material comes from Conservancy members. We wish we had one-hundred per cent from the members, but we'll take what we get. The only catch is that the previous Voice was only four pages in length. If material continues to come in at last year's rate we'll have either four pages of print and four pages of scratch paper - or eight pages of some of the largest print you've ever seen.

Why eight pages? The printer maintains that eight pages will give us the most for our money. That it costs little more to produce eight pages than it does four, that more material can be included each month, and that eight pages makes a more solid bundle to submit to the violent tendencies of the U. S. Postal Service. (I recently received a letter from a member in New York who had received only his address label and the bulk rate mailing permit imprint, and he was curious to know if there was more to that particular issue than what he received.) Hopefully the increased pages will prevent mutilation in the mails.

As editor of the Voice I now call upon all members of the Conservancy to seriously consider contributing to the Voice. I cannot, of course, guarantee that every contribution will be published. But I can guarantee that every contribution will be acknowledged, and if your contribution is not published you will be given a

(cont. on p. 3)

Dear Sir:

As we look at the energy and environmental situation, this is not the time for conservationists to run and hide. Those who spoke out against the economy of waste on which our industrial society was built are not the ones to be blamed for the present fuel shortage. The real responsibility rests on those who disregarded the economic and scientific indicators that have been showing for the last decade or longer.

Fifteen years ago it was statistically evident that our fuel requirements were being projected into the nebular stage. And anyone who knew anything about the energy business sensed that the research and development program was not being geared to match the promotional effort that was being mounted to make people believe that energy was inexhaustible.

Those who urged that our energy resources be used wisely were voices crying in the wilderness. Now some of the same promoters of waste are urging conservation practices, but at the same time using the opportunity to discredit those who saw the danger signals first.

Nor can the conservation movement be blamed for the more realistic speed limits which have been enacted into law for our public roads. Those who are to blame are the agencies and lobbies who made the higher speed limits legal in the first place. That to was a part of the economy of waste - not only of fuel, but of tires, road surfaces, machines, wildlife, and human life as well.

Nor should we be perturbed by the trucker's arguments about engine speed and fuel consumption. Considering gear ratios, road friction, and windage loss there is no way in which a truck traveling 70 miles per hour will use less fuel per trip than the same truck traveling at 55 miles per hour; in fact, there is a good chance that it will use at least 10% more at the higher speed.

Instead of feeling beaten, the conservationist is in an excellent position to say, "I told you so"; but there is no time for that either. The environmental movement must set its own house in order. Within its ranks there has been too much self-serving, too much parochialism, and too much polarization of ideas and interests. The search for organizational stature, the fragmentation of effort, and the overlapping and sometimes conflicting objectives of special interest groups within the movement have made some of our defenses vulnerable to defeat from the outside.

In my view environmentalism needs to be more rational, broader based, and more able to separate itself from the notion that anything that has to do with enjoying the outdoors contributes towards an improved environment. Graphs about the urgent need for a well ordered educational program and the means now more than ever, there must be dedicated individuals who are willing to give of their time, effort, and money to help meet the challenges as they arise.

Charles Morrison
1117 Moler Ave.
Hagerstown, Md.

The Reader's Voice

Dear Sir:

I have had a chance to read over my copy of the VOICE's December 1973 edition, and, frankly, I am a bit shocked by both your editorial comment, "Who in the Hell asked the Snowshoe Hares", and the reprint without added comment of "Snowshoe

Hardway

(cont. from p. 2)

reason for non-acceptance.

The Voice can always use black and white photographs. Many people who "read" the Voice actually only look at the pictures and read their captions.

Thus a good picture may well be worth a good article.

We can use original cartoons. We will consider poems. In fact, we will consider anything!

Since President Nixon has suggested that everyone stay home in order to drive up the price of gasoline, we suggest that while you are sitting around watching the price of gasoline click upward, you write somethings you

write something for the Voice. The Highlands Voice would appreciate it, and one distracted, absent-minded school teacher would sleep more soundly.

Last year the state of Oregon passed a "bottle bill." The innovative measure outlawed throwaway containers for soft drinks and beer, and made payment mandatory for returned bottles.

Blasted by can and bottle manufacturers as irresponsible and uneconomic, the bill has turned out to be amazingly successful in Oregon. According to government studies bottles and cans accounted for 34.9 percent of Oregon's roadside litter in October 1971. By February of 1973 bottles and cans comprised only 19.4 percent of the litter. No more recent studies are available for the end of 1973, but eyewitness accounts say one has to really search for a discarded bottle or can in Oregon. According to the Oregon State Coordinator for Natural Resources, "For those who still throw containers out there's someone right behind them, picking them up for the deposit."

According to a Charleston Gazette editorial (Dec. 19, 1973) officials from every state except Alaska have approached Oregon for information on the "bottle bill's" success. We assume that West Virginia is among the states which have approached Oregon for more information. Has our state government received enough information to prohibit throw-away containers? I prohibit throw-away beverage containers in the Mountain State? If not, we suggest that every legislator take a five minute drive from the Capitol in any direction, over any road, including interstate highways and city streets, and take someone along to count the cans and bottles lying beside the roadway. We think no further information will be required to outlaw these permanent blights on our landscape.

Assessed", by Mr. Paul Frank in the ALLEGHENY JOURNAL.

I am first and foremost shocked at the apparent willingness of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy to take a firm and hard-line stand in any environmental matter without first investigating it, and secondly, receiving the blessings of the membership and/or directorate in such a stand. At least I fail to find any such position noted in any official correspondence to the membership I have received. As a member who was part of the group which founded the Conservancy, I must protest such action.

The first reaction of mine upon the beginning of development of the Snowshoe concept was to personally go up to the mountain to see what was going on for myself. I first found out that - although a personally written invitation was mailed to the Conservancy by Snowshoe's President - the Conservancy has not been out to look. I further found, out that Snowshoe is planning to request the opportunity of coming before the Mid-Winter Workshop in Elkins January 26th, and is planning to re-state their invitation.

Although the effects of the new development on that bit of Pocahontas County will be significant, I have found their personnel to be very sensitive to the environment. They have avoided all burning where possible, have chipped all brush and used it to mulch trails and clearings, have kept bulldozers off the ski slopes almost all the time, have used the relatively small quantity of timber cut as business for local mills and then returned it to the mountain for use in structures, and, for the most part, are building their structures and parking areas, etc. on sites of old spoil areas on where the Mower Lumber interests had clearcut in the past.

Mountain Manager Danny Seme, Jr. was proud of the fact that, in the spruce forests, he has constructed a berm around root structures of trees on the outside of the forests to protect the fragile spruce from wind...and that since then they have not lost one tree to windstorms.

The proposed lake on the very headwaters of Shavers Fork River has caused considerable concern. Yet, when it is finished, this earth dam will hold back siltation, and, as this lake is on the very headwaters of the river it will not affect in any way the main tributaries of the river which enter the stream below the Snowshoe properties. Normal flow of the river will continue through the lake's spillway. Sure -- there's going to be some siltation as they construct, but in the long pull the area will be far less affected than timbering, or strip mining, etc. that has been going on downstream for some years.

Snowshoe's planning and construction is being done with great concern for prevention of damage to the area. I wish you

(cont. on p. 4)

Elkinton

(cont. from p. 2)

is never done. Great challenges confront us. The literal boom in recreational developments coupled with a complete lack of land use regulations or planning present us with a genuine crisis. To the highlands, this is the single most important issue, yet one of the least understood and appreciated by the citizenry. Continued brushfire fighting will be with us in the fields of river impoundments, strip-mining, Forest Service practices, highway construction, etc. No way has yet been found to form a strategy that will replace the scatter-shot approach as individual areas are threatened. Within the Conservancy, as we pass from our youth as an organization, during which time there is enthusiasm at the novelty of our actions, we face the maturing years, during which we will hopefully become wiser, more thoughtful, (though not necessarily more conservative) and possibly more potent politically. I hope you join me in looking forward to a great year in 1974. We are all in need of each other's help in facing the challenges before us.

In the midst of various energy crises, shortages, flooding, stripping, road building, political collapse and moral turpitude the Voice notes with glee an inspiring event which transpired on the Hawaiian island of Maui.

It seems that a handful of students were working on an ecological study in the forest of Halekala Volcano, when one of them espied a bird. Apparently the group was ornithologically-minded, because the students quickly compared notes, then announced to the world that a new species had been discovered.

According to the National Science Foundation, the new bird is a member of the Hawaiian honey creeper family. It is about the size of an English Sparrow, is brownish-olive on the back and buff underneath, with a black mask totally covering its face.

It's the first new bird reported in over ten years, and it has not yet been named.

The Voice applauds the industry of the eight students who spotted the avian wonder. And we extend out immediate biological recognition to the newcomer.

Burrell

(cont. from p. 2)

Legislature this session will be the Natural Streams Preservation Act which will insure that a certain number of West Virginia's finest rivers and streams be permanently maintained in a free flowing condition. It will prohibit dam construction on them. It should not be confused with the ill-fated scenic rivers act which provided for condemning privately owned river front land, anathema to West Virginians. It will be your duty in the month ahead to contact the legislature Delegates and Senators in your district and explain the importance of this bill and of your interest in it. Make sure that these people, most of whom have interests in other important matters, do not confuse the Natural Streams Preservation Act with any other bill. It does not condemn land or regulate the use of private ownership in anyway except to forbid dam construction.

Do your rivers a favor and get '74 off to a good start. Call or write your representatives today. See you on the river.

Wilderness

(cont. from p. 7)

which began some time ago. The Forest Service continues to insist that the 1964 Act's definition of qualifying "wilderness" excludes lands undergoing nature's restoration. Congress has never bought that approach. In fact, many of the areas designated by or pursuant to the 1964 Act contained substantial evidence of Man's prior activity. As revised by the Interior Committee to be as non-controversial as possible, S. 316 no longer explicitly states that "restored" lands fit the definition of "wilderness." Yet, by designating admittedly restored areas for "instant" membership in the National Wilderness System, S. 316 strongly implies rejection of the Forest Service's view.

The reason why the Forest Service wants a Congressionally sanctioned "restored lands" definition for the eastern wilderness covered by S. 316 is quite simple. It is to provide the Service with a powerful weapon to fight wilderness proponents in the West where big battles are now brewing. The Service will surely argue, if its eastern wilderness definition is passed, that when Congress enacted a looser def-

Spring Outings

It is necessary for persons planning to attend the trips to notify the leader IN ADVANCE. If you have to cancel out after you have made a commitment to the leader to attend, you must let him know this.

Out outings program can work positively toward out goals if the members care enough to take part. Make it work, participate!

Jerry Kyle

Lusk

(cont. from p. 1)

Lusk continued by asking the legislature to repeal the moratorium on stripping in twenty-two West Virginia counties. The reason for this request was not made clear, since the counties under the moratorium have little or no coal.

Another item in Lusk's repertoire was a request to lift the ban on stripping within sight of highways and state parks.

Lusk's proposals come in response to a report submitted to the sub-committee from the Joint Committee on Government and Finance by Kanawha County Senator Mario Palumbo. Palumbo's proposals called for elimination of highwalls, prohibition of spoil banks on slopes steeper than 20 degrees, repeal of bench width restrictions, lifting the ban on stripping within sight of highways and parks and repealing certain water drainage requirements.

After patiently considering Palumbo's proposals and Lusk's pleas the sub-committee decided not to recommend any specific action on strip mining to the Government and Finance Committee. Rather the subcommittee suggested that a task force be created to deal with changes in the 1971 stripping law, including consideration of Palumbo's proposals.

Nevertheless the Government and Finance Committee decided to recommend the Palumbo bill to the legislature. However, the committee did not endorse the bill for passage. The committee justified this course of action on the basis that all the members of the committee had not read the bill.

The committee decided to submit the bill to the legislature in response to its duties toward the Stanford Research Institute strip mine study of 1971. The Government and Finance Committee had been charged with making recommendations on the three-year old study, but had made none to date.

All Conservancy members should watch closely new strip mine bills introduced into the West Virginia legislature. Obtain copies of them, read their provisions carefully with an eye open for anything which will weaken the 1971 law or expand stripping in the state. If anyone notices anything in any bill which appears to favor weakening the 1971 law, write immediately to your legislators and alert the VOICE to the situation.

inition for the East, Congress implicitly declared that a stricter definition prevails in the West.

There has been no action yet by the House Interior Committee on eastern forest wilderness. It is vital that the House Interior Committee begin work promptly. Otherwise this second session of the 93d Congress will come and go, and all the good efforts on the Senate side would have to be repeated again in the 94th.

If S. 316 passes the Senate in its present form the best strategy will be to persuade the House Committee to begin with S. 316 rather than the existing outdated House bills. This is only common sense because in the end the two Houses must agree on a common text.

It is vital that the public advise Congress of its strong and unqualified support for S. 316. In the first place contact your own Congressmen and Senators. West Virginians should concentrate heavily on 2nd District Representative Harley O. Staggers because both Dolly Sods and Otter Creek are in the 2nd District. Since the Senate will be acting soon on S. 316 particular attention should also be paid to Senators Jennings Randolph and Robert Byrd.

Letters should also be directed to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, Suite 324, Russell Senate Office Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20010. Members of the Committee are Herman Talmadge, Chairman (GA), James Eastland (MS), George McGovern, (SD), James Allister (AL), Hubert Humphrey (MN), Walter Huddleston, (KY), Dick Clark (IA), Carl Curtis (NB), George Aiken (VT), Milton Young (ND), Bob Dole (KS), Henry Bellmon (OK) and Jesse Helms (NC). The first seven members on the list are Democrats, the last six Republicans.

Encourage Senators Randolph and Byrd to speak to their colleagues on the above committee and to urge support for S. 316. Contact West Virginia's Representatives and urge them to support the eastern wilderness cause, and encourage the House Interior Committee and its subcommittee chairman to take up the Senate-passed bill promptly. House Interior Chairman is James A. Haley (D-FL). John Melchor (D-MT) is chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee which will handle the eastern wilderness areas bill.

Dave Saylor
Citizens for Eastern Wilderness
815 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006

APCC

(cont. from p. 1)

shops from coal to oil. But according to Chessie officials no oil was available and the program for pollution abatement must be redesigned to fit the properties of coal. The APCC granted a nine-month extension to Chessie.

The Kingsford Company reported that its pollution control system for its charcoal plant at Belington was already built and ready to be put into operation - except for the fact that the system runs on oil and no oil is available to run it.

APCC Director Carl Beard said the commission would ask the Federal Government for help in getting oil for Kingsford, but, said Beard, "I don't think it'll do any good."

The APCC granted Kingsford a twelve month extension to redesign its system and rebuild it.

The Roseville Company at Swiss advised the committee that its new afterburner

system for its charcoal kilns is being converted from oil to natural gas. No oil is available to run the system. According to a company spokesman, Roseville's problem now is to obtain the parts necessary for the conversion. The spokesman said that deliveries of parts were very slow at present.

The APCC granted Roseville a twelve month extension for its conversion to gas.

Earlier in January APCC Director Beard threatened to resign if low-grade sulfur coal from western states was imported to feed West Virginia coal burning facilities. When advised that the Chessie shops at Huntington would use West Virginia coal Beard commented, "I'm real happy to see they're going to stay with West Virginia coal."

Snowshoe

(cont. from p. 1)

and all Conservancy members could see the care that Ned Gwathmey, the firm's Architect, is taking with tree removal and site preparation. The construction crews do not move one inch without his daily plans for each tree and each area. When you walk about the mountain you can see the results of that careful planning.

As an employee of the State Park System, I can categorically deny the statement that development of Snowshoe will mean economic disaster for Canaan Valley, etc., as you stated. Conversely, we have discussed this thoroughly and it is the feeling of all concerned, including the operator of the Canaan Valley Ski Center, that the two areas COMPLEMENT, rather than COMPETE. I'll go you one further. I believe that within the next decade you may well face similar developments all across the highlands. That may not be in the best interests of us as environmentally concerned individuals. Just fact, as the man says.

The Conservancy, in my opinion, should zero in on the truly critical problem alluded to in the beginning of development at Snowshoe. This is a crying need for land use planning (read that ZONING) in our highlands. County-wide master plans have failed in Tucker and Pocahontas and elsewhere. While I am convinced of the land by the Snowshoe Company personnel, we all should be concerned about the marginal operator that will be tempted to construct a tavern, gas station, tourist trap, gift shop, etc. to catch the tourists coming and going. Without reasoned land planning this problem could ruin the land far more than a hundred Snowshoes. What are we doing about that?

Of 7,000 acres purchased by Snowshoe--only 3,000 will have any type of development. The remaining acreage will be left with only trails and similar intrusions by man. The developments are mainline on the ridges, leaving the main portion of the bowl below Thorny Flat untouched. And, regardless of the unsupported allegations of the editorial -- the land was purchased totally by Snowshoe, including minerals! They have immediate option or first refusal rights on another 33,000 acres which they may exercise in the coming months or years, under the same or similar terms.

I think that any evaluation of Snowshoe and its effects should also consider the county. Pocahontas County will be uplifted by the new tourist business, and positively so. A proposed program, for example, will see classes at the Pocahontas County High School in such subjects as snowmaking, lift maintenance, and snow grooming, so that a lot of local high school graduates will stay in the county instead of making a mass exodus on graduation. The tax base will rise, and there will be a lot of prosperity for a lot of people. And that is not all bad.

When the state parks' improvement program was announced way back in 1964, and continually since then, it was pointed out that the new park developments were chosen to prove the viability of recreation as a year-round industry in the highlands of West Virginia. The investment in new parks was mainly justified in being this "showcase" for private developments that would come.

Snowshoe is the first major example of success in that program. How the State of West Virginia and its citizens allow the remaining land to be developed is the true measure of our good stewardship of our highlands. The blind opposition to the Snowshoe concept is, to me, a repugnant demonstration by the one organization that has carefully earned a reputation for responsible deliberation before action.

Tell me it ain't so! Otherwise, on behalf of all of us who are proud of our Conservancy, take an intelligent look at Snowshoe and base your comments on FACTS, not fear and hearsay.

Respectfully,

John P. Killoran
407 Circle Drive
Hurricane, W.Va.
25526

The Land Rush in Monroe County

By Karen Mitchell



Newcomer and Native

Monroe County is gaining population. The new people are coming from the cities and suburbs, university campuses and corporate industries "back to the land." Monroe has been a home for farmers and agriculture for as long as it has been a county. When MOTHER EARTH NEWS put out the word in 1970 that people in West Virginia has inexpensive land for sale on the back roads, the urban dwellers who wanted to change life style began finding their way into the county looking for a new place to live. Most had neither the money or inclination to purchase a large farm and operate it with the profit motive uppermost in mind (although when one of Monroe's bluegrass grazing farms comes on the market there are ready buyers). The kind of place the new people were looking for had to have mainly, isolation, a few acres of tillable land for intensive organic gardening and farming, preferably some kind of house, water available, either a creek running through the place or, if further back up the water shed, a fast running branch, and trees; beautiful forest land - a steep hillside growing up in maple, sycamore, oak, walnut, poplar, pine.

It is difficult to tell exactly how many new people have found an alternative way of life in the county. I have talked with the only real estate broker in Union, Monroe's county seat. He has handled the transfer of roughly a hundred land transactions comprising from twenty up to twelve hundred acres each to out of state buyers in the past year. Land is being sought by developers and speculators as well as the home-steading people. A recreational complex in the eastern edge of the county comprising forty-eight hundred acres is now in the planning stage and those plans call for the lots to be sold to city dwellers for second home sites.

The land boom came to Monroe County just as it has come to other isolated sections of the country. Up until three years ago the real estate business had a buyer's market here. Since the influx of new buyers it has become a seller's market. The supply of readily salable, that is speculative properties, has gradually dwindled, the prices have risen on all types of land and today if a buyer of land finds the place he wants at what he can afford to pay he had better buy it rather than go back home and decide -- because it will probably be sold by the time he comes back to look at it again.

When all the activity of getting settled in to the rural way of life has subsided, what effect will the new people have on the life of rural W. Va. and Monroe County in particular? One must live with the people already here. For the most part, the natives were friendly and took a typically Appalachian attitude toward the new comers - laconic, bemused and tolerant. The ideas and needs of the new people about material goods - the more one does for oneself, the less money one needs to spend - dovetails neatly with the natives' respect for thrift. "Use it up, wear it out, make it do" has been a necessary way of life with rural Monroe Countians in order to survive as farmers.

The new people had seen the opposite in their past experiences. Perhaps for the first time in their lives they saw food produced and consumed on the same piece of ground. They learned how hogs are grown from pig to pan. Learned how to dress a chicken for cooking - to care for animals, build fences, cut firewood (keep a fire from going out!) fix a second hand pickup truck with their own hands, attend a country auction and bid on used tools, furniture, machinery, livestock. All of it was new to them. Most had read widely about how to milk a cow, pipe water from a spring, build up the land with organic materials but the actual doing was usually a different and more exciting matter.

One of the new residents saw a need for exchanging the acquired skills of the older residents of Monroe County with the eager-to-learn new people. He got an initial grant of eighty-five hundred dollars to pay people over age fifty-five three dollars and a half an hour to show students their particular skills. The name of the enterprise is Mountain Heritage School. It has teachers signed up in about fifteen different skills from banjo picking to quilting to working with draft horses.



Country Auction

Another new resident saw the need for a series of newspaper articles about life in the county and with other media-minded people both native and new comers, are now publishing MONROE LIFE about once every three months through the weekly paper, THE MONROE WATCHMAN.

What effect will these gentle, articulate and idealistic new people have on local politics and land use practices? When anything is said about the plans for expanding the major highway through the county, Rt. 219, from two lanes to four, they immediately come to attention and propose ways of stopping plans for construction, saying that this is the sort of thing that blighted the area they moved away from and they don't want to see it happen in Monroe County. Another local issue to be decided by an election late in November is the continuation of an excess levy on property taxes for county school teachers pay, free text books and other school personnel salaries. A medical doctor and his wife who moved to Monroe from Cleveland, Ohio and bought a farm are solidly for the issue of continuing the excess levy. They have written letters to the editor of the WATCHMAN (who gave them front page exposure), made talks at PTA meetings and have personally contacted many citizens on behalf of voting for the proposal. They see good quality public schools a must in educating the children of this rural area. For too long Monroe has seen her children leave the county for better job opportunities in the city. Today many of the children of affluent suburbia are moving to Monroe County with the message that the good life is to be

lived in the country.

There are many years ahead of them to find ways of earning enough to live on, however. Some of the new people are able to find work that requires skills they learned before moving to the country. Carpenters, social workers, farmers from other areas, two medical doctors, one lawyer, one photographer have found jobs. Most of the new people are trying the alternative to their past jobs; they want to learn to grow their own food, some livestock and have something to sell. Part-time jobs are available particularly during planting and harvesting seasons on the larger farms in the county. Many native Monroe Countians work in industry in neighboring Virginia counties and in Monroe and Greenbrier county businesses. The new people say this kind of work would not allow them the kind of freedom they came here to enjoy. So they are satisfied with fewer material goods in order to have the richer more meaningful existence of tilling the land, growing their own food, raising their children in a rural area and taking pleasure in visiting their neighbors, both new people and native.



Looking at Land

Where Do We Go?

(cont. from p. 8)

should have trees in excess of eight feet in diameter. On the other hand, eastern hardwood forests, where the annual rate of growth is something like one-eighth of an inch, would have trees of approximately twelve inches in diameter. A twelve inch tree will provide approximately twelve board feet of lumber, whereas the product of a single Douglas Fir, at the end of 100 years, would be measured in thousands of board feet.

The sad truth is that clearcutting is one of the least costly forms of management known; that the Forest Service can show a lower per unit cost per unit of return than is possible under any other form of management. Since the Forest Service is a part of the sprawling U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and the USDA is production-minded, the Forest Service also tends to be production-minded to the exclusion of any other goals. Clearcutting management, in the Monongahela National Forest, appears to be exactly the same as that for which the 19th Century timber barons were blamed - "Cut out and get out!"

A seedling in the Douglas Fir country has little competition; it is one of the first species in the primary seral state to take root and there are only half-a-dozen dominant species in the area, anyway. On the other hand, in the eastern hardwood forests, there are numerous species of plants, all fighting for a foothold in newly cut-over areas. And the desirable timber species are several seral stages removed from the primary seral stage.

It would be sheer folly to overturn the ruling against clearcutting in the eastern hardwood forests because clearcutting is an effective management, tool in the northwest. It would be just as senseless to uphold a blanket ban on clearcutting, based on experiences in the eastern hardwood forests. Clearly, management practices in each area should be geared to prevailing local conditions including the growth patterns of the trees.

Davis Power Project

(cont. from p. 1)

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projects such as the routing of Appalachian Corridor "H" highway, the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area, the Seneca Rocks-Spruce Knob NRA, etc. The Conservancy went further in its comments and requested the Council of Environmental Quality, which ultimately must im-

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In addition to the Conservancy, other environmental groups who have intervened include the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund, the Izaak Walton League, the Canaan Valley Association, and the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund.

Any interested individual or group who wished to express their opinion regarding this proposed project should send such to Mr. Kenneth Plumb, Secretary, FPC, 825 N. Capitol St. NW Washington, D.C. 20002 before March 18, 1974. Contributions are also being accepted by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy (Canaan Valley, Davis WV 26260) to help defray the cost of legal counsel and other expenses connected with this proceeding.

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By Gordon T. Hamrick

'Bat Facts'

By Charles E. Mohr

Conservancy Meets

(cont. from p. 1)

McBee outlined to the attentive listeners the Federal Highway Administration's role in highway planning in West Virginia. He explained that the purpose of the controversial Appalachian Highways system is to provide better economic conditions in the Highland area by improving access to the area.

He noted that an environmental impact statement for Corridor H construction from Wymer to Strasburg, Virginia, should be completed by the fall of 1974. After that public hearings will be held to determine alternate plans for the road's routing as well as environmental protection during construction.

McBee noted that no definite route for Corridor H has been determined beyond Wymer in Randolph County.

MNF Supervisor Al Troutt followed McBee on the program, and he shifted emphasis of the discussion from Corridor H to the Highland Scenic Highway.

Troutt observed that the Scenic Highway had been started in 1965, and that only 13.4 miles of the road have been completed to date. He revealed that a bridge has been finished over Williams River, and that grading is nearly completed for two miles north of Williams River. But he added that no one has been contracted to pave this two-mile stretch.

Troutt said that routing has been completed for seven additional miles which would bring the Scenic Highway into Rt. 219, but he explained that no funds for construction have been appropriated.

Troutt was more concerned with what will become of the Scenic Highway after it reaches Rt. 219. The Federal Aid to Highways Act for 1973 authorized existence of the road from Rt. 219 to Rt. 250, but made no com-

Moore Calls

(cont. from p. 1)

natural resources now existing in West Virginia; and (3) entrustment of initial research and development to the Bureau for Coal Research at West Virginia University.

Moore's only other mention of environmental concerns in his legislative address was endorsement of a legislative committee proposal to create a state environmental protection agency. Moore said, "...I can support your interim committee's approach to the creation of a state environmental protection agency and urge expeditious consideration of that committee's proposal."

mitments to financing or planning the construction. Troutt pointed out that the proposed route from Rt. 219 to Rt. 250 passes directly through the Snowshoe Recreational Complex, now under construction on Cheat Mountain in Pocahontas County. He observed that the route would bisect one of Snowshoe's hotels and two of its ski slopes.

Troutt was also concerned that the 1973 Highways Act designated the Scenic Highway as a Parkway. This places responsibility for the road's administration directly on the Forest Service. Included in administrative functions is law enforcement, and Troutt pointed out that at present the Forest Service does not even have the authority to snow plow the existing 13.4 miles of the Highway.

He went on to discuss several alternatives being considered by the Forest Service for dealing with the Scenic Highway and its many problems. Among the alternatives were: (1) ending construction at Rt. 219, (2) upgrading Rt. 219 to Elkins, (3) re-routing the highway in order to by-pass Snowshoe, (4) continuing construction as planned and work out the Snowshoe difficulties, and (5) redesignating the road as multi-purpose.

Troutt expressed the feeling that he favored alternative (5) if construction continues on the Scenic Highway beyond Rt. 219. He explained that designating the road as multi-purpose would allow the road to be used by trucks servicing Snowshoe, thus preventing the construction of yet another major highway from Rt. 219 to Snowshoe.

Conservancy activist Jim Hinson then addressed the audience on how the public can participate in and influence highway planning.

Hinson, a resident of Pittsburgh, has taken an active interest in WVHC involvement with Corridor H and the Highland Scenic Highway.

Following the panel members' presentations an intrigued audience kept the panel busy answering questions for more than an hour.

Open Letter (cont. from p. 1) Unfortunately for those who seek to preserve Shavers Fork in its present condition, the stream and its multi-faceted value is incalculable, intangible and non-transferable. It also is irreplaceable.

Under the guidance of you and a few of your equally far-sighted predecessors, West Virginia has forged to the forefront among states offering unique tourist attractions.

From a "hard cash" standpoint, I cite only one example of tourism-income derived from your protection of West Virginia's wealth of resources.

According to a report from the state capital, each and every deer taken by an out-of-state hunter is worth \$1,000 to the state's total income.

Compared to the cash value of coal deposits, that sum is totally inconsequential. But, where the cash-flow from mining finds its way to very few native West Virginia pockets, the cash-flow generated by all forms of tourism, including hunting and fishing, is widely dispersed directly to local interests.

From the standpoint of practical political expediency, I am aware which side of a politician's bread is buttered. And I do not say that in a derogatory sense. It is a hard fact of the political scene and must be accommodated.

But on the other side of the ledger is the equally if not immediately important factor called "history".

Your actions today will be reflected in coming years either on of two ways. If you opt for a realistic middle-of-the-road plan which will assure fair development of your state's mineral resources and at the same time insure its equally valuable tourist assets, your name undoubtedly will be listed among those far-sighted, 20th century leaders who refused to take the line of least resistance; who instead insisted upon finding a way to accomplish fair and equitable compromise between two vital approaches to the natural resources-environmental problems which now beset this nation.

Similarly, if you allow yourself to become convinced that the rightful ownership of the state's mineral deposits transcends all other vested interests--especially at this critical point in the issues--your name is likely to be found among those who not only allowed West Virginia to be destructively exploited, but who aided and abetted that destruction.

Governor, with all the sincerity I can muster, and with full cognizance of your busy schedule, let me assure you that a compromise between both valid viewpoints is possible.

I am prepared to elaborate on that point if you have either the time or the inclination to seek further information.

On the other hand, if you are convinced that only the mineral rights should be developed, even at the cost of all other intrinsic values, then further evidence in this letter would only move it closer to the waste-basket.

At the very least, before you make any precipitous decisions regarding the fate of Shavers Fork, please, please visit the stream, walk or ride a hand-car along its course. Open your mind to the unique values involved in Shavers Fork as it now is amid the irreplaceable splendor of Monongahela National Forest.

Modern mining technology is available to solve this problem equitably for both sides of the controversy.

Mining interests understandably are reluctant to spend the money necessary to accomplish such aims, unless they are forced to do so by legal authority charged with two-sided responsibility.

I personally hold no brief against mine owners making a profit. I am, however, opposed as a matter of principle to mine owners reaping profits at the expense of the vested rights of all other citizens, state and national.

Finally, I have written tens of thousands of words for local and national publications extolling the wonders of Shavers Fork and West Virginia's adherence to policies aimed at preserving such resources.

Please don't leave me with egg on my face...More important, please do not make a decision which neither you nor even God can reverse.

Without your executive intervention, Shavers Fork will be lost beyond recall. Can you personally afford the onus of such a loss?

Most sincerely,

Tom Cofield

(Tom Cofield is an outdoors columnist and editor for the BALTIMORE NEWS-AMERICAN, and a contributor to many national outdoor magazines.)

Highlights of the January Board Meeting

The Board of Directors Meeting on Sunday morning, January 27, produced a wide variety of resolutions, notions and positions on environmental problems now besetting the Highland region.

Charles Carlson, Conservancy representative to the West Virginia Scenic Trails Conference, announced that volunteers are needed in Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Webster and Randolph Counties to approach property owners in these counties to acquire right-of-way privileges for the Allegheny Trail.

Volunteers should advise Nick Lozano, 1020 Grosscup Ave., Dunbar WV 25064, or Charlie Carlson, Box 131, Charleston, WV

25321, of their willingness to help. Nick and Charlie will forward further details.

The Board voted to form a Land Use Planning Committee. President Dave Elkinton will appoint a chairman for the committee at a later date.

Elkinton announced that the Davis Power Project Committee is preparing testimony for the final hearings into the controversial power reservoir and facility in Canaan Valley. The hearings are scheduled for March.

The Board also passed a motion from Nick Zvegintzov establishing the Conservancy

position on strip mining as favoring the strictest possible federal legislation to regulate the industry.

Max Smith reported that the Nature Conservancy had met with Natural Resources Parks Chief, Kermit McKeever, and that plans for development in Beartown State Park meet with Nature Conservancy's approval. Max noted that no paved roads will be built into the area and that boardwalks and gravelled walkways will serve to keep visitors from damaging the sensitive plant growths in Beartown.

Wilderness Nears Decision In Senate

On December 20 the Senate Interior Committee unanimously approved S. 316, the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act. The bill contains a few improvements to the already excellent draft of S. 316 approved last August by the Committee's Public Lands subcommittee.

As reported to the Senate floor S. 316 designates nineteen "instant" wilderness areas, areas which become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System immediately upon enactment. Two of these, Upper Buffalo in Arkansas and Otter Creek in West Virginia, had been classified as "study areas" in the August 1st Subcommittee draft. On the debit side, however, the full Committee deleted all mention of Laurel Fork in Virginia which had been a Subcommittee choice for "instant" wilderness status.

Like its predecessor, the 1964 Wilderness Act, S. 316 provides that certain other areas, thirty-nine in all, must be studied for their potential as Wilderness Areas. Included in this list is the Cranberry Back Country in West Virginia.

The Forest Service is to review the study areas individually and make recommendations to Congress on their suitability as Wilderness Areas. These recommendations are to be made over a ten-year span, with at least one-third of the areas required to be reviewed and recommended upon in the first three years, and a second one-third in the next three years.

Additionally, S. 316 empowers the Forest Service to study and make recommendations regarding other potential Wilderness Areas east of the 100th meridian. The Interior Committee is "virtually certain" that such areas exist, and it "expects" the Forest Service to conduct an "active inventory" of its domain to discover such areas.

During the ten-year study area review period, and while Congress is weighing Forest Service recommendations, each study area is to be managed in the same manner as a Wilderness Area is managed under the 1964, i.e., no motor vehicles, road building, or timbering, (but with the exceptions and additional protections discussed below)

"This is to insure that, while studies are proceeding or while Congress is weighing the recommendations of the President (i.e., the Forest Service) upon completion of the studies, no activities will occur in the areas in question which could destroy the wilderness values the areas might have and, thus, render moot Congressional consideration of the very studies it has mandated." (See S. Rep. No. 93-661)

Congress, not the Forest Service, makes the decision whether a study area should revert to ordinary classification or be designated as wilderness.

Under S. 316 the following special provisions apply to all national forest study areas and wilderness areas east of the 100th meridian, except Minnesota's Boundary Waters. This means additional protection for several previously designated wilderness areas.

No Roads in Study Areas: In some of the study areas there are roads currently open to public motorized use. Under S. 316 the secretary of Agriculture may keep these roads open, but only if he finds a necessity for such continued public usage.

This compromise provision seems desirable, so long as the Secretary exercises his power sparingly. The Secretary still may not establish motor roads in wilderness areas, nor open up roads presently closed to the public.

No Mining in Either Type of Area: S. 316 prohibits mining and the leasing of mining rights on each of the wilderness

For Gob's Sake

An interim committee of the West Virginia legislature has recommended to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance that the Department of Natural Resources take on the task of reclaiming abandoned gob piles.

The committee's bill called for a legislative appropriation of \$500,000 to be matched with \$1.5 million from Appalachian Regional Commission to finance the project.

Despite the worthiness of reclaiming gob piles, eyewitness reports from Kanawha County indicate that gob piles are rapidly dwindling anyway. On two different occasions at two different large Kanawha County mines workers were seen sifting through gob piles and separating coal from impurities. The coal was being loaded into railroad cars.

One worker was asked where the coal was going. "Out west," he replied.

Rumors that small coal suppliers are stealing Department of Highways gravel, painting it black and selling it for gob may not be so far-fetched after all.

Legislators Support Moore's Coal Plans

Reaction among West Virginia's legislators to Governor Moore's proposed Commission on Energy, Economy and Environment was generally favorable.

Senate President William Brotherton (D-Kan.) commended the Governor for planning a conference with the governors of sixteen other coal producing states.

House minority leader George Seiber (R-Ohio) declared the commission to be innovative. State Republican Party chairman Thomas Potter (R. - Kan.) echoed Seibert's compliment, but added that he needed more details on the commission's formation and development.

Delegate Phyllis Rutledge (D-Kan.) was disappointed that Moore did not ask for a severance tax on coal. She noted that Moore stated that the coal industry must share the burden of state revenues, but that he failed to specify precisely how the coal industry would contribute their fair share. She also noted that no governor had ever called for a severance tax on coal, but that she had a bill prepared for introduction into the House which would call for a severance tax.

Although most legislators voiced support for Moore's projected coal commission and coal management, most withheld endorsement of the plan until more facts become available.

areas and study areas established by it, except where valid mining rights now exist. Most of these rights involve coal, and will have to be purchased by the federal government someday in order to preserve the wilderness character of the areas involved. The same mining prohibition will apply to any wilderness or study area subsequently created pursuant to S. 316. It also applied immediately to existing eastern national forest wilderness areas.

No Grazing on Wilderness Areas: All commercial livestock grazing on existing eastern national forest wilderness areas, and on the wilderness areas designated by S. 316, must cease two years after S. 316 is enacted.

Inholdings Subject to Limited Condemnation and Complete Protection Against Incompatible Uses: About ten per cent of S. 316's total wilderness and study area acreage consists of privately owned land, commonly called "inholdings." Current uses of these inholdings, including the maintenance of access thereto, already threaten the wilderness character of surrounding lands. Under existing law, the Forest Service could take these lands by condemnation upon a relatively simple showing of a "public purpose" for the taking. Surprisingly, the Wilderness Act of 1964 deprived the Forest Service of all condemnation power over private holdings within the instant areas (though not the study areas) designated by that Act. S. 316 does not go quite so far. It authorizes condemnation of wilderness and study area inholdings if they are being used in a manner "incompatible" with wilderness management, and if the owner refuses to select a compatible use. Thus, the condemnation authority is narrower than that which is presently applicable to these lands, but constitutes an advance over the 1964 Act.

After S. 316 is reported to the Senate floor, it will be referred to the Agriculture Committee whose members insist that they be given some say in the disposition of forests purchased from private interests under the Weeks Act. A multitude of things could go wrong there if we fail to let the Agriculture Committee know how strongly the public supports the Interior Committee's bill.

Because it has often worked well with the Agriculture Committee, the Forest Service may use that friendly forum to (1) reduce the number and size of S. 316's proposed areas, (2) give the Executive Branch (in practice, this means the Forest Service itself) discretion to terminate wilderness management for study areas, and (3) write into law the Service's view that wilderness areas must have always been "pure" for it to qualify for protection under the 1964 Act.

Point (1) needs no elaboration here. Point (2) refers to a provision in the Forest Service's counter proposals, S. 938 and S. 2487 -- both soundly rejected by the Interior Committee -- which would allow the President to open a study area to "multiple use" destruction of wilderness values before Congress even has a chance to consider Forest Service recommendations on the area's supposed non-suitability as a wilderness.

Point (3) concerns that unfortunate, but highly important, definitional struggle

(cont. on p. 4)

Davis Power Project

(cont. from p. 1)

ning which allowed the Davis project to be considered independently of other nearby projects as projects such as the routing of Appalachian Corridor "H" highway, the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area, the Seneca Rocks-Spruce Knob NRA, etc. The Conservancy went further in its comments and requested the Council of Environmental Quality, which ultimately must approve Impact Statements, to require a regional statement that would interrelate various projects.

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By Charles E. Mohr

Conservancy Meets

(cont. from p. 1)

McBee outlined to the attentive listeners the Federal Highway Administration's role in highway planning in West Virginia. He explained that the purpose of the controversial Appalachian Highways system is to provide better economic conditions in the Highland area by improving access to the area.

He noted that an environmental impact statement for Corridor H construction from Wymer to Strasburg, Virginia, should be completed by the fall of 1974. After that public hearings will be held to determine alternate plans for the road's routing as well as environmental protection during construction.

McBee noted that no definite route for Corridor H has been determined beyond Wymer in Randolph County.

MNF Supervisor Al Troutt followed McBee on the program, and he shifted emphasis of the discussion from Corridor H to the Highland Scenic Highway.

Troutt observed that the Scenic Highway had been started in 1965, and that only 13.4 miles of the road have been completed to date. He revealed that a bridge has been finished over Williams River, and that grading is nearly completed for two miles north of Williams River. But he added that no one has been contracted to pave this two-mile stretch.

Troutt said that routing has been completed for seven additional miles which would bring the Scenic Highway into Rt. 219, but he explained that no funds for construction have been appropriated.

Troutt was more concerned with what will become of the Scenic Highway after it reaches Rt. 219. The Federal Aid to Highways Act for 1973 authorized existence of the road from Rt. 219 to Rt. 250, but made no com-

Moore Calls

(cont. from p. 1)

natural resources now existing in West Virginia; and (3) entrustment of initial research and development to the Bureau for Coal Research at West Virginia University.

Moore's only other mention of environmental concerns in his legislative address was endorsement of a legislative committee proposal to create a state environmental protection agency. Moore said, "...I can support your interim committee's approach to the creation of a state environmental protection agency and urge expeditious consideration of that committee's proposal."

mitments to financing or planning the construction. Troutt pointed out that the proposed route from Rt. 219 to Rt. 250 passes directly through the Snowshoe Recreational Complex, now under construction on Cheat Mountain in Pocahontas County. He observed that the route would bisect one of Snowshoe's hotels and two of its ski slopes.

Troutt was also concerned that the 1973 Highways Act designated the Scenic Highway as a Parkway. This places responsibility for the road's administration directly on the Forest Service. Included in administrative functions is law enforcement, and Troutt pointed out that at present the Forest Service does not even have the authority to snow plow the existing 13.4 miles of the Highway.

He went on to discuss several alternatives being considered by the Forest Service for dealing with the Scenic Highway and its many problems. Among the alternatives were: (1) ending construction at Rt. 219, (2) upgrading Rt. 219 to Elkins, (3) rerouting the highway in order to by-pass Snowshoe, (4) continuing construction as planned and work out the Snowshoe difficulties, and (5) redesignating the road as multi-purpose.

Troutt expressed the feeling that he favored alternative (5) if construction continues on the Scenic Highway beyond Rt. 219. He explained that designating the road as multi-purpose would allow the road to be used by trucks servicing Snowshoe, thus preventing the construction of yet another major highway from Rt. 219 to Snowshoe.

Conservancy activist Jim Hinson then addressed the audience on how the public can participate in and influence highway planning.

Hinson, a resident of Pittsburgh, has taken an active interest in WVHC involvement with Corridor H and the Highland Scenic Highway.

Following the panel members' presentations an intrigued audience kept the panel busy answering questions for more than an hour.

Open Letter (cont. from p. 1)

Unfortunately for those who seek to preserve Shavers Fork in its present condition, the stream and its multi-faceted value is incalculable, intangible and non-transferable. It also is irreplaceable.

Under the guidance of you and a few of your equally far-sighted predecessors, West Virginia has forged to the forefront among states offering unique tourist attractions.

From a "hard cash" standpoint, I cite only one example of tourism-income derived from your protection of West Virginia's wealth of resources.

According to a report from the state capital, each and every deer taken by an out-of-state hunter is worth \$1,000 to the state's total income.

Compared to the cash value of coal deposits, that sum is totally inconsequential. But, where the cash-flow from mining finds its way to very few native West Virginia pockets, the cash-flow generated by all forms of tourism, including hunting and fishing, is widely dispersed directly to local interests.

From the standpoint of practical political expediency, I am aware which side of a politician's bread is buttered. And I do not say that in a derogatory sense. It is a hard fact of the political scene and must be accommodated.

But on the other side of the ledger is the equally if not immediately important factor called "history".

Your actions today will be reflected in coming years either on of two ways. If you opt for a realistic middle-of-the-road plan which will assure fair development of your state's mineral resources and at the same time insure its equally valuable tourist assets, your name undoubtedly will be listed among those far-sighted, 20th century leaders who refused to take the line of least resistance; who instead insisted upon finding a way to accomplish fair and equitable compromise between two vital approaches to the natural resources-environmental problems which now beset this nation.

Similarly, if you allow yourself to become convinced that the rightful ownership of the state's mineral deposits transcends all other vested interests--especially at this critical point in the issues--your name is likely to be found among those who not only allowed West Virginia to be destructively exploited, but who aided and abetted that destruction.

Governor, with all the sincerity I can muster, and with full cognizance of your busy schedule, let me assure you that a compromise between both valid viewpoints is possible.

I am prepared to elaborate on that point if you have either the time or the inclination to seek further information.

On the other hand, if you are convinced that only the mineral rights should be developed, even at the cost of all other intrinsic values, then further evidence in this letter would only move it closer to the waste-basket.

At the very least, before you make any precipitous decisions regarding the fate of Shavers Fork, please, please visit the stream, walk or ride a hand-car along its course, Open your mind to the unique values involved in Shavers Fork as it now is amid the irreplaceable splendor of Monongahela National Forest.

Modern mining technology is available to solve this problem equitably for both sides of the controversy.

Mining interests understandably are reluctant to spend the money necessary to accomplish such aims, unless they are forced to do so by legal authority charged with two-sided responsibility.

I personally hold no brief against mine owners making a profit. I am, however, opposed as a matter of principle to mine owners reaping profits at the expense of the vested rights of all other citizens, state and national.

Finally, I have written tens of thousands of words for local and national publications extolling the wonders of Shavers Fork and West Virginia's adherence to policies aimed at preserving such resources.

Please don't leave me with egg on my face...More important, please do not make a decision which neither you nor even God can reverse.

Without your executive intervention, Shavers Fork will be lost beyond recall. Can you personally afford the onus of such a loss?

Most sincerely,

Tom Cofield

(Tom Cofield is an outdoors columnist and editor for the BALTIMORE NEWS-AMERICAN, and a contributor to many national outdoor magazines.)

Highlights of the January Board Meeting

The Board of Directors Meeting on Sunday morning, January 27, produced a wide variety of resolutions, notions and positions on environmental problems now besetting the Highland region.

Charles Carlson, Conservancy representative to the West Virginia Scenic Trails Conference, announced that volunteers are needed in Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Webster and Randolph Counties to approach property owners in these counties to acquire right-of-way privileges for the Allegheny Trail.

Volunteers should advise Nick Lozano, 1020 Grosscup Ave., Dunbar WV 25064, or Charlie Carlson, Box 131, Charleston, WV

25321, of their willingness to help. Nick and Charlie will forward further details.

The Board voted to form a Land Use Planning Committee. President Dave Elkinton will appoint a chairman for the committee at a later date.

Elkinton announced that the Davis Power Project Committee is preparing testimony for the final hearings into the controversial power reservoir and facility in Canaan Valley. The hearings are scheduled for March.

The Board also passed a motion from Nick Zvegintzov establishing the Conservancy

position on strip mining as favoring the strictest possible federal legislation to regulate the industry.

Max Smith reported that the Nature Conservancy had met with Natural Resources Parks Chief, Kermit McKeever, and that plans for development in Beartown State Park meet with Nature Conservancy's approval. Max noted that no paved roads will be built into the area and that boardwalks and gravelled walkways will serve to keep visitors from damaging the sensitive plant-growths in Beartown.

Wilderness Nears Decision in Senate

On December 20 the Senate Interior Committee unanimously approved S. 316, the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act. The bill contains a few improvements to the already excellent draft of S. 316 approved last August by the Committee's Public Lands subcommittee.

As reported to the Senate floor S. 316 designates nineteen "instant" wilderness areas, areas which become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System immediately upon enactment. Two of these, Upper Buffalo in Arkansas and Otter Creek in West Virginia, had been classified as "study areas" in the August 1st Subcommittee draft. On the debit side, however, the full Committee deleted all mention of Laurel Fork in Virginia which had been a Subcommittee choice for "instant" wilderness status.

Like its predecessor, the 1964 Wilderness Act, S. 316 provides that certain other areas, thirty - nine in all, must be studied for their potential as Wilderness Areas. Included in this list is the Cranberry Back Country in West Virginia.

The Forest Service is to review the study areas individually and make recommendations to Congress on their suitability as Wilderness Areas. These recommendations are to be made over a ten - year span, with at least one-third of the areas required to be reviewed and recommended upon in the first three years, and a second one-third in the next three years.

Additionally, S. 316 empowers the Forest Service to study and make recommendations regarding other potential Wilderness Areas east of the 100th meridian. The Interior Committee is "virtually certain" that such areas exist, and it "expects" the Forest Service to conduct an "active inventory" of its domain to discover such areas.

During the ten-year study area review period, and while Congress is weighing Forest Service recommendations, each study area is to be managed in the same manner as a Wilderness Area is managed under the 1964, i.e., no motor vehicles, road building, or timbering, (but with the exceptions and additional protections discussed below)

This compromise provision seems desirable, so long as the Secretary exercises his power sparingly. The Secretary still may not establish motor roads in wilderness areas, nor open up roads presently closed to the public.

No Mining in Either Type of Area: S. 316 prohibits mining and the leasing of mining rights on each of the wilderness

For Gob's Sake

An interim committee of the West Virginia legislature has recommended to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance that the Department of Natural Resources take on the task of reclaiming abandoned gob piles.

The committee's bill called for a legislative appropriation of \$500,000 to be matched with \$1.5 million from Appalachian Regional Commission to finance the project.

Despite the worthiness of reclaiming gob piles, eyewitness reports from Kanawha County indicate that gob piles are rapidly dwindling anyway. On two different occasions at two different large Kanawha County mines workers were seen sifting through gob piles and separating coal from impurities. The coal was being loaded into railroad cars.

One worker was asked where the coal was going. "Out west," he replied.

Rumors that small coal suppliers are stealing Department of Highways gravel, painting it black and selling it for gob may not be so far-fetched after all.

Legislators Support Moore's Coal Plans

Reaction among West Virginia's legislators to Governor Moore's proposed Commission on Energy, Economy and Environment was generally favorable.

Senate President William Brotherton (D-Kan.) commended the Governor for planning a conference with the governors of sixteen other coal producing states.

House minority leader George Seiber (R-Ohio) declared the commission to be innovative. State Republican Party chairman Thomas Potter (R. - Kan.) echoed Seibert's compliment, but added that he needed more details on the commission's formation and development.

Delegate Phyllis Rutledge (D-Kan.) was disappointed that Moore did not ask for a severance tax on coal. She noted that Moore stated that the coal industry must share the burden of state revenues, but that he failed to specify precisely how the coal industry would contribute their fair share. She also noted that no governor had ever called for a severance tax on coal, but that she had a bill prepared for introduction into the House which would call for a severance tax.

Although most legislators voiced support for Moore's projected coal commission and coal management, most withheld endorsement of the plan until more facts become available.

areas and study areas established by it, except where valid mining rights now exist. Most of these rights involve coal, and will have to be purchased by the federal government someday in order to preserve the wilderness character of the areas involved. The same mining prohibition will apply to any wilderness or study area subsequently created pursuant to S. 316. It also applied immediately to existing eastern national forest wilderness areas.

No Grazing on Wilderness Areas: All commercial livestock grazing on existing eastern national forest wilderness areas, and on the wilderness areas designated by S. 316, must cease two years after S. 316 is enacted.

Inholdings Subject to Limited Condemnation and Complete Protection Against Incompatible Uses: About ten per cent of S. 316's total wilderness and study area acreage consists of privately owned land, commonly called "inholdings." Current uses of these inholdings, including the maintenance of access thereto, already threaten the wilderness character of surrounding lands. Under existing law, the Forest Service could take these lands by condemnation upon a relatively simple showing of a "public purpose" for the taking. Surprisingly, the Wilderness Act of 1964 deprived the Forest Service of all condemnation power over private holdings within the instant areas (though not the study areas) designated by that Act. S. 316 does not go quite so far. It authorizes condemnation of wilderness and study area inholdings if they are being used in a manner "incompatible" with wilderness management, and if the owner refuses to select a compatible use. Thus, the condemnation authority is narrower than that which is presently applicable to these lands, but constitutes an advance over the 1964 Act.

After S. 316 is reported to the Senate floor, it will be referred to the Agriculture Committee whose members insist that they be given some say in the disposition of forests purchased from private interests under the Weeks Act. A multitude of things could go wrong there if we fail to let the Agriculture Committee know how strongly the public supports the Interior Committee's bill.

Because it has often worked well with the Agriculture Committee, the Forest Service may use that friendly forum to (1) reduce the number and size of S. 316's proposed areas, (2) give the Executive Branch (in practice, this means the Forest Service itself) discretion to terminate wilderness management for study areas, and (3) write into law the Service's view that wilderness areas must have always been "pure" for it to qualify for protection under the 1964 Act.

Point (1) needs no elaboration here. Point (2) refers to a provision in the Forest Service's counter proposals, S. 938 and S. 2487 -- both soundly rejected by the Interior Committee -- which would allow the President to open a study area to "multiple use" destruction of wilderness values before Congress even has a chance to consider Forest Service recommendations on the area's supposed non-suitability as a wilderness.

Point (3) concerns that unfortunate, but highly important, definitional struggle

(cont. on p. 4)

Shivered Timbers

Forest Service interpretation of the recent federal court decision banning clearcutting on the Monongahela National Forest is putting a pinch on private timber operators. Donald L. Fogus, executive secretary of the West Virginia Forest Products Association, contends that the Forest Service has shutdown the Monongahela to timbering. Fogus says the economic aspect of the shutdown has not been evaluated by the Forest Service, and that economic hardship on the timber industry and the communities where such industry is located is imminent.

Fogus announced that the association's board of directors intends to file a "friend of the court" brief to present the economic picture of the shutdown.

Monongahela Supervisor Al Troutt has announced that the Forest Service interprets the decision to ban clearcutting as applying to all timbering on the Monongahela, that no new timber contracts will be issued on the forest, and that all timbering on the Monongahela will end as of December 31, 1974.

Fogus explained that the problem now facing private timber operators was intense competition for privately owned forest lands. There is not enough privately owned timber in the vicinity of the Monongahela to keep all private operators in the area employed.

The Forest Service is expected to appeal the clearcutting ban imposed by U.S. District Judge Robert Maxwell on November 8, 1973. Maxwell ruled that clearcutting was a clear violation of the Organic Act of 1897, and that clearcutting on the Monongahela must cease immediately. Timber sales on the Monongahela were suspended in May, 1973 when the controversial case was initially filed in U.S. District Court in Elkins.

Where Do We Go From Here?

By Gordon T. Hamrick

U.S. District Judge Robert E. Maxwell recently ruled that clearcutting is not an acceptable method of forest management in the Monongahela National Forest, that clearcutting violates the spirit and intent of the Organic Act of 1897. The Forest Service, of course, immediately announced that it will appeal the ruling; that it -- the Forest Service -- feels that it cannot properly manage the National Forests in the northwest without clearcutting.

Judge Maxwell's ruling, as I understand it, applied only to the Monongahela National Forest. By inference, the ruling can be applied to all national forest lands; however, it appears probably that local conditions should be taken into consideration before applying a blanket condemnation to all clearcutting.

Clearcutting is not a recent innovation; it has been practiced ever since lumbering became a major industry. However, under the late Gifford Pinchot, a close look was taken at clearcutting practices on federally owned land and modifications were developed. The work of Pinchot led directly to the tree farm system, first established by Weyerhaeuser and followed by others, and to the concept of sustained yield - taking no more than new growth had replenished.

It is patently ridiculous to compare clearcutting in the eastern hardwood forest with clearcutting in the rain forests of the northwest. It is like trying to compare apples and oranges. The annual rate of growth for trees in the eastern hardwood forests is measured in tenths of an inch; the annual rate of growth for trees in the rain forests of the northwest is in excess of one inch.

A few years ago, the Forest Service presented a plan of management for the Monongahela National Forest, under which approximately 9,000 acres would be clearcut each year, putting management of forest on a 100 year cycle. Was it coincidence that the Sheldon Cooperative Sustained-Yield Unit, in the northwest, just happened to be on a 100 year cycle? Interestingly enough, the Sheldon Unit consists of company land (Sheldon and McCleary) and National Forest lands, managed by a private company under Forest Service direction.

Considering the rather phenomenal annual rate of growth for Douglas Fir, which incidentally is not a climax specie, at the end of 100 years, the first clearcut area

(cont. on p. 5)

Lohr Blames Floods On Clearcutting

Del. C. E. Lohr, a member of the West Virginia Legislature's Forest Management Review Commission, has charged clearcutting as the culprit in recent heavy flooding in Greenbrier County.

Lohr (D-Mercer) visited many residents of flood-stricken White Sulphur Springs and talked to them about the causes of the flooding. Lohr said that most people he talked to felt that heavy timbering in the Greenbrier District upstream from White Sulphur Springs had contributed largely to the flooding.

Lohr's statements were challenged by a citizen member of the Forest Management Review Commission, James Paxton of Elkins. Paxton demanded to know on what Lohr's conclusions were based.

Lohr replied that the opinions of his constituents were based on what they had seen.

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- (n) NSS: Mar Region: Bobbi Nagy, address above

Spring Outing

The Conservancy initiated an outings program last summer to acquaint people with issues and problems facing us, and to allow the membership to get to know each other. We have had one trip thus far, to Germany Valley in Pendleton County. Only one person showed up, but its a start.

Presently there are four springs outings planned, most of which will focus attention on Shaver's Fork and its' worsening condition.

On Sunday, February 17, Craig Moore (Phone 456-4228) will lead a Shaver's Fork day hike. The exact route will depend on snow conditions and the interest of participants, but four to seven cross-country skis if you have them, otherwise winter boots will do. Meet at the intersection of US 250 and 219 in Huttonsville at 9:00 a.m.

A climb up Bald Knob, West Virginia's second highest peak (elev. 4842), will be led by Craig on Sunday, March 17. This will be a strenuous five mile round trip hike. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Cass Scenic Railroad parking lot in Cass.

The second weekend in April brings an open boat cruise (canoe) on the Lower Shaver's Fork, led by Bob Burrell (Phone 599-1446). Bob will also be handling the Cheat River Float Trip May 18-19. More details on these to follow in the next VOICE.

(cont. on p. 4)

Corps Blames Mud For Turbidity In Elk River

The Corps of Engineers has told the West Virginia legislature that Elk River has a problem - mud.

Speaking before a legislative Subcommittee Dan Steiner, chief of water resources planning in the Huntington District, warned that modifying Sutton Dam to a selective withdrawal system may not solve the turbidity of Elk River.

The Corps hopes that a multi-level water release system in the dam will improve conditions downstream from Sutton. The new installation will cost nearly \$3 million.

Steiner placed the blame for Elk River's siltation problems on timbering and mining upstream in Webster, Nicholas, Randolph and Pocahontas counties. He also charged that construction of a new bridge on Elk near Centralia, Braxton County, has added greatly to the Sutton reservoir mud problem this winter.

Since the bridge is being built in an area where the only road is for four-wheel drive vehicles, it is assumed that a new high-speed highway will be built to link Webster Springs with I-79 near Sutton. Thus increased siltation due to highway building is imminent for Elk River. This will be in addition to the tons of mud washed into the river from reclaimed strip mines and modern logging jobs which abound upstream from the reservoir.

Steiner also noted that the Corps is considering dredging as a means to alleviate the rapid fill-up of Sutton Reservoir.

WARNING: what is the Corps going to do with all of that mud? The situation bears watching.

Membership Report

Membership Chairman Carolyn Killoran reports that membership in the Highlands Conservancy has reached 675. In her annual report to the Conservancy Board of Directors Killoran revealed that the Conservancy has a total of 654 individual members, and 21 organizational members.

In breaking down the membership we show 366 West Virginians (including organizations) and 309 out-of-staters (including organizations). The majority of out-of-state members of the Conservancy come from western Pennsylvania. The second largest group of out-of-staters hails from Washington, D.C.

Within West Virginia Morgantown has over sixty individual members of the Conservancy while Charleston runs a close second in total memberships.