



THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

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Conservancy To Focus On Rivers

Acting on a motion at the winter meeting which authorized officers to initiate a major rivers project, the Board of Directors cast the Conservancy in a leading role in state river conservation efforts. The motion, which set the group's focus on three West Virginia rivers, allows the Conservancy to request a planning grant from the state, to become a sponsoring entity for that grant, and to participate in the development of a management plan which would incorporate state and local participation.

"We are prepared to make a major commitment to conservation of the Gauley, the Greenbrier and the Bluestone Rivers," Conservancy President Larry George said in an interview after the meeting.

The move comes at a time when the Conservancy has only one major project still underway—securing land use management in Canaan Valley. The project represents a new direction for the Conservancy, since it may involve administering a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and hiring a fulltime coordinator. "The project would use a planning approach to broker a path through government and private boulders," George explained.

If funding can be obtained, the plan would involve surveying local attitudes and developing plans which emphasize local involvement and alternative management strategies. A prerequisite of the plan is securing enough local interest from various parties to assure a reasonable chance of success.

The move follows recommendations made in the Saturday workshop by Glen Eugster, Chief of Natural Resources Planning of the National Park Service. Eugster recommended just such a plan and indicated the Conservancy would be eligible for funds to administer a conservation planning program. (See inside for details of Eugster's presentation.) He indicated a small commitment of funds from the state could leverage additional federal funds and allow his office to supply assistance in the project.

Discussing the various rivers which could be included in the project, board members cited the factors affecting river conservation efforts. The Gauley River is largely seen as a commercial rafting river, with conflicts over its use primarily between whitewater interests, fishermen and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Greenbrier, because of its length and extensive private ownership along its banks presents a more complex problem.

The third river, included as an amendment to the initial motion, is the Bluestone. Characterized as having the best base of local support and the least organized opposition to conservation efforts, the Bluestone represents "the best chance of success," board member Jim McNeely said.

Strategy for developing the plan will be an important part of the Water Resources Committee Chair's role. The committee position is now vacant, due to the resignation of Frank Pelurie. The Conservancy is seeking a new chair.

1984 Legislative Priorities Set

The Board of Directors established the state legislative priorities for the Conservancy at the winter meeting. Placing the creation of the Canaan Valley Development Authority at the top of the list, the board adopted several goals to pursue in the current legislative session.

The Canaan Valley bill, which will be introduced in the legislature by the end of January, provides for the development of a master plan for development within the valley and requires developers to comply with the master plan.

Other priorities include:

- Passage of the Soil Erosion and

Sediment Control Bill. The bill would require the Soil Conservation Districts to outline acceptable sediment control plans. Approved plans would require farmers, timber companies and other developers to get a site specific plan approved by the SCD prior to earth disturbance. Farmers and timbering operators now working under the voluntary 208 program would be exempt.

• Inclusion of the upper part of the Greenbrier River in the state's Stream Preservation Act, and state funding for an inventory of rivers. Both are steps

(Continued on Page 8)



Board members discuss issues at winter meeting at Jackson's Mill.

Board Affirms Appointments, Hears Reports

The Appointment of Tom Michael to the position of Senior Vice President was confirmed by the Board of Directors at the winter meeting held Sunday, January 15 at Jackson's Mill. Michael, formerly a director-at-large, will chair the Management Review Committee, which has responsibility to develop a plan for staff and provide general management oversight to the Conservancy.

President Larry George also announced the appointment of Mary Ratliff as Editor of the Voice, replacing Brian Farkas who resigned in September.

Vacancies in board and committee positions now include two directorships and one committee chair due to the promotion of Tom Michael and the resignations of Frank Pelurie. The Water Resources Committee position will be filled in the coming weeks. Directorships will be filled at the spring meeting.

The board heard several status reports. Perry Bryant, Vice President for State Affairs, reported on the settlement of the BTI controversy, indicating that the lawsuit has been dismissed since a compromise was reached. DNR has agreed not to use the chemical in the New River area. Bryant also discussed current attempts to strengthen "low flow" definitions in water quality regulations. The present standard, called seven-G-ten, completely exempts streams from water quality standards which fall to a flow of less than one cfs for seven days every 10 years. "Since the standard exempts so many small streams, a better definition

of 'low flow' needs to be put in place," he said. The board authorized Bryant to negotiate a definition of 'low flow' which would permit reduced water quality criteria on certain streams only during the period of low flow and within the segments which are at low flow.

Vice President for National Affairs Linda Winter reviewed activity related to acid rain legislation, indicating proposals would be accepted by Sen. Stafford until March 1, and that Congress might be expected to act this year as a result of wide-spread public concern. She also reported on the Acid Rain Conference attended by representatives from around the country as well as several Democratic presidential candidates. (A full report will appear in the March edition of the Voice.)

Linda Elkington distributed copies of land use management legislation for Canaan Valley which the Conservancy will support in the West Virginia Legislature this year. She detailed present development plans in the valley, indicating the creation of a Canaan Valley Development Authority under the proposed regulation seemed to be the only remaining hope for controlling development there.

Bard Montgomery reported on continuing negotiations with Enviro-Energy, Inc., for limiting effects of mining operations on the Shavers Fork watershed. The Conservancy hopes to reach an agreement with the company which will provide reasonable protection to the area. The board reviewed several points of the proposed agreement now being negotiated.

A Second Flight For Canaan Valley

By Linda Elkinton

Consideration of special state legislation to manage commercial, resort and second-home development and to protect the sensitive lands of Canaan Valley is planned for this session of the West Virginia Legislature. Its passage is vital to the security of Canaan's economic and natural resources. To succeed, the effort will require widespread public support.

At stake are the open and wet fields and farm lands that sustain the valley's clean waters, rural charm and economic value. Magnificent scenery is increasingly falling victim to cluttering signs and excessive lighting. Native trout streams, and habitat for waterfowl, game and other wildlife are being irreparably encroached upon. Perhaps most importantly, water supplies essential to the health and welfare of residents and visitors are being degraded by sewage, waste disposal and overall lack of planning.

The need for a plan to manage development in Canaan is not foreign to local residents, county officials, state government or private interests. A relatively simple method for accomplishing this while balancing competing interests is proposed by the legislation.

Realistically, time for quibbling has run out. The entire matter has been delayed or ignored too long. At this point it will be difficult enough to insure that present development does not do more harm than good. New plans are surfacing almost daily. (The newest promises exclusive townhouse condos with a revolving tree-top restaurant). *The floodgates are open. If action does not come this year, the valley's best features may be compromised beyond hope.*

The effort to achieve state legislation will indeed be a tough one, particularly

in this case. It will be an issue new to state legislators (past efforts dealing with Canaan have always focused on federal actions). Also it must be dealt with during an election year, a time of even greater politicking, posturing and confusion than normal. County-level support will, at best, be divided despite the fact the draft legislation and the present County Plan are to a large degree compatible.

Canaan landowners and business people who realize the implications of the out-of-control development have recently formed the "Canaan Land Planning Association." It will focus on passage of the bill as the only viable method for dealing with the situation. Its members will need the support and assistance of every concerned citizen. With a concerted effort there is, at last and at least, a chance to achieve overall planning and protection for one of West Virginia's most well-known and beloved land treasures.

For more information on the state legislation and how you can help further it, write Canaan Land Planning Association, P.O. Box 10, Davis, West Virginia 26260. Contributions to assist with the effort are desperately needed and can be sent to them directly, or to the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy (P.O. Box 504, Fairmont, WV 26554). Contributions to WVHC are tax-deductible and can be earmarked for Canaan.

Letters to state legislators are vital now in support of this "enabling" legislation. Write your Delegates and Senators (State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305) and send copies of your correspondence to one or more of the following: Del. Kevin Koury (D-Tucker); Sen. Jerry Ash (D-Tucker); Sen. C.N. Harman (R-Tucker); Gov. John D. Rockefeller; and Canaan Landowners Planning Association.

From The Editor

The **Voice** turns sixteen with this issue, practically full-grown if we want to think in purely human terms. The comparison is useful to a new editor, who feels a little like a foster parent after struggling to put the issue 'to bed.' The point is the **Voice** has pretty well established its own character by now, and only a foolish editor or parent would risk trying to change the character of a sixteen-year-old.

Changes will come, gradually—some purely visual, others substantive—but the changes will reflect the vitality of the Conservancy itself and the range of interests of its members.

The **Voice** has always depended on contributions from members. It should. But simple unfamiliarity with who can be asked to do what makes me a little nervous about that dependence. This issue, focusing as it does on the winter meeting, was easier because the action happened in one spot. The action for the Conservancy is more often scattered from Charleston to Washington and all over the highlands in between.

Consider yourself a reporter. If you happen to be where the action is on issues of interest to the Conservancy, write it up. If writing's not your idea of fun, call me with the information and I'll do my best to translate the facts into 'reportage.'

If you have a perspective on an issue or a highlands experience you'd like to share, send that. One of the first changes you'll notice beginning with this issue is the presence of an editorial section. I'd like to see this grow, to hear new voices there (hence the name of the column). We'll also try using some letters to the editor.

In the next few months, give some thought to the **Voice**—why you read it, what you like best, what you'd like to see. Then give some thought to yourself. What are your talents? What could you share with other Conservancy members? Could you do cartoons or book reviews or photographs? After that, get in touch. Offer.

Conservancy members are by definition, I hope, activists. I'll be depending on that to put out fresh, interesting, high quality issues of the **Voice**. Send things early, say before the 12th of the month. The last week has to be saved for picking up issues that are still developing and for piecing things together.

Write me at the address below. Write, please. The **Voice** depends on you.

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New Problems For Canaan Valley

by Linda Elkington

Canaan Valley, the 35,000-acre, high-plateau valley of north-central West Virginia, contains some 40 percent of all West Virginia wetlands and the greatest diversity and abundance of unusual wildlife and plants anywhere in the mid-Atlantic region. It has been the site of much controversy and publicity in recent years. The focus of much of the attention has been two diametrically opposed plans for the valley's use: one, construction of a pumped-storage power dam, the Davis Power Project, that would flood over 7,000 acres of its northern end (essentially all of its wetlands), and the other, a federal plan to establish West Virginia's first and only national wildlife refuge in Canaan Valley as a means for perpetually protecting and managing its vast wildlife and water resources.

But while the Davis Power Project remains deadlocked in federal court and the federal refuge plan is hopelessly stalled as a result of the Reagan administration's policy on natural areas protection, new problems have emerged for the valley.

As a result of the attention and the increasing popularity of Canaan Valley State Park and private recreational developments, thousands of visitors have come to see and explore the valley's borders. Some have decided to stay and are, quite literally, digging in. In the last decade they have more than doubled the valley's population and increased the number of housing units by more than 400 percent. Resort developers alone have laid claim to a half-dozen large-acreage sites and are now constructing upwards of 2,200 condominium units.

Such economic development would be good news for nearly any other part

of the state and nation, but in Canaan this rapid, uncontrolled growth spells inevitable disaster.

Land-use professionals have detailed the problem for years. Canaan's hard clay soils, fractured limestone substructure, high water table and extensive wet areas present major barriers to responsible development. Extensive development and lack of care to prevent serious problems now threatens the very features that attract people to the valley.

These new problems have raised a call for land use management planning and led to proposed legislation enabling people of the area to establish controls.

As drafted the legislation would create the "Canaan Valley Development Authority" to manage development and insure the protection of important land and water features. Based on information of the character of the valley, the Authority's Board of Directors would be empowered to establish a comprehensive plan for Canaan Valley by January, 1985, and set rules and regulations to implement it.

In recognition of the importance of local control and government cooperation, the Authority's board would be

comprised of four Valley residents representing different interests (real estate development, small business, agriculture and second-home ownerships), along with the president of the Tucker County Commission, and the directors of the State Health Department and the Department of Natural Resources. The comprehensive plan developed by the board would map out areas able to sustain specific types of development as well as areas in need of aggressive protection. Land disturbances and development would only be allowed according to the plan.

Two other vital features of the legislation would give the Authority power to grant conservation easements and establish a state "land trust." These protections would enhance the valley's attractiveness and economic value while providing tax exemptions and other benefits to landowners. The Authority could manage protected lands or designate a body with experience and expertise in such practices to manage them.

Most importantly, the legislation would provide a means for implementing some of what so many have for years worked to accomplish at the local, county and federal level.

Spring Meeting Date Set

Mark your calendar for the weekend of May 4, 5 and 6, 1984. Plan to attend the Conservancy's spring fling at the Greenbrier Youth Center at Anthony, West Virginia.

Canoe trips on the Greenbrier River, wildflower and bird walks, fishing, biking or hiking along the Greenbrier Scenic Trail are all planned or possible. Submit your suggestions for specific field trips or volunteer to lead excursions to help make the weekend a success.

The Greenbrier River Valley is a unique and beautiful area. Recently under study for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System, the Greenbrier will be part of the Conservancy's new

focus on West Virginia rivers. If you don't already know the Greenbrier, introduce yourself this spring.

Although the Conservancy hasn't confirmed the Saturday evening program, a debate between candidates for a statewide office is in the planning stage.

Contact John Purbaugh, Skip Deegans, Bard Montgomery or Glen Davis (addresses and phone numbers listed in the roster) with your ideas or offers of help. Details on trips, directions, meals and lodging will appear in future Voice issues.

Join our weekend celebration of spring in the highlands!

Hertig Named To DNR Post

Willis H. Hertig, a Huntington native, was named Director of the Department of Natural Resources shortly after the new year, following the resignation of Dave Callaghan. In an interview with Skip Johnson of the Charleston Gazette (Jan. 5, 1984) Hertig said, "I envision no major innovations, but the nature of the job rules out just setting issues on the shelf and letting someone else worry about them. You have almost constant conflicts relative to the use of our natural resources."

He described his role at DNR as "one of implementing the chief executive's policies and meshing them with the purposes and goals of the DNR." Among his top priorities, according to the article, are to get final approval of regulations on surface mining, hazardous wastes and solid wastes.

Recently, Hertig opposed the proposal to empower the director to allow timber cutting in state parks. The Conservancy also opposes the legislation.

Water Resources Chairman Wanted

The Conservancy is seeking a person to serve as Chairman of the WVHC Water Resources Committee. This committee is responsible for all Conservancy activities regarding water rights, wild and scenic river protection, flood control and hydropower projects and management of the New National River.

The committee will be playing a central role in attaining wild and scenic status for the Gauley, Greenbrier and Bluestone rivers or developing alternative conservation plans.

The chairman has lead responsibility

for developing and implementing organizational positions and strategy to attain Conservancy goals, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. This is an excellent opportunity for a volunteer to assume an important role in the crucial water resource issues facing our State. No previous experience necessary.

If you are interested, contact: Larry W. George, President, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, 9 Crestridge Drive, Huntington, WV 25705. Phone (304) 736-1325 (home) or 523-8451 (office).

Board Members Wanted

The Conservancy is seeking two people interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the organization. The open positions were recently vacated by the promotion of Tom Michael and the resignation of Frank Pelurie. Both are unexpired terms.

The primary qualifications are interest in the work of the Conservancy and a commitment to participate. Members who are interested in the positions should contact Larry George, 9 Crestridge Drive, Huntington, WV 25705.

—Books & Info—

A New Canoeing Guide to Western Pennsylvania & Northern West Virginia, edited by Mary Shaw and Roy Weil and published by Pittsburgh Council of American Youth Hostels, is available for \$5.00 (soft cover). The guide includes over 200 trip descriptions of over 2000 miles of routes including white water, flat water, lakes

and marshes. Compiled with the input of active canoeists and trip leaders, the guide provides general information, photos, maps, tables, river gauge information and car-shuttle descriptions.

Write: A.Y.H. Books, 7303 Reynolds Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15208. Postage, tax extra. Group rates available.

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Winter Workshop Features Debate

Gauley River Hydropower Proposal Explained



Don Herndon

Describing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' recommended proposal for hydropower on the Gauley River as "a compromise which provides good power benefits and good whitewater," Don Herndon, Chief of the Planning Division of the Corp's Huntington District, outlined the project to conservancy members during the winter meeting workshop.

Of the proposals considered, Herndon explained, the proposal which provides the highest power production causes the most significant damage to whitewater boating and fishing. The proposal which causes the least impact would only produce power incidentally and would not be economically feasible. According to Herndon, the Corps' recommendation includes several trade-offs.

The recommended proposal, dubbed the long tunnel plan or LT-IIIIE, calls for the Corps to build a generating plant on the Gauley River three miles below the Summersville Dam. Water would be carried to the hydroelectric facility through a 1.3-mile tunnel running southwest from Summersville Lake. The tunnel, beginning at an elevation of approximately 1590 feet would penetrate the ridge separating the lake from the lower Gauley, dropping to an elevation of approximately 1250 feet at the power station site.

The Corps did not recommend an alternative proposal calling for three short tunnels to a generating facility at the dam site. According to Herndon, the short tunnel plan provided reduced energy production benefits and greater damage, since the entire lower section of the Gauley would be adversely affected by fluctuating water levels.

Both long tunnel and short tunnel plans called for hydro-power facilities designed to produce 'peaking' power, or energy production primarily during hours of peak consumption. A peaking operation releases water and generates power primarily through the daytime.

"We have learned that operational plans are very important in assessing resource trade-offs, because of the effect on power, downstream boating and downstream fishing," Herndon said.

Flow patterns which provide maximum power provide for very little water to be released at night. Releases surge water rapidly to a high peak and quickly shut off water at the end of the period. (Fig. A) "If there are few restrictions on peaking," Herndon said, "power income would be maximized." The abrupt changes in water level and the higher peak, however, produce the greatest negative downstream effects.

Under the compromise LT-IIIIE proposal (Fig. B), water releases would be gradually increased, thus 'staging' the level of the river upwards each day at the rate of about one foot per hour to a peak of about 2400 cubic feet per second (cfs). The peak flow is maintained for several hours, then 'staged' down at the end of the peaking period to a fixed minimum.

According to the Corps' study, the releases were scheduled to occur over an eight-hour period.

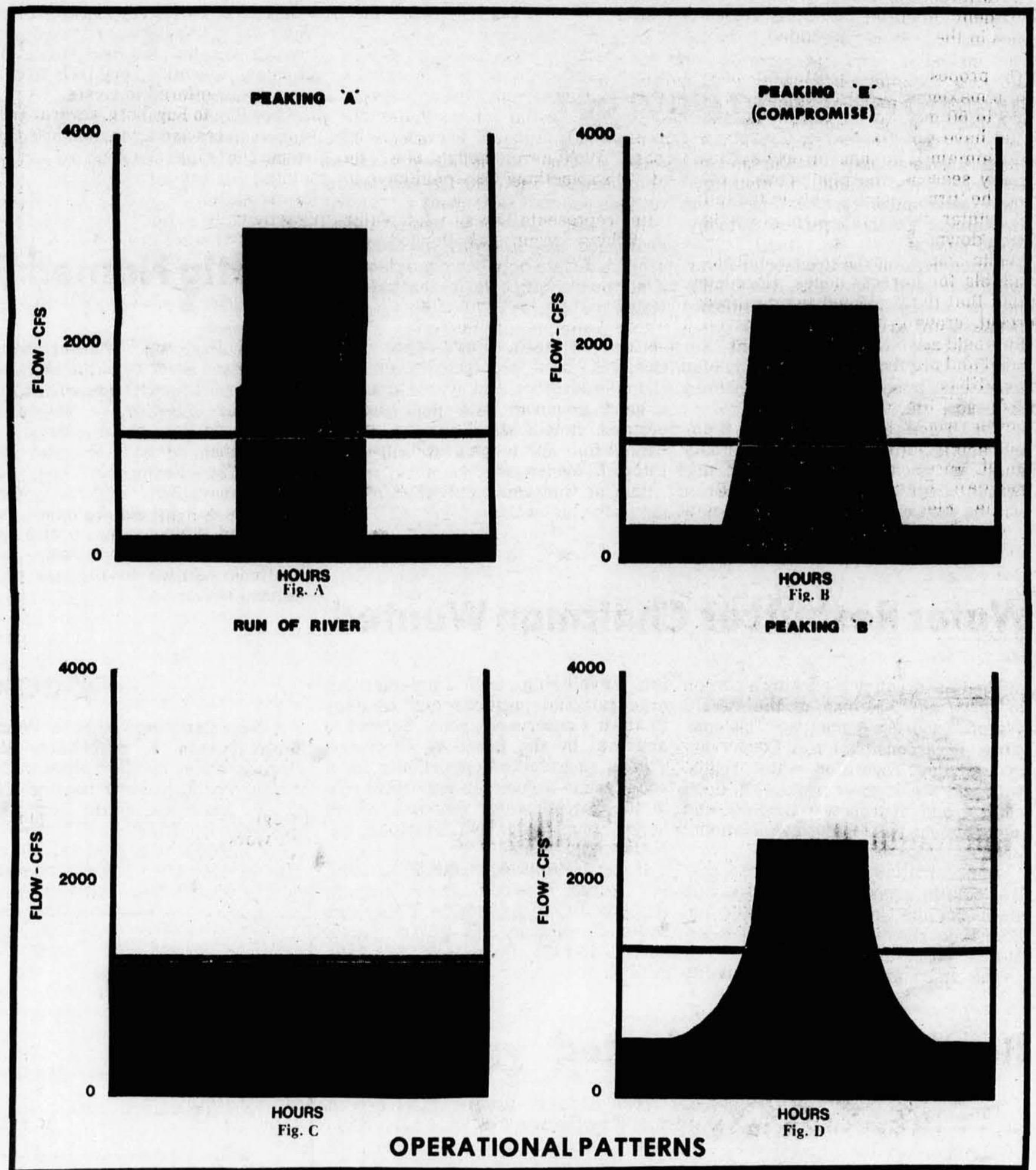
A so-called 'run of river' flow pattern (Fig. C) would not significantly change the present character of the river and would maintain a relatively constant flow. This type of generating plant, providing base load power instead of peaking power, produces electricity constantly and evenly. A fourth flow pattern (Fig. D), "maximizes daily flow conditions for whitewater use and fishing," Herndon said, but "power production is incidental."

"The long tunnel plan would provide 50 percent more energy than the short tunnel plan," Herndon stated. By placing the facility downstream, the water would drop an additional 120 feet before passing through the turbines, in-

creasing the energy potential.

The Corps' representatives claimed the additional advantage of the LT-IIIIE proposal over the short tunnel plan lay in the mitigation of damages to fish and wildlife. Three miles of the Gauley between the dam and the plant site would have a sustained but minimal flow, creating a zone for fish and wildlife habitat protected from peaking releases.

One of the trade-offs of the long tunnel plan, Herndon admitted, was the loss of three miles of whitewater. The long tunnel plan leaves twenty-one miles of whitewater between the power plant and Swiss, including eight rapids in classes IV, V, and VI. "Lower reach timing for whitewater use is more favorable with the long tunnel plan," Herndon said. "In regard to



Different operational or flow patterns were considered in developing the Corps project recommendation. Fig. B, the 'compromise' pattern shows how the Corps proposes to release water under the long tunnel plan. (Graphic Courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

On The Future Of Gauley River

whitewater visitors, we do not believe there will be any significant difference in demand for use."

All proposals and flow patterns considered by the Corps include a sixteen-foot increase in the summer pool of Summersville Lake. The change would inundate existing recreational facilities at the lake and increase the size of the lake by 550 acres. The mitigation plan calls for relocation of the recreational facilities. The total drawdown would be the same, but the higher pool "can mean improved flow conditions for whitewater during the fall drawdown and improved energy output," he said.

Citing the Corps' study, Herndon said the long tunnel plant would have the capacity to produce 400 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year. "The difference in energy production is equivalent to that used by 13,500 homes in the region," he added.

The proposal sets the 'firm capacity,' or the maximum capacity at one time, at 55 to 60 megawatts. Since the lake would have to be raised in the spring and maintained at summer pool during the dry seasons, the plant could produce the 'firm capacity' only in the fall and winter when the lake is being drawn down.

While ample generating capacity is available for current needs, Herndon stated that the projected two to three percent growth in demand through 1995 would make the Gauley project "a needed and practical addition of any of the utility systems serving the region. . .if the cost is right."

Power would be marketed by the Southeastern Power Administration to one of three regional companies, American Electric Power (AEP), Virginia Electric Power Company

(VEPCO) and Allegheny Power System (APS). APS, which serves the northeastern third of West Virginia, appeared to be the most likely purchaser, Herndon indicated.

According to data contained in the LT-IIIIE proposal, the cost-benefit ratio of the long tunnel project is estimated at 1.4 to 1.5, indicating the project should return about one and a half times its costs. Of the benefit estimate, 98 percent or 18 to 20 million dollars per year is attributed to power production, with three-quarter million dollars per year attributed to other benefits such as recreation or fish and wildlife.

Herndon indicated the Corps had proposed a deviation in the recommended plan which would allow special fall releases from the dam, bypassing the generating plant, to provide limited whitewater use of the upper three-mile section.

Responding to questions about the use of the three-mile section of the Gauley below the dam, Herndon agreed that the Corps would have to provide maintenance if the minimal 200 cfs flow allowed tree growth to begin in the stream. "We'd never thought of it," he said. "It's something we would have to do."

After representatives of whitewater and fishing groups challenged the validity of the Corps' data, Herndon defended the report. The figures were thoroughly reviewed," he said. "They were accurate and pertinent."

"Your group needs to look to the future, 2020 and beyond," he concluded. "I believe the Summersville Dam is too good a power site not to be developed. It will be developed. The question for you is how it will be developed. We've recommended the LT-IIIIE plan, but we're not wedded to it."

Park Service Officials Calls for New Strategies To Protect Rivers

"The Gauley is without question one of the great rivers," Glen Eugsberg said Saturday. "Electricity for 13,500 homes represents a purely local amount of energy significance. You simply can't balance that with the national significance of the Gauley River."

The Chief of Natural Resources Planning for the National Park Service urged the Conservancy to consider new strategies to gain protection for West Virginia's endangered rivers.

"The timing is right for action," he said, noting the lack of leadership for protection at the federal level, the rapidly dwindling resources, and the increased pressure for development. "We hear a lot of talk about the need for balance, but we see very little balance," he said. "Very little protection is being offered to rivers."

According to Eugsberg, several West Virginia rivers are among the less than five percent of all rivers in the U.S. remaining in an undeveloped, free-flowing state. "We see a groundswell of activity to protect rivers in other states," he said. West Virginia has no state policy which recognizes rivers as unique corridors, no statewide perspective on rivers and no data base, he explained.

Describing Maine's recently established protection system, Eugsberg told how that state developed an energy plan and a rivers plan at the same time. By looking at the whole picture, he explained, the state could identify the most valuable scenic and recreational rivers and effectively balance them against development interests through trade-offs with less important waterways. Maine is using a variety of methods to protect 1100 miles of rivers under the plan. State, federal and local governments as well as private organizations and industrial interests cooperated in developing the plan.

"Confusion between feelings about conservation and federal regulation interfere with efforts to protect rivers," Eugsberg said. Where state, local and private interests have a strong preference for home rule, the old strategies of federal management won't work.

Lack of support for federal management and the absence of an alternative management plan were seen as the major stumbling blocks to Wild and Scenic designation for the Gauley River.

"New strategies must be hand-crafted for each area," he said. "You must put together a plan which will gain the support of landowners and local officials. There is a role for each part of the spectrum."

Guidance Offered

Eugsberg offered these specific suggestions to the Conservancy:

1. Make river conservation a priority. Focus your agenda. Think about the fact that the state does not have a river conservation policy.

2. Broaden your support base. Renew old associations and develop new partnerships where interests overlap. Look for economic values which are enhanced by conservation, such as tourism and agriculture.

3. Look at what is going on in other states and the lessons to be learned from their experiences. Consider the advantages of merging state energy and conservation plans.

4. Look at existing programs to make sure you're using all laws and all funding sources to accomplish your goals.

5. Look at Senate Bill 1756, the State and Local River Conservation Act now under consideration in Congress. Support amendment of FERC regulations to make room for state and local

6. Be more visible in your support of river conservation.

Local Conservation Strategies

Section 11 of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides staff assistance to states, local governments and private organizations in studying resources and developing river conservation plans. "We do work only by request and in cooperation with local people. Essentially, we can help as group broke a conservation management plan that is sensitive to state and local interests."

Federal management under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was the primary strategy in initial river preservation activities. But a number of alternative methods are working in other areas.

Local or state protection can sometimes be secured using a combination of strategies. Private watershed associations have formed in several areas to manage conservation plans. Some use scenic easements from landowners who agree to protect against unsuitable development near the river. Others establish private land trusts which can accept donations of property along the waterway.

With careful planning landowners can realize economic benefits from conservation, Eugsberg explained. Tax write-offs can be secured for easements and donations. Trade-offs can be negotiated.

Explaining the steps to take to protect rivers, Eugsberg advised organizations to set priorities based on resource importance, the level of threat and landowner susceptibility. "Recognize local leaders and work with them," he said. Interviews and surveys can be used to find out people's attitudes toward the river and to determine their plans and interests. "Without those kinds of insights you haven't involved them. You don't know what their interests are."

"If a federal management study has made the area hostile to river protection, you will have to reestablish credibility," he said. "Cooperation is the key to developing an effective and accepted management plan."

Workshop Speakers



Bert Pierce



Steven Taylor

"No Other Gauley"

"The Gauley is one of the premier stretches of whitewater in the United States," the Executive Director of Citizens for Gauley River told Conservancy members January 14th at Jackson's Mill. Stating his group's opposition to the project but advocating a businesslike dialog with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, David Brown explained the Gauley's unique status and detailed concerns about the Corps' hydropower plan.

"Only 300 miles of major whitewater rivers with reliable flow remain in the eastern United States," he said. "The Gauley is to whitewater what Augusta is to golf and the Great Smokies are to the Appalachian Mountains."

Of the 34 miles the Gauley River runs from the Summersville Dam to the confluence with the New River to form the Kanawha, the upper 24 miles represents the longest, most concentrated whitewater in the east, he explained. The section boasts forty-eight major rapids. Nine of those rapids will disappear if the three-mile section below the dam is reduced to minimal flow by diversion of water through the long tunnel to the down-stream power plant.

According to Brown, the fall drawdown of Summersville Lake brings 25,000 people to the river each year. The whitewater industry generates three million dollars in direct and indirect revenue for the area and employs 420 workers.

Quoting ratings published in *Canoe Magazine*, Brown claimed the Gauley River has the highest attraction index in the entire eastern whitewater spectrum.

Data used in determining feasibility and doubts about actual implementation of the hydroelectric project worry Gauley supporters and whitewater enthusiasts and professionals. The Corps has predicted improved whitewater conditions below the long tunnel power station and has proposed special fall releases from the dam to allow whitewater boating on the bypassed three-mile section.

"Based on our past experience and given the situation in Congress," Brown said, "we have grave questions about the Corps' ability to deliver."

Questioning the basic economic feasibility of the project, Brown cited a General Accounting Office study which indicated many of the 934 authorized water projects projected to cost \$60 billion were unneeded and should be deauthorized. "The Corps admits there will be no shortage of power if the plant is not built," he said.

Inadequate federal funding to both complete the project and support plans to mitigate damages could lead to alterations in operation, especially if studies done for their group showing economic costs exceed benefits are correct, Brown said. "We're afraid the Corps will have to maximize power production after construction."

The citizens for Gauley River group fears the project proposal is not legally binding, leaving the Corps the option to reinterpret proposals and use discretion in implementation. "Changed operations could have significant impacts on local recreation business," he said.

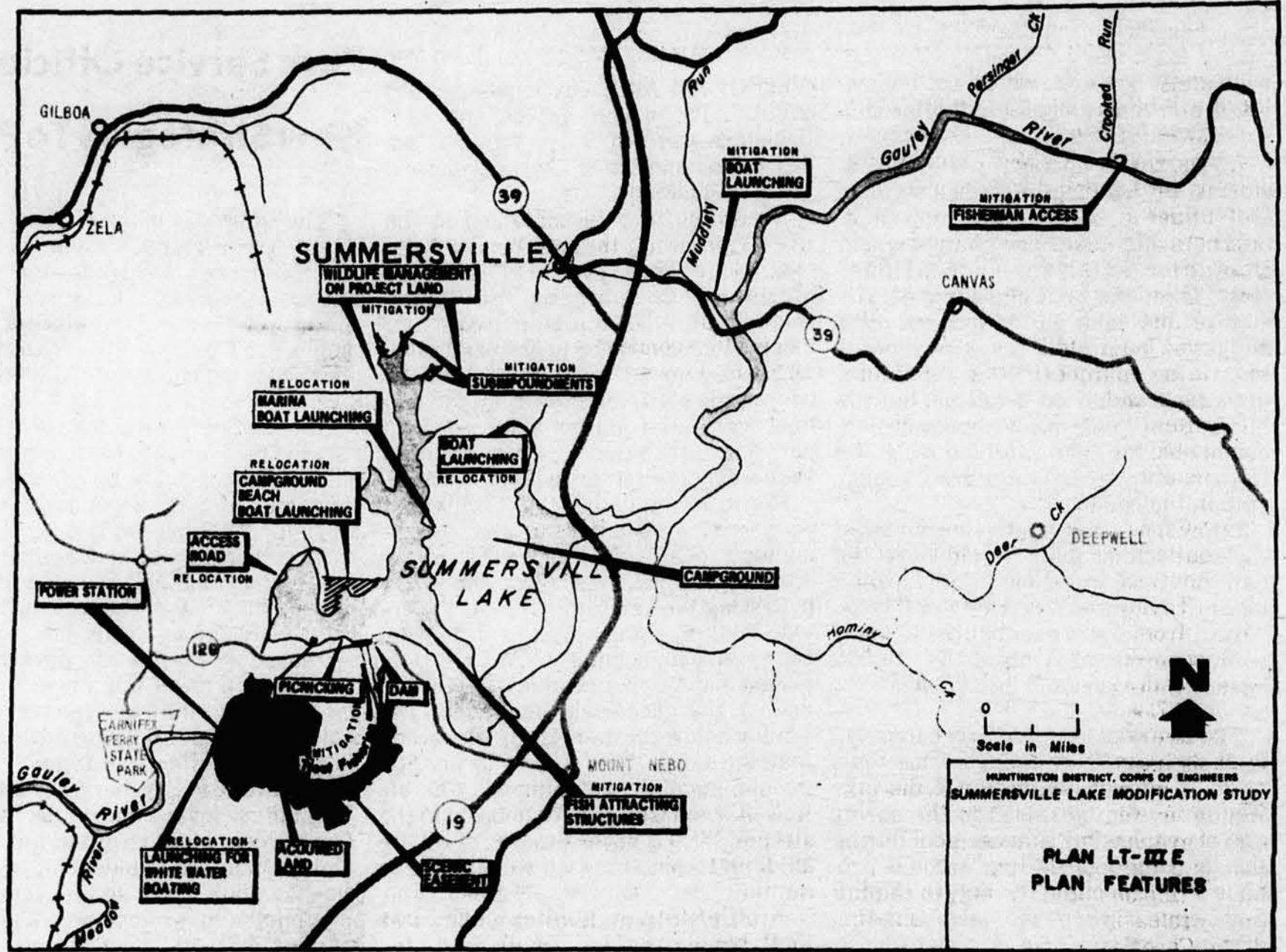
Summarizing the adverse impact of the project, Brown said important negatives include a potentially permanent degradation of premium whitewater resources from the loss of three miles of river and uncertainties about flow patterns and timing. Temporary degradation would result from construction of the tunnel and the plant

within the gorge and the loss of recreation on Summersville Lake during the relocation and reconstruction of the river.

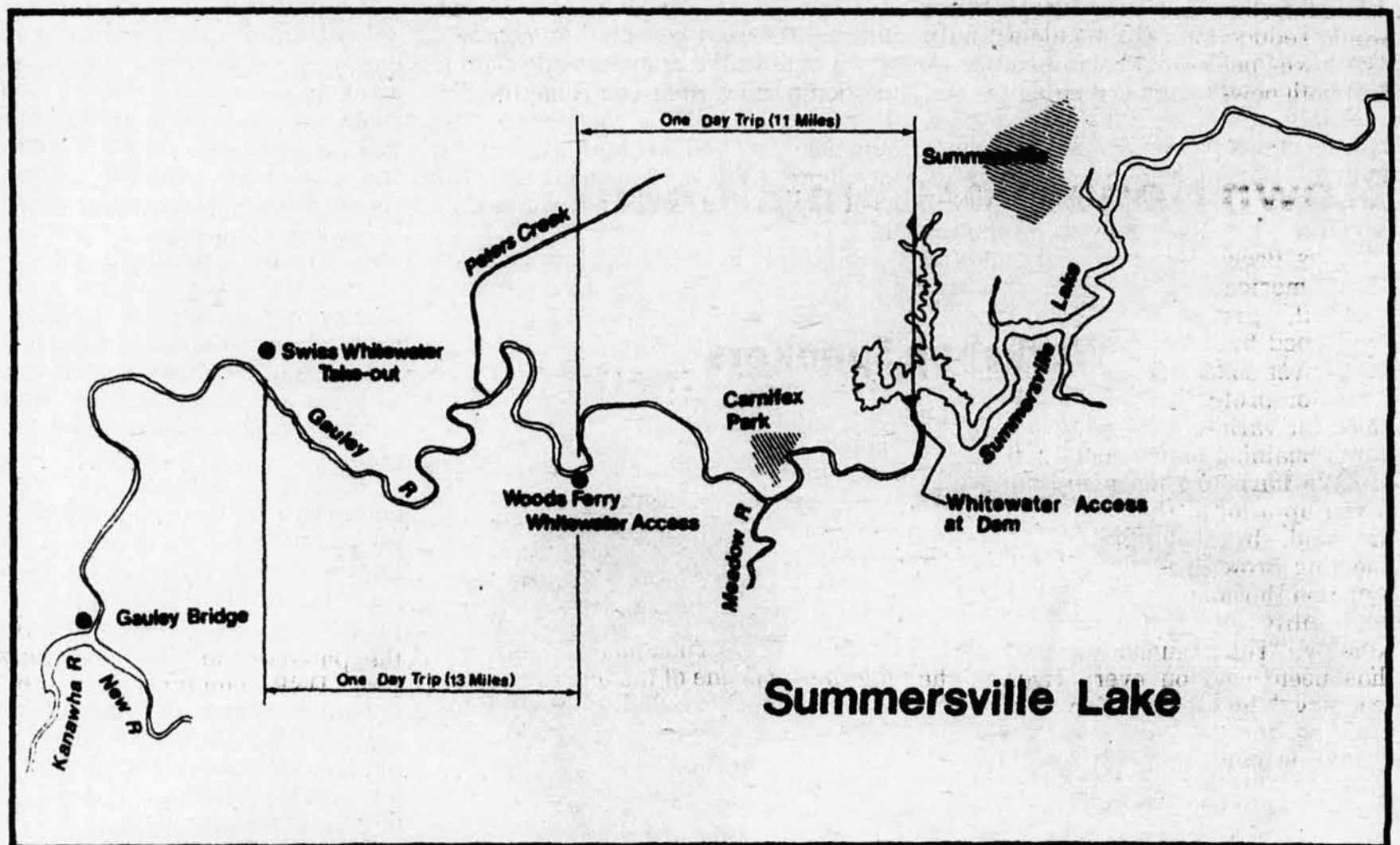
"Your position will weigh heavily," Brown told the group. "You must remember, there is no other Gauley River."

"Have you had a kindness shown? Pass it on."

Henry Burton



A 1.3 mile tunnel would be constructed between Summersville Lake and the Gauley River three miles downstream under the LT-III plan proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A short tunnel alternative would place a power station at the dam. (Graphic Courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)



Premium whitewater on the Gauley River now extends from the Summersville Dam to the town of Swiss, a total of 24 miles. Three miles will be lost if the proposed LT-III project is built. (Graphic Courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Engineer Challenges Hydropower Feasibility

Consulting engineer Steven Taylor believes necessary updates and corrections of the U.S. Corps of Engineers' Final Feasibility Study of the LT-III Gauley River Project would prove the long tunnel project is economically unsound and should not be authorized.

Taylor, a Washington, D.C. engineer who has reviewed Corp's studies for Citizens for Gauley River, summarized his findings at the Saturday workshop.

"There are several significant problems with the Corps' study," Taylor said. "Cost-benefit ratio estimates are totally unreferenced. Power benefits are over-estimated because inappropriate engineering assumptions were used and were never corrected, even after the local power company commented that the assumptions were inconsistent with power industry practices in the area," Taylor said.

The Corps' study was based on a flow pattern which produced four to eight hours of peak generation. According to Taylor, the Corps received comments from utilities indicating the peaking power would only be useful if it were generated over a fifteen-hour period. "Despite that," he said, "the Corps retained the cost-benefit analysis based on 8-hour peaking."

The firm capacity of a hydroelectric facility is related to the amount of water available. "How high the peak goes is a function of how much water can be released and the length of time you're releasing," Taylor explained.

The Corps' graph of the compromise operational pattern (Fig. B) shows an eight-hour peak producing a flow of 2400 cfs, the level considered ideal for whitewater. According to Taylor, spreading this flow over fifteen hours would reduce the peak by almost half. The lower peak would significantly affect both power capacity estimates and

predictions regarding whitewater use.

Other concerns cited by Taylor's study included discrepancies between energy inflation projections used in the final study and projections available now. Changes in the economy and energy surpluses have revised estimates downward since 1981. If the Corps had taken this into account, Taylor claims, the rates would have been approximately 2 percent instead of the 13.94 percent figure used for the 1981 to 1985 period, and approximately 1 percent instead of the 2.36 figure used for the 1985 to 1990 period.

In written comments presented to the Corps in December, 1983 and made available at the workshop, Taylor indicates the Corps did update economic benefits and costs for the final study delivered to the Board of Engineers in January 1983 but did not update energy values.

Interest rate estimates also affect feasibility. Taylor explained the Corps' most recent update fixes the rate at 7 and 7/8 percent while realistic long-term bond rates and energy values to reflect current conditions would change the cost-benefit ratio to less than one. "Costs will exceed benefits," he said.

The Citizens for Gauley River consultant also questioned marketability of the power. "The Southeastern Power Administration admitted in a letter to me that analysis was 'informal' and that 'definitive studies are not available.'"

"From the point of view of whitewater interests, there are too many outstanding questions," Taylor concluded. "The generation plan will greatly affect whitewater. There is no guarantee Congress will authorize and fund all aspects of the proposal. You just don't know what you're getting."

Brown Hopes For Commitment

Chris Brown, Executive Director of the American Rivers Conservation Council, presented a slide show developed by his organizations to promote river conservation. Discussing the need for protection, he reiterated the need for various strategies to save the few remaining undeveloped rivers.

"We have to remember that we've given up a lot of the Gauley already," he said. In an interview after the meeting Brown reacted to Corps planner Don Herndon's statement on the inevitability of hydropower on the Gauley. "The argument 'hydro or else' has been used on every river in the country," he said. "We've got to be fighting for the few best, and the Gauley is unquestionably one of those."

Brown believes designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act may be the only way to save the Gauley, though he stresses that federal designation need not mean federal management. "A long term strategy for protection must be developed to save the river," he said.

"I came to perk up the Conservancy on the Gauley issue," he explained. "It's important to recognize the Gauley's importance on a national scale. Along with the Penobscot in Maine and the Tuolumne in California, the Gauley is one of the top three rivers in the nation in need of protection." Brown expressed hope that a commitment would come out of the meeting.

Explanation

As readers will notice there was no issue of the Voice in December. This was due to the reorganization of the editorial staff of the Voice. With the employment of the new editor, Mary Ratliff, the Voice is now back in operation.

This month's issue, dated January-February, will be the only one that is bi-monthly. Look forward to receiving your Voice monthly from now on. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.



Chris Brown address the Conservancy at the Gauley River workshop.



Glen Eugster

David Brown

Fishery Protection Sought

Both the Department of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited advocated protection of fisheries on the Gauley River and in the Summersville Lake area in statements Saturday. They were split, however, in their positions on the long tunnel power project.

Bert Pierce, a biologist for DNR, read a statement prepared by Wildlife Division Chief Bob Miles stating that DNR had not taken a position for or against the project. The statement indicated, however, that DNR believed the long tunnel plan would provide additional sport fishing and other recreation.

The three-mile section between the dam and the power station to be maintained at a constant flow and constant temperature is accepted as sufficient mitigation for downstream damages, since it provides a reliable area for the 'put-and-take' trout stocking operation DNR conducts in the cold tailwaters below the dam. "It is our sincere opinion that as currently planned, the Summersville hydropower project will not have an adverse effect on fish and wildlife resources," Pierce said.

Elwin Layman, speaking for Trout Unlimited, disagreed. "The Gauley is unique in that it is a really large trout stream," Layman said. "Our membership is not enthused about the proposed three-mile 'put-and-take' hatchery based trout fishery below the dam as a mitigation measure."

Explaining that his group was more interested in the permanent population of trout which had become established

below the dam, he stated that the real effect of the long tunnel plan would be to reduce the trout fishery to ten percent of its original size. "The studies admit they have not gone into the remote areas," he said about the assessment of the fishery potential. "They didn't go where the fish were."

The raised lake level will also inundate one-half mile of wild trout water on Hominy Creek, Layman explained. Hominy Creek flows into Summersville Lake from the east. "West Virginia has very little wild trout water equal to the Hominy Creek fishery," he said.

Referring to the proposal of the Town of Summersville and the Noah Corporation to build a 'run of river' hydroelectric plant at the dam, Layman indicated his group supported that plan, since it would not alter present flow patterns. Trout Unlimited also supports Wild and Scenic Rivers designation for the Gauley River providing there is no adverse impact on the cold-water fishery.

Both DNR and Trout Unlimited object to the short tunnel alternative for peaking power since it would put the greatest stress on fish and other aquatic organisms. Pierce explained that occasional fluctuations do not harm fish since they can find protection behind rocks until the high water passes. But as the frequency of fluctuation increases, the frequency of adverse effects increases. "In the breeding season," he said, "fish could deposit eggs high and the eggs would be left dry when the water level dropped."

Status Of The Acid Rain Dilemma

by Linda Winter

Governors Endorse New Proposal

To date, the Reagan Administration has still not backed a program to control acid rain. The reason: a struggle within the President's cabinet, particularly evident between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB Director David Stockman maintains an acid rain control program is not needed and all of the proposed plans are too expensive. EPA is backing a moderate approach to the problem by calling for accelerated research and a three to five-million-ton reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions over the next five to ten years, primarily in Northeastern areas now suffering the most damages from acid rain.

Congress, however, will ultimately decide which acid rain control program is enacted.

EPA administrator William B. Ruckelshaus feels the administration and Congress should and will deal with the problem this year despite the 1984 elections. He views approval of an acid rain control program as hinging upon spreading the costs nationwide.

The Waxman/Sikorski bill (HR 3400), which WVHC supports, would establish a national tax on non-nuclear generated electricity to pay for acid rain controls. The leading acid rain control bills in the Senate would cause control costs to fall primarily on the Midwest since that is where most of the pollution is generated.

Major acid rain bills under consideration are compared in the accompanying chart.

Impetus for acid rain control is building, with six Northeastern governors recently endorsing a national acid rain control plan. They've called for a 10-million-ton reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions and a four-million-ton reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions in the 48 contiguous states by 1995. Estimates of the annual cost of the program are around \$2 billion.

The proposal would allow each state to decide whether to achieve its required emissions reduction by switching from high sulfur to low sulfur coal or through technological controls, in order to avoid controversy over loss of coal mining jobs.

A national trust fund would be created to pay up to two-thirds of the capital costs of new pollution control equipment. Money from the fund would be allocated to states in proportion to their share of total emission reductions.

Up to 50 percent of revenues for the fund would come from a tax on generation of electricity from fossil fuel powered plants with the rest of the fund generated from a tax on emissions. This would be used as an incentive for power plants to reduce emissions and credits would be given to states that have already made significant emissions reductions.

Recent Bills Added

Sen. David Durenberger (R-MN) has sponsored a bill (S 2001) to reduce

sulfur dioxide emissions by 40 percent over 10 years, beginning in January 1985, primarily in the 31 eastern states. Two-thirds of the funding would come from a per-ton on sulfur dioxide emissions from major stationary sources and one-third from a tax on nitrogen oxide emissions from stationary and mobile sources. These revenues would be used to subsidize control measures where the EPA determines cleanup is most needed and cost effective.

The New England Congressional Causus has also proposed an acid rain plan (HR 4404) sponsored by Rep. Norman D'Amours (D-NH). The bill calls for a 12-million-ton annual reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions and a four-million-ton annual reduction of nitrogen oxide emissions. Funding would come from a 1.5-mil-per-kilowatt-hour fee on all fossil-fired electric generation in 48 states and electricity imported from Canada and Mexico.

The emissions reductions would occur in two phases. The first phase, a 6.5-million-ton annual reduction in national sulfur dioxide emissions by 1990, would be accomplished by equipping smokestacks of the 50 biggest utility polluters with fine gas scrubbers. The trust fund would pay for 90 percent of the costs, with the utility paying the rest. Some flexibility would be provided by permitting a utility to use its scrubber funds to clean up a plant that is not one of the 50 dirtiest on the list, if the utility planned to retire one of its listed plants within eight years.

The second phase, a 5.5-million-ton annual reduction, would be ac-

complished as each state governor chose. Trust fund money would be sent to the states to enable them to reach a reduction target based on their current emissions. The governor could require reductions be accomplished by either fuel switching or scrubbers.

Senator Robert T. Stafford (R-VT), Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, wants to send Clean Air Act amendments, including consensus provisions on controlling acid rain, to the Senate by March 1, 1984.

The Waxman/Sikorski bill (HR 3400), with 115 cosponsors, currently has the strongest support in the House. At this point it is difficult to determine which bill is most likely to be passed. With strong public support, however, Congress can be expected to pass an effective acid rain control program this year.

1984 Legislature...

(Continued from Page 1)

toward strengthening river conservation in the state.

- Establishment of a cleanup fund for open dumps. This priority addresses the most prevalent environmental problem in West Virginia. The fund would be supported from the state's general revenues, and might include incentive provisions to encourage county support of solid waste disposal efforts. Also, the fund might subsidize alternative disposal methods to prevent recurrence of open dumping in areas which have been cleaned up.

- Increased funding for solid waste program and establishment of reserve fund for the Solid Waste Authority. The Authority provides technical assistance, planning and bonding capacity to local governments.

- Funding of a Hazardous Waste Management Program for any and all sources.

- Creation of a Hazardous Waste Emergency Response Fund. Such a fund would allow quicker response in emergencies. Monies would come from a surcharge on the generation of hazardous waste.

- Opposition to timber cutting in state parks. A bill to allow cutting of dead and dying trees is seen as a first step in opening state parks to other timbering operations.

- Water use legislation. A bill dealing with the withdrawal of water from streams or rivers may be needed to address water rights in drought situations.

Establishment of legislative priorities for the year reflects the Conservancy's ongoing concern with land, water and natural resource issues.

MAJOR ACID RAIN BILLS

Bill No.	Sponsors	Annual Reduction in Emissions	Time Period	No. of States Affected
HR 3400	Reps. Waxman (D-CA), Sikorski (D-MN) and Gregg (D-NH)	10 mil. tons in SO ₂ 4 mil. tons in NO _x	by 1993 by 1995	48, though 95% of reductions would occur in 31 eastern states
HR 132	Rep. Gregg (D-NH)	10 mil. tons in SO ₂	by 1993	31 eastern states
S 145	Sen. Mitchell (D-ME)	10 mil. tons in SO ₂	by 1993	31 eastern states
S 768	Sen. Stafford (D-VT),	8 mil. tons in SO ₂	by 1995	31 eastern states
S 769	Sens. Stafford (D-VT), Hart (D-CO), Durenberger (R-MN) and Humphrey (R-NH)	10 mil. tons in SO ₂ and a further 2 mil. tons in SO ₂	by 1993 by 1998	31 eastern states

Concerned? JOIN The Highlands Conservancy