



THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

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Rahall announces rivers bill Protection for Gauley and Bluestone Rivers

Addressing members of the Conservancy May 3 at the Spring Review, Representative Nick Rahall (D-4th District) announced plans for preparation of an omnibus West Virginia rivers bill.

The bill, to be called the "West Virginia National Interest River Conservation Act," will be introduced next year during the first session of the 100th Congress if Rahall's negotiations with interested parties are successful.

As proposed by Rahall, the bill would contain three major components. These include provisions for Wild and Scenic River designation for the Bluestone, National Recreation Area status for the Gauley River Gorge and boundary modifications to the New River Gorge National River.

Wild and Scenic River designation would be made for the segment of the Bluestone River from Eads Mill in Mercer County through Pipestem State Park to Bluestone Lake. Rahall said this segment of the river possesses outstanding scenic, recreational and wildlife values which make it worthy of protection.

Designation of the Gauley River Gorge as a National Recreation Area would include the area from Summersville Dam downstream to either Peter's Creek or to the vicinity of Swiss.

"Protection of recreational opportunities on the Gauley and conservation of its outstanding scenic values should have more permanency so that the splendor of the gorge will be preserved — as we have done on the New River — for the enjoyment of future generations," Rahall said.

His proposal for including NRA designation in an omnibus rivers bill came after the Conservancy board of directors recommended to him in January that such protection be given to the Gauley. Designation as an NRA would offer greater flexibility in management and recreational activities than permissible under federal wild and scenic river status.

The third component of Rahall's proposed bill would be boundary modifications of the New River Gorge National river to consolidate the park and provide for better management of its resources.

"I am also seeking funding to continue and escalate land acquisition in the New River," Rahall said. "It is my hope that by the end of fiscal year 1987, we will have one-half of the acreage within the park boundaries under federal ownership."

Rahall said he had directed his staff to commence discussions with the offices of other members of the West Virginia delegation and to begin negotiations with WVHC, the

whitewater rafting industry, local officials, affected landowners and other interested parties to draft an omnibus rivers bill.

"Keep in mind that this proposal is still in its infancy," he said. "It could be modified to a great extent prior to introduction, based on the public comment I receive."

Rahall said he did not envision any federal land acquisition for the Bluestone designation. Protection would be mainly in the form of federal scenic easements. For the Gauley, however, some land acquisition in addition to easements will probably be necessary.

"I intend to offer corporate landowners in the gorge federal land swaps if we can find acreage of equal value which they are interested in obtaining," Rahall said.

In addition to the proposed rivers legislation, Rahall also discussed his involvement with the Trust for Public Land and the Wilderness Society in their efforts to acquire 40,000 acres of property in the Shavers Fork area adjoining the Monongahela National Forest.

The area would offer more than seven miles of river access, enormous recreation opportunities and is a critical area for the protection of the Shavers Fork and Cheat River watersheds.



Representative Nick J. Rahall addresses Conservancy members during Spring Review weekend.

Following his prepared speech, Rahall answered questions from Conservancy members on topics ranging from acid rain to Corridor H.

Rahall said acid rain is a problem which must be addressed — in a correct way — without putting all the burden on the coal industry. He cited figures from the Environmental Protection Agency which indicate that regulations in the Clean Air Act have succeeded in reducing SO₂ emissions by approximately 30 percent in the past five years.

"The point is that the Act is being successful," Rahall said. "Perhaps we would see if it will work more before implementing stricter programs."

Board focuses on rivers, legislature and membership

Plans for membership development and reports from committee chairs about issues of concern to the Conservancy were discussed at the WVHC board of directors meeting May 4 at Camp Pioneer.

Membership development

The board approved a comprehensive membership development plan which calls for additions to the membership fee schedule and implementation of direct-mail membership solicitations to approximately 20,000 potential members.

Additions to the existing membership schedule include categories for associate and sustaining family members at annual rates of \$50 and \$100 respectively. Categories for Patron and Mountaineer members were also added at rates of \$100 and \$200 for individuals, \$200 and \$300 for families and \$400 and \$600 for organizations.

The purpose of adding new membership categories is to enhance membership revenues by offering supportive individuals and organizations an opportunity to make larger contributions.

The new membership drive is projected to more

than double Conservancy membership over the next four years if implemented fully. The campaign will involve sending out approximately 20,000 membership brochures using a mechanical direct mail service.

A new Finance Committee has been appointed by President Larry George to oversee the membership and financial development campaign. This committee replaces the Management Review committee and will be chaired by Senior Vice President Tom Michael.

Membership Secretary Adrienne Worthy has agreed to guide implementation of the campaign.

Legislative Report

Last month's issue of *The Voice* had a comprehensive report on how Conservancy issues fared in the 1986 legislative session. At its May 4 meeting, the board adopted positions on a number of other legislative issues which may come up during the special legislative session called by Governor Arch Moore.

During the regular session the Conservancy sup-

ported preservation of the Environmental Division of the Attorney General's office rather than allowing various agencies to retain in-house counsel. Because the bill to reorganize the Department of Natural Resources did not make it to the Senate floor during the last session, this issue is expected to resurface.

The board passed a motion indicating that the Conservancy continues to support the Environmental Division, if staffed at adequate levels. The Conservancy also opposes any reorganization of the DNR which would transfer permitting authority to the director of DNR.

Also relating to the DNR reorganization bill, a motion was passed indicating the Conservancy's support for hearing examiners for DNR and DOE permit appeals. These would replace the Water Resources Review Board and the Reclamation Board.

Rivers Issues

Rivers Conservation committee chair Anne Gen-
(continued on page 3)

Volunteers needed for WVHC projects

Hazardous Waste — The Conservancy has been requested to name an individual to serve on the West Virginia Hazardous Waste Advisory Committee. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources and meets monthly in Charleston.

It is made up of four members from each of four categories: public officials, public interest groups, economic interest groups, and unaffiliated citizens. The purpose of the panel is to advise the DNR director on the economic, social and environmental impacts of the Hazardous Waste Management Act.

Interested individuals should contact Conservancy President Larry George as noted in the roster on page two.

River Conservation — Ann Gentry, the new chair of the WVHC River Conservation Committee, is seeking volunteers to serve on the committee and work on a variety of issues.

Issues include: 1) state management plan for protection of the Greenbrier River; 2) Congressional designation of the Gauley River Canyon as a National Recreation Area; 3) proposals for Corps of Engineers' dams and other flood control projects on the Greenbrier and Cheat Rivers; and 4) an individual to serve as WVHC representative on the New River Gorge Task Force established by the U.S. National Park Service to develop a management plan.

Interested individuals should contact Rivers Committee Chair Ann Gentry as noted in the roster on page two.

WVHC 20th Anniversary — Volunteers are requested to assist in planning a 20th anniversary celebration for the Conservancy. Although the Conservancy was informally organized in 1965, the first Board of Directors and membership system was established in January, 1967.

Interested individuals should contact Conservancy President Larry George as noted in the roster on page two.

Virginia rivers described in new booklet

Virginia's Scenic Rivers is the title of a booklet recently published by the Virginia Division of Parks and Recreation. Parts of eleven rivers in the Virginia Scenic Rivers system are described.

The intent of the Scenic Rivers program, begun in 1970, is discussed and the requirements of the Scenic Rivers Act are outlined.

A total of 225 river miles are described in the booklet. Included in the system are parts of the following rivers and creeks: Rivanna, Goose Creek, Catocin Creek, Appomattox, Staunton, St. Mary's, Nottoway, Shenandoah, Scenic and Historic Falls on the James, the Upper James, and the Rappahannock.

The booklet also discusses the future of the Scenic Rivers system in Virginia. The system's goal is to insure the conservation and protection of outstanding free-flowing rivers and to make river conservation an integral part of water resource policy.

Copies of the booklet are available from The Virginia Department of Conservation and Historic Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, 1201 Washington Building, Capitol Square, Richmond, VA. 23219.

Conference focuses on environmental and health effects of climate modifications

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the United Nations Environmental Programme are sponsoring an international conference on the potential health and environmental consequences of ozone modification and climate change.

The conference will be from June 16 to June 20 in Washington, D.C. and will include reports by leading international scientists on global atmospheric changes.

Organizers developed the idea for the conference because convincing evidence demonstrates that human activities are changing the make-up of the earth's atmosphere. Recent studies raise concerns that if such changes continue, the ozone column and climate could be substantially modified.

The conference will explore the possible impacts of these changes on our future quality of life. Possible impacts include such critical areas as human health, agriculture, coastal and infrastructure planning and water resources affecting both developed and developing nations.

For more information about the conference contact Conference Coordinator, 6101 Stevenson Avenue, Alexandria, VA. 22304.

Conservation in Latin America discussed

World Wildlife Fund, the leading private organization working worldwide to protect the diversity of life on earth, is hosting a conference in Washington on September 17 to help chart the future of U.S. involvement in Latin American conservation.

The conference is intended for environmental, corporate and philanthropic leaders; natural resources, economic development and industrial planners; population specialists; government officials, especially from environmental, development and international assistance agencies; wildlife biologists; and other specialists in Latin American affairs and regional studies.

The conference will explore a number of issues central to the conservation agenda in the region: the future of parks and protected areas in the face of mounting population and development pressures; data collection vs. action; the consequences of industrialization (hazardous waste, pesticides and emergency response problems); and the role of the U.S. in advancing conservation priorities.

For further information, contact Conference Coordinator, World Wildlife Fund, 1255 Twenty-third St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.

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Hikers

We need trail reports
to update hiking guide

If you're willing and able to help contact:
Skip Deegans, Box 564,
Lewisburg, WV 24901

MINING ISSUES

Appeal filed on mining in Panther State Forest

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has filed an appeal from a decision of the Reclamation Board of Review that would allow the New Windward Coal Company to mine adjacent to the Panther State Forest in McDowell County.

Although the mining itself would be conducted outside the forest boundary, the road leading to the mine would cross forest property. According to WVHC members who testified before the Reclamation Board, this use of forest property in connection with the mining operation would interfere with the recreational value of the forest.

According to the appeal, filed in the Circuit Court of McDowell County, the Reclamation Board of Review should have treated the Panther State Forest as a "park" within the meaning of the West Virginia mining statute.

By failing to treat the forest as a park, the Reclamation Board refused to give it the protection granted to parks by mining laws.

The WVHC also contends that allowing forest land to be used as part of a mining operation violates a West Virginia statute which requires legislative approval of mining on state-owned land.

No hearing date has been set on the appeal.

Kumbrabow coal lease possible

The West Virginia Public Lands Corporation has received a bid from Phoenix Resources, Inc. to lease and mine 6,000 acres of coal located under the Kumbrabow State Forest in Randolph county.

Action on the bid was expected at a May 7 PLC meeting. The PLC board decided at its January 28 meeting to accept bids on the state owned coal beneath Kumbrabow State Forest. Only one bid was subsequently received — that from Phoenix.

According to representatives of Phoenix, the proposed mining would be in the Lower Sewell seam which lies approximately 700 feet below the surface of the forest.

There would be no surface disturbance except ten core drilling holes on the forest boundary. It might also be necessary to construct an opening on the forest surface to provide ventilation in the mine.

Phoenix Resources, Inc. is a Virginia-based holding company of a British firm. It has local offices at Monteville, WV.

The purpose of the Public Lands Corporation is to hold title to and oversee land belonging to the state. Its Board is made up of the Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the director of the Department of Natural Resources, the director of the Department of Culture and History, and a representative from West Virginia State University.

Bti spraying program begins despite protests

Spraying of the bacteria Bti to control black flies on sections of several southern West Virginia rivers began May 5 despite protests of environmental groups.

A request by a group called Save Our Mountains to stop the spraying was denied by Kanawha Circuit Judge Herman Canady May 6. A hearing was scheduled for June 3 to hear evidence on the group's request for an injunction to stop the spraying.

In the interim, the state will continue its spraying program. Governor Arch Moore announced the program

in April, citing the state Department of Health's ruling that the flies are a health hazard.

Sprayings will be done every 10 days once the weather gets warmer and they will continue through September. Helicopters are used to apply the bacteria and the total cost of the treatment is expected to be about \$300,000.

Bti is applied in a dry powder form that floats on the surface. It is designed to kill flies in the larval stage.

Some fish biologists oppose the

treatment because they believe it will kill other insects which are a major part of the food chain for game fish in the New River.

Save Our Mountains filed suit on the grounds that use of Bti would disrupt the ecosystem of the rivers and hurt fishing in them. Lawyers for the group argued that the state did not apply for a permit under water pollution control laws and that the spraying was, therefore, illegal.

In addition, the group is challenging Moore's authority to issue an executive order on the treatment unless

he can show the flies represent an imminent health hazard.

Sections of the New, Greenbrier and Bluestone rivers have been sprayed. No sections of the New in the National River boundary have been sprayed because the National Park Service opposes the Bti program.

NPS officials asked the DNR not to apply Bti at Brooks Falls and Sandstone Falls and are optimistic that the state will agree to their request.

BOARD (continued from page 1)

try asked the board to take a position on legislation to include the upper Greenbrier River in a State Natural Streams Preservation System. Such designation would require the state to start preparing a management program for the river.

This is expected eventually to lead to gubernatorial nomination of the Greenbrier River as a federal Wild and Scenic River. The board passed a motion to support legislation to include the river in the state system and also to support gubernatorial nomination to the federal program based on Alternative 5 in the Wild and Scenic Rivers report for the Greenbrier River.

Gentry also reported to the board on the FERC licensing proceedings for Hawks Nest Hydropower Plant. The 50 year lease to Alchem, the company who owns the dam, runs out at the end of this year and a new license must be obtained.

DNR officials have expressed interest in having the flow below the dam increased to divert more water through the "dries" area of the New River. The Conservancy board did not take a position on



WVHC Board of Directors discuss issues at Spring Review Meeting on May 4.

the issue because there is no permit application to comment on yet.

Spraying of the bacteria Bti to control black flies on the New River was also discussed. Further details are provided on page three. The board moved to have an ad hoc committee meet to decide on an appropriate course of action by the Conservancy.

Other

Sayre Rodman, chair of the Public Lands committee, reported that the Department of Commerce had agreed to rescind the climbing ban at Coopers Rock. Commerce officials said certain regulations in unsafe areas and other management restrictions would be implemented, however.

Spring Review a great success

Approximately 90 people enjoyed Spring Review outings in sunny, cool weather May 3.

Canoe trips were perhaps the most popular with about 8 canoes on the novice/intermediate trip and 5 on the advanced trip. About 17 people went hiking and others worked on a trail in the Laurel Fork Wilderness.

At the Saturday evening meeting, Ralph Mumme, supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest was presented with a framed print in appreciation of his cooperation with the Conservancy during his 12-year tenure in the MNF.

Representative Nick J. Rahall addressed the group, announcing his plans for an omnibus West Virginia rivers bill.

A square dance on Saturday tired out everyone not already exhausted from the day's activities.

Thanks are due to Jim VanGundy who made all the arrangements with Camp Pioneer. It was a good weekend, enjoyed by all.

More details about the Spring Review and some photographs of the different outings will be included in the June issue.

I think the following person(s) may be interested in Conservancy membership. Please send them the membership brochure and other information about the Conservancy.

Name _____

Address _____

Name _____

Address _____

Please return this form to:

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

Plan of study for Greenbrier River Basin releases

Measures to reduce flood damage are reconsidered after 1985 flood.

(Editor's Note: The following article is excerpted from a Plan of Study prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District. It describes steps the Corps plans to take in studying flood control measures for the Greenbrier River Basin.)

Introduction

The plan of study outlines a redirection of an ongoing feasibility study for flood protection in the Greenbrier River Basin. The purpose of the study is to consider measures to reduce or prevent flood damages in the basin. The recent major flood of November 1985 has increased awareness and concern about flooding threats along the Greenbrier River.

In response to expressions of concern, the current local protection study for Marlinton is being redirected to more fully assess the potential for reducing flood damages. This plan briefly reviews past efforts, considers pertinent factors to be considered in a redirected study and outlines schedules and funding requirements.

Prior studies and existing projects

For 20-30 years, local people have complained about flooding problems along the Greenbrier River. A limited number of water resource studies have been undertaken to consider the water related problems and/or opportunities in the Greenbrier Basin.

A comprehensive pre-feasibility study of the entire Kanawha River Basin was conducted in the 1960's by a multi-agency coordinating committee which included the Corps of Engineers. The Greenbrier River Basin is one of the six major hydrologic areas considered in that study.

The report on the study, dated June 1971, includes eight volumes with a total of 3,500 pages. Copies are no longer available for distribution. The purpose of this type of comprehensive study was to select areas for more detailed feasibility studies. Comprehensive studies of this type which were conducted on a trial basis in a few river basins have been discontinued.

In regard to existing flood control measures, a floodwater retaining dam on Marlin Run was completed in 1962. The Marlin Run Project, on a tributary of Knapps Creek, controls 1.2 square miles of drainage area. The project was constructed for flood control with assistance of the Soil Conservation Service, and the local sponsor is Greenbrier Valley Soil Conservation District.

As a result of the Kanawha Basin Comprehensive Study, another watershed project on Howard's Creek in Greenbrier County was authorized and developed to provide flood protection in White Sulphur Springs and Caldwell.

MNF acquires 25 mile right-of-way

Approximately 25 miles of abandoned railroad right-of-way along the West Fork of Glady Fork and the West Fork of Greenbrier River recently were acquired for public use, according to Monongahela National Forest Supervisor Ralph Mumme.

The line runs from Cheat Junction on the Shavers Fork north and east to Glady and then swings south to State Secondary Route 250/13 at Durbin.

This right-of-way, destined to be a non-motorized trail, leads one through striking scenery along the West Fork of the Greenbrier River, a popular trout fishing stream. It will

also help provide access to adjacent National Forest lands.

Working together to negotiate the acquisition of the right-of-way were The Trust for Public Land; the Western Maryland Railway Company; Brown, Harner and Busch, L.C.; and the Forest Service.

This acquisition will significantly expand the recreation opportunities on the Monongahela National Forest.

The Western Maryland Railway Company is expected to remove the rails and ties within a year. Bridges will be left intact to provide passage over streams.



This project involves two floodwater retaining dams. The local sponsor is the Greenbrier Valley Soil Conservation District.

No other flood control measures have been developed. However, all counties with land area in the Greenbrier Basin have enacted flood plain ordinances to guide future development on flood prone land.

The Kanawha Basin Comprehensive Report recommended feasibility studies of alternative reservoir plans for the Greenbrier Basin, a main stem site between Marlinton and Cass or a tributary plan involving sites on East Fork, Deer Creek and Knapps Creek. With different policies and criteria for water resources project evaluation, preliminary feasibility studies were undertaken in conjunction with consideration of hydropower development. Because of limited support for a major multiple-purpose water resource plan, reservoir feasibility studies were discontinued.

In view of persistent flooding problems, particularly at Marlinton, a feasibility study for local flood protection was undertaken. A small flood protection plan was identified and coordinated with interested agencies. The plan was formulated to limit environmental intrusion and it would provide a very low level of protection (20-25 year frequency). The plan as proposed would have had little effect on the level of the 1985 flood at Marlinton.

November 1985 flood

The November 1985 flood was a record flood all along the Greenbrier River. Preliminary estimates indicate that flood damages in the basin exceeded \$70 million. The flood also devastated other areas in the James River Basin, Potomac Basin, and Monongahela Basin and also caused damages in the Elk and Little Kanawha River Basins.

The flood was particularly severe in the upper portion of the Greenbrier Basin, with water depths of 8-10 feet in Marlinton. Five people died in or near Marlinton as a result of the flood waters. At the Buckeye River gauge, four miles downstream from Marlinton, the flood height exceeded the 1967 flood by six feet.

Greenbrier feasibility study

Feasibility study for flood protection in the Greenbrier River Basin is being redirected to more fully consider measures that would provide significant protection against a flood of the magnitude of the 1985 flood.

A flood control study involves a comprehensive consideration of resources. In addition to flood protection studies, the character of the natural resources in the Greenbrier Basin will be an important consideration. The river is a free-flowing relatively unpolluted stream with excellent fisheries and high aesthetic values. The recreational resources of the region, both natural and developed, provide high-value outdoor activities. Consideration of these characteristics will be incorporated into the study.

The initial phase of the study includes consideration of water related problems and opportunities, the identification of potential solutions and preliminary evaluations. Since the study involves a broad range of alternative solutions, much of the initial work will be devoted to screening studies to identify options, make comparisons, and select specific measures for further evaluation. This preliminary phase is completed with evaluations and comparisons of the selected specific measures. The significant issues identified during the preliminary phase will be reviewed and an information package will be distributed for agency and public review.

The final phase of the Greenbrier Basin Study will involve a detailed feasibility level evaluation of the options resulting from the preliminary study phase. The results will be developed in a draft report and draft Environmental Impact statement for public and agency review.

Alternative flood damage prevention measures

Because the purpose of the feasibility study is to determine the best possible solution for flooding problems, all reasonable options must be considered. There is a divergency of opinion among local people as to the appropriate solution to the flooding problems. Considering a range of options ensures that these differing opinions are addressed.

Based on suggestions to date, past studies and knowledge of the area, it appears that alternative flood control measures that would be addressed initially include the following:

a. Local protection projects for the principal communities of Marlinton, Ronceverte and Alderson. Such a plan would consider a variety of struc-

Celebrate Rivers Month on the Gauley!

Mark your calendar now for a June 14-15 trip on the upper Gauley River. Anne Gentry, chair of the WVHC Rivers Committee, and Ray Ratliff will lead an intermediate canoe trip to officially honor American Rivers month as designated by the American Rivers Conservation Council.

Intermediate skills are required with backcountry wilderness the order of the day. Rapids will include several good Class III's.

The trip can be either an overnight or a day trip. Over-nighters must bring their own gear, food and drink.

Put-in will be Saturday at 9 a.m. 1½ miles up the mouth of the Williams from the Gauley near Cowen. If the Williams is too low, put-in at the mouth of Williams where the "16" bridge crosses.

Camden-on-Gauley is an easy take-out for a day trip. Day canoeists must arrange their own shuttle.

Shuttle for the over-nighters will be run on Friday evening. The take-out point will be at the WV 21 bridge at the mouth of the Cherry River.

Arrival on Friday night is recommended with camping in Three Forks area of the Cranberry backcountry.

For more information contact Anne Gentry at the address listed in the roster.

ed by Corps of Engineers

tural and non-structural features. The potential for non-structural solutions on intervening reaches also would be addressed;

- b. A system of flood control reservoirs situated on major tributaries of the Greenbrier River;
- c. A system of flood control reservoirs situated in headwater areas;
- d. A main stem multiple-purpose reservoir;
- e. Combinations of the above; and
- f. Do nothing.

Coordination and public involvement

The study will be coordinated with interested federal, state and local governmental agencies and bodies. This includes notification about the study and requests for comments and information.

Major components of the study area are within the Monongahela National Forest. Consideration of specific plan elements will involve coordination with the U.S. Forest Service. Data prepared by USFS personnel in conjunction with the Wild and Scenic River studies will be useful. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted for provision of environmental data and evaluations as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Various departments of the state of West Virginia will be consulted during the study for information, advice and comments. This includes many concerns such as flood damage prevention, fish and wildlife, recreation, water quality, agriculture, and regional development. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service and the Greenbrier Valley Soil Conservation District will be consulted, particularly about evaluations of upstream watershed impoundments and advice on agricultural effects assessment.

Private organizations, interest groups and individuals also have an interest in the planning process. Appropriate coordination will be provided during the study to invite participation.

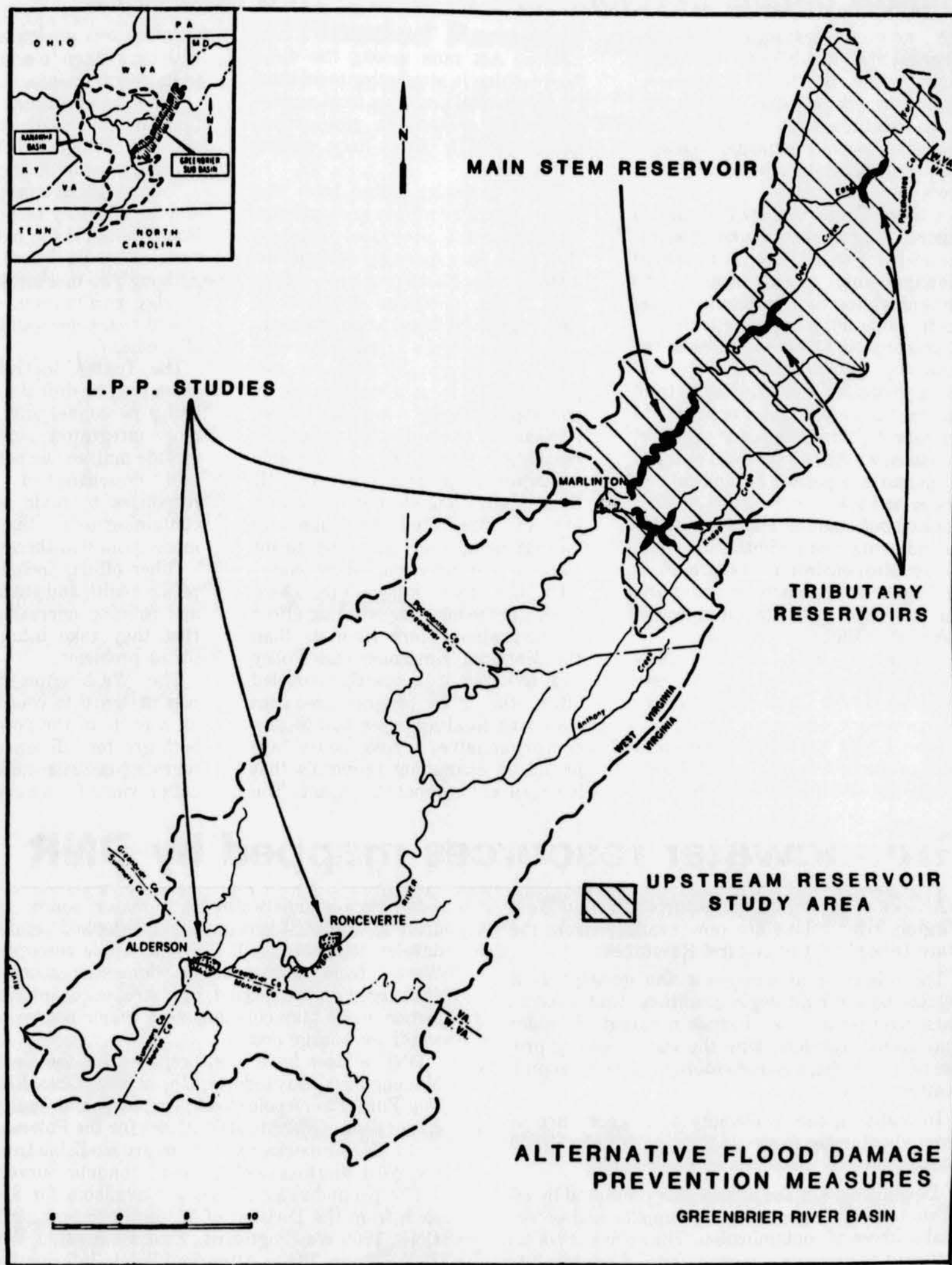
Opportunities will be provided for general public participation. Workshops will be held to provide information on specific elements of the study and opportunities to participate in the study. Workshops will be held during the initial phase of study. These informal meetings allow for more input by the local citizens concerning alternatives to be studied and to the overall study direction. When the viable alternatives have been identified and evaluated, public meetings will be held to present results and to receive comments.

Funding and schedules

The funding schedule is based on estimates of available funds for fiscal years 1986 and 1987. With the limited availability of funds in the first two years, most study activities will occur during a four-year period. This approach provides less opportunity for efficient accomplishment of studies, and the total cost will be greater. The cost for the study is estimated to be \$1,340,000.

The schedule would be as follows:

March 1986 — Complete plan of study (public



review)
 October 1987 — Complete preliminary study and review of significant issues (distribute information package for public review)

April 1989 — Complete draft report and draft environmental impact statement (public review)
 September 1989 — Complete report and DEIS. (Public review).

National River boundaries set by NPS

National Park Service officials have completed delineation of final park boundaries for the New River Gorge National River. The proposed boundary map is available for review at park headquarters and a public comment period will be open from May 1 to May 30.

A General Management Plan which was approved in 1982 identified potential modifications to the park's boundaries. These modifications include both additions and deletions.

Together they result in an overall reduction of approximately 5,600 acres from the 62,000 originally included in the National River boundaries.

Additions to the park are based primarily on the need to protect scenic resources within the river's visual corridor. Deletions exclude certain incompatible uses, some significant coal reserves, and a number of properties outside the visual corridor that are not important to the purpose of the National River and are suitable for private development, agricultural and timber harvesting activities.

In most cases boundary adjustments were drawn to coincide with individual tract property lines and topographical features.

The proposed boundary changes will require regional and Washington

office review and ultimately Congressional approval will be required.

Comments from the public are also being considered. Copies of the proposed final boundary map are available and New River Gorge officials encourage people to review them and submit comments in writing or orally at park headquarters. All comments will be considered for inclusion in the information sent for final approval.

Correspondence should be addressed to James W. Carrico, Superintendent, New River Gorge National River, Box 1189, 137 1/2 Main Street, Oak Hill, West Virginia 25901.

The public comment period will end on May 30th.

**Don't
 Delay
 Join
 WVHC
 Today!**

Cross-media pollution problems: Report details development of integrated approach

A new understanding of environmental problems, including those posed by toxic substances, hazardous wastes, and acid deposition, indicates that prevailing approaches to environmental management are inadequate in dealing with cross-media pollution.

A new Conservation Foundation report, **Fragmentation and Integration in State Environmental Management**, offers insight into designing programs to manage cross-media pollution more effectively.

Cross-media pollution refers to the tendency of pollutants generally, toxics in particular, to shift readily from one medium — air, water or land — to another. Sulfur dioxide, for example, is released to the air where it changes form and is deposited as acid rain on water and soil.

Leaching landfills and surface impoundments contaminate air and water. Most environmental programs and agencies approach air, water and land pollution separately and do not take these shifts into account.

Reforms in three states — New York, Illinois and Washington — are discussed in the Conservation Foundation report released in March.

New York's State Environmental Quality Review Act, Illinois' Pollution Control Board and Washington's

Environmental Coordination Procedures Act rank among the most far-reaching in attempting to address environmental problems from a more integrated cross-media perspective, according to Dr. Barry Rabe, author of the report.

These examples differ from the vast majority of efforts to coordinate environmental programs because they have been explicitly designed to address cross-media problems, rather than simply speed up decisions or ease regulatory burdens on industry.

Policies designed to take a more integrated approach can be implemented without administrative or political disaster, concludes Rabe, particularly those that are not so far-reaching as to preclude a manageable transition from past practices. "If these innovations do not usher in an era of integrated environmental management, they take significant steps in that direction," Rabe said.

Of the four innovations, New York's is the most far-reaching effort in integration. More rigorous than the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) it is partly modeled after, the 1975 program requires state and local agencies to utilize a comprehensive, cross-media approach in examining proposals that have an environmental impact. The

program was implemented gradually with care taken to orient participants to its requirements.

Illinois' innovations are the Pollution Control Board, created in 1970, and the Integrated Toxics Control Strategy, begun in the early 1980's.

"With its extensive rule-making and adjudicatory responsibilities, the Board remains the nation's only full-time all-media board," Rabe says. Although no mechanism automatically triggers a cross-media review, the Board hears cases and makes rules in all media.

The Toxics Control Strategy has attempted to shift the energies of existing personnel and programs into more integrated activities. Projects include multimedia permit processing and coordinated, interagency responses to toxic hot spots, sites containing toxics that pose a cross-media pollution threat.

Other efforts include coordinating public health and environmental data and refining operating programs so that they take into account cross-media problems.

The Washington State program was designed to coordinate virtually all aspects of the permit process for both greater efficiency and more integrated decision making. The 1973 act provided for a master application



form for nearly all permits, for consolidated hearings and for consolidated administrative and judicial reviews.

The Conservation Foundation report elaborates on these successes and explores the long-term prospects for integration at both the state and federal levels.

It is written primarily for environmental protection and public health officials at the federal, state and local level, environmentalists, environmental managers, and others for whom more efficient and comprehensive environmental management is important.

Fragmentation and Integration in State Environmental Management is available for \$14.50 plus \$2 for shipping from the Conservation Foundation, 125 Twenty-Third Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Groundwater resources mapped by DNR

Atlases of groundwater resources in nine West Virginia river basins are now available from the state Department of Natural Resources.

The full color atlases show the geology as it relates to the hydrologic conditions that exist in each river basin. They include a narrative, tables and inset maps describing the water-bearing properties of rocks, groundwater yield and groundwater quality.

In addition, the availability and occurrence of groundwater are mapped, along with natural and human-induced variations in water quality.

Development of the atlases was prompted by efforts to identify groundwater supplies and potential sources of contamination. They are part of an attempt to promote a more informed approach to water use.

Although groundwater is a major source of drinking water, it is commonly overlooked in land development because it is not a visible resource. Waste from industrial or domestic sources discharged on the ground, into streams or into injection wells may contaminate a major source of water for a large area.

DNR atlases have been prepared for the Coal, Monongahela, Guyandotte, Upper New, Ohio, Elk, Tug Fork/Twelvepole Creek, Kanawha and Gauley river basins. Groundwater atlases for the Potomac and Little Kanawha river basins are available from the West Virginia Geologic and Economic Survey.

The groundwater atlases are available for \$10 each from the Division of Water Resources, WV DNR, 1800 Washington St., East, Charleston, WV 25305, Room 734 — Attention: Public Information Office.

Trail reports needed

HELP! We need a few good women, men and children to hike trails in the Monongahela National Forest this summer and send us back a report about trail conditions. The information is needed to update the MNF hiking guide and to provide data on any flood damage caused by the November floods.

Not only does the MNF hiking guide serve thousands of hikers, but it also is an important source of operating funds for the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

For more information about how you can help, contact Skip Deegans, Box 564, Lewisburg, WV 24901, telephone (304) 645-6028.

The Conservancy is a non-profit organization. The expenses you incur in helping with the hiking guide by doing trail reports (eg. gas, meals, consumable camping supplies) may be deducted from your federal and state income taxes.

Check out the WVHC Bookshelf

The following conservation and wildlife books are available from the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. Order your copies by sending check or money order and the order form below to:

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
P.O. Box 506
Fairmont, WV 26555

★ *Care of the Wild* Jordan and Hughes

This is an excellent guide to home emergency care for wild animals. It is available in both hard and soft cover editions.

★ *Hiking Guide to Monongahela National Forest and Vicinity* West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

An invaluable guide for hikers, this book includes trail descriptions and topographical maps for more than 200 trails in the Monongahela National Forest. The Dolly Sods Wilderness, Allegheny Trail and the Greenbrier River Trail are included.

★ *A Citizens Guide to River Conservation* Diamant, Eugster, and Duerksen

A how-to manual for people who want to help in the fight to save rivers and streams from development and pollution.

WVHC BOOK ORDER FORM

Please send me the following books:

_____ *Care of the Wild*, \$8.95 paperback
\$13.95 hardback

_____ *Guide to Monongahela National Forest and Vicinity*, \$7.00

_____ *A Citizen's Guide to River Conservation*, \$7.95

Add \$1.50 for postage and handling (except when ordering just the hiking guide) and make check out to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

Total Enclosed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Return this form to WVHC, P.O. Box 506, Fairmont, WV 26555.

NEWS BRIEFS

(Editor's note: Each month I publish a News Briefs page summarizing relevant news stories from newspapers around the state. It is hard, however, for one person (me) to have access to all the different papers. Therefore, help is needed!!! If you regularly read a local newspaper, including the Charleston ones, and would be willing to clip out articles about environmental issues or other topics of interest to Conservancy members I would like to hear from you.

Please send any contributions or questions to me at the address listed in the roster. Be sure to write the date and name of the newspaper on the clipping. Thanks!!!)

Homeowners worry about water supplies

A group of Preston County residents appealed to the state water resources board in April to ensure that a mine which is advancing toward their homes will not damage their wells.

The residents are concerned that Viking Coal Company's Southfork mine will damage their wells either by contamination or by surface subsidence. They are seeking to have the company case six wells which are below the coal seam.

In addition, the residents want more area declared off limits to mining than the company has agreed to. They have said they do not believe the permit issued to the company constitutes adequate safeguards against water contamination and subsidence.

Viking officials have agreed to leave large blocks of coal untouched under each of the 15 homes and under each well that is above the coal seam. The company has been mining at the Southfork mine for eight months and will be in the area of the homes in about two months.

A WVU professor who evaluated Viking's mining plan said he did not believe subsidence would be a problem.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 4/16/86

Passenger quotas assigned to rafters

Passenger quotas for New River commercial rafting companies were assigned by the Department of Natural Resources in April with the goal of keeping the total daily number of rafters on the river at a maximum of 2,200.

The quotas are based on the number of passengers carried by the different companies at peak times in recent years. Allocation of passenger quotas left 19 companies with fewer passengers, two with more and three with the same number as in the past.

The 2,200 passenger maximum will be in force from Memorial Day to July 15. After that, the daily limit drops to 1,800 passengers. The quotas have been implemented to prevent overcrowding on peak days.

Large outfitters received the largest passenger quotas, prompting protests from the smaller companies. Some small company owners contend that the quotas are illegal and predict they will be challenged in court.

Some companies may be eligible for single-day quota exemptions if they had booked more than their quota before the quotas were announced.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 4/22/86

Survey suggests extinctions imminent

Conservationists surveyed by the National Wildlife Federation predict that as many as one million species of plants and animals will become extinct by the end of this century.

A majority of those surveyed said humans are falling behind in their ability to deal with losses of living species although they agree that conservationists are doing a better job now than 10 years ago.

Numbers of extinctions during the last part of this century will be greater than in any other wave of extinctions since the age of dinosaurs, survey respondents predict.

Most of the experts blame the expanding human population for the troubles facing the world's wildlife and suggest increases in population planning programs as part of the solution.

The most pressing environmental problems are perceived to be in Africa with Asia second. North America was not mentioned by those surveyed as one of the continents with the most serious environmental problems.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 4/27/86

DEADLINE FOR JUNE VOICE

MAY 30

**Send contributions to Deborah Smith
See address in roster**

Flooded Parsons nursery will not reopen

The forestry division of the Department of Agriculture has announced that in-house, industry, and Federal Emergency Management Agency reviews indicate that the reestablishment of the Parsons Nursery on the floodplain of the Blackfork Branch of the Cheat River is neither technically nor economically justifiable.

State Forester Byron J. Warder says that two blue-ribbon technical committees have prepared reports on the nursery in recent months and that FEMA also studied the situation after the recent flood disaster. These reports and reviews clearly indicate that the only economically sound solution is to move the nursery to an area with a more suitable climate and fewer technical problems.

Agriculture Commissioner Gus R. Douglass said floodplain insurance costs would be prohibitive if the nursery were reestablished at the Parsons site.

In addition, the history of soil-borne, root rot organisms and the adverse climate at Parsons result in an extra year being required to raise saleable seedlings, thus greatly impeding efforts to make the nursery cost-effective.

Expenses at Parsons are about \$90 per thousand seedlings while nurseries in nearby states produce seedlings for about \$50 per thousand. By moving the nursery, Douglass said he hopes to be able to supply seedlings at a reduced cost.

Plans are to relocate the Parsons nursery to an inactive nursery site at Clements. The cost of reopening the Clements nursery is about \$500,000 while relocating at the Parsons site would cost about \$3 million.

Kammer plant not exempt, EPA says

The Kammer power plant in the northern panhandle will not be exempt from new tall stack air pollution regulations the federal Environmental Protection Agency said in April.

American Electric Power System of Columbus, Consolidation Coal Co., and Ormet Corporation requested an exemption last September. Consol provides the coal to fire the AEP plant and Ormet is the primary buyer of the electricity generated.

EPA officials said no new information or issues were raised in the exemption request and ruled that the plant must comply with the new regulations.

Revised stack-height regulations limit the extent to which plants can pollute the air using tall stacks rather than adding emission control equipment. The rules were designed to help meet the national air quality standards for sulfur dioxide and other pollutants.

American Electric officials said they may have to close the Kammer plant if EPA requires them to spend millions of dollars on pollution control equipment. EPA officials are still working with the state of West Virginia to identify the impacts of the regulations on the plant.

AEP officials plan to appeal again for an exemption from the new regulations.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 4/23/86

100 volunteer for trail repair work

More than 100 people from West Virginia and surrounding states have volunteered to help the West Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club repair flood damaged trails in the Monongahela National Forest.

Called the Monongahela Trail Recovery Project, the repair work is part of a cooperative effort between the Sierra Club, the U.S. Forest Service and volunteers. Trail work is expected to start May 3.

Tools, materials and money will be provided by the Forest Service while the Sierra Club is lining up volunteer workers. The main objective is to repair trails damaged by the 1985 flood.

Calls for help by the Sierra Club brought responses from more than 70 individuals or groups for a total of more than 100 people interested in helping the trail recovery effort.

Individuals or groups wishing to help may write to Mary Wimmer, West Virginia Sierra Club, P. O. Box 4142, Morgantown, WV 26504.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*

Moore announces new plan to cleanup WV

A statewide anti-litter initiative was announced by Governor Arch Moore in early April. Moore said he was tired of residents using the state as a trash can.

The governor announced his anti-litter plans at the Governor's Conference on Environmental Education and Litter Control sponsored by him and the Department of Natural Resources.

The state spends a little more than \$1 million a year to control litter along state roads. Moore said this money could be put to better use elsewhere if West Virginians could be persuaded not to litter the state, making it necessary to spend this money on cleanup.

He said he had instructed Highways Commissioner William Ritchie to begin a statewide effort this summer to pick up trash in the state. The state will work with local governments and summer youth programs to bring trash to collection centers and remove it.

—reported in *The Charleston Gazette*, 4/9/86

More study needed on Rowlesburg dam

WVHC and EPI submit joint policy statement to congressional committee

Together with the Environmental Policy Institute, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy submitted on March 18 a statement on the proposed Rowlesburg Dam to the Subcommittee on Water Resources, Committee on Public Works and Transportation, U.S. House of Representatives. The following is a condensed version of this statement.

The Environmental Policy Institute is an environmental organization based in Washington, D.C. and is a national leader in legislation and administration policy concerning water resources development and management.

Historical position

Historically, the Conservancy has opposed the construction of the Rowlesburg project because it was uneconomical and socially and environmentally unsound. The Conservancy further objected on the grounds that the Corps of Engineers had failed to adequately investigate both structural and non-structural alternatives for flood control in the Cheat River Basin.

This position was adopted by the Conservancy on October 18, 1971 and was based on the project as proposed at that time. Generally the project has been opposed by the State of West Virginia, local farmers, business leaders and county officials as well as West Virginia conservationists.

This overwhelming opposition across a broad political spectrum within the state led the Army Corps of Engineers to place the Rowlesburg project on "inactive status" in 1977.

Contemporary position

The Conservancy and EPI do not express a position on the Rowlesburg project at this time because of the absence of a detailed proposal and lawfully sufficient Draft Environmental Impact Statement as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Without such documentation, it is impossible to reach a reasoned judgement regarding any proposal for structural and non-structural flood control alternatives in the Cheat River Basin.

Therefore, the Conservancy and EPI request that the following actions be taken prior to any Congressional consideration of flood control projects in the Cheat River Basin.

1.) Preparation of a programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Cheat River Basin regarding a comprehensive program of structural and non-structural flood control alternatives.

2.) Designation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency as the "lead agency" and the Soil Conservation Service and Corps as "cooperating agencies" in the preparation of the DEIS.

3.) Holding of Congressional and field agency hearings in West Virginia to permit impacted communities and interested parties to comment on flood control proposals.

4.) Approval by the West Virginia Legislature for any required state appropriations for construction cost sharing or reimbursement for non-federal costs such as recreational facilities.

The Conservancy and EPI recommend that a comprehensive flood control study in the Cheat River Basin should investigate such structural alternatives as:

- 1.) channel modification adjacent to developed floodplains,
- 2.) floodways to enhance channel discharge capacity,
- 3.) floodwalls and pumping stations,
- 4.) floodproofing of existing structures, and
- 5.) small watershed projects.

Non-structural alternatives to be studied should include:

- 1.) electronic flood warning systems,
- 2.) educational and technical assistance to floodplain residents and businesses,
- 3.) financial assistance for relocation and/or floodproofing,
- 4.) land-use and floodplain management plans,
- 5.) flood insurance, and
- 6.) relocation of flood-damaged businesses and residences outside the floodplain.

The Conservancy and EPI recognize that the floods of November 5, 1985 have revealed the very great need for protecting the residents of the Cheat River Basin and downstream communities from tragic floods. It is essential that all flood control alternatives be investigated to identify those which are environmentally and socially sound and which can be implemented within a reasonable period.

WV Legislature supports study

During the 1986 regular session, the West Virginia Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 which calls upon Congress for a comprehensive study of structural and non-structural flood control alternatives.

Whereas, the lack of flood control in existence on the Cheat River caused an exceedingly great loss of life and property and in an effort to prevent future flooding on the Cheat River, a flood control study should be made by the SCS (Soil Conservation Service) for the entire Cheat River Basin including tributaries and utilizing where possible information or expertise of FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) which might assist in the development of such a program for flood control . . .

A proper and adequate flood control study should necessarily investigate and provide for the con-

sideration of both structural and non-structural options for flood control; (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17, Journal of the West Virginia Senate, page 66, March 3, 1986.)

State has opposed project

The State of West Virginia has formally opposed the Rowlesburg project since 1977. This action resulted in the project being placed on "inactive status" by the Corps of Engineers.

In a November 6, 1977 letter to Colonel Max R. Janairo, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Governor John D. Rockefeller said:

We must view this project by what is best suited environmentally and economically for the people of West Virginia. Geologic considerations preclude intense use of almost 80 percent of West Virginia's land resources base. Therefore, the relative permanency of inundation which preempts future land-use options is significant and demands that each project be evaluated on its own merits. After critical review, the State of West Virginia cannot support any of the proposals for the construction of the Rowlesburg project. . . I respectfully request that all planning on the Rowlesburg project be terminated and that it be placed on "inactive status."

Concerns regarding economic analysis

According to the Flood Control Act of 1936, the Rowlesburg project must have specific economic benefits which exceed total construction costs, most recently estimated at \$370 million (1977).

However, the substantial modifications to the original project proposal made by the Corps in the early 1970's appear to make the project economically unviable. Specifically, 1) the reduction of recreational benefits due to the refusal of the State of West Virginia to enter a cost-sharing agreement for recreational facilities on the grounds that hydropower operations will create mud flats during periodic drawdowns; 2) the failure of the Corps to obtain any commitments to purchase the project's production of hydroelectric power; and 3) that the Corps is now prohibited from claiming any economic benefits for water quality improvements by low flow augmentation according to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The economic benefits assigned to recreation, hydropower and water quality enhancement account for more than 88 percent of project benefits. Flood control benefits represent less than 12 percent of the economic justification for the project.

Under these circumstances, it appears that the cost/benefit ratio of 1.7 projected by the Corps in 1970 and the supporting economic analysis is unrealistic and should be revised on the basis of only those flood control, power and recreational benefits which can be assured in advance of construction.

Reasons to join WVHC

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a private, non-profit environmental organization started in 1967. Its objectives are "to promote, encourage, and work for the conservation - including both preservation and wise use - and appreciation of the scenic, historic, open space, wilderness, and outdoor recreation resources of and related to West Virginia, and especially the Highlands Region . . ."

Members include people and organizations diverse in their personal interests and professions but united by a common interest. Most WVHC members are West Virginians but many live outside the state.

The Highlands Voice, a monthly

8-page newspaper, is sent to all Conservancy members. It is filled with environmental news on topics of interest and concern to members as well as articles about trips and outings.

The Conservancy sponsors two special weekends each year. These are usually at some scenic spot in the highlands and feature speakers, outings and board meetings.

Your contribution to WVHC is tax deductible and joining is as simple as filling out this form and returning it to the office in Charleston.

Join today and become part of an active organization dedicated to preserving West Virginia's natural resources.

Yes, I'd like to support the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and receive **The Highlands Voice**. Please accept my membership in the category I have checked.

INDIVIDUAL	ORGANIZATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 regular
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 family	<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 citizen/student	

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Make checks payable to: West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Mail to: Suite 201, 1206 Virginia St., E., Charleston, WV 25301

Membership Benefits

- 1-year subscription to **The Highlands Voice**
- Special meetings with workshops and speakers
- representation through WVHC's efforts to monitor legislative activity.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible. Please keep this for your records.

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Check number _____