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THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

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Secretary of Interior supersedes part of Energy bill

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel issued his decision on the legislation creating the West Virginia Department of Energy July 11 and took the unusual action of superseding several provisions of the new law.

Hodel found sections of the state law to be inconsistent with the requirements of the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMRCA) with which all state surface mining reclamation programs must comply.

The Secretary took this action after the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and other environmental groups filed a Notice of Intent to Sue in May calling upon the U.S. Office of Surface Mining to reject many of the changes in the existing state law imposed by the DOE bill.

The most significant aspect of Hodel's action was the issuance of proposed federal regulations to supersede the DOE bill's provisions allowing exemption of mine sites disturbing two acres or less. The proposed OSM rule would impose special bonding and reclamation requirements not contained in the DOE bill.

Another major element of the DOE bill was its failure to impose conflict of interest requirements on the DOE Commissioner and his deputy, a shortcoming which received extensive criticism from editorials in many of the state's daily papers as well as conservation groups. OSM found that the SMCRA regulations which prohibit financial conflicts of interest by state regulatory officials applied directly to the Commissioner and all employees of the Department of Energy who perform any duties related to surface mining reclamation.

OSM indicated it would require conflict of interest statements to be filed with the federal agency by all DOE officials and employees not covered by the state conflict of interest requirement.

The federal agency also modified the state law regarding the prohibition of issuing surface mining permits to persons in violation of environmental laws or the conditions of other permits. The DOE bill limited this requirement to those persons who participated in a willful pattern of violations

within the state after a finding by the Commissioner of such conduct. OSM superseded this provision by requiring that West Virginia refrain from issuing a permit to any person in violation of environmental laws or mining permit conditions in West Virginia or any other state without the need to demonstrate a willful pattern.

OSM also superseded the provision of the DOE bill which would have granted the Commissioner the discretionary power to release an operator's reclamation bond even though the post mining water quality was not equal to or better than that of the pre-mining conditions on the site. Final bond release requirements have been critical to the success of the state's surface mining regulatory program by compelling operators to ameliorate water pollution at former surface mining sites and discouraging irresponsible operators from even entering the state.

OSM also modified the discretionary power of the DOE Commissioner to issue special "variances" to mine operators to avoid compliance with a wide variety of environmental and mining requirements under state law. In the past, the state used much more conservation variance authority to engage in desirable research and development activities at mine sites. The DOE bill greatly expanded the authority by which such variances could be issued.

Board updated on WVHC issues

A bed and breakfast inn along the Greenbrier River Trail hosted the summer meeting of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Board of Directors July 21. After an evening of music and conservation, the board settled down on the lawn Sunday morning.

First on the agenda was the President's report. Larry George introduced the new representative for the League of Women Voters of West Virginia, Ann Romance, and appointed a nominating committee to develop a slate of candidates for directors-at-large. These will be elected at the Fall Review.

The board then considered problems associated with continuing operation of the executive office in Charleston. It was decided that after September 15 the position of Executive Assistant would be abolished. A volunteer membership secretary will perform part of the duties of the assistant and receive a stipend of \$125 per month.

Tom Michael, senior vice president, presented information relating to the establishment of the Conservancy's endowment fund. A motion to appoint a committee to do the paperwork associated with this fund was approved by the board.

The Conservancy's actions and successes in opposing the Department of Energy bill were presented by Perry Bryant, vice president for state affairs. An injunction obtained by the Conservancy and other groups to prevent the issuing of permits for mines

of two acres or less and the rejection by OSM of various provisions of the bill are seen as victories for the Conservancy. Bryant said WVHC should continue to oppose the appointment of Kenneth Faerber as DOE Commissioner until conflict of interest information is provided and evaluated.

Bryant also announced the establishment of the West Virginia Environmental Defense Fund the purpose of which is to act as an environmental information and referral network.

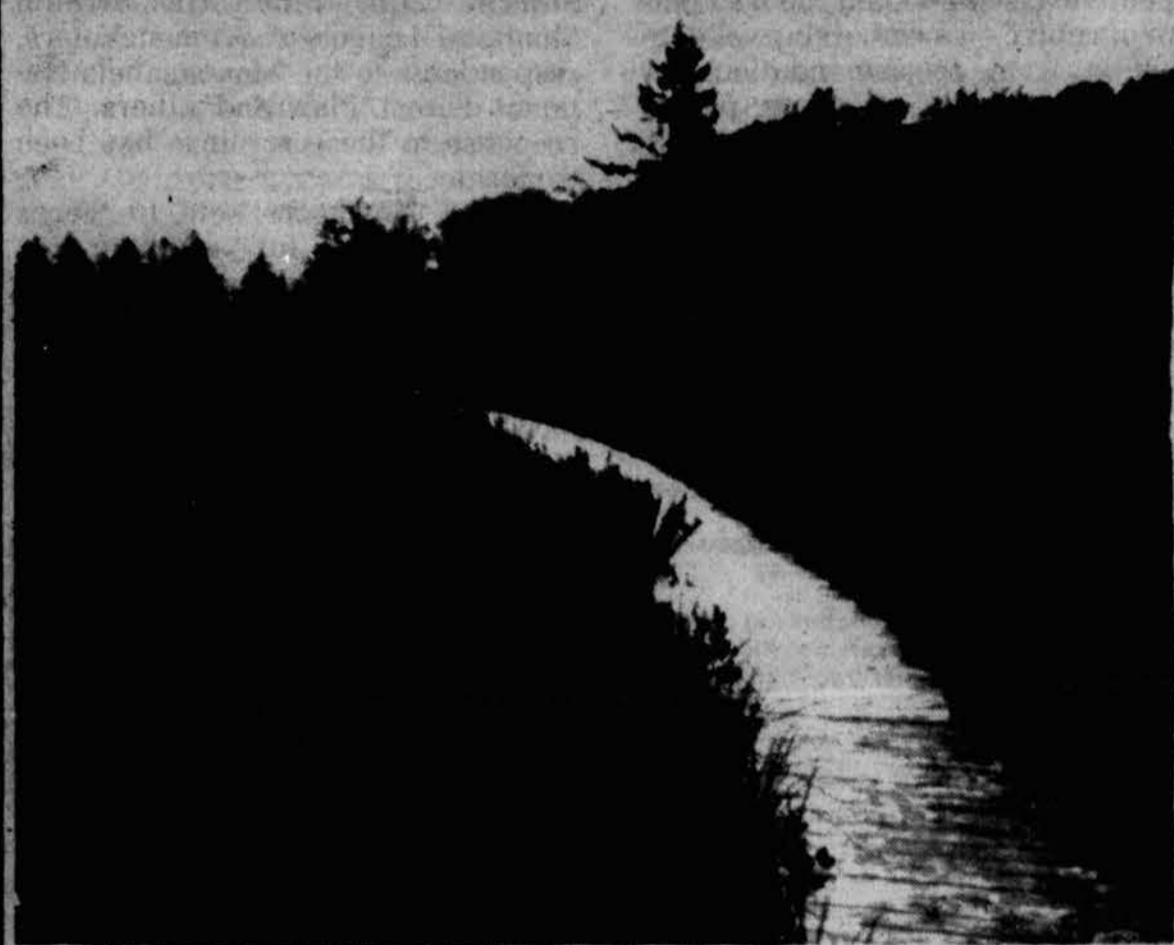
The mining committee report dealt mainly with recent action taken by the Conservancy to oppose coal hauling across Panther State Forest. The board agreed to oppose such action and authorized by John McFerrin, committee chair, to take what actions were necessary to register the Conservancy's opposition to the proposal.

The status of the Hominy Creek situation, reported on in the May Voice, is unchanged. The Westmoreland Company has delayed negotiating an agreement until the new Department of Energy is established.

No new information was reported on the Coopers Rock lawsuit or the Monongahela National Forest Draft Plan by the Public Lands committee. MNF personnel have said a new plan will be presented to the public for comment. See story on page 8.

Other action included approval of the offering of Nature Skool at the Fall Review.

Cranberry featured in national magazine



As part of a series highlighting the biological phenomena in National Forests, the Cranberry glades in the Monongahela National Forest are featured in the August issue of Natural History magazine.

Various theories about the information of the glades and how such an environmental development so far south of its usual range are presented.

The article also discusses the unique plant associations in the glades and how succession will eventually replace the bog species with forest plants.

Anyone interested in getting a copy of the article can write to the editor at the address shown in the roster.

Conservancy Business

Nominations for WVHC Board

requested by committee

Nominations from the membership for five Directors-at-large for the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Board are requested by the nominating committee.

Persons to fill the five seats will be elected by the Conservancy membership at the Annual Meeting October 13 in conjunction with the Fall Review near Mouth of Seneca, West Virginia.

Individuals elected to these positions must be Conservancy members and will serve two year terms. Each Conservancy member may nominate up to five individuals and must in-

clude a statement indicating that the individual nominated is willing to serve.

Nominations should be made in writing to: David Elkinton, Chair, WVHC Nominating Committee, Rt. 5 Box 228-A, Morgantown WV 26505.

Nominations may also be made on the floor of the Annual Meeting but will not be included in the slate presented by the Nominating Committee.

A list of nominees will be published in the September Voice.

Anne Romance to represent LWV on Conservancy board

A former Citizen Action Group staff member has been named to the post of West Virginia Highlands Conservancy organizational director for the League of Women Voters. The League become a member of the Conservancy this year and Anne Romance will represent this organization at board meetings.

Romance became involved in environmental issues while working for CAG and became a member of the Conservancy.

She has lobbied for the past four years at the State Legislature which has given her the opportunity to work

on environmental issues with the League. It was a natural move for her to become the League's representative to the Conservancy when the position became available.

Romance said she hopes to enhance the joint efforts of the two organizations on mutual concerns and issues. Through better communication between the League and WVHC Romance believes we can double the people power and effectiveness.

Currently a resident of Harrison County, Romance works for West Virginia Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled.

Membership campaign showing success, but more help needed

Since February, 118 new members have been welcomed to the Conservancy bringing the total membership to 705. The figure of 725 reported earlier was in error due to some confusion in the number of complimentary copies of Voice mailed.

Chris Leichliter, the Conservancy's executive assistant, said the best percent of return on membership solicitations is from recommendations by current members. Of seven people recommended by Conservancy members, six subsequently joined.

This is very encouraging news. Please continue to help in the membership campaign by filling out the form below if you can think of anyone who may be interested in the Conservancy.

New members are essential to the continued effectiveness of WVHC as a conservation organization in West

Virginia. Members telling others about the Conservancy and its work is the best way to encourage potential members to join.

A direct mail membership campaign launched in mid May involved sending brochures and letters to members of various groups such as Sierra Club, Mountain Stream Monitors, League of Women Voters, respondents to the Monongahela National Forest Plan and others. The response to these mailings has been moderate.

Of 407 brochures sent to Sierra Club members, for example, 12 positive responses were received. Since the campaign only began in May, Leichliter expects more responses to be coming in soon.

With everyone's help, we may still reach our goal of 1,000 Conservancy members by the end of 1985!

Roster of Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Larry W. George
9 Crestridge Drive, Huntington, WV 25707 (736-1325)
Senior Vice President: Tom Michael
Rt. 2, Box 217, Lost Creek, WV 26385 (623-3447)
Vice President for State Affairs: Perry Bryant
1324 Virginia St., E., Charleston, WV (346-5891 W)
Secretary: Lois Rosler
1632 Otishurst Dr., Fairmont WV 26554 (363-1895)
Treasurer: David Elkinton
Rt. 5, Box 228-A, Morgantown WV 26505 (298-0565)
Past President: Jeannetta Petras
Rt. 7, Box 573-D, Fairmont WV 26554 (534-5595)

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

(Terms expire October of 1986)

William P. McNeel: 1118 Second Ave., Marlinton WV 24954 (799-4369)
Cindy Rank: Rt. 1 Box 227, Rock Cave WV 26234 (924-5802)
Ray Ratliff: 1206 Virginia St., East, Charleston WV 25301 (344-2437)
Paul Brant: P.O. Box 1842 Princeton WV 24740 (487-1405 W)
John McFerrin: 1105 Tinder Ave., Charleston WV 25302 (345-5646)

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

(Terms expire October of 1985)

Geoff Green: Rt. 1 Box 79-A, Burlington WV 26710 (289-3565)
Sayre Rodman: 32 Crystal Drive, Oakmont PA 15139 (412-828-8983)
Skip Deegans: 126 W. Washington St., Lewisburg WV 24901 (645-1656)
John Purbaugh: Rt. 1 Box 106A, Kenna WV 25248 (988-9024)
Adrienne Worthy: 316 Skyline Dr., Charleston WV 25302

ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTORS

KANAWHA TRAIL CLUB: Charles Carlson
Box 131, Charleston WV 25321 (343-2056)
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Virginia Region: Sara Corrie
501 Ridgewood Road, Huntington WV 25701 (523-2094)
POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB: Jeannette Fitzwilliams
13 W. Maple Street, Alexandria VA 22301 (703-584-7490)
PITTSBURGH CLIMBERS: Jean Rodman
32 Crystal Drive, Oakmont PA 15139 (412-828-8983)
W.V.A. COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED: Don Brannon
P. O. Box 38, Charlton Heights WV 25040 (779-2476)
W.V.A. MOUNTAIN STREAM MONITORS PROJECT: Milton Zeleny
20 Arlington Ct., Charleston WV 25301 (344-2996)
KANAWHA VALLEY CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED: Jim Stout
P.O. Box 5189, Charleston WV 25311 (755-9576)
BROOKS BIRD CLUB: Mary Moore Rieffenberger
Rt. 1 Box 523, Elkins WV 26241 (836-4559)
KYOVA CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED: Frank Ayers
1601 Sycamore St., Kenova WV 25530 (453-1494)
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WEST VIRGINIA: Anne Romance
Rt. 1 Box 150 F, Bristol WV 26332 (783-5271)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CANAAN VALLEY COMMITTEE: Linda Cooper Elkinton
Rt. 5 Box 228A, Morgantown WV 26505 (298-0565)
HIGHWAY COMMITTEE: Geoff Green
Rt. 1 Box 79A, Burlington WV 26710 (289-3565)
MANAGEMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE: Tom Micheal
Rt. 2 Box 217, Lost Creek WV 26385 (623-3447)
MINING COMMITTEE: John McFerrin
1105 Tinder Ave., Charleston WV 25302 (355-5646)
PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Sayre Rodman
32 Crystal Drive, Oakmont PA 15139 (412-828-8983)
RIVER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Ray Ratliff
1206 Virginia St., E. Charleston WV 25301 (344-2437)
OUTINGS COMMITTEE: John Purbaugh
Rt. 1 Box 107, Kenna WV 25248 (988-9024)
WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Perry Bryant
1324 Virginia St. East, Charleston WV 25301 (346-5891)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Chris Leichliter Executive Assistant The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Suite 201 1206 Virginia Street, East Charleston WV 25301 (304) 344-8833	Deborah B. Smith Voice Editor 914 11th Street Huntington WV 25701 (304) 525-3151
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I think the following person(s) may be interested in Conservancy membership. Please send them the membership brochure and other information about the Conservancy.

Name _____
Address _____

Name _____
Address _____

Please return this form to:
The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Suite 201
1206 Virginia St., East
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Out-of-state reader praises Conservancy

To the Editor:

Congratulations on your June, 1985 issue.

Having visited your beautiful state recently, I heartily commend your efforts to conserve some of the excellent areas we viewed. I found the Cranberry Wilderness of special beauty on our visit.

Coming from the State of Oregon, which has a great history of conservation of scenic areas, I implore you and the Voice to take all actions possible to protect and preserve these areas for the future.

Good luck,
J.E. Charlton
Portland, Oregon

Forest Service and BLM to trade land and minerals

by Alan Smith

Up to 35 million acres of land managed by Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management will be transferred between these agencies if a recent proposal is approved. The proposal also suggests the transfer of all minerals management responsibility from the BLM to the FS in areas under FS jurisdiction.

The interchange proposal was initiated in January 1985 by BLM director Robert F. Burford and FS Chief R. Max Peterson to enhance public service, improve management efficiency, and cut agency costs.

At present overlapping and intermixed jurisdictions build in management inefficiencies. For example, 71 communities nationwide currently have both BLM and FS offices.

Work efforts and manpower are duplicated, creating inefficiencies and confusion for those who deal with either agency. If the interchange

takes effect, only 22 of the 71 communities would retain both types of federal offices.

Of the 35 million acres of public land involved, 18.3 million acres would be transferred from the BLM to the FS and 16mm acres from the FS to the BLM. Management of subsurface minerals on approximately 205 million acres of FS land, currently done by the BLM, would be transferred to the FS.

In the eastern U.S., 61,000 surface acres currently managed by the BLM would be transferred to the FS. In addition, all subsurface land management in the East (34,465 acres) would be transferred from the BLM to the FS.

The effect of this proposal on the Monongahela National Forest would be added responsibility for MNF personnel.

Responsibility for leasing federal minerals in West Virginia would be transferred to the FS. Thus, the agency that manages the surface of the

land would also manage the sub-surface.

Inspection and enforcement of operations on federal leases would become the responsibility of the FS. The MNF would probably gain two new employees to accomplish these added mineral responsibilities.

MNF personnel would become responsible for the Wild Horse and Burro program in the East. It is expected that the Monongahela would administer an adoption center sometime in the future.

A 30-day public review period for the proposal concluded July 8. Twenty-eight public hearings were conducted nationwide in late June.

Input received during the comment period will be used to refine the final concepts to be submitted as a legislative proposal to Congress.

No time schedule for submission of the proposal to Congress or for its implementation was suggested.

Federal funding necessary for protection of nongame wildlife

Although approximately 90 percent of America's wildlife is made up of nongame species, very little federal money is spent on managing and protecting these animals.

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act passed in 1980 provided for federal involvement in the management of nongame animals but legislation has never been drafted to fund the Act. The bill could provide matching funds to state programs and for comprehensive state fish and wildlife planning.

For this legislation to become effective, however, it must be reauthorized this year by Congress and legislation providing funding for its implementation must be passed.

The National Wildlife Federation supports reauthorization of the Act and also seeks funding of \$50 million per year.

Commonly called the Federal Nongame Act, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act is critical to the future development of state nongame wildlife and endangered species programs. If funds are appropriated animals that are not traditionally hunted, fished for, or trapped would be managed under some type of program.

Sportsman-funded federal programs manage game animals such as deer but no federal programs are currently available for the management of nongame wildlife.

Conservation organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation are urging members to contact their senators and representatives to request their support for this important legislation.

The Act of 1980 will expire September 30 unless it is reauthorized by Congress. Write your legislators today to express your support for our robins, turtles, and other nongame wildlife.

Superfund needs more money to be effective

Cleanup of toxic waste sites has been "abysmally slow" and \$10 billion is needed in Superfund to ameliorate the situation, according to John O'Connor, head of the National Campaign Against Toxic Hazards.

To date only \$1.6 billion has been generated from the tax on chemical and petroleum producers. O'Connor urged an expansion of the tax to enlarge the pool of funds available and a speedier timetable for cleanup. Superfund is up for reauthorization by Congress this year.

In addition to lobbying for more money, O'Connor's group and the West Virginia Citizen's Action Group are attempting to strengthen the right-to-know language of the Superfund legislation.

Although the amounts of chemicals stored and discharged from plants is required to be disclosed by companies under the new state Community Right to Know law, new Superfund wording would only require companies to disclose what chemicals were produced or used in their plants.

Perry Bryant, CAG acting director, said it was ironic that Congress would consider a law weaker than one required in West Virginia. Under the proposed law no information would have to be disclosed about substances discharged into the air.

Six dump sites in West Virginia are on the national priority list for Superfund cleanup. So far only one, Fike Chemical, is on a cleanup schedule. O'Connor said the pace of cleanups must be increased.



Conservancy president Larry George, lower right, listens as board members discuss important matters on the lawn of The Current at the summer meeting July 21. See story on page 1.

Oil and gas permit approved by DNR

The proposed general permit for the oil and gas industry was approved and put into effect July 10 by the water resources division of the Department of Natural Resources.

The new permit will impose controls on treating and disposing of drilling wastes to replace those which were not enforceable under the old individual permit system. The state did not have the resources to process individual permits of the 2,000 to 4,000 wells drilled in the state each year.

Under the new system, treatment and disposal requirements will be part of the traditional permit to drill an oil and gas well that is issued by

the mines and minerals section of the state Department of Energy.

Although some problems with the new system have been pointed out (see July Voice), environmental groups generally seem to favor the new permit issuing procedure. Treatment and disposal requirements are not part of the traditional permit issued to well drillers.

An industry representative said drillers estimate that meeting the new requirements will cost approximately \$4,000 per well.

Approval of the general permit culminates a 2½ year effort by state and federal agencies, industry representatives, and environmental groups.

Don't forget

Oct. 11-13

WVHC Fall Review

— — For Sale — —

CANOE FOR SALE: 17-foot Coleman vinyl canoe with paddles, cushions, life-jackets, foam car-top carrier pads. \$250. Contact Brad Mon-

gomery, 512½ Kanawha Blvd., West, Charleston, WV 25302. Phone 345-9016 evenings.

Recycling:

A positive alternative to disposal

(Editor's note: Although garbage and its fate are not usual Voice topics or Conservancy issues, I hope the following article will be of interest. Concern for the environment is not just saving a scenic wilderness area or ensuring that our air and water are not polluted.

Putting one's concern for the environment into action has to encompass the mundane as well as the glamorous and should become incorporated into everyday life. Too often we save all our environmental concern for those weekend trips to the mountains or rivers.

In writing this article I hope to prompt people to give some thought to recycling and the many benefits it has to offer to the environment, to energy conservation efforts, and to making people generally aware of something they can do to help protect our natural resources.)

Where does garbage go?

What happens to the garbage each of us generates each week? Most of us don't give it a second thought after putting it out for the garbage collectors to load on their truck and take away.

For many years garbage was either burned in an incinerator or dumped into the most convenient hole in the ground. Now, however, air pollution control and energy costs of incineration are prohibitive and new regulations have made dumping a more expensive and complicated alternative.

The 1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act mandates replacing all open dumps with sanitary landfills. Such landfills are to "have no adverse effects on health or the environment." Enforcement of this act is proving expensive for local communities who must establish, operate and monitor the disposal sites which are much more costly to run than traditional dumps.

For example, each year West Virginians generate two billion pounds of solid waste which must be disposed of in some manner. Finding enough room for all this waste is becoming a more difficult and expensive problem each year. It now costs roughly \$35 per ton to dispose of solid waste generated in the city of Charleston.

Nationwide, it costs American consumers approximately \$6 billion annually to dispose of their garbage. Obviously any method of reducing the quantity of garbage entering the waste stream is worthy of serious consideration. One such method is recycling.

Of the two billion pounds of waste produced annually in West Virginia, roughly half could be recycled or reused. This would double the life of landfills, save collection and hauling costs, and provide many other benefits to local communities.

How recycling works

In its simplest sense the word recycling means returning a discarded material or article



Glass being collected for recycling at the Charleston center. It is crushed and sold to manufacturers for use in making new glass.



Open trucks receiving recyclables at the Citizen Recycling Center in Charleston. The center collects aluminum, glass and paper.

to its original product system, for example using waste paper to make new paper. Ideally, about half of domestic waste (paper, glass, tin, and aluminum) can be recycled.

Recycling can also mean converting discarded materials into valuable new raw materials and products. For example plastic bottles can be recycled into new products or used as a supplemental industrial fuel source.

One common method of recycling is to implement mandatory recycling laws to be followed by industries such as the beverage industries. Most glass soft drink bottles are now recycled by having customers return the bottles to the store where they were purchased. Mandatory deposits paid upon purchase of the product help to insure the return and reuse of the bottle. The industry then washes and refills the bottles, thus, in a sense, recycling them.

This concept can easily be applied to other containers, notably aluminum cans. In several states, so-called bottle bills encompass not only glass bottles but any beverage containers. In Oregon, for example, aluminum cans are returned for a deposit just like glass bottles.

Mandatory recycling can also include local ordinances encouraging citizens to participate in a citywide recycling program, usually involving curbside collection of recyclables in conjunction with regular garbage collection. Such programs are often very successful and once people realize the benefits in reduced disposal costs and prolonged landfill life they are often enthusiastic recyclers.

In the absence of such mandatory recycling activities, voluntary recycling is the only alternative. Recycling of this type can involve drop-off centers, curbside collection of recyclables, or events such as paper drives. Although successful, voluntary recycling is usually not as effective as legislated recycling. A very well-coordinated effort is required to persuade people to voluntarily separate recyclables from their other garbage and drop them off somewhere or even just put them out on the curb.

What can be recycled?

Paper, aluminum, glass, and tin are the most commonly recycled materials. Collection of these items is usually easy and markets are often available.

Paper products make up 29 percent of the weight of typical municipal solid waste, 18 million tons in the U.S. in 1981. About 26 percent of this waste paper was recycled representing about 24 percent of the fiber used by the paper and paperboard industry.

Newspapers are the most commonly recycled paper product. In 1981 about 30 percent of the

newspapers distributed in the U.S. were recycled, representing more than \$50 million in annual income to those collecting and selling the papers for reuse.

Aluminum can also be recycled, usually in the form of beverage cans, although aluminum foil and other products can also be recycled. Aluminum is one of the best money-makers in a recycling program, although it only makes up a small percentage of municipal waste by weight.

Glass, both colored and clear, can be crushed and used in the production of new glass packaging materials. Making up about 10 percent of the weight of typical municipal trash, all used glass containers can be recycled. In 1981, glass manufacturers recycled more than 3.2 billion bottles and jars, about 14 containers for every person in the country.

Other products such as tin cans and used automobile oil can also be recycled. Unless a recycling program has good participation and large volume of material, however, it is often not economically feasible to collect these items.

Advantages of recycling

The benefits of recycling are many and at least on the surface seem so obvious that one wonders why it is not done as a matter of course.

Recycling is beneficial to the environment. Newsprint comes from one of America's most valuable resources—our forests. Approximately 68.2 million tons of paper and paperboard products are used in this country annually. Of this about 18 million tons (26 percent) are recycled.

One ton of recycled newspaper means that 17 mature trees do not need to be cut down to make new paper. Recycling aluminum cans means that bauxite need not be imported into this country in such great quantities.

Withholding plastic bottles from the waste stream for recycling means these bottles will not be placed into the environment where it will take years for them to begin disintegrating. In addition, recycling one ton of newspaper saves three cubic yards of landfill space.

Thus, recycling helps the environment by reducing the amounts of raw materials which must be extracted and by minimizing the amount of garbage discarded annually.

Recycling saves energy. Making use of discarded materials is less energy consumptive than processing virgin materials. For example, 95 percent less energy is required to process scrap aluminum than to process bauxite ore. The energy required for mining the ore is eliminated by recycling used aluminum.

Put in terms everyone can understand, throwing away one aluminum beverage can wastes as much energy as half-filling it with gasoline and dumping it on the ground. Similarly, making newsprint from used newspapers saves about one barrel of oil per ton of recycled paper.

Recycling can save money. With increasing costs of garbage collection and landfill operation, recycling can save money for communities by reducing the amounts of material which must be disposed of.

In addition, if adequate markets for the materials exist, communities can recover some of their collection and disposal costs by selling recyclables.

Recycling can create a positive environmental image. Faced with massive pollution problems, soaring energy costs, and the depletion of the nation's natural resources, people are often at a loss to know what they, as individuals, can do for the environment. Recycling gives people a chance to take a positive and easy environmental step in their own homes.

Obviously, a well-coordinated program of recycling is necessary for such an image to be developed.

Disadvantages of recycling

Although the advantages of recycling may seem to outweigh the disadvantages, there are often

FS responds to public comments on Plan

Seven major concerns with the Monongahela National Forest Draft Plan have been identified and analyzed by Forest personnel. These concerns and their tentative solutions were outlined in a recent newsletter sent to plan respondents by the Forest Service. The information is reprinted here for the benefit of Conservancy members who did not receive the newsletter.

Major Concern 1 — "A special place"

The Forest is regarded as "a special place" by many people and they want to keep it that way. Some feel that programs for development of roads, timber harvest, mining and extensive accommodations for tourism would have unacceptable adverse impacts. Public comments indicated preference for natural conditions and dispersed, low impact recreation use, rather than roads, timber or mineral development.

We plan to respond to this concern for the unique, natural conditions of the Forest in two ways. First we will reduce the long term levels of timber and road building programs across the Forest. Secondly, we will prepare a new Management Prescription that emphasizes the natural conditions of the Forest and provides for more remote types of recreation. On areas so designated there will be no timber harvest operations and therefore no new roads. Under the new prescription, recreation and wildlife management will be emphasized. We will try to apply this new prescription to about 10 percent of the Forest.

Major Concern 2 — Timber harvesting

Timber cutting is a major concern to both individuals and groups. A total of 1,152 comments were made on this subject. They were grouped into five categories including those which suggested: 1) that there be no timber cutting on the National Forest-7 percent; 2) do no clearcutting but rather use selective cutting-21 percent; 3) do not increase the present level of timber cutting-33 percent; 4) use restrictions such as specifying only certain species of trees to cut or using only certain logging techniques and types of cutting-34 percent; and 5) implement the preferred alternative of the Draft Plan-5 percent. Every category of respondent commented on timber with the majority showing the greatest concern over the magnitude of cutting rather than the method of harvest.

The Forest will significantly lower the long-term level of timber harvest increases that were projected in the Draft Plan. We will try to hold the current level of acreage harvested for the first decade and project an increase of about half of the previously planned amount. Most of the increased volume will come from increased growth on about the same number of acres as presently being harvested. This new proposal will not jeopardize the employment now supported by the harvest program nor will it reduce the dollar returns to Forest counties or funds generated by timber sales.

Major Concern 3 — Coal mining

The public objected very strongly to any coal leasing or mining on the National Forest.

The plan had attempted to offer guidelines for the future when, and if, the current leasing moratorium is lifted. We will reconsider that Plan direction, however we must still adhere to National Guidelines and respect private rights.

We will not propose to lease any coal under sensitive areas such as wilderness and recreation areas. We will propose leasing where U.S. coal could be irretrievably lost to the public if not used in conjunction with adjacent on-going operations. In all other cases we would use the environmental analysis process to determine whether or not to lease.

Major Concern 4 — Remote habitat

The Draft plan had attempted to create diverse habitats for a wide variety of wildlife species. The draft had also attempted to maintain the existing policies

on road closure. There was an overwhelming response calling for an emphasis on bear and turkey habitat with more remote conditions. Associated with this was a large amount of support for older trees.

By changing prescriptions, an additional 25 percent of the Forest can be managed for bear and turkey. The draft plan called for 45 percent remote land and the new Forest objective will reach for approximately 70 percent. To do this we are creating a new recreation prescription. We will manage pine areas as remote habitat, shift some other allocations of land, and close more roads to motorized public travel. A significant increase in timber rotation ages will be made to prevent disturbing wildlife and to reduce levels of timber harvest.

Major Concern 5 — Roads

The road network described in the Draft Plan was a Forest transportation system not scheduled for completion until the 22nd century. Looking back on it, this was a little unrealistic to project so far into the future. The network was projected to have four times the amount of roads 200 years from now. However, it was interpreted by many that it would occur in the near future and drastically change the character of the Forest. This misunderstanding brought thousands of comments mostly in opposition to road construction projects as well as applicable standards, density, costs, maintenance and management.

In response to this concern, the "ultimate" road system of the future has been abandoned. A modified projection into the foreseeable future will be made. Impacts of road construction will be carefully studied this summer. Each road will be built to the lowest standard possible while still meeting the need. Almost all roads will be closed to motorized travel by the public to protect turkey and bear habitat.

Major Concern 6 — Conifer succession

Pine or conifer conversion was the topic of 1,400 responses to the plan. These persons or groups simply did not want to see any conifer planting or loss of wildlife habitat from natural conifer encroachment in what had been predominantly hardwood forests. There are two primary concerns. One is the practice of planting trees. The other is how to manage the conifers that are naturally occurring on a large part of the Forest.

The Forest will no longer plan any reforestation programs solely for timber management purposes. Any tree planting will have to be justified by wildlife habitat needs. In the portions of the Forest where pine is naturally occurring, the Forest will be managed to encourage a mixture with hardwoods rather than large, solid blocks of pine. Rotation ages will be lengthened, roads will be closed to motorized public travel and mast bearing trees will be encouraged. The Forest will not, however, plan any extensive programs to remove existing conifers or retard natural succession.

Major Concern 7 — Range of alternatives

The Draft plan and its accompanying Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) presented an array of alternatives designed to meet timber, recreation and other demands. Some respondents did not feel alternatives provided adequate choices nor did the alternatives present a full range of possibilities. Some suggested the DEIS was inadequate because all of the alternatives simply offered variables in places or the means of producing goods or services, but not how many would be produced. Some agencies requested that a new DEIS be prepared to explore a wider range of outputs. In general a lower production figure is sought by these agencies.

A completely new alternative will be created. It will be our response to public concern. The revised plan will be based on the new alternative. The Plan Implementation Section will be completely revised to assure interdisciplinary project planning and on-going public involvement. The DEIS will be rewritten to address the concerns identified during public review. The revised Plan and DEIS will be available for public review and comment prior to implementation.

Recycling

circumstances which prevent the successful operation of a recycling program.

If markets are not readily available, disposing of the recyclable materials can be difficult or even impossible. Markets should always be found and agreements to buy materials made before collections are started. If the materials cannot be feasibly recycled, there is no point collecting them.

In some cases people are not willing to participate in a recycling program although good public information campaigns can help overcome this problem. If people will not separate their trash and bring it to a recycling center or place it on their curbs for collection, the materials cannot be recycled. This is a very real problem in some areas and can prevent the successful operation of a program.

Recycling in West Virginia

Legislation requiring beverage container recycling has not been favorably considered in

West Virginia to date. Beverage Industry Recycling Programs (BIRP) have been set up in various parts of the state to provide citizens with the opportunity to sell materials for recycling. One objective of such centers is to prove to legislators that mandatory recycling programs are not necessary.

Only a few voluntary non-profit recycling centers operate in West Virginia. The cities of Ravenswood, Charleston, and Parkersburg are the only ones which have centers accepting all types of recyclable materials. A few others around the state accept just cans or just paper.

The Citizens Recycling Center in Charleston is probably the best example. Started in 1973, this program has recycled more than 12 million pounds of paper, glass, aluminum, and steel waste products in its 12 years of operation.

Of the materials collected, 79 percent has been paper and 18 percent glass. Aluminum and steel make up the rest of the recycled material.

The Center estimates that this has saved the city of Charleston approximately \$220,710 in disposal costs and resulted in more than 6,000 tons of material being diverted from the city's landfill. This is equivalent to 38 days of garbage pickup in Charleston and South Charleston combined.

Although CRC sells the materials it collects, it is operating at a loss, mainly because the volume of materials collected is not high enough to cover expenses associated with their operation. It is, however, an excellent example of what recycling could accomplish in West Virginia if people were made aware of the benefits to be gained.

For information about CRC, write to CRC, P.O. Box 4225, Charleston, WV 25364.

Join the Conservancy

Roaring Plains:

Little known but beautiful part of Mountain State

By Bob Stough

Why the Roaring Plains?

This story comes out of a desire to help preserve the Roaring Plains area. Most people (at least here in the north) who have hiked in the West Virginia highlands have been to Dolly Sods and know of the spectacular beauty of the Red Creek canyon. But comparatively few seem to be aware even of the location of Roaring Plains.

On a number of occasions I have noted the trailheads into Dolly Sods jammed with vehicles while those leading to the Roaring Plains have few or none at all. If the Roaring Plains now enjoyed wilderness protection, this situation would likely change somewhat and encourage a broader dispersion of wilderness users in the Red Creek drainage.

Currently, however, the high plains are not protected at all, except by a rather vague assertion by the Forest Service to "manage" the area to emphasize primitive recreation. What this has meant in the past has been a natural gas pipeline, a microwave tower, a well-maintained 5-mile gravel road, and lately some sloppy survey work conducted to determine the extent of natural gas deposits under the Flatrock and Red Creek Plains. In addition, a timber sale has been scheduled on Skidmore Ridge, and there is an ongoing attempt to gain access roads to log much of the Long Run Valley.

I fear that unless more friends of the highlands become familiar with the Roaring Plains, and

raise their voices to protect them, this exploitation will continue apace and further degrade what is still, at least for now, one of the most outstanding wilderness areas, declared nor not, in the state of West Virginia.

Out into the Plains

We start out on a fine September morning at the Boar's Nest-South Prong trailhead on Rt. 19 from Laneville. The trail goes quickly down through steep, rocky woods to the South Fork of Red Creek. Here we find a large and beautiful stream filled with mossy boulders and lined by tall hardwoods and hemlocks.

We take the South Prong trail going upstream past clear pools and sun-sparkling waterfalls, eventually crossing over and heading up the mountain through a mature birch forest to the second crossing, now 700 feet higher. From here we have a short but steep climb, as we cross Rt. 70 and skirt a huge rock looming up from us at the very edge of the plains.

From the top we get a fine view looking back down the South Fork valley, then continue on the trail a short way until it begins to bend back towards the north up to the Red Creek Plains. We enjoy a very beautiful hike past dense spruce and mountain pine, and many large conglomerate rockfields.

But today we leave the trail in a wide open meadow and head southwest up towards the Roaring Plains themselves, winding around through rhododendron thickets and more old

meadows. Then we pass through a stand of yellow birch up into a mature oak forest where we take a short detour out to a large rock formation right on the edge of the Allegheny Front. We are treated to a magnificent vista of the north end of North Fork mountain and the palisade cliffs along its crest.

Then we climb up through the oaks 200 feet to the top of the plains, emerging in a vast wind-swept meadow with scattered dwarfed spruce and mountain ash. Every way we look are sweeping views of far-distant mountainland. We are on the so-called huckleberry plains, and in addition to many blueberries and huckleberries there are numerous large beds of pink azaleas that put on spectacular flower shows in early June.

We traverse the plains until we reach the wide gasoline swath and follow it north, down again to the upper South Fork valley and the junction with Rt. 70. We take the road for a short distance to the Boar's Nest trail, crossing the stream in a tall spruce forest and heading on to the Flatrock Plains up through vast thickets of blueberries and mountain laurel.

As we near the edge of the plains, we stop again at another large rock formation with a panoramic vista looking north into the Dolly Sods wilderness and summit of Cabin Mountain. Vultures and ravens soar by on the thermals. Then it's down the mountain, deep into the canyon again to the junction of the South Prong. We reminisce about the day over a pot of mountain stew in the cool evening beside the clear stream. What a trip!!!

Dam threatens Penobscot River

One of Maine's most outstanding rivers, the West Branch of the Penobscot, is the focus of an environmental controversy. Conservationists, anglers, small businesses and others are fighting to prevent construction of a one-half mile wide, 15-story high dam by Great Northern Paper Company.

The American Rivers Conservation Council, a national organization devoted to protecting rivers, is leading the fight to save the remaining free flowing section of the Penobscot.

Great Northern Paper Company wants to build the dam to provide electric power to its commercial operations. If the license for the dam is granted, some of the river's most spectacular features will be flooded.

The most productive landlocked salmon fishery in the United States will be lost and the beautiful Ripogenus Gorge, which has been named a National Natural Landmark

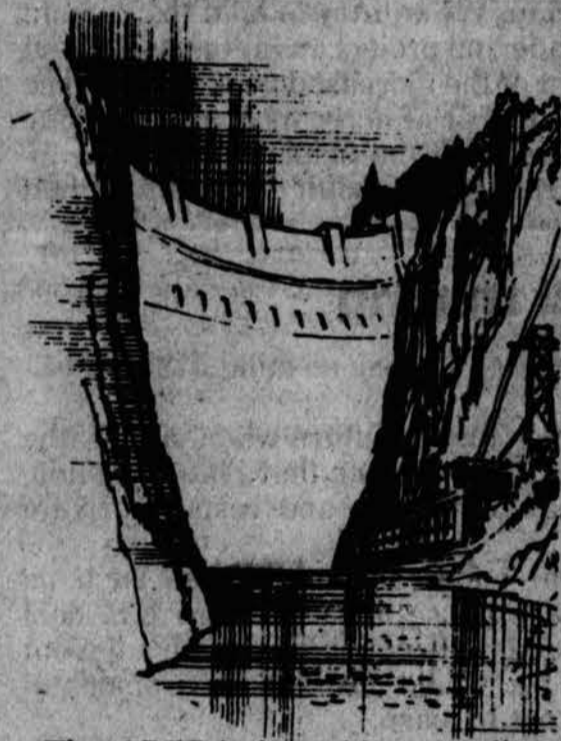
by the National Park Service, will be flooded.

In addition, the river is home to wildlife species such as the bald eagle, osprey, moose, black bear and deer which will be threatened if the dam is built. Habitat for several rare plants and unparalleled scenery would also be lost.

According to Great Northern officials the project is essential to the company's current and future profitability. They have implied that the 1,600 jobs its employees depend on may hinge on construction of the dam.

Opponents argue that Great Northern has alternatives available that would provide low cost energy and other benefits as well. One alternative is construction of a wood-fired power plant to produce electricity.

Such a plant would cost less to construct, displace 60 percent more oil, produce 20 percent more electricity, and provide steam needed for pulp and paper making, according to opponents of the dam.



The ARCC is launching a national public awareness campaign to fight the proposed dam. They are heading a coalition of eight national environmental organizations dedicated to getting the message to the public. In addition a monthly newsletter urging disapproval of the project is being sent to the company's Board of Directors.

Sierra Club Humor!

At the Sierra Club's annual dinner in May, Arizona's environmentalist Governor Bruce Babbitt was the keynote speaker. He reminisced about the time he and Watt were discussing the perpetual philosophical question, "If a tree falls in a forest when no one is there, can it be heard?" Watt's reply: "What's a tree doing in a forest?"

Remember when President Reagan said that trees cause more pollution (and thus deaths) than people? According to Babbitt, when Watt once visited the campus of the University of Arizona, he walked past a tree on which the following notice had been tacked: "Chop me down before I kill again." (from the Mountain State Sierran, July/August issue).

Protection for 3 rivers recommended

Of twenty-four Wild and Scenic River studies sent to Congress by the Reagan Administration in April, positive action was recommended for only three of the study rivers, according to a report in *American Rivers*, the newsletter of the American River Conservation Council.

The studies are the first sent to Congress by the Administration although several of the studies were completed even before President Reagan took office. Pressure to release the studies developed last year when the Department of Interior announced that protection on 33 rivers being studied had expired and the rivers were open for development.

The three rivers recommended for protection under the Wild and Scenic system were the North Fork Kern River in California, the Cache la Poudre in Colorado, and the Manistee in Michigan. Only about 50 percent of the originally studied mileage along these waterways was included in the recommendation for these three rivers.

None of the four West Virginia rivers being studied were recommended for protection. The Gauley was found eligible for national designation but declared unsuitable because of local attitudes, the presence of private lands, and competing resource values such as hydro power.

Chris Brown, ARCC conservation director, said that with only 173.7 miles of river out of 2,500 studied recommended for protection, the signs were obvious.

"It's a lead balloon," he said.

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Karl Badgley, a prominent wildlife artist, donated 100 of his American Woodcock prints to the CVA to aid in the effort to create a wildlife refuge in Canaan Valley. Mail order to:

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Suite 201, 1206 Virginia St. E., Charleston WV 25301

NEWS BRIEFS

(Editor's Note: Each month I would like to publish a News Briefs page summarizing relevant news stories from newspapers around the state. It is hard, however, for one person (me) to have access to all the different papers. Therefore, help is needed!!! If you regularly read a local newspaper, including the Charleston ones, and would be willing to clip out articles about environmental issues or other topics of interest to Conservancy members I would like to hear from you. Please send any contributions or questions to me at the address listed in the roster. Be sure to write the date and name of the newspaper on the clippings. Thanks!!!)

New smokestack regulations issued by EPA

Use of tall smokestacks to disperse air pollutants from industrial sources will be limited by regulations issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency June 27.

The regulations limit the extent to which industries can rely on dispersal of pollutants through tall stacks rather than on additional control equipment. They are designed to help meet the national ambient air quality standards for sulfur dioxide and other pollutants.

Under the new rules, states will have to revise their clean-air plans to determine what additional reductions are necessary for those companies whose stacks are too tall.

No particular plants were indicated as targets by EPA but the Kammer plant of American Electric Power Company at Moundsville is expected to be affected by the new rules. The Kammer plant has a 650-foot stack and burns high sulfur coal.

The new regulations were not designed to be part of an acid rain reduction program but represent the resolution of a controversy which began in the 1960's when Congress was debating the Clean Air Act.

EPA estimates that cost of compliance with the new rules will involve capital outlays of \$700 million and annual expenditures of \$750 million.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 6/28/85

River regulations under review by DNR

River use regulations for West Virginia rivers are now being reviewed by the Department of Natural Resources, according to the June issue of *Cruiser*, the newsletter of the Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington, D.C.

The key feature of these regulations is a moratorium on increased commercial raft traffic. This has expired.

Raft outfitters are divided between those who want to preserve the rivers for future as well as current use and those who want an unregulated situation so they can operate as many raft trips as they want.

The resolution of this issue will affect the river environment for private boaters especially on heavily used rivers such as the Cheat and Gauley.

—reported in the *Cruiser*, June 1985

New look at Surface Mine Act is needed

The former regional director for the Office of Surface Mining in the 7-state region including West Virginia has suggested that the Surface Mine Act may need to be updated.

According to Patrick Boggs, the law is not being uniformly enforced from state to state. He contends that industries in West Virginia are at some disadvantage relative to neighboring states.

New technology and experience which has been acquired since the Act was passed in 1977 make some of the old requirements obsolete, Boggs said. Congress should probe subsidence control standards, revegetation requirements, prohibition of gravity discharges and the back-to-contour requirement for stripped areas.

The pendulum has swung away from strict environmental enforcement toward jobs and the economy, Boggs said. "Industry is faced with some technologically unjustifiable requirements."

Boggs, a former deputy director of the state Department of Natural Resources, said the new Department of Energy will not necessarily make it quicker to issue permits.

—reported in the *Charleston Gazette*, 7/18/85

Forest plan threatens roadless areas

The West Virginia chapter of the Sierra Club reports that if the Monongahela National Forest Draft Plan is accepted as it now stands, roadless areas in the forest not protected by Wilderness Area status may be lost to road construction and timber projects.

The Reagan Administration has "released" roadless areas previously considered for designation under the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) program. These areas could be developed if modifications are not made to the proposed 50-year plan for the MNF.

The Sierra Club has identified 12 former RARE II areas with high wilderness attribute ratings. These ratings are used to determine whether an area should be designated for protection as a Wilderness Area.

Totalling 125,000 acres, these areas should be protected from road building and timbering, according to SC officials. Two of the areas, Cheat Mountain and

Seneca Creek, had scores at least as high as some of those which received designation.

The Sierra Club is preparing a list of these areas and documentation justifying their protection to submit to the Forest Service.

—reported in the *Mountain State Sierran*, July/August 1985.

Gas exploration to be done in Dolly Sods

Exploration for gas in the Dolly Sods Scenic Area will be conducted in the near future, according to Monongahela National Forest Supervisor Ralph Mumme.

Mumme said E.S.I. Geophysical, Inc. will drill 144 holes in the Dolly Sods area and the nearby Fore Knobs area. The prospecting will not require road building and is expected to have minimal environmental impact.

Shot holes will be drilled using a drill buggy or a smaller walk-behind machine auger.

The scenic area is not part of the wilderness but is on the rough mountainside on the right of the road leading to Bear Rocks on the eastern end of the Sods.

The area is part of the Eastern Overthrust, a geological formation attracting a lot of prospecting activity.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 7/11/85

Migratory bird protection not in budget

No funds for the protection of migratory birds which breed in North America and winter in Central or South America have been recommended by the Reagan Administration in the fiscal 1986 budget.

The Western Hemisphere Convention, a little known treaty signed in 1940 by the U.S. and 16 other western hemisphere nations, provides protection for these birds.

It must be implemented by budget allocations from Congress, however, and no allocations are currently being considered by the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations.

Senator Byrd's address is: The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510.

—reported in *Valley Views*, May 1985.

Caution necessary in asbestos removal

Removal of asbestos from school buildings may present more of a health hazard than just leaving it in place, an Environmental Protection Agency official acknowledged June 27.

Apparently many contractors do not follow safety procedures in removing asbestos from school buildings. Information in an EPA memo suggested that only 25 percent or fewer of asbestos contractors are competent to remove the substance.

Improper removal of asbestos can result in dangerous fibers being released into the air where they can be inhaled by students.

The EPA official said schools should leave asbestos in place if it is securely sealed within walls or ceilings.

Approximately 32,000 school buildings across the nation have asbestos problems. Asbestos was widely used for insulation purposes in the 1950's and 1960's before it was found to be carcinogenic.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 6/28/85.

Trek for Life to be Columbus Day weekend

A three-day, 25-mile Trek for Life sponsored by the American Lung Association will take place October 12, 13, and 14. Covering some of West Virginia's most rugged wilderness, the trek is an effort by the Association to raise money to fight lung diseases.

The trail for the fifth annual Trek begins at Huntersville and ends at Cass in Pocahontas County. Participants are required to raise at least \$150 in pledges. Those raising more than \$200 will receive gift certificates from participating outfitting stores.

Hikers bring their own food and hiking equipment. The Lung Association will provide a dinner at the end of the Trek, transportation to and from the trailhead, maps, and tee-shirts.

So, if you don't plan to attend the Fall Review and feel like some good hiking, fellowship and raising money for a good cause, join the Trekkers October 12.

Deadline for September Voice

August 19

Send contributions to Deborah Smith

See address in roster

Injunction issued in suit against two-acre exemption

A preliminary injunction preventing the Commissioner of the Department of Energy from enforcing the portion of the DOE law dealing with surface mines of two acres or less was issued July 12 by Judge Margaret Workman of the Kanawha County Circuit Court. The action came the day after the federal Office of Surface Mining preempted and superseded parts of the new DOE bill.

The lawsuit to obtain the injunction was filed by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, the League of Women Voters of West Virginia and the West Virginia Citizen Action Group. It alleges the portion of the DOE bill that reduces standards for these small surface mines was adopted in violation of the state's constitution.

The weakening provisions of the law include a shorter public notice period, less comprehensive

application requirements, lesser minimum bonding requirements, exclusion of bonding for haul roads and spoil areas, and lesser environmental performance standards.

The Conservancy and other organizations involved believe that enforcement of this part of the bill will do extreme damage to West Virginia's reclamation program.

They point out that damage on areas of less than two acres can be just as devastating as on larger sites. Streams polluted by mines of two acres or less are still polluted.

Property boarding on these sites is just as affected by the damage as neighbors of larger sites. In fact some of the worst abuses in the past have been on small sites mined by marginal companies.

Weakening the provisions encourages the subdivision of large mine sites into two acre or less

sections so only the less stringent requirements will have to be met. In addition, reducing the bonding requirements can make it more profitable to forfeit the bond than to reclaim the area.

Becky Cain, president of the League of Women Voters of West Virginia, said that in addition to the environmental concerns good government was an important issue in the legal action.

"The fact that this provision was not adopted in compliance with the state's constitutional requirement that title amendments reflect the content of legislation has compelled us to take court action," she said. "The League of Women Voters does not take litigation lightly but if a law needs to be struck down, we are prepared to go to court in the public interest."

Sewell in New River Gorge is subject of new booklet

The history of Sewell, the oldest community in the New River Gorge, is described and illustrated in a new booklet for sale at the New River Gorge National River visitor's centers.

Entitled *Sewell: A New River Community*, the publication details the railroading, coal mining, coke making, lumbering, and community life of this New River town. Life in the surrounding communities of Landisburg, Birdeye, and Clifftop is also discussed.

Funding for the booklet, written by Ron Lane and Ted Schnepf, was provided by the Eastern National Park and Monument Association which cooperates with the National Park

system in developing interpretive materials.

Park Service personnel at the New River Gorge National River are attempting to document the cultural and natural heritage of the area for park visitors and local residents. The booklet about Sewell is part of what is hoped will be a continuing publication program.

Sewell: A New River Community is available for \$6.95 plus tax from the Hinton Visitor Center and the Canyon Rim Visitor Center at the New River Bridge. It can also be ordered through the mail for \$8.70 including tax from Eastern National Park & Monument Association, P.O. Box 1189, Oak Hill, WV 25901.

Development vs environmental protection to be subject of September conference

Ten scholarships to an environmental conference entitled "Economic Development and Environmental Protection—Partners or Adversaries" are available to Highlands Conservancy members.

The conference, at the Charleston House Holiday Inn September 25-26, is sponsored by the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the Manufacturing Association.

Panels on environmental topics including air, water, solid and hazardous wastes, and community and industrial relations will be headed by environmentalists and industry representatives.

Conservancy members interested in attending the 2-day conference using one of the 10 scholarships (worth \$75) available should contact Larry George (736-1325) as soon as possible.

The conference schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, September 25
1 p.m.

Introduction and Welcome
David Flannery, Robinson & McElwee

1:10-1:30

Opening Address
Richard Breslin, Ph.D.
President, University of Charleston

1:30-3:00

Panel Discussion—Community and Industry Relations
This panel will focus on the public policy issues surrounding the sometimes cooperative and sometimes adversarial relationship between industry and the community. Topics will relate to community right-to-know, emergency response, and the obligations of the media, and "business climate."

3:30-5:00

Panel Discussion—Air
This panel will focus on the conference theme from the viewpoint of air resources. Topics will relate to the regulation of air toxics, visibility, acid rain, fugitive dust, tall stacks and the relationship of air resources to the water and land resources of the state.

7:00

Dinner
Speaker: Lee Thomas, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

Thursday, September 26

8:30-10:00

Panel Discussion—Hazardous and Solid Wastes
This panel will focus on the state hazardous and solid waste program including anticipated changes and agency resources. Topics will also deal with siting and related water quality issues.

10:30-12:00

Panel Discussion—Water
This panel will focus on the theme of the conference from the perspective of public policy over the quantity and quality of the state's water resources. Emphasis will be on the state's policies with respect to ground-water quality, the control of effluent toxicity, and water rights.

1:30-2:30

Panel of Moderators
This panel will be composed of the moderators of each of the four previous panels.



WVHC 1985 Fall Review to be at Seneca Rocks

Circle October 11-13 on your calendar for the Highlands Conservancy's annual Fall Review. The fall colors should be at their peak in the highlands of West Virginia by then and what better place to spend a weekend than Seneca Rocks?

Saturday outings are being planned by the Outings Committee. John Purbough, committee chair, said that while plans were not yet definite, hiking opportunities will include trips on North Fork Mountain and in the Dolly Sods area. Water level permitting, a canoe trip on the South Branch of the Potomac is also planned. Details of outings will be included in the registration form in the September Voice.

For those who want to spend the day on their own, Seneca Rocks is the perfect place to do so. Smoke Hole Caverns, Seneca Caverns, Cass Scenic Railroad, and Spruce Knob are just a few of the many attractions within easy driving distance.

Yokum's Motel at Seneca Rocks will be the base of operations for the weekend's activities. Lodging alternatives include camping, staying in motel rooms or efficiency apartments, or renting a rustic cabin.

Nature Skool activities for children ages 3-10 will be offered at a nominal cost (see ad this page) and babysitting services for younger children will also be available.

A speaker, as yet unknown, will address Conservancy members Saturday night and there will be plenty of opportunities to meet new people and share ideas and experiences.

So if you haven't been to a Fall Review before, plan to come to this one. You can't go wrong with a weekend in the highlands during the most beautiful season of the year! Let's make this year's review the biggest and best ever.

Complete registration details will be published in the September Voice and a brochure with all necessary information will be sent to all Conservancy members. For those interested in signing their children up for Nature Skool activities (see ad below), registration information will be included on the overall registration form for the Fall Review.

For more information call Adrienne Worthy evenings at 304/343-2767.



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