



THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

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Movement Slow in 1985 Legislature

Halfway through the 1985 session of the West Virginia Legislature, Vice President for State Affairs Perry Bryant painted a dim picture for conservation legislation.

But a little movement in House and Senate subcommittees on conservation easements, water rights and right-to-know bills fanned hopes that this session would produce at least one or two significant reforms.

House Bill 1673 sponsored by Delegates Chambers and Davis authorizing the donation of conservation easements for tax credits passed out of the House Judiciary Committee in mid-March. The bill is one key to local river conservation efforts.

Questions raised on second reading on the floor, however, forced the bill back to committee for reworking. The House questioned whether a large landholding company or timber industry could establish a non-profit organization to receive donations of timber rights easements with a limited life—30 years, for example. In such a case, the company might be able to take advantage of the program as a tax shelter while the timber grew, but have no obligation to preserve the quality of the riverside land after the easement expired.

DNR Proposed Rules on Surface Subsidence

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources has published for public comment interpretive rules on measures that mining companies are required to take to prevent damage to surface structures which can result from underground mining. Statutes and regulations have been in effect on this topic since 1981. In the past, the Department of Natural Resources has not required submission of and detailed plan for how the company intended to control subsidence related damage. The proposed interpretive rules would clarify the responsibilities of the mining industry in this area. At the same time, they indicate the Department of Natural Resources' increased willingness to enforce subsidence control regulations.

The proposed interpretive rules require that mining companies survey the area to be undermined and make a complete inventory of the structures, streams, agricultural lands, businesses, utility lines, etc., as well as geologic factors that would be useful in predicting subsidence. In ad-

dition, companies would be required to describe the measures they intend to take to mitigate or remedy any damage to surface structures caused by subsidence.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has filed comments supporting, with some variations, the proposed interpretive rules.

The most controversial aspect of these rules is their inclusion of longwall mining. At public hearings, industry representatives contended that longwall mining was exempt from subsidence control planning. They asserted that the subsidence that results from longwall mining is predictable and controlled and, as such, falls outside the controlling statute. In its comments, the Highlands Conservancy supported the Department of Natural Resources' inclusion of longwall mining. The Conservancy contends that longwall mining should not have a blanket exclusion from the controls but should, instead, be required to justify any exclusion from control on a case by case basis.

Senate Bill 13, a water rights bill sponsored by Senator Mario Palumbo, is expected to be reported out of the Natural Resources Committee before the end of March. The key provision of this bill is the establishment of water as property of the state, and thus not subject to a "taking" without approval.

Right-to-know legislation, in the form of Senate Bill 338 sponsored by Senators Tonkovich, Boettner and Kaufman, continues to be the subject of negotiations. Bryant said he expected to see something reported out to the floor.

Although the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Bill, H.B. 1823 (Delegates Haynes and Roop), specifically exempts agriculture and silviculture (timbering), the bill is a first step in regulating construction related activities.

Of the bills potentially dangerous to conservation goals, the proposal reorganizing agencies and forming the Department of Energy is the most carefully watched. After numerous exchanges between parties about the intentions of certain provisions of the bill, House and Senate leaders began to find significant shifts in policy in the bill. (see article this page)

On March 20th, the Senate Finance Committee passed SB 196, The Economic Development Act and sent it to the floor. The committee approved an amendment offered by Senator Fred Parker to transfer timber industry supervision to the Agriculture Department. If passed, the reorganization move would leave the Department of Natural Resources with no resources to manage.

Major Snags for Energy Department Bill

A 702-page bill to reorganize government management of energy related matters proposed to the Legislature by Governor Moore may face more trouble in the Legislature than anyone anticipated. Thought at first to be inevitable by many capitol watchers, the bill which would bring regulation of mining and oil and gas under one umbrella and remove authority from the Department of Natural Resources now raises some serious doubts among the legislators who will act on the matter.

Quoted in the *Charleston Daily Mail*, Senator Si Boettner said, "When they represented it as just a rearrangement of government with a focus on efficiency, it made sense. But when we see the subtle policy changes, I think it shows that we need to take a hard look at it. The more people dig into it, the more problems there seem to be."

The Department of Energy would take over:

- * all mining related duties of the DNR, including surface mine inspection and water resources division inspections,

- * all duties of the Department of Mines; and

- * all duties of the Oil and Gas Division.

The new department would eliminate the Water Resources Board and the Reclamation Commission.

Forest Service Extends Public Comment Period

U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) recently announced that the National Forest Service has agreed to extend for 30 days the public comment period on proposed land management plans for the Monongahela National Forest.

Byrd sought the extension on behalf

Perry Bryant reported finding legislators far less concerned about conservation issues than any time he's dealt with the body.

"Unless the conservation movement gets off its collective duff and elects candidates concerned about conservation, it won't get better," he said.

The legislative session ends April 13th.

Among the major provisions putting legislators and the governor at loggerheads are the bill's provisions for removing civil service protections for inspectors and division directors. Under current law, companies have a difficult time using political pressure on government employees involved in regulation because of civil service protections. The governor has indicated he won't accept civil service as part of the package.

Another provision would exempt the new commissioner of the energy department from a state law requiring disclosure of connections or financial interest in coal mining.

Perhaps most serious is the move to transfer authority for setting water quality standards from the independent Water Resources Board and from the reclamation commission to the energy commissioner.

House Judiciary Chairman Chuck Chambers said Moore wouldn't budge on these issues, and he wouldn't support the bill unless they do. He anticipated major changes in his committee, which is now studying the bill.

Other House Judiciary members are Damron, Brown, Casey, Crookshanks, Feinberg, Fullen, Garrett, Hamilton, Humpherys, Leary, M. Martin, Mastrantoni, McNeely, Moore, Roop, Schifano, Shepherd, Carmichael, R. Harman, Haynes, Lane, Shaffer, Smirl and Springston.

of environmental and other groups in West Virginia, who are concerned that the forest service plans have not received adequate public scrutiny.

Under the new schedule set by Monongahela Forest Supervisor Ralph Mumme, the public comment period will expire May 1.

... In House ...

Conservancy Assumes Mission of Canaan Valley Alliance

by Larry W. George

Last January the Board of Directors of the Canaan Valley Alliance voted to terminate its existence and transfer its assets, records and mailing lists to the Conservancy. The WVHC Board of Directors accepted the Alliance's contribution at its January 20th meeting with the understanding that the Conservancy will assume the Alliance's role in coordinating organizing and advocacy activities related to the protection of the Canaan Valley in Tucker County.

The Conservancy created the Canaan Valley Alliance as an independent organization in 1978 to serve as an umbrella for all the conservation groups and individuals working to establish a National Wildlife Refuge in the Canaan Valley. The Conservancy itself continued to take the lead role in federal court litigation and

legislative action to halt the Davis Power Project and to advocate land use planning in the valley.

Both the Alliance and Conservancy Board of Directors reached the mutual decision that the protection of the Canaan Valley is now better served by the leadership and coordination of all organizing, legislative and legal action by the Conservancy. The formal transfer of the Alliance's assets and records to the Conservancy was completed in February.

As Conservancy President, I want to express our appreciation for the many years of effort by CVA volunteers to preserve the Canaan Valley. Both CVA Chairman Joe Long and I join in inviting former CVA members and supporters to join the Conservancy and to work with the WVHC Canaan Valley Committee in future efforts to prevent the degradation of the valley.

New Voice Editor Named

Deborah B. Smith, a Huntington resident whose expertise combines forestry and journalism, will take over the editing of *The Highlands Voice* with the May issue.

Smith expects to complete a Masters degree in Journalism at Marshall University at the end of 1985. She already holds a B.S. in Forestry from University College of North Wales and an M.S. in Forestry from Virginia Tech, where she worked as a graduate research assistant at the School of Forestry and Wildlife Resources.

"My career goal is to combine forestry and journalism skills in writing for or producing a forestry or biology related publication," Smith said. She now works on the Parthenon at Marshall and will bring both design, layout and graphics experience to the *Voice* as well as writing skills.

Deborah Smith's professional experience includes a recent job as ac-

tivities director for Beech Fork State Park at Barboursville, a two and a half year stint as a forestry research assistant at Oregon State University and a summer internship with the USDA Forest Service. Her specialization is forest genetics.

"My longstanding interest in and knowledge of natural resources combined with my journalism skills would enable me to make a valuable contribution as editor of *The Highlands Voice*," she said. "I am familiar with many of the conservation issues affecting the people and lands of West Virginia and am prepared to make a full commitment to the WVHC."

Voice contributors may send their work to Deborah at her home address: 914 11th Street, Huntington, WV 25701.

Interviews for the position were held in Charleston on March 9th. The *Voice* editor serves as a member of the Board of Directors of WVHC.

How To Comment on MNF Plan

Toll free telephone numbers are now available for the public to use when calling the Forest Service, USDA, regarding the Draft Plan for the Monongahela National Forest. These numbers may be used to ask questions or make comments about the Plan through the end of public involvement on March 29, 1985.

For West Virginia residents, the number is: 1-800-344-1882.

For residents of other states, the number is: 1-800-558-8884.

The Draft Planning documents for the Monongahela were distributed on

December 7, 1984.

These draft documents are available at all Forest Service offices and in most local libraries. Forest Supervisor Ralph Mumme has also announced that Plans remain available for distribution. Interested individuals or groups may call for one, using the toll-free numbers.

Comments on the Draft Plan should be sent to the Forest Supervisor at the following address: Forest Supervisor, Monongahela National Forest, P.O. Box 1548, Elkins, West Virginia 26241-1548.

The West Virginia

Highland Wants You !!!

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League of Women Voters Seeking Rep

by Larry W. George

On January 20, 1985, the Conservancy Board of Directors approved an organizational director seat for the League of Women Voters of West Virginia. The League's seat on the WVHC board is subject to appointment by state LWV President Becky Cain who is seeking individuals interested in the post.

The LWV organizational director will represent the League at quarter-

ly Conservancy board meetings and will hold the same voting rights as the directors-at-large elected by the Conservancy membership. Those individuals interested in serving as the League's representative should contact:

Mrs. Becky Cain, President
League of Women Voters of West Virginia
2313 South Walnut Drive
St. Albans, WV 25177
(304) 727-6547

Corps to Prepare DEIS on Greenbrier Flood Control

Dam Not an Option

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers posted a notice of its intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on options to reduce flooding of the Marlinton area of Pocahontas County on the upper Greenbrier River. The notice appeared in the January 3, 1985, edition of the Federal Register.

It may have come as some surprise to some folks interested in the Greenbrier River that a sizable dam above Marlinton is not among the options under consideration. Dams on the Greenbrier have been rumored—and planned—before.

According to the announcement, plans under consideration are:

1. **No Action.** Do nothing to alleviate the flood problem at Marlinton.
2. **Non-structural.** Raise-in-place, floodproof, or remove structures using the most effective method.
3. **Channel Modification.** Widen channel of the Greenbrier River to efficiently reduce flood heights. Removal of stream bed material will be kept to a minimum, as excavation

will start several feet above stream bed. Exact length of the channel modification has not been finalized, but should be within the range of 6,500 feet to 10,000 feet.

4. **Channel Modification and Non-structural.** Combination of the two alternatives (2 & 3) outlined above.

The study announcement cites the Corps' intention to cooperate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service in developing the draft. It recognized

the river's status as a potential wild, scenic or recreational river area.

The DEIS will address issues ranging from environmental impacts of channel modification on aquatic and terrestrial quality and consideration of potential conflicts with the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to socio-economic impact on the community.

Questions about potential actions and the DEIS can be directed to Mr. Robert Burns, Study Manager, Huntington District, Corps of Engineers, Huntington, WV 25701.

Division of Water Resources

Considers General Permit

for Oil and Gas Industry

The Division of Water Resources of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources is actively considering a major change in the way water pollution from oil and gas operations is regulated.

Presently, all oil and gas drilling operations are required by law to have a permit from the Division of Water Resources. Because of what Division officials describe as a lack of resources, this requirement has never been enforced. As a result, almost none of the oil and gas companies apply for or receive this permit.

The Division proposes to address this problem by issuing a general permit to the entire industry. Any company which wanted to be covered by this general permit could indicate that intention. This would relieve that company of the responsibility to apply for an individual permit.

This procedure is in sharp contrast to the procedure followed by all other industries in West Virginia. Coal

mines, power plants, chemical companies, etc. all have to apply for and receive a permit from the Division of Water Resources before they can legally discharge water to the waters of West Virginia (Current law requires that each operation have an individual permit.), and if a general permit is issued for the entire oil and gas industry, it will be the first time in West Virginia that an entire industry has been covered by one permit.

The practical effect of this is that decisions on water discharges will no longer be made on a site-specific basis. Such factors as proximity to a water supply, high quality streams, trout waters, variations in local geology, etc. will not be considered. All operations will be treated the same.

The Division of Water Resources is presently preparing a draft general permit. It hopes to publish the draft for public comment in mid March, 1985.

Arceneaux to Head

AG's Environmental Division

WVHC member and former UMW lawyer Jay Arceneaux of Charleston moved to Attorney General Charlie Brown's office March 1st as director of the newly merged environmental protection and energy divisions.

A 1980 graduate of WVU Law School, Arceneaux worked as a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice

Thomas Miller and later with the law firm of Kaufman and Ratliff.

According to an article by Skip Johnson in the *Charleston Gazette*, the position was expected to go to either John Purbaugh or Ron Shipley, but Arceneaux's mine safety background tipped the scales in his direction.

'Get Ready'—GAO Study Says

After a lengthy review of scientific studies on acid rain, a General Accounting Office study released in December concluded scientists had collected "convincing documentation" of damage caused by acid rain in the Northeast. The study also agreed the major sources were power plants and automobiles.

Planting itself firmly on middle

ground, the GAO study said, "there is uncertainty concerning the amount and the timing of the effects which can be anticipated from it."

The study backed off of urging or opposing immediate action on acid rain. "At a minimum...having control plans ready could save time, and therefore resources, if...a need for rapid action becomes evident."

Location

The Greenbrier Youth Camp is located in Greenbrier County near Anthony, about 12 miles north of Lewisburg. Travelers on Interstate 64 should exit at Lewisburg and drive north on US Rt. 219 to Route 21 - approximately 8 miles. Turn east on county Rt. 21 to Anthony.

Travelers coming south on Rt. 219 should begin to look for Rt. 21 soon after passing Frankford.

At Anthony, cross the Greenbrier River on Rt. 21 and a sign on the left side of the road will indicate the entrance to the Youth Camp.

Volunteers Named to Committees

WVHC committees for 1985 are beginning to organize—by mail, phone or other means of communication, since meetings of widespread members are hard to come by. In naming the committees, WVHC President Larry George said, "We'd like to see more participation, since it's through the committees that much of the work of the Conservancy is accomplished."

He indicated the committee list was a preliminary one, with plenty of room for growth. Anyone interested in signing up for committee work should write the particular chairperson at the address listed in the roster on page 2. A list of current members includes:

Canaan Valley Committee

Linda C. Elkinton, Chair
Tom Michael
Linda Winter

Highway Committee

Geoff Green, Chair
Perry Bryant
Don Brannon

Management Review Committee

Tom Michael, Chair
Jeannetta Petras
David Elkinton
Skip Deegans
Larry W. George

Mining Committee

John McFerrin, Chair
Cindy Rank
Don Brannon
John Purbaugh

Outings Committee

John Purbaugh, Chair
Frank Akers
Jean Rodman
Ray Ratliff
Ed Lytwak
Mary Moore Rieffenberger
George Rosier

Public Lands Management Committee

Sayre Rodman, Chair
Jeannette Fitzwilliams
Mary Moore Rieffenberger

River Conservation Committee

Ray Ratliff, Chair
Perry Bryant
Milton Zelermyer
Cindy Rank
Linda Winter
Sara Corrie

Water Management Committee

Perry Bryant, Chair
John Purbaugh
Geoff Green
Linda Winter
Cindy Rank

Busy Folks

The Pittsburgh Council of American Youth Hostels (AYH), a long-time WVHC member, reported 3,035 people participated in 1984 AYH outings. Events included backpacking, bicycling, canoeing,

caving, climbing, hiking, kayaking, rafting, skiing, volleyball and special events.

Membership and activity information is available at: Pittsburgh A.Y.H., 6300 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15232.

The Conservancy Wants You!

A Chorus of Concern About Mo

MNF Plan Will Reduce Wildlife

by Dick Chandler
(reprinted with the permission of the author from the Buckhannon Record-Delba and the TU Newsletter)

What's going on over in the national forest?

Not much, right now, but just wait! By direction of the USDA biologists in Washington, each national forest has developed a 50-year plan for its use, of which our own Monongahela is one.

As public lands, the forest is naturally managed for "multiple use." That is to say that all citizens should be able to use it for their own particular interests. This might include backpackers, hikers, hunters, fishermen, birdwatchers and many others. At the same time, the Forest Service will continue to harvest the timber.

The Forest Service has developed several alternative plans that the public may comment on until March 29. And that's the problem. The "plan," which includes maps, environmental impact statement and all the alternatives, is the size of two Sears catalogs.

It would be impossible to read and understand all the information of facts prepared by the Wildlife Resources Division of the DNR concerning the proposed use of the forest.

ROADS—Current road mileage on the forest is 1,163 miles. Proposed road mileage in the next 50 years is 3,863 miles, or four miles of road on every square mile of forestland. If these new roads were constructed

parallel to each other, there would be a road every 443 yards.

A total of 543 miles of new roads will be built in the first 10 years at a cost of \$20 million (in 1978 dollars).

REMOTE AREAS—Presently, 78 percent of the forest is managed as a remote area. Under the new plan, only 33 percent would be managed in this fashion. Remote areas are popular with turkey and bear hunters, as well as backpackers and hikers.

TIMBER—Presently there are 19,442 acres of pine and spruce in the forest. Under the new plan, much of the most-producing hardwoods (oak, hickory, beech and cherry) would be cut and converted to conifers.

A total of 104,900 acres will be under this type of management. Conifers do not promote good wildlife habitat. In addition, 5,200 acres would be clearcut each year, tripling the amount of clearcut in 1983.

COAL LEASING—There has never been any of the Monongahela National Forest leased for coal mining. Under the preferred plan, there would be 46,911 acres leased.

WILDLIFE IMPACT—The above management practices would have these effects on wildlife in the forest: There would be 89 percent fewer turkeys in conifer areas than in remote areas, and 90 percent fewer bears. There would be 67 percent fewer squirrels and 56 percent fewer deer in those conifer areas than in present remote areas.

In addition, present timber sales are reviewed by wildlife biologists, and recommendations benefiting wildlife are made to the Forest Service. Under the preferred plan, they will not have that opportunity.

I attended a meeting of the Tygart Valley Wild Turkey Federation in late February where the details of the plan, as it relates to wildlife, were presented by DNR biologist Walt Lessor. Many hunting and fishing clubs and groups, as well as individuals of those groups are preparing their comments on the proposed plan.

Keep in mind that these views are from a wildlife impact point of view only. But that's enough for me to op-

pose certain aspects of the plan. Also, keep in mind that the Forest Service is interested in production of "board feet" first (and the associated economic value derived thereof) and other uses of the forest later.

I am sure that they believe that their proposed plan is the best one for the forest. If I were a forester, I might agree. But I'm not. A point that Walt Lessor made during the meeting... was that no one knows what value hunters on forest lands are to the economy of the state. If this figure were known, it might be greater than the value of the harvested timber, but that would get a lot of argument from the Forest Service.

Deep Mine Proposed for National Forest Land

Vickie Energy, Inc., of Clavin, West Virginia, has applied to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources for a permit to open a deep mine in the Monongahela National Forest in Pocahontas County. The face-up area is proposed for an abandoned surface mine bench located near the Greenbrier/Pocahontas County line. The mining itself will be beneath Briery Knob, the present home of the radio tower.

Drainage from this mine would flow into the South Fork of the Cherry River. This stretch of the Cherry River receives drainage from a 390 acre mountaintop removal surface mine. In addition, a 125 acre contour mine has been permitted for that watershed but has not begun operation. (The Cherry River is a native trout stream.) But according to reports of the Wildlife Resources Division of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, the South Fork of the Cherry River has been so damaged by acid rain in the last forty years that it is becoming marginal in its ability to support a trout population.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has made public comments on this application. In those comments, the Conservancy emphasized the following:

—West Virginia law requires that the cumulative impact of all anticipated mining in an area be assessed before any new permits can be issued for that area. In this situation, there are two other mines besides the Vickie Energy mine. Before any new permit can be issued to Vickie Energy, the cumulative impact of all three of these mines on the Cherry River must

be assessed. The Conservancy is particularly concerned because of the nature of the South Fork of the Cherry River. This stretch has very little natural alkalinity to neutralize any acid that might come from mining. Because the water is so susceptible to any pollution, the Conservancy is concerned about any impact that the mines in that watershed might have.

—Acid mine drainage. After the mine is closed, Vickie Energy anticipates installing a draining seal that will produce a perpetual discharge. Although the seam to be mined, the Sewell B, is not an extremely acid-producing seam, laboratory tests show it to have at least some potential to produce acid discharges. While further study may reveal that acid discharges will not be a problem at this site, the Conservancy has requested that the Department of Natural Resources examine the data closely and determine whether acid mine drainage will be a problem.

—Location within the National Forest. Before a mine could open in the National Forest it must either be pursuant to rights that the mining company acquired before the effective date of the federal surface mining act, or be compatible with overall forest management objectives. The Conservancy has requested that the proposed mine be closely studied by DNR to determine whether mining is consistent with overall forest management objectives.

The Department of Natural Resources is accepting public comments until late February, 1985, and anticipates making a decision on this application sometime thereafter.



Excessive road construction in the Monongahela National Forest will likely impact black bear populations severely.

Comment On The Plan Today!

—Call the USFS—

In WV Call 1-800-344-1882

Outside Call 1-800-558-8884

Monongahela National Forest Plan

MNF Plan Meets Hostility in Greenbrier County

In late February Outdoors Columnist Wes Bennett of the Register/Herald reported on the one meeting Monongahela National Forest officials scheduled in Greenbrier County to discuss the proposed MNF plan.

Apparently intended to be a small meeting by invitation "so the Forest Service's view of the plan could be explained with an atmosphere of confrontation," plans for the meeting spread by word of mouth and brought a packed house.

Bennett wrote, "I can easily understand his (Gil Churchill's) position. If the Forest Service had held two or three smaller meetings, then held a series of meetings that were well-publicized and open to the public, they could say everyone had been offered a chance to express his or her concerns. As it stands now, what little credibility the service still had has been damaged."

One of the major concerns discussed at the White Sulphur Springs meeting related to the number of miles of proposed roads to be built under the new plan, and the cost of those roads.

Although the proposed roads provide access to timber the Forest Service wants harvested, at least in the case discussed at the Greenbrier County meeting, the cost of the road would far exceed the anticipated in-

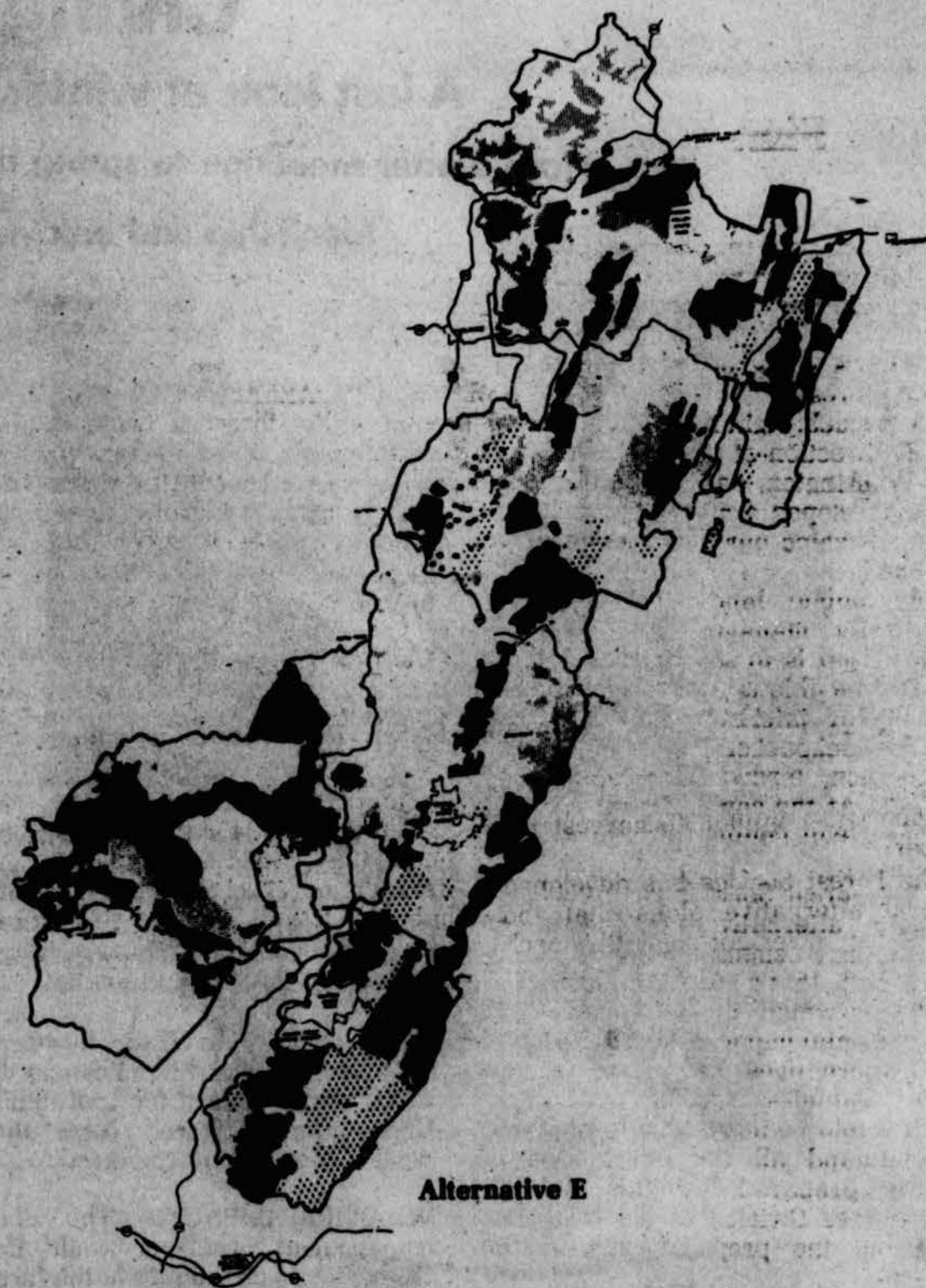
come from the timber cutting from three harvests over a 20-year period.

Bennett cited a letter distributed at the meeting by a member of the National Audubon Society describing the allegations by an anonymous Forest Service insider who claims the plans nationwide are underlain by the intention to "build roads in as many of the roadless areas remaining outside the wilderness system as possible."

Quoting the letter—"the Forest Service is getting ready to build or rebuild 30,000 miles of road—much of it through formerly roadless areas. That's enough construction to reach from New York to Los Angeles and back five times. Worse yet, it costs taxpayers like you and me \$5 billion." The figures cited relate to national forests throughout the country, not the Monongahela National Forest alone.

At the end of the four-hour meeting, Bennett wrote, "the audience still didn't know if the play was meant to be a tragedy or a farce, so they booted it off the stage and left."

Forest Service officials were invited to respond to the Register/Herald column, and readers were asked to write the Forest Supervisor to request an extension of the review period and list concerns about the plan.



Alternative E

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.

Too Late For MNF?

Dear WVHC,

I sent a letter to the Charleston Gazette Readers Forum asking for help to save the Monongahela National Forest. I was overwhelmed by the response, since the people have written me asking for more information. When I wrote the letter I was concerned about what is going to happen, but since my recent visit to Williams River I am worried about what is happening now.

Williams River, one of my favorite camping and fishing areas, is now being clearcut. What was once a beautiful camping, fishing and hunting area is now being destroyed. They are clearcutting the sides of the mountains along the trout stream. The erosion of the land flowing into the river will soon make it impossible to support trout.

The public's last chance to comment on the proposed plan was supposedly March 29—I think this is just to humor us while they go ahead with the plan now. Something must be done soon or it will be too late. Maybe it already is. If you would like to visit the area and see for yourself, please contact me.

Cherie Mulligan
HC 64 Box 516
Seebert, WV 24946
Tel. 653-4677

(The following is Cherie Mulligan's letter as published in the Charleston Gazette.)

Editor:

I am asking for help to save the wildlife in the Monongahela National Forest. If you ever visit the area, you will find that it is one of the few untouched, remote areas left. As many hunters in the Kanawha Valley know, it supports an abundance of turkeys, deer, bears and squirrels. I received a paper summarizing the proposed land management, Alternative E, which will have a major impact on the wildlife. Final road construction proposed in Alternative E will result in a road every 443 yards. Remote habitat will be reduced considerably, resulting in a 57 percent decrease in land presently managed for turkeys and bears. The proposed plan will result in 5,200 acres being clear cut each year. The erosion of the land will also damage surrounding streams now supporting native trout.

They have estimated the impact on the wildlife populations as follows: 89 percent fewer turkeys, 90 percent fewer bears, 67 percent fewer deer.

...If anyone has any ideas on ways to stop this, please write me. I care. I would be glad to help in any way.

Have You Written?

It's almost, if not already, March 29th. Have you written about the MNF plan? Have you? Let's not save our comments for 1990, when the thrust of the plan will be visible.

A move is afoot to get the comment period extended, since the documents are complex and the complete maps only available at Elkins. Whether the move succeeds or not you should be writing the Forest Service this very evening if you haven't already.

Remember, it took the USDA folks

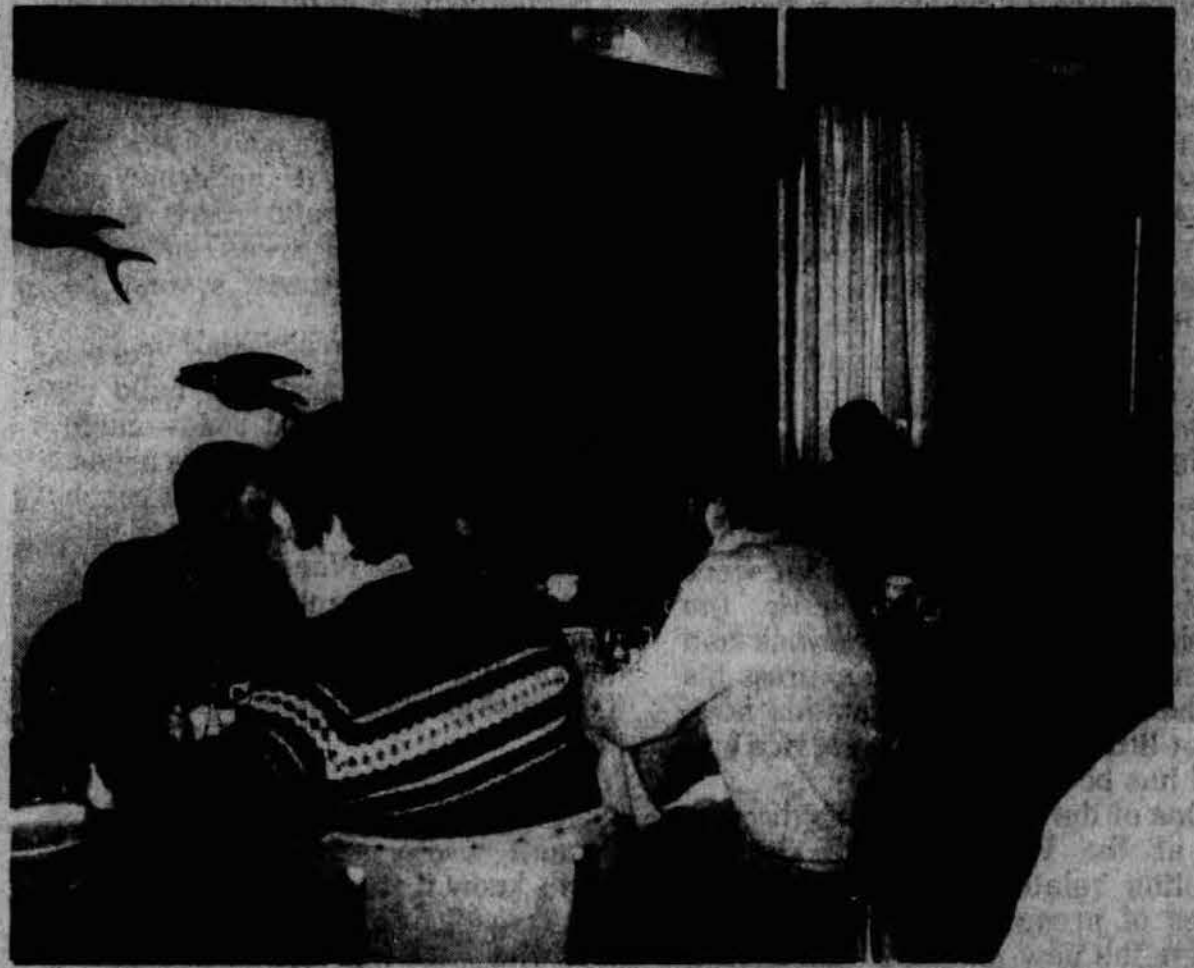
several years to prepare the plan. If they're serious about the public comment, they'll accept anything people have to offer, even if it doesn't meet the prescribed deadline. The only good reason not to consider all comments, of whatever date, would be if the comments arrived after the decision was made. Given the normal pace of government, no decisions will be made on March 30.

Write. Who knows, they may really listen!

Changing Focus

A last look at winter. . .a forward look to spring.

From winter meetings to spring outings, Conservancy members share work, friendship and enjoyment of West Virginia's outdoors.



News Briefs

Richard Fox, Contributing Editor

The Wilderness Debate

The Gros Ventre area of Wyoming typifies the wilderness controversy. A 435,000 acre roadless area, it possesses great natural beauty above the surface and potential oil and gas deposits beneath. Recently, Congress designated 287,000 acres of the Gros Ventre area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Leases and drilling permits were issued before Congress had acted. The Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and local groups are fighting to keep the energy developers out. The oil companies think the preservationists have a selfish attitude. There is agreement that wilderness is forever, but drilling takes a few years, minimal acreage, and occurs under strict regulations. Why not take what resources are available, clean it up and get out? Besides, many of the largest wilderness areas are miles away from the nation's population centers. How many people actually get to see, visit or use the wilderness areas? Scientists feel we need the pristine areas to maintain genetic diversity. Wildlife groups maintain that drilling disturbs large herds of elk. Besides, those people who do travel to wilderness areas want to see wildlife and cloud scraping scenery, not oil wells.

The preservationists vs. the developers is an old and familiar battle. Every state has its own controversy. The arguments are strong on either side. The great Wyoming Wilderness debate has yet to be decided. However, the outcome will be pertinent to all groups dedicated to keeping wild areas intact.

reported in Wall Street Journal, 12/21/84

Plan for the Monon

The U.S. Forest Service has issued its "Land and Resource Management Plan" for the Monongahela National Forest. This document is in response to citizen outcry over previous "plans" for extensive timber cutting and road building. This new plan is thick, and confusing as well. There are two phone book sized documents in all. Five alternative management proposals have been developed. Under each alternative, the forest is divided into smaller sections called management areas. Under one alternative, 396,000 acres may be available for clear cutting. The plan calls for 18,000 acres to be cut in the next 10 years and 182,000 in the next 50 years. A total of 281,000 acres would be closed for public motorized use. However, the same plan calls for 31% of the forest roads to be opened to public motorized use. Over 2,700 miles of road are to be constructed over the next 50 years. The above are only a very small sample of the proposals included in the plan. Important issues are brought forth and discussed. These issues are crucial to the future of the forest. The deadline for public comment is March 29, 1985.

reported in Beckley Register-Herald, 01/06/85

Two Men Found Guilty

Two men from West Virginia were found guilty of stealing and removing trees from the Monongahela National Forest land following a trial in U.S. Magistrate Court. One man was also found guilty on three additional counts of illegally selling National Forest timber obtained through a Free Use Permit. This man was fined \$500, on each of four counts for a total of \$2,000, required payment of civil damages of \$393.51 to the Forest Service for the timber illegally removed, payment of \$100 Court assessment charge and placed on probation for one year. The other man was fined \$500 plus payment of a \$25 Court assessment charge and placed on probation for one year. District Ranger Dave Stack said, "The Forest Service was well pleased with the verdict. Abuse of the firewood program and illegally cutting of National Forest trees hurts all users of the National Forest. The Forest Service will vigorously investigate and seek prosecution of all violations of laws and regulations of the National Forest."

reported in Monongahela National Forest News

Endangered Species

The Department of Interior added 32 animals and 14 plants to its list of endangered species in 1984. Included were the giant panda, the woodland caribou and the little Mariana fruit bat. These new additions bring the number of endangered and threatened species to 828, with 331 of those species found in the U.S. and 497 in other countries. The new listings are no cause for celebration, but the species are given legal protection and international attention. It is hoped that once a species is on the list, it will eventually be removed as recovery efforts are started. Some species have their status upgraded from endangered to threatened. Endangered species are ones in danger of extinction across a significant portion of the area in which it is commonly found. Threatened species are those likely to become endangered. Last year, the famous snail darter, which had halted construction of the Tellico Dam, was upgraded from endangered to threatened.

reported in Charleston Daily Mail, 01/11/85

New York Biologist

A bald eagle shot and killed near Webster Springs, West Virginia, has angered and frustrated a New York state biologist. This is understandable. As part of New York's eagle restoration program, eagle chicks had to be captured from nests high in Alaska's sitka spruce trees. Peter Nye, the biologist, spent time and energy travelling to Alaska and climbing the trees. One fruit of his labor, which weighed nearly 14 pounds and had a six-foot wingspan, was found along the Gauley River watershed east of Webster Springs in November. The rural, mountainous area where the bird was found is about 400 miles from where the bird was released near Albany, N.Y. The bald eagle is an endangered species in 43 states and threatened in five others.

reported in Huntington Herald-Dispatch, 11/30/84

Gypsy Moth Spread

To date, the gypsy moth has only visited the state's Eastern Panhandle, but many scientists believe a statewide onslaught is unavoidable. This could be a threat to the state's timber industry. The gypsy moths have been invading the Eastern Panhandle for the last two years and experts predict they will spread throughout most of the state in 8-20 years. In November of 1984, a national conference on the war against gypsy moths was held in Charleston. The experts agreed that the moth has a big appetite for oak trees. West Virginia's timber is comprised of 57% oak and hickory. Pennsylvania lost \$160 million worth of timber over the last ten years as a result of gypsy moth and other pests. Some feel that spraying is only a stopgap measure and that state officials should concentrate on long-term solutions.

reported in Huntington Herald-Dispatch, 12/03/84

Endangered Wildlife

In the next 15 years, the world may lose a million of the five to 10 million species left. This information has many scientists of the world concerned. Wild animals are vanishing fast, some species forever. Some of our largest mammals are machine-gunned, poisoned, snared or run to death by jeeps by people who seek trophy, hides or ornaments. Plants that may be beneficial to man are disappearing before there is opportunity to study them for their usefulness. Tropical rainforests are being logged off at a rate of 50 acres a minute; an area the size of Pennsylvania is destroyed each year. In other parts of the world deserts are advancing. Habitat destruction is the greatest problem. According to George Schaller of the New York Zoological Society, all species must be protected. Schaller says "the panda is a useful symbol—no one will give money to save the leech."

reported in Beckley Register-Herald, 01/06/85

Yes, I'd like to support the work of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and receive THE HIGHLANDS VOICE.

Name _____

Organization you represent(if any) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please accept my membership in the category I've checked.

- | | |
|--|---|
| INDIVIDUAL | ORGANIZATIONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Regular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family(1 vote) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Associate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Associate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sustaining | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$12 Senior citizenry/Full-time student | |

I'd like to volunteer, please contact me.

I can't volunteer at this time, but want to support the work of WVHC with my membership contribution.

Make checks payable to: West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Mail to: Suite 201, 1206 Virginia Street East, Charleston, WV 25301
(304) 344-8833

— Book Sale —

20% off two special books in stock! Order before June 1st for a real savings on two books from the WVHC Book Shelf.

Care of the Wild gives sensible, useful suggestions for caring for injured wild animals until they can be returned to health and returned to the wild. An important reference guide to have on your shelf when you find yourself needing to be the rescue team for a wild creature. Available in hardback and paper.

Citizen's Guide to River Conservation analyzes the organizing process and prepares you for an active role in protecting your favorite rivers. A must for activists and conservationists. Available in paper only.

ORDER FORM

SALE BOOKS

_____ copies of **Care of the Wild** paper \$7.15 (reg. \$8.95) _____
..... hard \$11.15 (reg. \$13.95) _____

_____ copies of **Citizen's Guide** paper \$6.35 (reg. \$7.95) _____

postage \$1.50

HIKING GUIDE TO THE MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

_____ copies of WVHC's unique guide paper \$7.00 ppd. _____

Return to Spring Conservancy Style

May 3-5 Meeting At Greenbrier's Camp Anthony

A good thing just asks to be repeated.

But then WVHC's return to Camp Anthony on the Greenbrier River for this year's spring meeting will be far more than a repeat.

Saturday's outing schedule will offer a choice of easy Class III canoe trips, a long hike, and two issue field trips to mining and hydropower projects. A Sunday morning hike is also planned for members who'd like to slip off while the board meeting is in session.

House of Delegates Speaker Joseph P. Albright will address Conservancy members and guests at the Saturday evening program.

A square dance is in the offing, and a social hour for the few who aren't into the swing.

Start making up your mind about which trip catches your fancy, and plan to make reservations for the weekend by April 25th if you plan to eat at the camp.

TRIP A: Canoe the lovely Renick to Anthony reach of the Greenbrier. This trip is primarily flatwater with a few small rapids, suitable for novices. Some may want to portage one rapids, where a sharp S creates a bit of a stir. (But don't worry, a few first-time novices have been known to make it through—dry!)

TRIP B: Canoe the Fort Spring to Alderson reach of the Greenbrier. This section will give you a good ride, including several Class II to III rapids and ledges with large standing waves. You ought to have dipped your paddle a good many times before trying this one, and have a competent paddler in the stern. (Estimate 4 hours for the 8-mile trip).

TRIP C: A ten-mile hike in the Cranberry Backcountry with woods expert Charles Carlson should allow everyone to feast their eyes on spring wildflowers. The Cranberry is the largest federal wilderness area in the eastern United States, and holds many beauties and surprises for even the experienced hiker. This trip will take about 7 hours—a moderate hike.

TRIP D: A tour of surface mine operations of Leckie Smokeless Coal Company near Rupert, West Virginia, will let participants see first hand the techniques now current in the industry. Leckie has won a number of environmental awards for the quality of their operations, so visitors will see state-of-the-art mining. Skip Deegans will lead.

TRIP E: Tour the Bath County hydropower project, the world's largest pumped storage hydropower facility, near Warm Springs, Virginia. Under construction by Virginia Electric Power Company and Allegheny Power System, the \$1.6 billion reservoir and plant is scheduled for completion this spring. The project is similar to and may supplant the Davis Power Project proposed for Canaan Valley. Bill McNeel will take charge.

Everyone joining one of the field trips will gather at Camp Anthony at 9:00 a.m. Saturday. Because of insurance costs, all participants in weekend activities will need to pay the \$3 registration fee, even if they only plan to attend the field trip or the Saturday evening meeting. The Conservancy doesn't make money on these weekends—even does well to break even, so we must ask everyone to do their part.

Members will receive a brochure with registration information, and anyone can register using the forms on this page. **NO REGISTRATION IS COMPLETED WITHOUT PAYMENT!** We hate to be hard and fast about this, but we've made past registrations for people and WVHC has ended up paying for their meals when they didn't make it. Once we confirm the number with the camp, we pay whether registrants show up or not. We hope you'll understand that's part of the reason why the prices are so reasonable.

Sign up today by sending the forms to Skip Deegans, 126 West Washington Street, Lewisburg, WV 24901. Make checks payable to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

Spring Review Weekend

May 3-5, 1985

Presented by
The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

PROGRAM

Friday, May 3, 1985

7:00-11:00 p.m.

Slide Shows: 1) River Conservation, 2) Monongahela Forest Plan

Registration

Saturday, May 4, 1985

8:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Breakfast
Field Trips
(Box lunches available with reservation)

6:00 p.m.

7:15 p.m.

Dinner
Speaker: Honorable Joseph P. Albright
Speaker of the West Virginia House of Delegates
Square Dance-Live Music
Social Hour

8:30 - ?

Sunday, May 5, 1985

8:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

Breakfast
Conservancy Board of Directors
Spring Meeting

Hike through the Anthony Creek Gorge,
Four miles, two hours

Noon

Lunch

RESERVATION FORM

April 25th- Meal Reservation Deadline
Lodging, Camping, & Trips- No Reservation Deadline

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

LODGING

Heated dormitories, hot showers outside. Bring your own bedding.

Friday Night: \$4.00X _____ = _____

Saturday Night: \$4.00X _____ = _____

CAMPING

Campers may use toilet and shower facilities.

Friday Night: \$2.00X _____ = _____

Saturday Night: \$2.00X _____ = _____

MEALS

Saturday Breakfast: \$3.50X _____ = _____

Saturday Box Lunch: \$3.50X _____ = _____

Saturday Dinner: \$5.50X _____ = _____

Sunday Breakfast: \$3.50X _____ = _____

Sunday Lunch: \$4.00X _____ = _____

Registration Fee: \$3.00X _____ = _____

TOTAL: \$ _____
(Enclose Payment)

Make checks payable to:
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

NATIONAL FOREST CAMPING

Additional camp sites are available at the Blue Bend Recreation Area about 4 miles east of the Greenbrier Youth Camp in the Monongahela National Forest.

MOTELS: LEWISBURG

Brier Inn: 645-7722
Fort Savannah: 645-3055
Sunset Terrace: 645-2363
Old Colony: 645-2345
Townhouse: 645-1737

Best Bargain... General Lewis Inn: 645-2600

CHILD CARE

\$1.00/Hr. (if adequate demand)

- Saturday Field Trips
- Saturday Evening
- Sunday Board Meeting

Child/Childrens Ages: _____

Field Trip Preference (Non-Binding)

Trip A (#) Trip B (#)

Trip C (#) Trip D (#)

Trip E ()

Mail Form To: W.E. 'Skip' Deegans
126 West Washington St.
Lewisburg, WV 24901

Home: 645-6028
Office: 645-1656



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virginia
highlands
conservancy

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES • Suite 201 • 1206 Virginia Street, East • Charleston, West Virginia 25301 • (304) 344-8833

Publishers of the Highlands Voice

**SPRING 1985
OUTINGS SCHEDULE**

- March 23:** Kanawha State Forest day hike and historical sketch of the area by Charlie Carlson (343-2056), a former assistant forest superintendant who makes this area of Charleston's backyard come alive. Open to members and non-members alike; \$2.00 per person, no reservations required, so just meet at 10:00 a.m. at the parking area near the dam and bring your own lunch. We will look for early spring wildflowers.
- April 13:** Spring Hike near the Allegheny Trail led by George Rosier (296-5158) and open to members and non-members alike; \$2.00 per person, meet at 10:00 a.m. at bridge at St. George on St. Rt. 72 in Tucker County; bring your own lunch, raingear, a sweater and a camera. We will explore a newly acquired forest service purchase unit.
- April 27-28:** Smoke Hole Canoeing led by Carter Zerbe (345-2728 - days). This remote, exciting canyon of the South Branch of the Potomac is class 2-3, for intermediate to experienced Whitewater boaters. \$10.00 per person, maximum group size is 8 canoes, detailed information mailed to registrants; reservation deadline is April 15.
- May 3-5:** Spring Review at Camp Anthony, on Anthony Creek of the Greenbrier, north of Lewisburg. Join us for a Friday night movie, Saturday field trips (Greenbrier canoeing, Cranberry hike, underground mine tour, perhaps more) and evening program, and Sunday board meeting. Watch the Highlands Voice, our monthly newspaper, for details or contact the office for the special brochure (mailed to all members).
- June 22-23:** Spruce Mountain Backpacking, led by Ed Lytwak (412-832-9278). Hike on West Virginia's highest peak, through boreal meadows alive with azalea blossoms and into large, old growth spruce forest. Because of the fragile area and narrow ridge, trip is limited to six participants, so send \$10.00 per person, but certainly before May 31. Details will be mailed to the lucky six.

General information: a small trip fee is charged to cover the cost of insurance, printing, mailing, etc. Where a maximum group size is noted, reservations are required by the date listed. Reserve by mailing fee and coupon or your letter to our Charleston office. You are responsible for your own equipment and food unless otherwise noted; you are always responsible for your choice of trip, skill level, and your personal safety. Participants in all overnight trips will be mailed a trip information sheet with details concerning route, meeting place, equipment, and more. For questions about a specific trip, call the trip leader or outing chairman, John Purbaugh (988-9024); for membership or general information, call the Charleston office.

Outings Reservation Coupon

Yes, I want to join the Highlands Conservancy on its _____
outing on _____, 1985. Enclosed is \$ _____ trip
registration fee for _____ persons. Please send detailed trip information.

Name _____ Please send membership information.

Address _____ I'd like to order the new WVHC Hiking

Guide to the Monongahela National

Forest at \$7.00 each.
()

Telephone (include area code)