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THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

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Legislative Priorities Adopted

The WVHC Board of Directors adopted a ten-point legislative package for the 1985 session of the West Virginia Legislature.

Identified as a top priority was water rights legislation, an issue stimulated by proposed water takings for coal slurry pipeline from West Virginia to the eastern shore of Maryland. "Over the next decade, water is likely to become one of West Virginia's most precious natural resources," said Perry Bryant, Vice President for State Affairs, in making the proposal. "Increased competition among various water uses—public drinking water supplies vs. recreation vs. industrial water supplies vs. aquatic life vs. waste stabilization, etc.—is expected to significantly increase the demand for water in some areas of the state.

The proposed law would establish that water belongs to the people of West Virginia, to be held in public trust and used for their highest and best use. Other provisions could require a survey of water uses, establish and permit system for users withdrawing more than a certain amount, and grant emergency powers during times of drought.

Conservation Easements

Stream and river protection could be enhanced through passage of legislation facilitating conservation easements if another high priority were achieved. Since under common law the transferability of easements is limited, property owners cannot pledge certain rights to their land and ensure protection of the land in the future. With special legislation, property owners could grant conservation easements which would be both enforceable and transferable. This provision would allow farmers along a river, for example, to keep and use property adjacent to the river while granting protection for the future at the same time. Such an act might also provide for local property tax benefits for the owners, and federal tax incentives when easements are given.

Solid Waste Reform

Legislation to address the issue of trash disposal in West Virginia might come in three separate forms. A third priority for the WVHC program would provide:

- * additional funding for the Solid Waste Division of DNR;
- * additional resources for the Solid Waste Authority to help create new transfer stations or landfills for areas

which currently have no means of disposing of trash, either through a reserve fund of about \$1.5 million or a grants program of \$10 million over a four-year period; and

- * a reclamation program for abandoned, open dumps.

Oil and Gas Legislation

Changes to the Surface Owner Notification and Compensation Act could address the problem of well site location. By giving authority to the administrator of the Act to consider the level of interference of a well site with the surface owner's use and the availability of alternative sites, the Act could be strengthened without threatening mineral recovery.

Canaan Valley Protection

The Conservancy once again hopes to see protection given to beautiful Canaan Valley through a bill which would establish the Canaan Valley Development Authority. The Authority, made up of appointed members including local landowners, would have the ability to review and control the course of development in Canaan Valley, a sensitive ecological area. Although the bill was introduced last year and met with a good deal of opposition from some Tucker County

residents, it was supported by many Canaan Valley residents and others statewide who view the area as one of West Virginia's priceless natural treasures.

Other Priorities

Five other issues will receive Conservancy attention in the upcoming legislative session:

Soil erosion and sediment control legislation has been proposed for non-point sources of pollution. Although the bill only covers construction activities and stops timbering and agriculture, two of the largest non-point sources of soil erosion, it does provide a beginning for control.

The Conservancy will support legislation containing recycling legislation, commonly known as the bottle bill, and a prohibition on detachable tabs for aluminum cans. This legislation is opposed by the beverage industry and faces a stiff fight in the Legislature.

A regional interstate compact for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste has been proposed by Pennsylvania. Under the compact, West Virginia, Delaware and Maryland would join them in providing waste disposal facilities once the individual states generated waste at a rate of 25% or more of that of Pennsylvania.

WVHC Asks DNR to Lift Climbing Ban Files Notice of Intent to Sue

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has asked the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to rescind an unlawful ban on recreational technical rockclimbing and rappelling at Coopers Rock State Forest. The request was contained in a Notice of Intent to Sue filed with DNR by WVHC President Larry W. George on Thursday, January 24, 1985.

The rockclimbing ban was declared in an April 24, 1984, inter-office memorandum issued by Donald R. Andrews, Chief, DNR Division of Parks and Recreation, who supervises the state's park system.

The 12,700-acre State Forest is located in Monongalia County, approximately ten miles east of Morgantown, and contains Coopers Rock and several other rock formations used since the early 1950's by climbers from West Virginia and surrounding states. Coopers Rock and Seneca Rock in Pendleton County are the two most popular rockclimbing areas in West Virginia.

The WVHC Notice stated that unless DNR rescinds the ban within twenty days the Conservancy will file suit in Kanawha County Circuit Court under the state's Administrative Procedure Act for an injunction to prohibit DNR's enforcement of the rockclimbing ban. DNR violated the Act's rulemaking procedures by failing to issue a proposed rule with public notice and a thirty-day period for interested parties to file comments or testify at a DNR public hearing.

Conservation Groups Join Forces in "Forum"

by Linda Winter

On January 19, 1985, in spite of bad weather, leaders of several statewide conservation organizations met together for the first time to discuss how they might work together on environmental problems in West

Since West Virginia only generates one half of one percent of the waste generated in Pennsylvania, we would likely always be able to dispose of radioactive waste there. The Conservancy will support this compact.

Another amendment stated to rescind WVHC attention would strike a phrase in the state's Clean Air Act which prevents the Air Pollution Control Commission from establishing standards more stringent than federal law. The APCC is currently unable to regulate pollutants not controlled by the Environmental Protection Agency because of the "no more stringent than" clause. Since the EPA has set standards for only five pollutants after 14 years of regulation, particularly noxious chemicals not addressed by their rules might receive state attention under a revised state statute.

Finally, WVHC will support right-to-know legislation to require companies to disclose what chemicals they store, transport or discharge into the environment.

WVHC Vice President for State Affairs Perry Bryant will work with legislators on these issues and monitor other proposed legislation which might adversely affect conservation interests in the state.

Following on the proposed rule. Following the public comment period, the Act requires the proposed rule be filed with the Legislative Rulemaking Review Committee and approved by both houses of the Legislature before the rule can be enforced. DNR provided no public notice or comment period and did not obtain the Legislature's approval of any administrative rule to ban rockclimbing on the State Forest.

(Continued on Page 7)

Virginia.

The meeting was an outgrowth of the Central Atlantic Environmental Conference, held in Front Royal, Virginia on April 13-15, 1984. (See June 1984 Voice) Those representing West Virginia who attended that excellent conference felt a need for im-

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From The Editor

A note of sincere apology is due all WVHC members who have so patiently awaited the long-delayed February issue of the *Voice*. Although the contributors mostly came through by the usual deadline—the third Tuesday of the prior month—I soon discovered my limitations in the business of moonlighting the paper through to press. The usual writing, typing and editing that takes the better part of one full-time week just couldn't proceed normally with the demands of a new job.

Anyway, the news in this issue is still as important as it was a few weeks back. I hope readers will take special note of the legislative priorities enumerated on page one, and of the review of the Monongahela National Forest Plan in the mid-section.

Comments Wanted for March Issue

Although you'll need to react quickly to this plea (within a week of getting this paper) we'd like to run your reactions to the Forest Plan in the March issue, which will likely also run a little late. Jeannette Fitzwilliam's article is a good lesson in how to read the plan, and the maps give some perspective on the relative emphases of the various plans.

Of course, you also need to respond directly to the Forest Service in order to get your comments officially considered, we'd like you to send us a copy of your reactions for possible publication in the *Voice*. The Plan is huge, and extremely detailed—thus

hard to digest in its entirety. But we know some of you understand the impact it would have on particular areas of the Forest or on individual wildlife species. A lot of our readers, including this one, need to hear that expertise in order to better understand what is being proposed.

We need another kind of comment too. For the benefit of the soon to be chosen editor of the *Voice*, why not use this last housebound month of the winter to jot down your reflections on what the *Voice* is doing that you'd like to see continued, what is missing that we ought to have, and what you would be able to do to help out.

Although our small paper may not look like a big project, it's no snap to get together, and the new editor will have a tough enough job getting the copy in order without having to go it alone—without your valuable perceptions. My reflection after a year at the job is that one is never quite sure what *Voice* readers find valuable and interesting, because for the most part they never say.

Do you want more book reviews, or less? More articles on outings? More analysis, more editorials? I've always wanted more pictures, more drawings to grace the pages and bring the *Voice* visually to life, but that depends on contributions.

Why not use this chance to make the *Voice* better? And who knows, maybe you'll find the *Voice* turning in to the best forum for conservation issues available in the state.

Board Continues Administrative Office

New Executive Assistant Appointed

The WVHC Board of Directors voted to extend the contract for office space for the WVHC administrative office through July, 1985. The office, located at 1206 Virginia Street, East, in Charleston, has been open since late July of last year. At the same time, the board confirmed the appointment of Chris Leichter as the new administrative assistant. She will work part-time for WVHC, and have the office open from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Chris replaces Mary Ratliff, who resigned to become Deputy Secretary

of State under Ken Hechler on January 14th, 1984. Mary served as *Voice* editor from January, 1984, and as Executive Assistant from July, 1984.

Chris Leichter, who lives at Scott Depot, West Virginia, has extensive experience working with volunteer organizations and has taught high school in Kanawha County. Her responsibilities for the Conservancy will include membership development, general administrative management and assistance with *Voice* preparation and distribution.

WVHC is currently advertising for a new *Voice* editor.

Spring Meeting: Return to the Greenbrier River

Though the snow still blankets most of West Virginia, it's time to think about spring. May 4th and 5th should soon be marked with a big star on WVHC members' calendars. Falling at near the peak of the spring wildflower season and a perfect time to try the river, WVHC will hold its spring meeting once again at Camp Anthony on the Greenbrier River not far from Lewisburg.

Last year, Conservancy members enjoyed a leisurely float on a rain-swollen river—leisurely because all

rocks were thoroughly submerged. Others ventured off to Cranberry Glades for a hike, and others simply relaxed at the camp.

Although the program has not yet been scheduled, we can already guarantee a pleasant weekend—beautiful scenery, a variety of recreation, and great folks to be with.

If you haven't come to a meeting before, make this your first. Save May 4th and 5th now.

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Bluestone River Project Approved

The Bluestone River Project has been approved by the Department of Interior Technical Assistance Program. According to Ray Ratliff, chair of the WVHC River Conservation Committee, the approval of this project qualifies the Bluestone River for important technical assistance.

While the details of the program are yet to be finalized, Ratliff is of the opinion that "West Virginia rivers are at a milestone. We hope to demonstrate that local people, who care for their rivers, can develop

their own plans for them."

Although this project approval constitutes a first step, state participation by the Department of Natural Resources is not yet assured. WVHC representatives have made initial contact with DNR, but state funds have yet to be committed.

Ratliff announced that he expected Glenn Eugster, Director of the Technical Assistance Program, to visit the state at a future date for the purpose of meeting with state officials.

The Conservancy Wants You!

The Monongahela National Plan

Once more the time has come for WVHC, Conservancy members, West Virginians and all those who love and use the Monongahela National Forest to help the Forest Service plan for its future. You can do so by attending workshops and hearings and writing to the Forest Supervisor as to whether you like their proposed plan or how you would change it. This is important because it is this plan which will guide their budget requests and work plans for the next 10 to 15 years.

Forest personnel and many others led by Gil Churchill have been working on the plan for the last 5 years. The printed documents they are sending to the public measure 2 1/4 inches in height!!! They could be used as a case study for a whole term by a course in natural resource management and even then the students might feel they had not learned all there was to know.

These documents consist of:

- Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan (Plan)
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

A set of 11 Maps:

- The Forest showing management areas and proposed sales
- The Forest—one for each alternative
- Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks NRA—one for each alternative

The DEIS details the steps taken and describes in detail each alternative. It also summarizes the findings of the environmental analysis and provides many statistical tables.

The Plan gives a brief summary of the steps and tools used and then concentrates on the preferred alternative which is the proposed plan. This document lists in detail the standards and guidelines and the practices to be used in managing the Forest if the proposed plan is adopted.

This article does not evaluate the plan or the planning process. That will be done by you and others. Its purpose is to inform two groups of people:

Those who lack the time, knowledge or degree of interest needed to study the plan in detail but wish to have a general idea of what it is all about and be able to give a "gut" reaction to the proposals. It is the hope that for these people this article will enable them to understand what people are talking about and give them enough idea of the direction in which the Forest suggests it should move that they will feel able to comment and participate in discussions.

Those who wish to study the proposals in more detail. These documents use a lot of terms with special meanings. Explanations and needed information are scattered throughout the two books and are very hard to find. This article, in addition to describing the main features of the plan, the process and the alternatives, is designed to help you turn to the sections you need to find out the particular piece of information you want, assuming it is there. For very detailed information, you will have to contact the planning team in Elkins where all information is available.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

You might say the planning process starts with the laws enacted by Congress—the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Act (RPA) which mandated the planning process, the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and the National Environmental Policies Act (NEPA). These together with the regulations they generated, mining laws and decisions of the judicial system provide direction and constraints to the Forest Service.

Next comes the planning process undertaken by the Forest Service at the national level. National Forests and the Regional Offices participated through information, suggestions and comments. Documents similar to those now before you but applying to the Forest as a whole were commented on by the public, revised by the Forest Service and finally approved by Congress.

Then came the turn of the regions. Their plans decided which of the national goals should be fulfilled by each region and how regional problems should be tackled. These set the targets for the forests in the region.

Now it is the turn of each National Forest to plan how best to meet national and regional targets and goals while dealing with problems specific to its Forest or local communities. The planning process at the MNF with a determination of what were the issues, concerns and opportunities facing MNF. At this point the public were asked to help by making suggestions and commenting on suggestions made by others. Then both simultaneously and sequentially:

- Issues were studied and refined and goals agreed on.
- Resources of the Forest were inventoried.
- Data of all kinds was collected and analyzed.
- The planning team learned to use the computer and the programs designed for the planning process.
- Data was fed into the computer to determine maximums and minimums and benchmarks.
- Alternative practices were fed into the computer to see what would happen.
- Suggestions were made as to different ways to achieve different goals and these were tested on the computer or, when acceptable parameters were not available, were evaluated by an interdisciplinary team.
- Four alternatives were designed, each putting major emphasis throughout the Forest on the demands of one or more interest groups.
- Finally, the practices needed to achieve an alternative that would meet targets while providing balance between groups were agreed on and run through the computer and the environmental analysis process.
- Documents were prepared and the public asked to comment.

That is where we are now. When the comment period is over the following steps will be taken:

A final plan and EIS will be drafted and reviewed. After opportunities for appeal from the public and the incorporation of any necessary changes, the plan will be approved.

The plan will be implemented, and as site specific, concrete plans are developed the public will be asked to comment.

The management of the Forest will be monitored to see how well the plan is working.

If the monitoring shows changes are needed or events occur requiring



LEGEND

Note: Refer To National Recreation Area Alternative Maps For Project Details.

- National Forest Proclamation Boundary
- Purchase Unit Boundary
- National Forest Or Public Hunting Area Boundary
- Interstate Highway
- State Highway
- Secondary State Route
- Population Of City Or Town—2000 and over

Note: White Areas Are Non-Forest Service Lands

Management Prescription	1		Emphasize Intolerant Hardwoods, Even-Aged Silviculture, Wildlife Tolerant Of Disturbance, Visual Variety And Motorized Recreation.
Management Prescription	11		Emphasize Mineral Resources Development
Management Prescription	2		Emphasize Shade Tolerant Hardwoods, Uneven-Aged Silviculture, Wildlife Associated With Shade Intolerant Vegetation And Motorized Recreation
Management Prescription	3		Emphasize Large High Quality Hardwoods, Mast Production, Visual Variety And Motorized Recreation
Management Prescription	4		Emphasize Softwoods, Wildlife Associated With Conifers, Visual Variety And Motorized Recreation
Management Prescription	5		Emphasize Management Of Congressionally Designated Wilderness.
Management Prescription	6		Emphasize Remote Wildlife Habitat, Even-Aged Hardwood Silviculture And Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation
Management Prescription	7		Emphasize High Density Recreation.
Management Prescription	8		Emphasize Preservation Of Unique Ecosystems Or Areas For Scientific Or Recreational Purposes, Areas Of National Significance And Research Areas.

Alternative A

changes, amendments to the plan will be made with participation by the public as appropriate.

In about 10 years the planning process at the Forest level will start over again.

WHAT CAN AND SHOULD YOU DO?

Essentially you are being asked:

Do you like the preferred alternative—how would you change it? Why? So, after reading this article, studying the maps and, perhaps, reading parts of the plan and DEIS, make up your mind about the preferred alternative and let the Forest Service know your opinion. Write the Forest Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest, P.O. Box 1548, Elkins, WV 26241. If you like what they have done, be sure and write to say so. That is just as important as recommending changes. If you want to suggest changes, don't hesitate to do so. Citizen participation is something very important!

In determining whether you like Alternative E, there are three things to consider:

Do you like the overall mix of prescriptions?

Is the balance between the various interests about right? Would you like more or less of some component: more or less semi-primitive recreation; more or less conifers; more emphasis on deer and less on turkey?

However, before you make your suggestions study the overall balance and ask yourself: are your interests really adequately met? If the emphasis is shifted what will it do to others? Will it really provide a better balance? Is it something within the control of the Forest or does the decision rest with Congress?

Would you prefer management area (MA) 6406 to be in hardwood rather than conifers?

Is there some MA with large high quality trees that you know about that you would like to see maintained as such instead of being changed?

Would you prefer to have management prescription 2 used on MA 6404 as in Alternative C instead of Management Prescription 6 as recommended in E?

All of us have certain places we picture in a certain way and when they are changed, we object. In some cases we want facilities in a certain place because that is convenient for us. So, before you suggest such a change ask yourself why you are really making it and does it really improve the MNF. Then if you really think your suggestion improves the plan, make it and explain why.

Do you wish to challenge a price or part of the computer program?

Those of you who are really up on computers, the economics of forestry and recreation or the fine points of natural resource management may wish to do so. But remember, unless the change is really gross, the results shown on the computer printout, if the change is made, are likely to be insignificant.

ALTERNATIVES (DEIS p. iii, 2-14, 2-15/52)

In past planning procedures the Forest Service offered the public five or more alternatives presenting different mixes of outputs. It then asked the public to choose the one it liked best and explain why. This time it is following a different procedure. NEPA (the environmental protection act mandating environmental analysis statements) requires that a "No Action" alternative be presented. In addition, the planning team presents three alternatives (B, C, D) each emphasizing the interests and demands of one or more of the major interest groups making demands on the Forest. This gives each interest group an opportunity to see what is the maximum it can reasonably expect if basic obligations to other groups are to be met. Finally, the planning team has devised what they call the "preferred" alternative - E - which provides a balance between the various groups.

The following characterizes the main emphasis of each alternative and indicates the major management prescription to be used for that alternative. By studying these prescriptions (which are listed below) you can get a pretty good idea of the emphasis used for each alternative. A detailed verbal analysis of each alternative and tables comparing outputs will be found in DEIS p. 2-15/52 but the best way to understand the implications of the various alternatives is to study the maps.

Major Prescriptions

A. A projection of current management trends and implementation of many of the features of prior plans—The No Action Alternative.

1,6

B. Emphasizes primitive and semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation and habitat for wildlife needing remote conditions.

5,6

C. Emphasizes the uneven-aged silvicultural system.

2

D. Emphasizes the production of outputs which return money to the U.S. Treasury. Also emphasizes conifers.

1,2,4

E. Designed to provide a balanced output of a combination of remote habitat, non-motorized recreation, long rotation, conifers and hardwoods and both even and uneven silvicultural practices.

1,6,4

THE TOOLS OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

ISSUES CONCERNS OPPORTUNITIES (ICO) (Plan p.16, 23-26, DEIS p.1-7/8 & Appendix A)

Originally, the Forest Service defined an issue as something over which the public disagreed and a concern as something that worried the Forest Service personnel. Actually, an issue turned out to be a practice or solution concerning which there was great disagreement—even vs. uneven silviculture—whereas a concern was a problem that needed to be addressed—protection against fire or pests. It was soon seen that there was a great range of opinion within the Forest Service over "issues" and that the public was just as concerned over



Alternative B



Alternative D

"concerns" as the Forest Service. Opportunities were seen as things outside the Forest that could be used to enhance the potential of the Forest to meet its goals or solve its concerns—use of volunteers or the cable method of logging, for example. Collectively, ICOs are often referred to as "issues."

For the Monongahala National Forest, public issues were identified through various types of citizen participation over a period of about 18 months beginning in March 1980. In addition to numerous meetings with Federal, state and county agencies and 181 with Human Resource Units, comments were received from or meetings held with 148 individuals, 148 local groups, and 116 professionals. It was estimated that the news media publicity about ICOs should have reached 7,200.

Some of the suggestions had to be discarded because they concerned topics over which the Forest had no control, i.e. changes in State Fish and Game Laws. The remainder were consolidated into a list of 32:

- 5 major issues (mineral, oil and gas practices; wildlife management; silvicultural practices; NRA management; land acquisition)
- 3 major concerns (lumber regulations; transportation systems; economic efficiency)
- 4 minor issues
- 16 minor concerns
- 4 opportunities

For each a range of solutions was possible.

This list of 32 was then further studied to see how best they could be tackled. It was decided that 3 possible methods were the answer. Many could be handled by standards and guidelines that would recognize varying degrees of intensity of use. For instance, heavily used roads would need to be constructed to higher standards than roads not open to the public. Another group could be met best by treating different areas of the Forest in different ways as suitable—here a clearcut, there a selective cut; her primitive nonmotorized recreation, there high density road based recreation. A few could also be addressed through environmental analysis. Table 1-1 on page 1-9 of the DEIS lists the 32 ICOs and their disposition.

THE PROBLEMS AND THEIR RELATION TO ALTERNATIVES (Plan p. 17-22, DEIS p.1, 1-9/13, 2-28/29, 4-1/47)

It was further noted that the resolution of many of the ICOs was related to goals and targets already set by the planning process at the national and regional levels. Furthermore, Congress has given the Forest Service a multi-purpose mission and the duty to satisfy many competing, often conflicting, demands. Planners felt the further reduction of the ICOs to a few problems would greatly simplify the task of devising alternative ways of satisfying these many demands on Forest resources. The five problems into which the ICOs were finally combined were:

Problem 1. Mineral Exploration and Development (or Coordination of Surface and Sub-surface Resources Use)

This problem can be subdivided into 2 parts: what to do about 1) the 64 potential coal mine portals to coal not owned by the Forest, and 2) the U.S. owned coal that lies under 62,413 acres of the Forest as well as the potential for oil and gas wells. The ability of the Monongahala National Forest to make decisions with regard to the former is strictly limited by the terms of U.S. mining laws and the deeds held by the owners of the sub-surface mineral rights.

Problem 2. Transportation Systems (or Road and Trail Management)

The type of road and who uses it can greatly affect the standard required and, hence, the cost. This also determines which wildlife habitat and recreational environment is favored.

Problem 3. Vegetation Manipulation

This is a fancy term for decisions as to even or uneven silviculture, tree rotation, types of trees (conifer or hardwood). It also includes decisions as to what types of wildlife are to be emphasized where, since different types require different types of vegetation. Decisions as to the practices to be used for the protection of rare and endangered species also come under this heading (as well as several others). Finally decisions to provide vistas and variety of scenery can greatly enhance recreational enjoyment.

Problem 4. Management of Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area

This involves decisions as to the type of recreation and visitor services to be provided and, hence, the need for further land acquisition. While decisions on most problems in the NRA are primarily related to recreational emphasis, recreational opportunities in other parts of the Forest are a by-product of decisions made with regard to minerals, roads, vegetation, etc. Or perhaps it is more accurate to say that those decisions are strongly influenced by the decision to provide visitors with a wide range of recreational opportunities in many parts of the Forest.

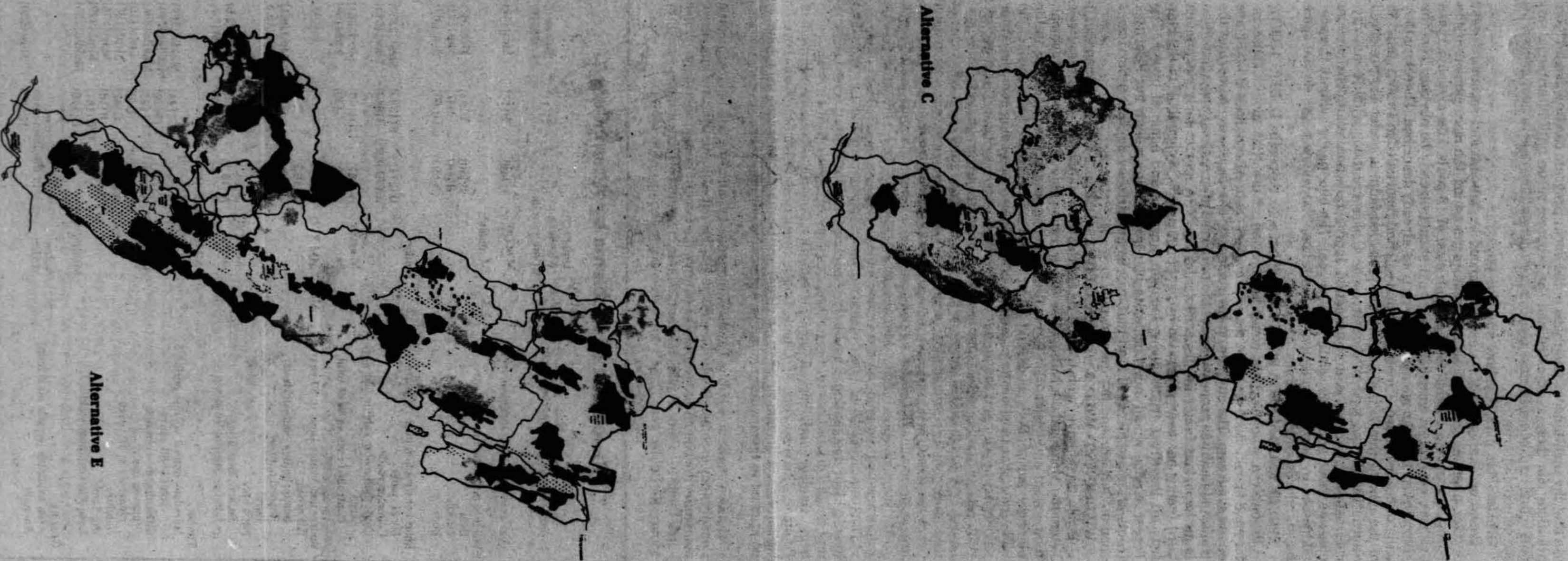
Problem 5. Management of Open Areas

The extent to which open areas are preserved and how they are maintained as open areas affects many interests. Livestock grazing benefits local residents. Grazing is also one of the least expensive ways of maintaining an open area. Open areas provide the habitat for some species as well as enjoyment to the recreationist.

How have the alternatives resolved these problems? Perhaps, the best way to understand this is to look at which of the alternatives provides the most or least measure for each of the components of these problems and whether the outputs for the preferred alternative (E) are closer to the "most" or the "least." These outputs are taken from Table 2-9 on pages 2-28/9 of the DEIS which gives the results for all alternatives. Chapter 4 of the DEIS gives the results in very much greater detail. Visually, you can get a very good idea of many of the differences by comparing the maps for each alternative.

(See Chart A on Page 6)

Cost efficiency is also of considerable interest to the Forest Service, and now with the deficit, to most of the public. There are two commonly used measures to estimate this: Present Net Value (PNV) and the Benefit/Cost (B/C) ratio. PNV is the difference between anticipated benefits having a dollar value and anticipated costs over time discounted back to the present. In figuring PNV two groups of commodities were given a value—market commodities such as timber, coal and campsites (fees) and nonmarket services such as hunting.



fishing, hiking which were estimated indirectly. (See DEIS p.B-64 for values ascribed to recreational benefits.) No way was found to measure intangible benefits such as improved habitat or magnificent vistas and they are not included in the computations. The highest PNV, measured in MMS, was obtained by Alternative A (292), the lowest by C (240) and E was 282. There was very little difference in Benefit/Cost ratios which ranged from 2.0 for C and D to 2.3 for A, B and E.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES (Yellow Pages of Plan, pp.48-96)

Analysis of the Issues, Concerns and Opportunities in many cases showed that the best way to address them was to write a set of standards that would meet varying conditions. The standards define such things as Cooperation with Agencies, Defense and Emergency Operations, Information, Human Resource Development, Vegetation Management, Pesticide Use, Range Management and Grazing, Recreation Planning and Facilities, Protection of Historic and Cultural Resources, Visual Management of an Area, Timber Practices, Wildlife Planning, Habitat and Stocking, Fire Protection, Law Enforcement, Transportation Systems, etc. etc. These standards can range from a very simple statement such as: "The National Park Service will be consulted in planning management actions that may adversely affect river areas listed in the Nation-wide Inventory Final List of Rivers," to two pages detailing Reforestation Practices.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS (Blue Pages of Plan, pp.97-210)

Each management prescription defines a mix of practices and standards, one or more of which would be applied to a management area to achieve a set of desired predetermined results. Thus, prescription 1 would result in a variety of Forest scenes, even age stands of trees intolerant of shade, a motorized base for recreation and a habitat for wildlife that can tolerate noise and disturbance. In contrast prescription 6 would still provide a mix of Forest products but one suitable for a semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation environment and a habitat for wildlife intolerant of noise and disturbance. Each prescription details the practices and standards (or standard levels) to be used in managing timber, recreation, wildlife habitat, grazing, minerals, roads, fire, solid waste, etc. (See Chart B on Page 8)

MANAGEMENT AREAS (MA) (Cream Colored Pages of Plan, pp.211-241)

The Forest is divided into many smaller areas called Management Areas. They are contiguous areas of land where it is intended that one management prescription will predominate though at any point in time other prescriptions may be present. Each MA is named and also given a four-digit number that indicates the ranger district (1st digit), the prescription (2nd digit) and whether this is the 1st, 2nd or 3rd MA with this prescription. Thus, 1101 indicates this is MA #1 in Ranger District #1 (Cheat) that is given management prescription #1.

An excellent visual understanding of how management prescriptions were distributed among management areas for each of the alternatives may be obtained by comparing the alternative maps one with another.

In a few instances management areas have a unique situation that requires treatment not covered by usual standards and management prescriptions. For these situations the special standards and guidelines that are to be applied are described in the cream colored pages of the plan (pp.216-236). An example is the management of the bog in the Big Run Bog MA 1802.

Table 8 (Plan pp.213-215) lists the MAs by name and shows the acreage within each devoted to each prescription. In most cases the prescription (1-8) with the greatest acreage is also the prescription number used in numbering the MA. But this is not always true. Presumably, this is because the predominant prescription allocation made when the MA were numbered was later changed. Or, it may be because the prescription predominated in the first decade but table acreages are for a later period. Unfortunately, the decade depicted by Table 8 is not given. Another interesting feature of this table is the acreage not suitable for timber harvest, including that acreage (prescription 9) that will receive only minimum treatment needed to protect environment, public health and safety. The acreage getting prescriptions 1-8 plus the acreage unsuited to harvest equals total acreage in the MA.

Table 9 (Plan p.237) shows the acreage of each MA receiving selected practices such as clearcut or selective cut or the miles of road construction in the first decade (1986-95).

THE COMPUTER—LINEAR PROGRAMMING—FORPLAN (DEIS Appendix B)

Devising a Forest plan is analogous to deciding how to manage a farm. Given a piece of land with certain capabilities and the probable demand and price for certain commodities, what do you produce? Corn? Wheat? Livestock? How much of each? What is the best mix of feed or fertilizer? Where? When—this year? Next year? Which combination will give you the greatest profit?

Before the coming of the computer, farmers made decisions "by the seat of their pants" on the basis of past experience. With the advent of the computer, mathematicians showed them that by the simultaneous solution of many equations such problems could be solved in a way that would prescribe the mixture of ingredients and practices that would give the greatest profit. The problem can also be so framed the result will maximize (or minimize) certain goals or outputs. And, since man does not live by profit alone and may set a certain value on the enjoyment that comes from fishing in his pond or retaining a grove of trees, constraints can be built into this set of equations so he can retain these nonmarket values.

This is called linear programming. For the Forest Service planning process a special linear program called FORPLAN was devised. To really understand this program you would need to take an intensive course in FORPLAN but Appendix B of the DEIS will give you the values assigned to many of the inputs and outputs.

FORPLAN PRESCRIPTIONS

Once the planning team decides to apply a certain management prescription or mix of management prescriptions to a certain management area to obtain a benchmark or a printout of the outputs and costs of a possible alternative, they define the practices and standards to be used in the FORPLAN to accomplish this. In addition they define the extent of the area within the management area to which the practice is to be applied and also the time period of its application. These practices are known as FORPLAN prescriptions and it is through their

use that the simultaneous equations of the linear program can be solved. These practices can then be adjusted and the program rerun until alternative outputs, costs and benefits most nearly approximate the goals to be achieved by the selected alternative.

GOALS (Plan p.35,37,yellow and blue pages)

Based on analysis of ICOs and influenced by national and regional Forest Service planning goals as well as by laws governing the management of the Forest, the planning team came up with a set of 16 goals. Like all goals, these are very general in nature. Their thrust should already be obvious from the alternatives and management prescriptions already described. Therefore they will not be given here. Those interested will find them listed in Table 1, page 35 of the Plan. Table 2 (p.37) shows the projected outputs under the preferred alternative (E) by type of activity—class of recreation, wildlife activity, reforestation, harvest, water protection, land acquisition, road construction, etc.—as these activities relate to each goal. The blue pages indicate the goal addressed by each management presentation. The yellow pages do the same for standards and guidelines.

SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS NRA (plan p.20, Appendix D, DEIS 4-28/32)

Probably a whole article could be devoted to the NRA alone. Those interested should study the NRA maps provided—note Alternatives B and E are on the same map. The chapter on environmental consequences enumerates the trails and facilities proposed under the preferred alternative. Land acquisition is an important factor in all decisions for the NRA, particularly since much hard feeling has been generated by past acquisitions. Appendix D of the Plan lists all Priority 1 tracts giving location, acreage and name of owner. The Forest Service would much prefer to buy from willing sellers but Priority 1 tracts are those pieces of land that may be acquired by the Forest Service as soon as they are sold to a new owner.

WILDERNESS - WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS (DEIS p.1-13, 3-6, Appendix D)

These areas have been treated in an identical manner in all alternatives. While the Monongahela National Forest is responsible for their management, their extent and designation is a matter for congressional action. Prior to the planning period Dolly Sods and Otter Creek had already been designated wilderness. For most of the planning period other areas being considered for wilderness or wild and scenic river designation were treated as if designated. With regard to wilderness Congress has now acted and designated Cranberry, Laurel Fork North and South as Wilderness making a total of 78,000 acres in that status. As a result of this recent decision Cheat Mountain and Seneca Creek were returned to regular planning status and neither they nor any other area can be considered for wilderness until the next planning period some 10-15 years in the future. Management standards and prescriptions for wilderness will be found in the yellow, blue and cream pages of the plan.

Thirteen rivers have been identified as having a potential for Wild and Scenic River designation. They include portions of: Blackwater, Cheat, Cherry and South Fork of Cherry, Cranberry, Dry Fork of Cheat, East Fork of Greenbrier, Gauley, Gladly Fork of Cheat, Greenbrier, North Fork of South Branch of Potomac, Shavers Fork of Cheat, South Branch of Potomac, West Fork of Greenbrier. A discussion of these rivers and of the management principles to be applied to them will be found in Appendix D of the DEIS.

The Conservancy's Public Lands Management Committee will be drafting the Conservancy's comments to be sent to the Forest officials. In drafting these comments the committee would like to have the benefit of your views. So please send them to either Sayre Rodman, Chair; Jeannette Fitzwilliams; or Mary Moore Rieffenberger. Their addresses will be found in the roster.

Resolution of Problems by Alternatives					
Chart A					
Item	Problem	Unit of Measure	Most	Least	E
Separated non sensitive areas	1	M acres	B (25)	D (11)	Nearer to Least (16)
Coal areas available for lease	1	M acres	D (48)	B (17)	Most (47)
Wildlife population in 150 years	1,2,3	M animals			
Deer			B (50)	D (42)	Most (47)
Turkey			B (14)	D (7)	Most (12)
Bear			B (.93)	C/D (.66)	Most (.83)
Road construction over 50 years	2	miles			
Local roads			D (2710)	B (1330)	Most (2150)
Collector roads			A/C/D (650)	B (640)	Least (643)
Controlled motor vehicle use					
Area		M acres	A (387)	C/D (148)	Most (281)
Controlled roads as % of total		%	B (73)	C (30)	Most (69)
Recreation Visitor Days in 50 years	All	MM RVD	A (6.5)		
All areas			D (16.7)		
Semiprimitive nonmotorized		1.5 for all		C (9)	Most (6.1)
Roaded natural				A (14.5)	Middle (15.5)
Rural					
NRA only					
Persons benefiting	4	MM RVD acres	D (15.8)	B (8.2)	Middle (12.6)
Land acquisition required			A (16.1)	D (4.8)	Least (7.3)
Timber					
Harvest—annual volume period 5	3	MMBF	D (177)		
Total in 50 years			D (6319)		
Silviculture—even age			A (540)	C (144)	Middle (164)
uneven age			C (231)	C (5424)	Middle (5734)
clearcuts in 50 years		M acres	A (206)	C (123)	Middle (396)
Conifers			D (134)	D (8)	Least (45)
Big Trees			A (392)	C (67)	Most (182)
Long-run sustained yield		MMBF/Year	D (188)	B (18)	Most (105)
				C/D (187)	Most (329)
				B (148)	Middle (165)
Grazing					
Area available (equals maximum)	5	Acres	8,486		
Animals		MAUN	same for all alternatives		
				B (180)	Most (580)

Outings Survey Shows Wide Interests

The results of the outings survey published in the December *Voice* are in. Respondents used a lot of ink marking the activities they wanted—a good sign WVHC members are itching to hit the trail.

Highest preference for the type of outing preferred was shared by four categories on the list—day hikes of average difficulty, day canoe trips suitable for novices, easy cross-country ski trips and field study trips—each with a 67% approval rate.

Only slightly behind these choices, strenuous day hikes came in at 60% approval. At 53%, still chosen by the majority of respondents, were easy hikes, two to three-day backpacking trips, and overnight canoe/camping trips.

The fate of some of the other categories probably reflects the uncertainty of some respondents as to whether they're ready for the tougher excursions. Winter hikes and beginner caving trips drew a tenuous 47%, strenuous skiing excursions only 40%, and Class III canoe trips only 33%. Only 13% voted for kayak trips and 7% for fishing excursions. Bicycling drew a write-in vote.

Among issue-oriented field trips, Canaan Valley attracted the most interest at 53%, with wilderness and river conservation coming in at 40% and all other options at 20%.

Conservation Groups

proved communication and coordination between the environmental groups within the state.

To initiate this effort, Linda Winter, vice president for federal affairs, and Dave Elkinton, past president and treasurer, co-sponsored the January meeting held in Buckhannon, West Virginia. Leaders from the following state-wide groups were invited to attend: The WV Audubon Society (four chapters); Izaak Walton League; League of Women Voters of West Virginia; The Nature Conservancy; Trout Unlimited—WV Council; WV Citizens Action Group; WV Highlands Conservancy; WV Sierra Club and the WV Wildlife Federation. Participation was excellent with six of the nine groups represented in spite of below zero temperatures, heavy snowfall and hazardous driving conditions.

After the leaders introduced themselves and briefly described their organizations' activities and interests, the group named the gathering "West Virginia Conservation Forum." The "Forum" also agreed to exchange newsletters in an effort to

WVHC Asks DNR . . .

George said, "At a time when West Virginia's national tourism campaign features such outdoor sports as rockclimbing it is both ironic and confusing that DNR has chosen to unlawfully prohibit this very activity on state lands. The Conservancy recognizes the legitimate concern of DNR to reduce rockclimbing accidents suffered by inexperienced climbers and believes that less extreme measures could accomplish this goal."

George continued, "The Conservancy believes a reasonable compromise is possible through use of a registration system to both satisfy DNR's public safety concerns and permit continued rockclimbing activities by experienced individuals.

More respondents wanted help with equipment arrangements for participants (60%), but fewer wanted the committee to help plan group meals (40%). A smattering suggested group meals could be a special feature of one or two outings.

West Virginia outings got a strong vote of confidence on the survey, with 47% saying all should be scheduled in the state and the remaining 53% wanting most of them here. Pennsylvania and Maryland tied on the question of where else we might go outside our borders, but only at 27% each.

The central highlands between Preston and Pocahontas counties won a resounding victory (87%) as the preferred choice of respondents, with the eastern panhandle, the southern highlands and central West Virginia each drawing a respectable number of votes.

On the question of participation, a landslide (86%) of WVHC member respondents wanted outings to be open to the general public, but were almost evenly split on the question of whether priority should go to members when spots were limited. A few who voted for first come-first serve priority said anything else would be logistically impossible.

Most felt members should receive a break on costs and non-members should be charged more. A slight ma-

Continued from Page 4

improve communications between the groups and to coordinate activities. Outings and other events open to non-members will be published to help increase publicity.

The Forum also decided to print a directory of member groups including such information as each organization's major issues for 1985, phone-tree contacts, and a calendar of events.

Because this was the Forum's first meeting, there was not enough time to discuss in depth the major issues of concern. The group agreed to meet again in June or July to organize several inter-organizational task forces to work on common goals. Meetings would then be held on an annual basis thereafter to discuss strategies for each upcoming state legislative session.

Though the meeting was short, it was felt to be very successful. In meeting one another the group would be able to take the first step toward making conservation organizations an effective force in shaping the future of the state.

Continued from Page 4

"DNR has denied the public's statutory right to participate in rulemaking proceedings and usurped the authority of the Legislature in declaring the rockclimbing ban. These legal requirements cannot be compromised."

Since August 1, 1984, George made repeated written and oral requests to Andrews for documentation of DNR's decisionmaking process in this matter. Andrews did not respond until January 16, 1985, following inquiries made to the Legislative Rulemaking Review Committee staff at George's request.

At the WVHC's winter board meeting on January 20, the board affirmed plans to sue if the ban is not lifted.

majority voted for fees just enough to cover the cost of the outings program (53%), others saw the program as a source of income for WVHC's conservation work (40%).

At the winter meeting at Alpena, outings committee chair John Purbaugh announced preliminary plans for several spring, summer and fall outings including many of the activities preferred by survey respondents. Tentative plans include a canoe trip on the Smokehole section of the South Branch of the Potomac, a

hike on North Fork mountain and a Cranberry wilderness hike, among others.

Purbaugh will finalize the 1985 trip schedule before publishing a complete list of participants and fees. Present plans are to charge enough to cover the cost of insurance and mailings needed to administer the outings program. A full schedule should be ready for inclusion in the March *Voice*.

NSS Schedules Cave Management Seminar

The second in a national series of cave management seminars sponsored by the National Speleological Society will be conducted in Elkins, West Virginia on March 16th and 17th. Hosted by the Virginia Area Region's Conservation Committee, the seminar will bring representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, NSS, the American Cave Conservation Association, the Cave Research Foundation and other recognized authorities in various cave management fields together.

Topics covered will include:

- * management philosophy and ethics
- * management plan development
- * resource inventory, evaluation and classification
- * surface and hydrological relationships and considerations

- * bat management
- * establishing use levels
- * access restrictions and regulations
- * volunteer ethics, administration and contracts
- * state and federal laws, policies and regulations and a number of other subjects.

The meetings, starting with a get acquainted party at 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 15th at the Coffee Shop on the campus of Davis & Elkins College and continuing through Sunday, is open to the public for a \$15 pre-registration fee.

The \$15 fee must be received before March 1, 1985. Write: Rocky Parsons, Rt. 1, Box 27, Ireland, WV 26376, or call (304) 452-8625 for information. Make checks payable to Cave Management Seminar.

New Voice Editor Wanted

WVHC is looking for a new editor for *The Highlands Voice*. In issuing the call for applications, WVHC President Larry George described the position:

"The editor holds full editorial and supervisory responsibility for the *Voice*, coordinates volunteers in submission of copy and supervises commercial layout and printing. Applicants should have substantial writing experience and a knowledge of West Virginia natural resources issues. The position is compensated at \$100 per month plus expenses.

"The *Voice* is West Virginia's leading environmental publication presenting news, features and analysis of natural resources issues affecting the state. The *Voice* also functions as WVHC's primary medium of communication with its members and subject matter tends to reflect the interests of the organization. Publication has been monthly since 1967 in an eight-page tabloid format with a circulation of approximately 800.

"The editor is a member of the WVHC Board of Directors and is expected to attend quarterly board meetings held around the state. An interest in natural resources conservation is desirable and preference will be given those making a long term commitment."

Any resident of West Virginia may apply. Interviews will be held in Charleston in late February. For additional information, or to apply, send a resume and a writing sample to: Larry W. George, President, West

Virginia Highlands Conservancy, 1206 Virginia Street, East, #201, Charleston, WV 25301. Deadline for applications is February 25, 1985.

PA Group Lists Outings

The Pittsburgh Council of American Youth Hostels Inc. publishes a long list of Pittsburgh area outings in their monthly newsletter. Although the outings are open to the public, members get priority and lower fee rates.

Outings include backpacking, bicycling, canoeing, caving and skiing. AYH, located at 6300 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15232, is an organizational member of WVHC.

First Outing of Spring

A hike—scheduled for March 23rd starting at 10:00 a.m.—will be the first foray on the spring outings schedule. Visit beautiful Kanawha State Forest with Charlie Carlson, a former assistant forest superintendent. Open to members and non-members alike; \$2.00 per person; no reservations required. Meet at the parking area near the dam and bring your own lunch. See the early spring wildflowers.

Management Prescriptions

Chart B

No. Summary of Desired Land Conditions emphasized	Land Allocation by Alternative		
	A	B	C
A variety of forest scenes	98.0	11.5	D
A primarily motorized recreational environment			D
Wildlife species tolerant of disturbance			C
Primarily intolerant hardwood for timber & sawtimber			C
Even-age silviculture			C
Location of mineral extraction developments	4	+	Same
A continuous forested scenic environment	48.2	5.4	C
A primarily motorized recreational environment			D
Wildlife species associated with shade tolerant trees			D
Primarily tolerant hardwood for fiber and hardwood			D
Uneven age silviculture			D
A variety of forest views and feeling of openness within older tree stands	47.5	5.6	B
A primarily motorized recreational environment			A
Large high quality hardwood for lumber and veneer, hard mast production and scenic attributes			A
A variety of coniferous forest views and scenes	19.5	2.2	D
A primarily motorized recreational environment			B
Wildlife species associated with conifers			B
Softwood trees for fiber and lumber			B
Conversion of hardwoods to conifers	85.9	10.1	D
Protects the wilderness attributes for future wilderness experience	77.9	9.1	Same
Natural ecosystems	198.3	23.3	A
A semi-primitive non-motorized recreational environment			CD
Remote habitats for wildlife species intolerant of disturbance			
A mix of forest products			
A high density, self-contained forest recreational environment	.7	.1	Same
The preservation of unique ecosystems	9.9	1.2	Same
Areas to conduct research			
Protection of unique areas of national significance			
Developed Recreation sites In prescriptions 1,2,3,4,4.1	11.3	1.3	B
Total areas in prescriptions 1 through 8	595.6	69.9	C
Minimum management and improvements			
Protection of environmental values	258.2	30.1	
Protection of health and safety of the public			
Total area of Forest	851.8	100.0	

New Report

on State's Water Use

A new report from the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey summarizes water use in the mountain state during 1982. In addition to a statewide summary, data are presented for all 55 counties and for all 32 drainage basins. Categories of water use are agriculture, power generation, industry, mining, coal preparation plants, public supply, sewage treatment, rural domestic, flood control, injection wells, navigation, and irrigation.

The report is a product of the State Geological Survey's continuing cooperative effort with the U.S.

Geological Survey under the National Water-Use Information Program. Data provided should prove helpful in planning and managing West Virginia's water resources.

"Water Use in West Virginia for 1982," publication number C-35, is \$7.35 postpaid to a West Virginia address (\$7.00 postpaid out-of-state). Please order from West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey, Publications Sales, P.O. Box 879, Morgantown, WV 265070879. Checks should be made payable to "West Virginia Geological Survey."

First '85 Outing a Gliding Good Time

by Jean Rodman

The first official outing scheduled by the new outings committee actually took place, if not quite as scheduled, John (chairman) Purbaugh and Julie Barnett and Sayre and Jean (committee member) Rodman were among the first to arrive at White Grass Touring Center in Canaan Valley. It was about 2nd and snowing, with a fairly steady wind across all the open areas. We shuffled our gear and clothing while waiting to see who would show up. At 10:00 we opted for the \$8.00 package of lesson and area fee combined.

We moved out in a class of five to work up quite a sweat. The trees sheltered us and the layers suitable for the parking lot were too many.

We all actually learned something, if only that we are wildly out of shape and bound to drop into calorie burnout sooner than expected. However, White Grass Center has a cafe corner in the base lodge—warm and cheerful with fresh flowers on every table. Everyone there was friendly, happy

and red-checked. The food was hearty, hot and welcome. There are big foam cups of various kinds of tea available, as well as coffee, hot chocolate, hot cider, Molsens, chili soups, sandwiches and even veggie things.

Once we were actually in the lesson we, of course, saw other WVHC members who seemed to realize that nobody much had managed the 9:30 a.m. meeting time. They all appeared to be able to get along fine without us. F.K. Miller and Emma Shelton came by on their way up the 3-Mile Trail to the high stuff. Three Rattiffe did a true cross country from the Elkinton's house by dead reckoning and then went around on their own. I'm sure that there were other members that I didn't see who were on other trails.

When we got back to the car to leave, the engine compartment was blown full of snow, a fact that we didn't discover until the heat had melted just enough snow to wet all the plugs. Next time we'll check before starting the car.

The Hanging Rock Raptor Migration Observatory on Peters Mountain

by Mary Moore Bluffenberger

If you're a hawk watcher the name 'Peters Mountain' in Monroe County connotes the same excitement as 'Bear Rocks' on Dolly Sods in Tucker County. Since 1953, the Handlan Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club has been counting hawks in annual migration there. (As many as 3,000 hawks have been seen in one day.) On a breezy, sunny day in September you can view the tree-clad beauty of West Virginia on all sides, while waiting for those distant dark specks in the sky to become unutterably graceful birds sailing above and below you. (Of course, some days that's a long wait.)

In 1957 the State of West Virginia built a fire tower on Hanging Rock on Peters Mountain, at 3,812 feet. This was great for the birders when they needed some shelter from rain or cold winds on the bare stones of the summit.

In 1972, the use of airplanes made the tower obsolete. Like all neglected dwellings, it deteriorated, was vandalized and became unsafe. There were a hundred broken windowpanes, a leaking roof, and rotting railings and walkways. The birders tried to do a few repairs, but there was little money and supplies had to be carried a mile along a narrow, rocky footpath.

At this point, two agencies came to the rescue. The U.S. Forest Service bought the land around the tower to add to the Thomas Jefferson National Forest, and the West Virginia Non-Game Wildlife Fund was initiated with income tax check-offs.

In 1984, the Handlan Chapter of the Brooks Bird Club obtained a grant of \$500 from this program to repair the tower. The Chapter and individual members contributed additional funds. The Forest Service supplied plastic windowpanes, and their summer help carried the materials to the tower. Brooks Bird Club volunteers then spent 150 hours on repairs. The greater part of the work was done by George Hurley of St. Albans, George Koch of Charleston and George Flower of Union.

The hawk migration records made at the Hanging Rock Raptor Migration Observatory are sent to the Hawk Migration Association of North America, the National Audubon Society, and the Brooks Bird Club to correlate with data from other observatories all over the United States in order to determine population trends. The use of the tower also enhances the Non-Game Wildlife Program in educating visitors about the habits, beauty and value of raptors.

**The Conservancy Wants You
Join the Conservancy!**