

Appal. Review



THE Highlands Voice

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Strip Strategy In '74

Strip mining for coal has not gone away. If anything the coal operators are now gouging coal out of the Appalachian hills at an ever increasing rate. Siltation and landslides from stripping and the accompanying destruction has been reduced in the last several years here in West Virginia as citizen protests have brought about more strict law enforcement. The improved situation is at best temporary though, and predictions by knowledgeable people (such as the Pennsylvania Strip Mine Reclamation Director) are that heavy rains will wash out the flimsy earth silt dams. Pray that a number of washouts in one storm will not turn your stream into another Buffalo Creek.

If strip mining damage could be restricted to the property being mined, then it would be acceptable. From an engineering standpoint stripping without damage to adjoining property is possible, but such a method of stripping would not be economically competitive with deep mining. By the same token our West Virginia strip mine laws, if strictly enforced, would eliminate off-site damage, but this same enforcement would economically eliminate strip mining.

Historically, West Virginia politicians have favored the coal industry and out-of-state interests in general. If not this, then why do the people who live here in the middle of fantastically abundant natural resources suffer from the lack of adequate health facilities, poor schools, poor roads, and sub-standard communities. Strip mining has added insult to injury, in that in many instances it has taken from the already underprivileged a place to live. Their homes have been repeatedly flooded and their roads, their streams, and their hills have been virtually destroyed. Using the most liberal figures, the coal available to strip miners is only 7% of the total available reserve in Appalachia. A recent Appalachian Regional Commission report left no doubt that by 1980, if strip mining continues, there will be at

least a 16% greater reduction in the number of deep mining jobs. Deep mining, which provides more employment and less economic and environmental damage, is then the most acceptable method of extracting coal. Why isn't our state government taking advantage of the energy crisis and the federal air quality regulations to advocate the use of plentiful low-sulphur West Virginia coal? Governor Moore, instead, has seemed almost eager to take the electric utility position that western coal would have to be imported if our air quality regulations were not relaxed. In the light of the present Middle East situation, why isn't Governor Moore loudly calling for the substitution of low-sulphur West Virginia coal for imported oil used to produce electricity in say New England. Why too hasn't Governor Moore followed the lead of Governor Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania? Governor Shapp has openly urged Congress to pass a strong Federal strip mine law; one that would not "undercut Pennsylvania's efforts to restore ravaged strip lands?"

Governor Moore has allowed his Department of Natural Resources to institute new strip regulations that essentially eliminate spoil banks and highwalls on the steeper slopes. This move greatly reduces the probable off-site damages but I believe that it is totally dependent on the passage of proposed Federal strip mine legislation - "Why is it necessary to have a Federal law when we're doing such a good job?"

Without Federal legislation West Virginia is in trouble though. There is a good probability that West Virginia coal operators will return to methods of the late sixties which wrecked devastation on our people. The Senate has passed a bill which, though far short of abolition, will reduce much of the ill effects of stripping. The House of Representatives has comparable legislation, but it appears that some members of the subcommittee are boycotting committee meetings in an effort to kill any possible chance of legislation in this session of Congress.

Please write your representative and the co-chairman of the House subcommittee working on this legislation. Demand that a strong bill be approved and sent to the floor of the House immediately. Time is running out! This is your battle -- it can't be won for you by friends in Charleston.

WRITE NOW:

The Honorable Morris K. Udall
House of Representatives
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20515

and

The Honorable Patsy T. Mink
House of Representatives
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20515

and

Your own West Virginia Congressman

Collectively our voices are very powerful in Washington. You must know that the coal industry does not understand our persistence. They thought we would quit long ago. We are so close to winning a good part of our battle against strip mining -- don't give up. Our efforts to date have had considerable impact on stripping in that methods now in use are less destructive, many of the most destructive companies are gone, and that increased costs (into the millions of dollars) have made stripping less attractive when compared to deep mining. Keep at it -- let's not lose what has been gained.

Robert Handley
Citizens to Abolish Strip Mining

Energy Crisis Explained

By Skip Johnson

WASHINGTON, DC -- The nice thing about the energy crisis is that you can believe almost anything you want to believe, and probably find someone "in the know" to back you up.

For example, John Sawhill, deputy administrator of the Federal Energy Office (FEO) told a Washington Journalism Center seminar here last week that the crisis is all too real.

On the other hand, Hendrik S. Houthakker, Harvard University professor of economics, contended that the United States isn't too bad shape, after all, in regard to its fossil

cont. on p.6

Agriculture Committee Delays Wilderness Decision

The Senate Agriculture Committee, to which the Eastern Wilderness Area bill (S. 316) re-referred in January, has delayed its decision. On February 20th the committee instructed its staff to study it carefully and make recommendations at its next meeting on March 6th. Contrary to expectations, it did not get around to S. 316 at that meeting. Full committee meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, so

S. 316 will not be discussed before March 20th.

Environmentalists are urging the Ag Com to accept S. 316 as reported out by the Senate Interior Committee, and refer it back to the Senate floor for a vote. The chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands in the House Interior Committee, John Melcher,

cont. on p. 6

The Readers' Voice

Snowshoe Unsound

Dear Sir,

The manner in which Snowshoe began its development has its disturbing aspects. Despite its huge size and undeniably wide ranging impact, Snowshoe was kept a secret until after the deal was consummated. If the news is such good news, then why was it kept a secret? Most certainly a factor was that there would have been comment on and examination of the soundness of the decision if plans had been revealed before it was a fait accompli. Rather than being a secret, a development such as this, which will affect so many people, should be the subject of reasoned comment by many groups of people. To do so can only be healthy in a pluralistic, participatory democracy. Although it is too late to affect the course of Snowshoe, hopefully some belated comment and examination will be instructive and preventive.

How will the residents of Pocahontas County be affected by Snowshoe? Certainly the development accompanying Snowshoe will send the price of land and the cost of living, in general, soaring. With developers and out-of-state residents from a more affluent economic strata bidding up the price of land, many natives may find that they can no longer afford to live in their own county, and some families have been there over 200 years, a considerable time for white men in this part of the country. In addition to its economic impact upon the residents, Snowshoe will strikingly affect their lifestyles and the physical appearance of their county.

One only has to drive through the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania to see "development" in its advanced stages. The recent experiences of Vermont are another example of the undesirable aspects of uncontrolled

development. Snowshoe itself could very possibly be constructed in a manner pleasing to the eye and minimally inoffensive to the landscape, but what of the inevitable accompanying spread of tacky-tacky developments and pre-packaged plastic fantastic franchised architecture? How pleasing to the eye are they?

The probably ecological effects of the development are enormous. The Snowshoe acreage is located on the headwaters of the Shavers Fork of Cheat River. This part of the watershed of Shavers Fork which is south of U.S. 250 is generally considered to be one of the five remaining black bear breeding areas in this state. Once Snowshoe is in operation, it is doubtful that the black bear can or will remain in the area. Certainly Snowshoe will be a factor in hastening the virtual extinction of this magnificent animal in our state. Fishing will suffer also. Shavers Fork, from the abandoned town of Spruce, downstream, is a relatively heavily fished stream, which has a delicate aquatic balance. The Bowden Fish Hatchery is located on Shavers Fork and depends on its water to operate.

Any development on the watershed should certainly be the object of intense scrutiny, and unfortunately, because it was a secret Snowshoe received no such scrutiny. But, whatever the fate of the lower portion of the stream, the headwaters area above Spruce is surely destroyed as a native trout stream. The headwaters, which will be made into allake in part, once offered some of the best native trout fishing in the eastern United States, and was fished only by a handful of anglers. To see the passing of such a rare commodity as a good native trout stream is a disturbing portent. Surely also the lake will inundate the valley floor and the series of beaver dams on the upper river. These are ecological problems caused by Snowshoe; but in a larger sense, the mere fact that Snowshoe exists at all where it does is a problem.

For the area surrounding the headwaters of Shavers Fork was marvelously unique in flora, fauna, climate, and topography. The headwaters is a small spring located in the head of a high mountain valley rimmed by 4,800 - foot mountains. It was as beautiful as this earth can be, and as isolated and wild a place as one can find in West Virginia. Now this place -- the beaver, the native trout, and the black bear fall victims to "development."

Many parts of West Virginia, most certainly Pocahontas County, are entering into a period that will see amazingly rapid development of the tourist and recreational industry. It is inevitable - West Virginia will be developed, but we should learn from the experiences of other places in this country that were endowed with great natural beauty, and have seen their landscapes made ugly and cheap. We need reasoned and rational development in which all of the costs are considered by all of the people involved. We need state-wide land use planning. The citizens of this state, more than anywhere, should recognize that while development of the tourist industry can be beneficial, it can also be exploitive of the people and the land, just as the extractive industries, in collusion with corrupt, self serving politicians, have been mercilessly exploitive for too many years. The time to consider our future is now, for it is a wise man who heeds the lessons of his fellows.

Having read this, you may wonder at my reasons for writing it. There are many, but one is that it has been my privilege to spend many hours fishing, backpacking and just being in that place that was the headwaters of Shavers Fork. It was a balm to my soul, and its passing fills my heart with a sadness that will not be allayed. It is a sadness, not only for the place and the animals, but for myself and for you. For whether or not you perceive or understand it now, you were diminished when that place ceased to be. For you and I are all a part of this shrinking island that is the natural earth, and I believe that one day not too many years away we shall survey our home and behold in shame what we have done to our Mother Earth and to our children's inheritance. And when they ask us, why? We can only answer them, "It was for money."

Sincerely,

Michael P. Frazer
220 Highland Ave.
Morgantown, W. Va.
26505



Guest Editorial

Shoot Out at Energy Gap

The world's attention is finally focusing on the conservationist. Remember when we were termed radicals, doomsayers, unpatriotic obstructionists -- and a lot worse?

Remember when our cautions about untempered consumption of America's natural resources were called unreasoned and "shoot from the hip" approaches detrimental to the national interest?

Some even called us "eco-freaks" because we dared to suggest that man, through his voracious appetite for convenience was eating up the earth's finite sources of energy.

All of a sudden the shoe is on the other foot. The public is learning, for the first time, that the real quick-draw experts are the energy purveyors, who have both created and nurtured the public's craving for more resource-sapping products. If the "Joneses" had showed off a canoe instead of a Cadillac, the all-American family would be healthier and more environmentally aware for having tried to "keep up with" them.

The gluttonous public and our federal government don't deserve any sympathy here either. The former never looked beyond the nearest "on-off" switch at what produced that almighty current, and the latter continues to be so enmeshed in politics its efforts to half the growing shortages are laughable at best.

Just one example: the new federal Energy Office -- the one that replaced ex-Colorado Gov. John Love because he advocated rationing -- announced regulations called for a 25 per cent cut in gasoline production. A full day went by before an Energy Office official said, "We screwed up." They had meant only a 5 per cent reduction, he added.

This "crisis" didn't slip up on us any more than did yesterday's sunrise. Where were the great corporate minds that plan so well for the coming year's profit goals? Wonder what the stockholders would do if General Motors announced that sales would be off 25 per cent next year because the supply of iron ore ran out on March 1, and there isn't enough steel to make new cars. Well, that will happen one day, but you can believe it won't "slip up on" General Motors. Junked autos, soup cans and old bed springs will have long since been "reincarnated."

Are the oil industries any less astute planners than GM? Should the federal government be any less sharp than the major industries (which produce many of the Cabinet members)? Of course not.

The argument that we wouldn't be in trouble if the Arabs hadn't turned the valve is particularly galling. That's like saying drowning is better than shooting yourself. In either case you die. One just takes a

little longer. Certainly, it might not be as bad this winter with Arab oil, but does that mean that someday even the Saudis won't run out? The American public (the nation's stockholders) is also incensed, and rightly so, over industry's and government's failure to prepare in advance for such an embargo. That possibility was about as subtle as a clout in the head with a two by four. Yet, the energy cartel is filling the newspapers and air waves with pleas for compassion makes up wonder if there really wasn't advanced planning for this crisis.

Why all this rhetoric? Aren't we getting enough of it in the daily media? Because the industry's flim flam tactics turn up the pressure for panic button extraction of what the earth has left and it's going to tax the strength of the conservation movement like nothing before in history.

While conservationists are being lauded as great prophets on one hand, we are being crucified on the other -- for having the temerity to suggest that a time of shortage is the most crucial time for wise stewardship of the land and its resources.

Already, the National Environmental Policy Act has suffered a severe blow in the effort to get the Alaska pipeline down and carrying oil. Other hard-won environmental gains of the past few years are being shunted aside in the rush to get hydrocarbons out of the ground.

When Interior Secretary Morton was asked at a recent press conference if the decision to begin shale oil production was hurried up because of the energy shortage, he answered, "It is in the national interest." However proper then, that explanation may cover a multitude of knee-jerk environmental abuses in the months to come.

So, conservationists are contending with both limelight and shadow at the same moment in history. We are two-headed creatures prophesying survival and doom, depending on who you talk with.

The one truly good thing to come out of this "shoot out at energy gap" will be a very necessary belt-tightening by American consumers. The pace of resource exploitation may well slow down after an initial surge, as long as everyone -- industry, citizens and government -- fully realize they can't have their cake and eat it too. It is ironic that we have all fought so hard to get across the energy conservation message, only to have Johnny Cash turn around and sell it

to us on T.V. Makes one wonder.

(Outdoor America, IWIA)

President's Comments

By David Elkinton

Anyone who has ever worked with a group to try and affect change, whether environmental or otherwise, has experienced the frustration of not possessing the proper skills in the needed quantity to get the job done. Within the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy many of us are bored with board meetings, sick of performing tedious tasks such as sending out membership renewals, disgusted that public officials do not seem responsive to our pleas, etc. The list could go on and on. Yet what can be done to improve these skills, and how can we be more effective in defining our just goals and then attempting to achieve them? Outside our environmental concerns, how can we work more effectively in other groups, PTA, churches, civic groups and loose community organizations.

I had the pleasure of attending a workshop recently sponsored by the Wilderness

Society that focused on some of these problems. But a novel approach was used. The motto of the workshop was "the process is the product." By this was meant that too often we become goal-oriented and forget that we are primarily dealing with people first. We must apply certain principles of psychology if we hope to achieve our goals. We must be aware of "the process" or our

group activities; who is dominating our meetings, who wants to take part but feels unwelcome, who responds to what type of task, how to attract and keep the interest of new or potential members, etc.

Without giving a full explanation here, you are asked to comment from time to time on what you see happening within the Conservancy, both on issues and on human processes. Suggestions for new ways of doing things, or how your needs or interests can

better be met will be most welcome. I hope you will begin to notice changes within the next year that will be responsive to a more conscious observation of how we are getting to where we wish to be. Some of our Board members and committee chairmen will be asked to participate in special workshops to sharpen their skills at working with people.

Finally let me publicly thank the Wilderness Society for fostering this approach. With all their many "hot" issues (eastern wilderness, Alaska pipeline, strip-mining control, etc.), they have taken it upon themselves to help train local and state environmental leadership of all interested organizations. They have committed a sizeable block of staff time and financial resources to this because they believe that without it, all the goals we are struggling to achieve will be lost. So far other national conservation groups have not joined in this effort, but may in the future.



Overlook

By Bob Burrell

WVHC Shavers Fork committee member Bill Bristor recently made the news when he received the Gurney Godfrey Memorial Award for outstanding accomplishments in the conservation of natural resources. Bristor's tireless efforts to prevent heedless and often unauthorized exploitation of the Monongahela National Forest and Shavers Fork were cited in the award.

Bill works as a personnel assessment supervisor for the C & P people in Baltimore. Before the gas crunch, Bill used to visit the Cheat Bridge area of Shavers Fork a half dozen times a year, at first purely for enjoyment and recreation. But then he started seeing things he didn't like. Of course, we all do this, but Bristor's ordinarily jovial manner can stand just so much and he is about one of the most effective hell raisers Charleston, Washington, and Milwaukee have ever seen. At first he had to get their attention and he swung an awfully big club

to get it, namely his persistence, his ability to puncture the out and out garbage he was fed by official responses, and his fantastic good sense.

Once he got their attention, Bill's background in ecology and natural resources enabled him to marshal pertinent facts with such impressive logic that he seldom failed to impress someone. Although a young grandfather, Bill has been steadily pecking away at night school credits in these subjects to the point where he has become known as a person who has received more degrees and certificates from Johns Hopkins University than most deans.

Bill's method is to write one of his famous letters to some official, puncturing that official's position with facts, contradictions, and soul searching questions. He then circulates copies of these letters to everyone he can think of. This list is so large, it has become known as the Bristor

Report and each of his letters receives wide circulation. Postage eats up a lot of his take home pay and he doesn't get reimbursed for it either. Not bad for an out of stater is it? Congressman Ken Hechler was quoted as saying that he wished more of his constituents were like Bill Bristor.

The Gurney award is presented each year by the Maryland Fly Anglers, Inc. of Baltimore. In accepting the award, Bristor pointed out that the award to him was more than just a personal one, but more importantly it was a tribute to a great river. "When an organization with the know-how and prestige that this organization has so well earned gives their top award to someone for fighting to save a river in another state, that river has to be very important," says Bill.

Arch, Jennings, Harley, Jay, and Sandy, are you listening?

Sierra Club Groups Forming in West Virginia

By Geoff Hechtman

After two previous attempts to organize West Virginia Sierra Club members, the third attempt has succeeded. The Appalachian Group, formed in November, approximately covers the area south of a line running from Marietta, G. to Covington, Va. Another group covering the area north of this line was formed in January -- the Monongahela Group. Both of these regional groups are subdivi-

sions of the Potomac Chapter, which covers the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Potomac Chapter is one of 44 level subdivisions of the (National) Sierra Club -- groups are the third level.

Each of the new West Virginia groups has established an active outings program -- one of the better known functions of the club. Like the Chapter and National Outings Programs, these group programs are varied in their offerings -- day hikes, backpacking, spelunking, ski touring, etc.

State and local conservation issues are being tackled by the Appalachian Group; the Monongahela Group will also be pursuing conservation matters in the near future. These groups, like their counterparts elsewhere in the Potomac Chapter, probably will be working at the State and local levels on such issues as land-use planning, air and water pollution, and transportation. When asked by the Chapter or National organizations, they will be seeking support of the West Virginia Congressional delegation for Federal legislation.

It is interesting to note that some of the more active Conservancy members are also Sierra Club members, and consequently, members of the Appalachian and Monongahela Groups. Hopefully, this will lead to joint Sierra Club - WHC programs and cooperative efforts within West Virginia.

For further information on these two groups, please contact Michael T. Vaughan, Chairman Appalachian Group, 246 Victory Dr. Dunbar, WV 25064 or William R. Powell, Chairman Monongahela Group, 388 Stewart St., Morgantown, WV 26505.

A complimentary copy of the Potomac Chapter newsletter may be obtained by writing Geoffrey K. Hechtman, 11453 Washington Plaza West, Reston, Va. 22090.

If this summer's wet weather with its accompanying insect hoards and damp miseries is making you think twice about planning another camping trip, some enterprising fellows in New Orleans may have just the answer for you. Hi-Rise Campsites, Inc. has announced plans to construct a 20-story campground smack in the middle of downtown New Orleans. Pland for the \$4-million project call for eight lower floors of parking and twelve upper stories which will accommodate 240 individual campsites complete with utility hook-ups and artificial turf. For those who miss the babbling brook, there will be a roof top pool. "This will be unique," says Wesley Hurley of Hi-Rise. "It is designed for today's different brand of camper. People don't want the woody bit now; they want to camp in comfort, near the city."

New Hampshire Audubon News



Bottle Bill Referred To Joint Committee

By Charles Bowers

Good news! I contacted Del. Billy Burke last week for a report on SCR 14, the "Bottle Bill," and he returned the call with the news that Lew McManus, chairman of the House Rules Committee, had moved the report on SCR 14 out of his committee. McManus and the committee recommended that a joint study be made of the "Bottle Bill" for recommendation to the 1975 legislative session.

On March 12 I contacted Sen. Si Galperin, one of the co-sponsors of the Senate version of the "Bottle Bill," and he advised me that the House had passed the Rules Committee recommendation for a joint study! So, we're

not dead yet!

We realize that the Oregon bill, which is being used as a model by most states trying to deal with the throwaway container problem, is not necessarily the answer for West Virginia. But we all know that some solution to this trash must be found. Let's hope that the legislative members who are appointed to serve on the joint study committee will come up with a solution to the problem.

And that is where WHC members can play an important role. Let's spend a 10¢ stamp and write to these committee members, when we find out who they are, and give them our ideas. Not only may someone out there have the answer for which the legislators are looking, but encouraging and helpful letters to the committee will show the members that

regulation of throwaway containers is important to West Virginians.

Watch future issues of the Voice for information about the joint committee.

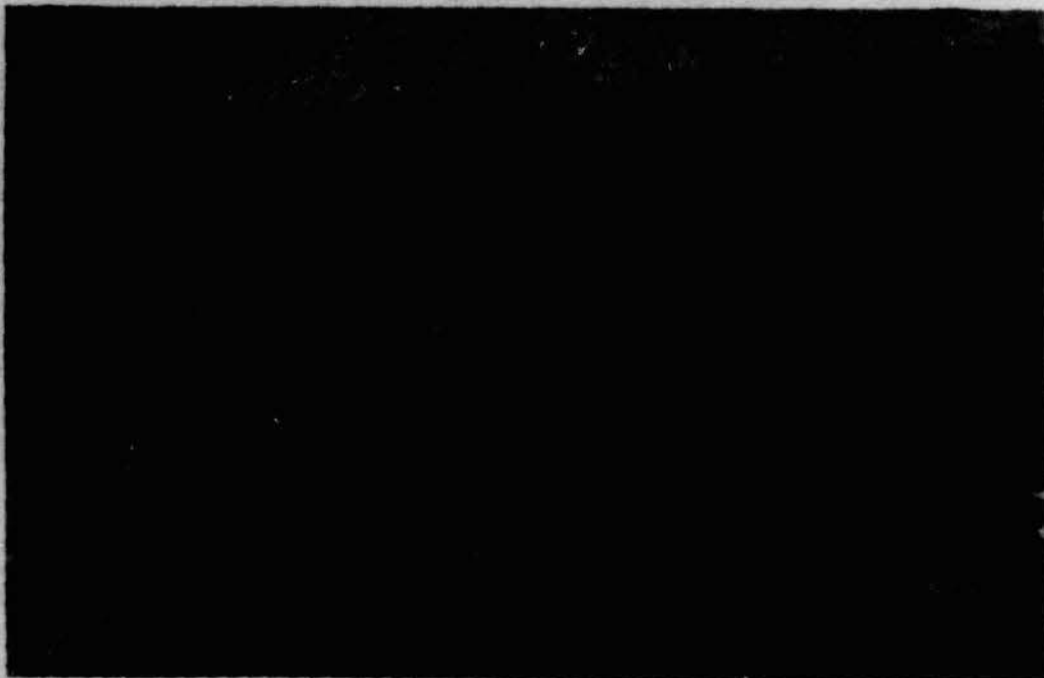
Incidentally, I finally heard from Governor Moore about the "Bottle Bill." He said, "Your letter relating to providing of Waste Control program under the jurisdiction of the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission has been received, and I am most appreciative of your sharing your views in this regard with me . . . should such a measure be presented to me for my signature, I shall give it every proper consideration, keeping your thoughts in mind."

Well, the Governor is at least reading his mail, and he appears to be leaning to our side.

An Afternoon at "Timberline"

By Helen McGinnis

Of the many planned or potential vacation home subdivisions that are springing up throughout the West Virginia highlands, Allegheny Properties' "Timberline" is probably one of the largest in acreage. On March 5th David Downs, in charge of its development and sale, took me on a tour of the site and discussed his plans.



TIMBERLINE The Old Harman Farmhouse Cabin Mountain, the edge of Western Maryland's Dolly Sods property, in the background.

The 1,800-acre tract, once owned by Jason Harman, is in the southeastern Canaan Valley, reaching from the Blackwater River eastward almost to the top of Cabin Mountain, which is the western edge of the Dolly Sods. Harman's picturesque abandoned farmhouse and barn still stand at the base of the mountain. Allegheny Properties has an option on another 588 acres on the side of the mountain just southwest of the Harman tract.

Initially Downs is concentrating on the portion on the valley floor. About half of this area, on higher ground and forested with hardwoods, has been divided into 69 lots from 5.0 to 11.3 acres each. The lots are priced from \$12,500 to \$28,500, and one fourth of the total price is required as a down payment. Lot owners are required to install individual anaerobic septic tanks and wells before erecting buildings. Allegheny Properties will strictly control the design and construction of individual cabins. Buyers must sign a lengthy list of "protective covenants and restrictions" designed to maintain the environmental quality of the entire subdivision. For example, the minimum area of living space for a single dwelling must be at least 1,000 square feet--intended to eliminate trailers. A number of other restrictions are intended to prevent any trashy or honky-tonk features. Motorcycles, snowmobiles and the like will be prohibited except for access to lots; joyriding is forbidden.

The remainder of the valley floor portion--more than 300 acres--has been designated as Open Space Conservancy and will not be sold. It includes corridor along the Blackwater River and Yoakum Run, the two largest streams. If the Davis Power Project is approved, they will become the southernmost arms of Blackwater "Lake." The other Conservancy area is a broad swath of low-lying meadow, spruce-balsam forest, and alder thicket at the foot of Cabin Mountain. An artificial 45-acre pond has been built here, a few hundred feet south of the old Harman buildings. Downs will renovate the barn and keep the abandoned farmhouse standing as long

as possible. Ducks are already visiting the pond, and there will be special planting of corn for their benefit. The entire 1,800-acre tract has been designated as a wildlife preserve, and all hunting is prohibited. The meadow will be maintained by mowing, but the spruce-balsam-alder thicket will be left untouched.

Eventually, when a "sufficient number" of tracts have been sold, the Conservancy areas will be turned over to a property owners' association. The Conservancy areas are already recorded as such in the Tucker County Clerk's office, and according to Downs, will not be available for future subdivision.

Ten lots have already been sold. The tight restrictions repel some potential buyers, and attract others. Interestingly, the future possibility of 7,200-acre Blackwater Lake has not been a major selling point. Some buyers had not even heard of the Davis Project.

With the possible exception of hiking, horseback, and ski touring trails, no developed recreation facilities are planned. The two state parks already provide these.

Downs has not yet subdivided the steeper slopes of Cabin Mountain, but definitely does not intend to sell the upper third of the mountainside. Timberline's boundary extends nearly to the tops of Rocky and Harman (Flag) Knobs on the western edge of Dolly Sods. Lots will be a minimum of 5 acres, the smallest for which the W.Va. Department of Health will allow individual septic tanks. Below that size, a central sewage treatment facility is required.

Timberline is clearly designed for families who appreciate open space, and who are well off financially. The price per acre is low compared to current asking prices elsewhere in the Canaan--\$7,500 per acre for land fronting the proposed lake, and \$5,000 for other property. However, Timberline lots cannot be subdivided and resold. The substantial down payment assures that most purchasers will be able to afford well-built cabins.

In contrast to Timberline, there is Black Bear Woods, another Canaan development proposed along the west-central shore of Blackwater Lake. The 110-acre tract will be essentially a tennis and yacht club with con-

'A Greater Awareness of Land Use Planning Is Dawning'

dominiums, small lots, and central sewage treatment. Another, more extreme, example is Alpine Lake, near Deep Creek Lake and the Maryland border. Here, 1,500 one-third-acre lots surrounding a 200-acre impoundment are selling well.

A greater awareness of the value of land-use planning is dawning on other private parties selling land in Canaan. They no longer are selling lots right alongside Blackwater Lake, because development there would depress the value of the rest of the property aware from the lake shore.

Timberline -- Pro and Con

Most Highland Conservancy members interested in the Canaan would like to see it remain as it is now--a combination of pastoral and semi-wilderness country. Unfortunately, farming no longer pays in the valley, and no family is entirely dependent on it. It would be nice if funds were available to purchase most of the private land in the valley, including that of the power companies proposing the Davis Project, so that it could be turned over to the state or federal government and managed for wildlife and primitive recreation. But no one has suggested a way to accomplish this.

Inevitably then, much of the Canaan will be developed for recreation by private interests. Probably Timberline is one of the better developments. Certainly there are some drawbacks. Once open to all hunters, fishermen, hikers, and ORV riders who behaved themselves, the property is now posted and will be available only to the 69 wealthy families who can afford a lot. Downs is considering building a combined horse and ski tour trail across the property that would like with public trails elsewhere in the valley. He isn't so sure he would want a public hiking trail, though.

Timberline's advertising brochure points out its proximity to Dolly Sods. Undoubtedly, Timberline residents will spend more time on the Sods than the average "outsider," adding more man-days of visitation to this fragile area. Downs is thinking of building a trail for horseback riders up to the edge of the Sods, a move that should be carefully reviewed in light of the damage that pack horses did to the Green Mountain Trail in the Otter Creek area in only six months.

In other ways, Timberline could benefit the Sods. The Forest Service is considering gating F. S. Rt. 80, which leads to the top of Cabin Mountain, and the upper end of the Big Stonecoal Trail, if Allegheny Properties buys the 588-acre tract through which it passes. This closure would help preserve the wilderness quality of the Sods by making its western edge more inaccessible and cutting off a principal access route for off-road vehicles onto unprotected Western Maryland Railway Company lands.

Although people are responsible for land use problems, only people can solve them. The high-income, probably well-educated articulate people who buy lots on Timberline will have a strong interest in the preservation of Dolly Sods, since it may well have been a principal reason they bought land nearby. At present, half of the northern Dolly Sods area belongs to Western Maryland. There is nothing to prevent the company from subdividing even Blackbird Knob, particularly if rising land values increase their property taxes. Residents of Timberline will be in a particularly advantageous position to exert pressure for special zoning or other restrictions to insure the land stays undeveloped.

There is no way we can know for sure what Canaan Valley will look like in one, 20 or 50 years from now. But at least at Timberline there is reason for hope.

Cranberry Camping Restricted

Monongahela National Forest Supervisor Alfred Troutt has announced that effective March 15, 1974 the area along the Cranberry River from Woodbine Picnic Area to the Cranberry Campground will be declared as an area of Concentrated Public Recreation Use, due to its heavy utilization.

Areas of Concentrated Public Recreation Use are locations where there is significant adverse impact upon the forest resources caused by over-use. This creates administrative, public health, and safety problems and requires some degree of user control. Therefore, overnight camping will be prohibited in this area, except at designated sites.

Previously, unrestricted camping has been permitted along this section of the river.

Heavy use of these uncontrolled dispersed camping spots has resulted in soil compaction, erosion, tree damage, and sanitation problems. It has become necessary to place some minimum restrictions on camping use. A total of 13 dispersed campsites will be available and are designated where a table, fireplace, and garbage cans are provided. In addition, camping is permitted at the Big Rock Campground and Cranberry Campground.

Future plans call for the development of an additional campground in the near vicinity to accommodate the outdoor recreation user. However, development is dependent on the availability of funds.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the US Forest Service, Gauley Ranger District, Richwood, W. Va. 26261, or telephone 304-846-6558.

Wilderness cont. from p. 1

will begin with the bill that hopefully will be approved by the full Senate. Thus the fate of S. 316 in the Ag Com is crucial in the eastern wilderness.

Although at least one Ag Com member, Jesse Helms (N.C.), fully supports the current version of S. 316, other members are not as committed to wilderness. Key figures include the committee's chairman, Herman E. Talmadge, who is worried about vast acreages being "locked up" as wilderness. (Actually, the 600,826 acres proposed as "instant" wilderness or wilderness study areas in S. 316 are only 1% of the 45.2 million acres within the boundaries of national forests within Regions 8 and 9).

Another important member is Senator George Aiken of Vermont. He is one of the original sponsors of S. 22, the eastern wild area bill, which would have allowed the Forest Service to decide which areas should be studied by Congress. He is genuinely interested in protecting wilderness, however, and thanks to his bill's protective provisions which go beyond the 1964 Wilderness Act have been included in S. 316. He should be encouraged to support the bill in its present form.

With regard to West Virginia, Senator Jennings Randolph is the pivotal figure. Without his support, conveyed to members of the Ag Com, Otter Creek could be dropped back to study status, and the 36,300 acre Cranberry Wilderness Study Area trimmed to one third its size. All of these Senators can be reached at the Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510.

Highlands Conservancy members may wonder how the protective measures referred to above and outlined in the January Voice will affect the proposed Monongahela National Forest Wilderness areas.

1. No Roads in Study Areas. This refers to public use. There are none in Dolly Sods, Otter Creek or Cranberry.

2. No Mining in Either Type of Area (instant or wilderness study). This applies only to minerals owned by the federal government. It would not prevent mining on Otter Creek or Cranberry, but would prevent the Forest Service from leasing land for strip mining in the proposed 10,215 acre Dolly Sods Wilderness. Although this possibility seems remote, there could be a massive, unforeseen energy crisis in the distant future.

3. No Grazing on Wilderness Areas. Only three of the 39 areas listed in S. 316 now are open to grazing. One is Dolly Sods. Many people would like to see grazing continue there, because it helps maintain open meadows. Highlands Conservancy testimony presented at public hearings in Washington and Roanoke in 1973 asked that Dolly Sods be exempted from and grazing prohibition, but the Interior Committee decided otherwise. Actually, the prohibition will have little if any effect on the present management of the Dolly Sods because cattle and sheep rarely enter the proposed wilderness "high country" from the adjacent Scenic Area and Western Maryland property. Probably the bands of forest which separate the only substantial open areas in the proposed wilderness on upper Big Stonecoal Run and upper Fisher Springs Run keep them out. A conscious effort to herd livestock into these high meadows would be needed to encourage them to stay long enough to have effect. Cattle and even hogs frequent lower Red Creek above the Laneville wildlife cabin, but they were not there legally.

4. Inholdings Subject to Limited Condemnation and Complete Protection Against Incompatible Uses. In West Virginia, only Otter Creek includes private land. The revised Highlands Conservancy proposal for a 20,000 acre wilderness includes 180 undeveloped acres, owned by a doctor sympathetic to wilderness preservation. S. 316 adds another 404 acres, probably the property of the Long family at the mouth of Otter Creek. An early Highlands Conservancy proposal recommended its acquisition, but it was deleted in the revised version to avoid condemnation of land owned by a private family. As S. 316 is written now, owners of inholdings used for non-commercial residential or agricultural purposes could continue to reside on and use those inholdings for 25 years, or until the death of the owner.

Helen McGinnis
Wilderness Committee
Chairman

Nature Tours Begin

It's nature tour season again, and brochures are beginning to come in from various sponsoring agencies and organizations. We are well aware that gasoline shortages may prohibit many people from attending these Blumenfests, but we urge all who can make one or more of the tours to take advantage of the opportunity to see springtime in the Appalachians.

The first brochure to come our way is for the Webster County Nature Tour, May 3, 4 and 5. Overnight accommodations are available at Camp Caesar. The charge for the entire weekend is \$22.00 per adult, and \$16.00 for children under 12.

Tours planned for the weekend include two hikes into the Back Fork of Elk area, one for flower seekers in general, and one for more hardy hikers. Another rugged hike is planned for Elk Mountain. Botanical hikes will be led into Williams River, Camp Caesar and the Cowen Glades. Of archaeological interest this year is a hike to an Indian campground which abounds in arrowheads, pottery fragments and other Indian relics.

For an information brochure about the weekend, write to Martha L. Moore, Box 575, Webster Springs, WV 26288. If you do not need any other information, clip out the coupon below and mail it with a check to Ms. Moore. \$ 5 will hold your reservation.

WEBSTER COUNTY NATURE TOUR - May 3, 4, and 5, 1974

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____

List names in Party _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ reservations.

Mail to: Martha L. Moore, Box 575, Webster Springs, W. Va. 26288
not later than April 22, 1974.

Energy Crisis cont. from p. 1

fuel supply. Prof. Houthakker said this country may even become a net exporter of oil by the end of this decade.

Bill Anders, a former astronaut and now a member of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) said the nation must look to nuclear power for an ever growing share of its energy needs.

"We'll never be able to prove the absolute safety of nuclear power plants before we build them," said Anders in answer to nuclear critics such as Ralph Nader. "If we had waited on such guarantees in the Apollo program, we'd never have landed on the moon."

Carl Bagge, president of the National Coal Assn., said coal is "the neglected step-child" of the energy picture.

Ralph E. Lapp, a nuclear physicist who worked on Manhattan Project that developed the atomic bomb, contended that "in any comparison of risk, nuclear power wins over coal."

The FEO's Sawhill calls the fuel shortage a "crisis of credibility" as well as of energy.

Do the American people believe Sawhill's boss, FEO czar William, who says the crisis is real? Or do they believe the Shah of Iran who says the U.S. imported more oil during the fourth quarter of 1973 than during the same period of 1972? "The facts is," says Sawhill, "we were importing 7 million barrels of oil a day prior to the embargo. Since the embargo, imports have declined steadily and now they're around 5.2 million barrels a day. We're 300,000 barrels a day above what we expected to be getting a few months ago, but we're still getting less than we were."

The Shah was right, said Sawhill, but not relevant with his figures. We received more oil during the fourth quarter of 1973

than during the same period of 1972, but we also used more, Sawhill pointed out.

Barry Commoner, director of the Center for Biology of Natural Systems at Washington University of St. Louis, and author of the award-winning environmental book, "The Closing Circle," doubts that the Arab oil embargo is meaningful.

Environmentalist Commoner believes this country will run out of domestic oil in 20 to 30 years, but he doubts the existence of a real energy crisis at this time, and, further, he doubts that the Arab oil embargo has been very effective.

"Data shows the crisis is phoney," asserted Commoner. "The Shah is right. There has been little change in fuel supply and demand in the U.S. in the last two years."

Commoner predicts that solar energy-power from the sun will be proven feasible in the next five to ten years, and he sees it as the long-range answer to the nation's energy problems.

C. Howard Hardesty, Jr., a West Virginia native and an executive vice president of Continental Oil Co., said it will be many years before the United States can escape a reliance on foreign oil, and it will never happen, he adds, without a strong national commitment to this goal. Hardesty readily concedes that public confidence in the oil industry is at an all-time low. "Long gas lines and record earnings of the oil companies have fanned the flame," he says.

"People think the shortages are phony and that our profits are all too real."

He agrees with FEO's Sawhill that the credibility crisis is as much a problem as the energy crisis. "Many people in the U.S. took the word of the Shah of Iran over Simon (FEO czar)," he pointed out.

(Charleston Gazette, Mar. 17, 1974)

It's Not Nice to Short-Change Mother Nature

By Nick Zvegintzov

Strip mining does nothing for flood protection, water quality, recreation, wildlife, forestry, agriculture or nature in general. Therefore agencies like the Soil Conservation Service, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation are doing their best to stop strip mining -- right?

Wrong. In fact their latest literature on strip mining is designed to persuade you that stripping is the greatest thing for our land since barnyard manure.

The foremost proponent of this mulch is William Plass, Principal Planner at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station in Princeton, and the stripper favors "conservationist." At Pipestem Park in 1971 he read a paper to the Symposium on Re-vegetation and Economic Use of Surface-Mined Land and Mine Reclamation. The paper is titled "Highwalls -- an Environmental Nightmare."

What is the nightmare?

"The reason we can't see highwalls and reclamation is that we have individual concepts of them. Therefore, we must analyze factors to determine who sees the highwall and how much of the highwall is visible."

After 2,000 words and eight diagrams on planting shrubs to hide highwalls, Mr. Plass comes to this conclusion, which should make most of us sleep safe from nightmares:

"The location of West Virginia's highway system suggests that much of the disturbance that can be seen is viewed from below the level of the bench. These would be the easiest sites to screen."

More sober than Mr. Plass' madcap scheme to combat tooth decay by growing bushier mustaches is the plan of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to provide a new category of park -- wasteland. Observing that kids of every age traditionally use wasteland in back of town for joyriding and gunfire and fornication, the Bureau has funded demonstration projects throughout the country for this new development. One is 600 acres of strip-mined land at Pendleton Run in Tucker County. At \$1,000 an acre they are fitting it out for "off road recreation vehicles and shooting sports. They estimate that there are 2.2 million acres of unreclaimed strip-mined land in the country, so we can be assured of lots of wasteland recreation in the future. (Read about it in their pamphlet "Sources of Assistance in Reclaiming Surface-Mined Lands for Outdoor Recreation.")

It is ironic that the soberest study of the actual economic value of un-wasted land comes from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a notorious consumer of electric power generated by E.A. from strip mining. The paper is "Opportunity Costs of Land Use: The Case of Coal Surface Mining" by R.L. Spore and E.A. Nephew. It weighs on the one side the known reserves of strippable coal in the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River and the predicted costs and rates of mining, and on the other the present recreational use in visitor-days and the predicted future use. Like any economic calculation involving the future, this one depends on a forecast of such factors as inflation, change in demand, and so on, but the authors conclude that under almost any combination of such assumptions the present value of the unstripped land is higher than the present value of any future mining.

Environmentalists need to pay close attention to this type of economic analysis. It is not enough to compare the economic value of industry and beauty, or wealth and health, or material goods and happiness, nor do beauty, health, and happiness weigh lightly in the balance. The prosperity of manufacturers of recreational equipment and of vacation sites and health spas reflects people's willingness to pay for these.

Would we perhaps have more wilderness if we were willing to see a charge for the use of it? The trend is actually in the opposite direction. A bill passed in 1973 without any hearing by the House Interior Committee, nor recorded votes in either House or Senate, removes charges for camp sites and launching ramps unless they have developments such as drinking water, range protection, or hy-

draulic ramps. Forest Service Chief John Spruce estimates this law will cut Forest Service revenues alone by \$5,000,000 a year. (Information from the Raleigh Register, August 12, 1973.)

Is this the sort of thing that distorts policies of "conservationist" agencies such as the Forest Service or the Soil Conservation Service or the Bureau of Land Management? Is it fair to put them in a sit-

uation where they can make money from industry and government by "restoring" or "developing" wasted land, but they can make none from the public by preserving lands unwasted? Think about it.

(Thanks to the Forest Service at Berea, the Surface Mining Research Library at Charleston and Ken Hechlers' office in Washington for references to the studies reviewed here.)

1974 Brooks Bird Club, Inc. Program

- Apr. 19-21 Field Trip - Morgantown, W. Va. Coopers Rock
- May 4 or 5 Century Day Count All local groups
- May 17-19 Field Trip - Harper's Ferry, W. Va. Sutton Seekers
- June 1-30 25-Mile Breeding Bird Surveys All local groups
- June 1-8 BBC Birding Foray at 4-H Camp Harrisville, W. Va.
- June 29 - July 6 Annual BBC Foray at 4-H Camp Harrisville, W. Va.
- Aug. 9-11 Field Trip - Terra Alta, W. Va. Lake Terra Alta
- Aug. 30 - Sept. 2 Greenbrier Youth Camp Weekend Anthony, W. Va.
- Sept. 1-30 Operation Bird Banding Red Creek Headquarters
- Sept. 13-15 Weekend Hawk Count Bear Rocks, W. Va.
- Sept. 20-22 Weekend Hawk Count Peters Mountain, W. Va.
- Oct. 25-27 Annual BBC Meeting Pt. Pleasant, W. Va.
- Nov. 8-10 Field Trip - Cambridge, O. Salt Fork Lake
- Nov. 16 Annual Meeting, BBC Executive Committee Sisterville, W. Va.
- Dec. 14-31 Winter Bird Counts All local groups

ACTIVITIES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- Apr. 27 - Handlan Chapter Petroleum, "Sortie" W. Va. May 10
- May 9-12 Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage Blackwater Falls, W. Va.
- Oct. 18-20 W. Va. Highlands Weekend Place to be announced
- Nov. 1-3 W. Va. Chapter Nature Conservancy Petersburg, W. Va.

SEASONAL FIELD AND BANDING NOTES DUE

March 15, June 15, September 15, December 15

MAIL: Field Notes to: Nevada Laitch, MC 21, Dixonville, East Liverpool, O. 43920

Banding Notes to: C. Katholi, 930 Woodland Avenue, So. Charleston, W. Va. 25300

Federal Strip Law Taking Shape

By Nick Zvegintzov

It is almost certain that a federal surface mining law is going to be passed. Whether it will be a bill to protect the well - being of this land and its people or whether it will be a meaningless sham is in your hands. Your assignment this month is to write a letter to one or more members of the House Interior Committee listed at the end of this article.

During March and April they are "marking up" (discussing and amending) the bill that was written up by their own subcommittees on mining (Udall of Arizona) and Environment (Mink of Hawaii). Udall and Mink went on tour with their subcommittees, and viewed some of our finest devastations, and they came out with a bill with teeth.

Highlights were:

- * All disturbed land to be regraded to "approximate original contour."
- * No spoil to be thrown over the bench except at the first cut.
- * A bond and permit procedure.
- * Applications for permits and for bond release to be advertised publicly and be subject to public hearing.

In addition it contained an amendment devised by John Seiberling, whose district is near Akron, north of the devastated Belmont area of Ohio. This would require operators to apply \$2.50 per ton of coal, however it was mined, to one of the following:

- (a) stowage of mine wastes in abandoned underground mines.
 - (b) Coal Mine Health and Safety Act requirements.
 - (c) Black Lung compensation.
 - (d) Reclamation of surface areas.
- Or, failing any of the above:
- (e) a Special Reclamation Fund.

This is designed to prevent deep mine operators from profiting from the waste of human life, while strip operators profit from the waste of land.

All this is in jeopardy as Nixon and his industrial interests snipe away at the bill. On March 13, for instance, the Committee adopted an amendment that was sponsored by the Interior Department to allow states to lift the "original contour" requirement (i. e.: to allow highwalls) if companies could not obtain the necessary equipment. This would, as John Melcher of Montana pointed out, merely invite operators to run more strip mines than they had equipment to handle.

So this is why you should write at least one letter. Pick anybody on the list below. If you have any connection with someone on the list, pick that person; otherwise, pick at random. You don't need any fancy facts or clever proposals -- just speak what is on your heart about stripping. You don't have to write to your own Congressman at this time (unless he or she is on the list, of course) -- the time for that will be next month, when the bill comes before the whole House.

I said at the start of this article that some federal law is almost certain. This has little to do with coal in the WV hills and much to do with coal under the northwestern plains. The energy industry shows every sign of wanting to move out of the Appalachians and into Montana, Colorado, Utah, Arizona. These states cannot control this mining even to the extent that WV does, because much of the coal is federally owned and the states have no jurisdiction. So there is going to be a federal law -- but it is up to you and me to see that it isn't a law that says that you can cut up West Virginia as long as you put a band-aid on Montana.

Now here are the members of the House Interior Committee (address: US House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515).

- James A. Haley, FL Chairman
- Roy A. Taylor, NC
- Harold T. Johnson, CA
- Morris K. Udall, AZ
- Thomas S. Foley, WA
- Robert W. Kastenmeier, WI
- James G. O'hara, MI
- Patsy T. Mink, HI
- Lloyd Meeds, WA
- Abraham Kazen, Jr., TX
- Robert G. Stephens, Jr., GA
- Joseph P. Vigorito, PA

- Craig Hosmer, CA Ranking Minority Member
- Joe Skubitz, KA
- Sam Steiger, AZ
- Don H. Clausen, CA
- John F. Seiberling, OH
- Harold Runnels, NH
- Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, CA
- Antonio Borja Won Pat, GU
- Wayne Owens, UT
- Ron de Lugo, VI
- James R. Jones, OK
- John Melcher, M
- Teno Roncalio, WY
- Jonathon B. Bingham, NY

- Philip E. Ruppe, MI
- John W. Happy Camp, OK
- Manuel Lujan, Jr., NM
- John Dellenback, OR
- Keith G. Sebelius, KA
- Ralph S. Regula, OH
- Alan Steelman, TX
- David Towell, NV
- James G. Martin, NC
- William M. Ketchum, CA
- Paul W. Cronin, MA
- Don Young, AK
- Robert E. Bauman, MD
- Steven D. Symms, ID

Conservancy In The Field

Feb. 17th, Cheat Mountain: Four people met the leader at Hutonsville for a winter trip on Cheat Mountain. Since the grass was much in evidence at lower elevations, and only 1-2 inches of snow were on the high knobs of Cheat, this outing turned into a simple winter hike.

We walked the road to the Barton Knob fire tower, following a "reclaimed" strip bench for a while. The views of an active strip mine on Red Run were breathtaking -- man is indeed a major geological force. I wish Senator Randolph would come and see this.

The view from the fire tower was greatly limited by low lying clouds which waved about rapidly -- but we did find bobcat, deer and snowshoe rabbit tracks in the snow. After lunch at the fire tower we retraced our footprints to the car.

Since the afternoon was quite young we visited a red spruce stand on a tributary of Blister Run near Cheat Bridge. This area was scheduled for a clear cut "treatment" before the court order stayed the execution

We talked about the Forest Service practice of getting timber improvement work done by combining unprofitable areas with profitable timber under one contract. All agreed that probably more than one immature stand has been sacrificed in order to sweeten a contract to the point where it would sell. In this climate of full disclosure it would be better to "tell it like it is" and let improvement cutting make it on its own.

March 17th Bald Knob: After waiting forty minutes past the appointed hours with no one showing up, the leader and his wife decided to make the trip to Bald Knob anyway. Light snow fell the whole trip, with 3-5 inches on Bald Knob at 11:30 AM. The thermometer on the fire cabin registered 18. After lunch at the Cass Scenic Railroad observation platform we descended to the car via a different route.

I gather some people from Ronceverte arrived late, but managed to find our starting point. I trust they followed our footprints to the top. Sorry we missed you.

"There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the leaves of spring, or the rustle of insect wings. But perhaps because I am savage and do not understand -- the clatter only seems to insult the ears. And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lovely cry of the whippoorwill or the arguments of the frog around the pond at night.

"The whites, too, shall pass -- perhaps sooner than other tribes. Continue to contaminate your bed and you will one night suffocate in your own waste. When the buffalo are all slaughtered, the wild horses all tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men, and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires. Where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. And what is it to say goodbye to the swift and the hunt, the end of living and beginning of survival." -- Sealth, Chief of the Duwamish Tribe, Washington.

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W. Va. Highlands Conservancy