



# The Highlands Voice

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## Task Force gets to consensus on groundwater protection

(Cindy Rank sent us the following summary of the consensus groundwater protection bill before the 1991 W.Va. Legislature.)

### Policy

It is the public policy of the State of West Virginia to maintain and protect the state's groundwater so as to support present and future beneficial

uses and further to maintain and protect groundwater at existing quality where the existing quality is better than that required to maintain and protect the present and future beneficial uses.

Such existing quality shall be maintained unless it is established that

1) the measures necessary to preserve existing quality are technically feasible or economically practical and

2) a change in groundwater quality is justified based upon economic or societal objectives.

Such a change shall maintain and protect groundwater quality so as to support the present and future beneficial uses of such groundwater.

### Existing Quality

The Director of the Division of Natural Resources may grant deviations from existing quality if 1) and 2) above are established. In those cases, the standards set by the State Water Resources Board must be maintained. These standards are to be at least as

(See Bill, page 7)

## Spring Review to focus on Corridor H routing

Carroll Jett and Frank Young are busy planning lots of fun, adventure and a thought-provoking program for the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy 1991 Spring Review, May 3-5. Nature Skool will be available, so the weekend will be as exciting for kids as for adults.

Full information on the program will be in the mail in the near future, but Frank Young, who is handling reservations, would like to get a rough idea of needed reservations for deluxe cabins, efficiency apartments or regular motel rooms at Yokum's Vationland at Seneca Rocks.

Cost for deluxe cabins range between \$50-100 per night. Efficiency apartments which house up to six people are \$50 per night, and motel rooms with one or two double beds are \$35 per night. Camping sites are also available.

To guarantee sufficient space, please make a preliminary reservation for cabins, apartments or motel rooms by calling Frank at 372-9329. If he is not in, leave a message and he will return the call.

Frank doesn't anticipate any problem reserving camping sites.

Saturday evening's program will include a panel discussion on Appalachian Corridor H. Routing for the four-lane highway from east of Elkins to the state line has been an important issue for Conservancy members for many years.

No matter which route is chosen, sensitive areas of the state will be

impacted. Almost every unique natural area in the Highlands Region is at risk.

Not all plans have yet been finalized but representatives of the Department of Highways will be at the Spring Review with up-to-date maps and information on the needs assessment for the Corridor.



Mary Wimmer

Mary Wimmer, Public Lands Chair for the West Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club has confirmed as one panel member for a discussion of issues related to route selection.

Mary has been involved in the chapter since its formation in 1984, and has served four years each as a member of the executive committee and as Conservation Chair. She is also one of the chapter's Outings Pro-

See Review, page 7

## Task Force's Groundwater Proposal

- \* Protects the best-quality groundwater as it is (existing quality).
- \* Protects and maintains all of West Virginia's groundwater at the drinking water standard, as set by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
- \* Requires the state Water Resources Board to set groundwater quality standards.
- \* Only allows for a variance from the standards in a very restricted set of factual circumstances by a rule-making procedure with opportunities for public hearing and comment.
- \* Designates the Division of Natural Resources as the lead agency in groundwater protection.
- \* Requires other groundwater regulatory agencies — the Division of Energy, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Health — to establish new policies, procedures, and programs to implement the new standards of the law.
- \* Establishes a groundwater coordinating committee from the four agencies and the Water Resources Board.
- \* Requires groundwater certification for any and all potential sources of contamination.
- \* Will generate about \$1 million in fees to fund the program. It also will allow for the generation of an additional \$250,000 to start a remediation fund.
- \* Allows for a variety of enforcement mechanisms, including civil and criminal penalties and civil administrative penalties.

## NATURE SKOOL

a complete program of  
OUTDOOR EDUCATION  
&  
CHILD CARE

Nature Skool will be part of the 1991 Spring Review.

The comprehensive package of child care and hands-on nature/wildlife education will operate Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., to coincide with the adult recreational outings.

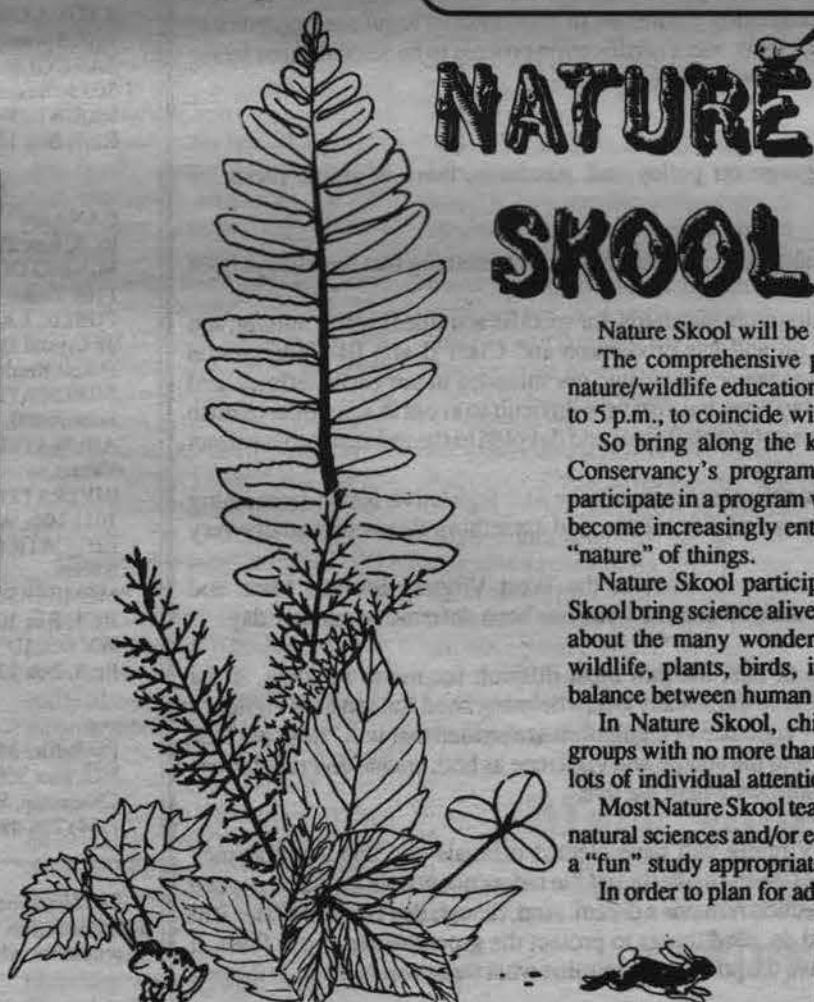
So bring along the kids. While you are involved in the Conservancy's programs and activities, your children can participate in a program where they, too, will learn, enjoy, and become increasingly enthusiastic about the outdoors and the "nature" of things.

Nature Skool participants are children ages 3-10. Nature Skool bring science alive by challenging and informing a child about the many wonders and treasures of the out-of-doors: wildlife, plants, birds, insects, fish, stars, and the essential balance between human and natural activities.

In Nature Skool, children are divided into age-specific groups with no more than six children per teacher to allow for lots of individual attention.

Most Nature Skool teachers hold professional degrees in the natural sciences and/or education. They are trained to provide a "fun" study appropriate to the specific age group.

In order to plan for adequate staffing of teachers and aides, please register early. To ensure space for your child, contact Linda Elkinton, (304) 296-0565. Cost to participants is \$20 per child.





— from the heart of the mountains —

# The Ground Water Bill: A bitter-sweet pill

by Cindy Rank

In the Fall of 1987, the first Ground Water Task Force reached a dead end in its efforts to arrive at proposed ground water legislation that was acceptable to all participants.

Variations of ground water legislation have been introduced to the West Virginia Legislature each year since then but none have passed.

In October 1990, Governor Caperton and Department of Natural Resources Director Ed Hamrick called together another Task Force composed of industry, agency and environmental representatives to work on possible compromise ground water legislation.

Since then, the 12 members of the Task Force have been butting heads over everything from the basic concepts of ground water protection to specific words and grammar to be used in the proposed statute.

As negotiations continued, a variety of ground water bills were again introduced to the State Legislature.

Then, several weeks into the session the members of the Task Force reached agreement on an acceptable compromise. Governor Caperton announced the agreement at a press conference February 11. ...As this issue of the VOICE goes to press, the proposed Legislation has survived some minor challenges in the House Judiciary Committee and has moved through the House of Delegates on its way to the Senate where presumably the Task Force agreement to support this Bill will be honored and passage of the Bill without amendments should be forthcoming.

An overview of some of the major parts of this legislation is printed elsewhere in this issue. The bill is an effort to protect the quality of West Virginia's groundwater resources. (This issue of quantity has been left for another day.) As a member of the Task Force, I agreed to accept this final version of the bill. But it is for me, and probably for most of the members of the Task Force, a bitter-sweet pill.

## The Sweet Part:

First and foremost, the Legislation does represent a step forward.

West Virginia can finally move ahead with efforts to coordinate and consolidate information on the State's groundwater resources and to improve and streamline groundwater protection programs. Fees on all facilities will begin to provide funding for Water Resources to upgrade its two-member groundwater section, and for other regulatory agencies (DNR, Health, Energy, and Agriculture) to strengthen groundwater protection measures in each of their programs.

Also, the proposed statute contains a strong (though somewhat weakened from our previous attempts) statement of policy that seeks to maintain the existing quality of groundwater; strong standards to protect groundwater for drinking water use or better where deviations from existing quality are allowed; a coordinating committee of groundwater regulatory agencies to review groundwater protection programs, and a certification process to be administered by the Department of Natural Resources as the lead agency.

## The Bitter Part:

In addition to the strong language on policy and standards, there is ample room for "flexibility."

Provisions are made for:

1) Deviations from existing quality for justifiable reasons (something that has always been part of our policy statements);

2) Special treatment, i.e. exclusion from standards, for specific activities such as mining, and site-specific geological zones of oil and gas production and Class II and III Underground Injection Wells (something that was never anticipated nor intended in our earlier efforts, and something that is very difficult to swallow, but also very difficult to avoid in a political climate still hell-bent on relying on non-renewable fossil fuels and devoted to the industries that extract them), and

3) Possible variances for other activities upon review and legislative action (something neither anticipated nor intended in our earlier efforts, and something that is potentially very dangerous).

Provisions for citizen suits, similar to those in the West Virginia Surface Mine and Hazardous Waste acts, have been omitted and the issue has been deferred to another day.

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Perhaps the hardest part of all of this, the part most difficult for me to swallow, is the realization that this statute only adds to the already overwhelming need for constant vigilance on the part of individual citizens — vigilance as regulations are written that will "flesh out" the "wiggle room" that has been built into the statute and vigilance as both statute and regulations are implemented in the hills and hollows where we live.

The eternal dream that West Virginia will have elected officials and appointed agency personnel that will possess both the fire-in-the-belly and the independent political clout needed for aggressive environmental protection remains a dream. And, though this Ground Water Bill contains words that say we should do good things to protect the groundwater of our State, it remains to be seen just who will have the power to determine what these words mean in the real world.

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# Public opinion dooms Webster landfill

by Frank Young

"We will not force a project on any community that does not want it," said John Faltis, president of Anker Energy and promoter of the proposed but now deposed, Webster County mega-dump.

In early January, Webster County residents learned that Faltis and various Webster County public officials had discussed a proposal to construct a 6,000 ton per day landfill near Erbacon in southwestern Webster County. Faltis said the Webster County Industrial Development Authority had approached him about building a landfill. The Webster Echo reported.

Heavy public opposition soon developed. On Tuesday, Jan. 8, the Webster County Solid Waste Authority met to publicly hear about Faltis's proposed landfill. An estimated 1,000 people attended the

public meeting to voice opposition to the proposal.

Only developer Faltis and his wife spoke in favor of locating the dump in Webster County. No other pro-landfill sentiment was evident, according to a report given this writer by some of those in attendance.

The proposed dump was to have been located on land owned by Juliana Coal Company, another John Faltis enterprise.

Faltis, while apparently recognizing the power of public sentiment, was critical of that sentiment.

"Community non-support is due to misinformation and the movement of opposition from outside the county," Faltis said when he announced withdrawal of the landfill proposal.

Ironically, the same issue of the Webster Echo which reported Faltis' decision to cancel the dump plan,

another story reported on a meeting between more than 90 residents of the Erbacon area and Juliana Coal Company officials.

The meeting centered on citizen concerns, including pollution of streams, road conditions brought on by overweight trucks and by sludge spilled onto roads from coal truck, unsafe driving practices by "contract" coal truck drivers who are paid only by the tonnage or number of loads hauled, uncovered loads which permit coal dust to blow in all directions, and what was described as "widespread discontent with the coal company and its unconcern for, and un-kept promises to, the people of the local area."

Faltis initiated the meeting, and some observers believe his purpose was to attempt to put on a good "image," since a favorable referendum would be required before the unpopular landfill proposal could be

implemented. It is quite unusual for coal company officials to encourage public comment on a company's mining operations.

But, the ploy apparently did not work. Commenting after the "coal problem" meeting, Doyle Coakley, president of the newly-formed Webster Countians for a Clean Environment said, "Erbacon citizens, in general, have been and continue to be supportive of Juliana and the other coal companies mining in our area, but they stand firmly in opposition to the proposed landfill being built anywhere in Webster County."

In announcing the landfill proposal's withdrawal, developer Faltis said, "The opposition is composed of a core group that has mobilized to stop any development in the solid waste industry in West Virginia."

While not completely accurate, that statement can be taken as a compliment to the Martha Huffmans, the Bill Hopens, the Chuck Schnautzs, the Norm Steenstras, and the many others who see garbage as the future

"wave of exploitation" of Mountaineers.

Following the withdrawal announcement, Faltis said, "It is my intent to remain a leader in the coal mining industry in this state and our energies will be directed toward this goal."

He made a similar statement in early November following the defeat of a public referendum on an even larger proposed landfill in nearby Barbour County. But, less than two months later, Faltis was back with the Webster County proposal. And he's still thinking about more landfills for us. So are other "developers." Look out.

Promises of big money and big jobs usually mean bigger headaches, and even bigger disappointments, and even bigger potential disasters.

Keep your garbage cans hidden. Put a good, strong, high fence around your yard. John Faltis and others of his ilk are looking for some place, any place, on which to dump millions of tons of someone else's garbage.

## Recycling... as a hobby?

by Carol Bradshaw

It started out as an obligation. You know, my small contribution to the environmental movement. I wanted to do something worthy. I would recycle my trash.

I started out as your typical greenhorn, made a few mistakes — like putting un-crushed beer cans in a paper bag — nasty mess. Soon, my techniques improved and the system became streamlined.

Contrary to what many of my friends thought would be a smelly operation, it turned out to be quite a clean little enterprise. On a few occasions when I found myself out of money, I'd just load up the truck and take it to Winchester, cash it in and go to the grocery store.

Just recently, a good friend of mine had kidney failure and had to go to dialysis therapy. That's when my hoard of aluminum cans came by their best use — for each tab from the can, a free minute on the dialysis machine would be donated to him.

Before I started recycling, I didn't have a hobby. Knitting? no patience. Painting? can't draw. Horseback riding? no, I already do that for a living. But I do enjoy sorting through my cans and bottles, stacking my cardboard and papers, and organizing my storage.

I'm fortunate to live close by to recycling centers that will pay me for my time and trouble; although I enjoy it enough I'd do it just for the fun of it. Yes, that's right, that's why it's a hobby.

Of course, my refund is great pocket money. Like my husband says, "That's \$50 you wouldn't have if you threw it away."

I'm always looking for ways to improve on my efforts.

Take shopping for example. After a few months early on, I realized that plastic didn't fit-in with my program. You didn't get paid for it. It was too much volume to store and sometimes it would blow off the truck. So, when I shop, I find alternative products not packaged in plastic.

Recycling has saved my money in the long run because I don't pay as much as I used to to dispose of my garbage at the local landfill. Last year I asked my neighbor if she would like to share in my recycling efforts and share the profits, reduce her trash load and split the cost of garbage pick-up with me.

At the time, I was hauling my own to the dump (she doesn't have a pick-up). This is how it works:

She sorts her recyclables and I haul them off with mine. We split the profits.

Her volume of weekly garbage was cut by half, as was mine. Garbage collection runs about \$30 per month here — just about what it cost me to haul my own to the landfill. Now we consolidate our throw-out garbage on the street in front of her house every Tuesday and split the collection fee.

I suppose I'll have to answer for that one later this year, but for now, hey, we're havin' fun.

And, as hobbies have a way of doing, recycling has changed my perspective on ... well ... trash.

When I happen to look in a dumpster these days, I don't see garbage. I see a resource.

I've just recently celebrated a mile stone in my two-year hobby of recycling — Thanksgiving.

What a wonderful time we had. We invited friends and family over for the occasion and "the game." Af-

ter the event, while I was putting away the last dish and covering the turkey for the refrigerator, I had an unexpected start — thinking about the trash I had to put out as one last chore to perform. I looked over at my trash can and was pleased to see that it wasn't overflowing. "Wow," I thought, "I'm getting good at this!"

I know people who have stranger hobbies than I do. How about the lady that collects out houses? That's pretty strange. Seriously now, it doesn't take much thought to realize the reduction of solid waste to the landfill from just one family. From my calculations, ours was cut by more than one half. And, I have monetary gain to show for it too.

I have a few more goals to achieve — more challenging this time. The first one I'd like to tackle is my junk mail problem. (It accounts for about one-half of my waste paper). What an arduous task, writing each individual catalog company to say, "No more, please!" Maybe I should just change my post office box and hope it doesn't follow me.

Goal number two: Christmas 1991. This is a touchy issue between grandparents and environmentally-conscious parents. If not handled with the utmost sensitivity, my husband and I risk being ostracized from family on both sides.

We have, tentatively, worked out a probable solution. Instead of everyone spending hundreds of dollars on needless (junk?), we all have decided on one big family vacation — no tree, no gift wrap, no shopping, no more plastic army men!

Who would have ever thought a recycling hobby could land us in Florida in December.

## Letters to the editor

### No thanks! to power companies' help

Dear Editor:

It was frightening to see our DNR Director Hamrick having an appreciation ceremony thanking electric power officials for installing equipment to de-acidify a creek. A fit analogy would be thanking a murderer for putting his dying victim on a life-support machine.

As the dangers of utilizing coal become more clear, when will we admit it is an obsolete technology. A lime barrel in a creek does not begin to consider the problems — severe forest die-backs, nutrients leached from our soil, and toxic metals mobilized in our groundwater. And those limed creeks can't have much semblance to a natural order.

Another startling consequence of our electric lust is mercury poisoning. Hundreds of fish advisories for eating fish are still in effect in at least 20 states. More than half of all contaminant advisories for fish. It does not breakdown and bio-accumulates in the ecosystem. Coal power plants are the primary source of mercury poisoning.

The data is in and now whenever we flip a switch or buy electrically

manufactured products we poison our habitat.

I don't feel very thankful to the power officials for their petty retro-active help.

Vince Packard  
Editor, National Sacrifice Zone  
P.O. Box 65  
Myra, WV 25544

### Reader appreciates change to newsprint

Dear Sir or Madam:

My parents are members of the Conservancy (we travel frequently in West Virginia). I must compliment the Highlands Voice on the recent decision to use newsprint. It makes the paper easier to recycle in many municipalities (including ours, where we now have a curbside pickup program using bins of recycled plastic). Thanks for considering my suggestions and keep up the good work.

Tony Porco  
5359 Hesperus Drive  
Columbia, MD 21044

**Mark your calendars  
for Spring Review  
May 3-5**



## Forests are focus of events around the area

### Symposium on forest future

PITTSBURGH — The Carnegie Museum of Natural History will present an all-day symposium, *The Future of the Forests: Preservation and Use*, March 23. The symposium will address a range of problems which threaten the world's forests.

Discussion of urban forests will look at what happens on the tree lawn and in parks in the face of salt, air pollution, and the restriction of percolation caused by paving.

State forests comprise 7 percent of Pennsylvania's land area. Discuss of that multi-billion dollar asset will include how to log the forests, provide game habitat, protect watersheds and provide recreation all at the same time.

Our role in meeting the problems facing temperate and tropical rain forests will also be discussed.

An evening session will feature Lou Gold, the "Spirit of the Ancient Forest," long-time activist in the cause of old-growth forests, and master storyteller. His stunning slide show has been seen nationwide.

Daytime session begins at 9 a.m. and is expected to end at 4 p.m. The evening session begins at 8 p.m. For information and tickets, contact the Sierra Club, 515 Lloyd St., Pittsburgh, PA 15208, or call (412) 561-0203.

(from *The Explorer*, newsletter of the Explorers' Club of Pittsburgh)

### Heartwood Forest Council will be May 3-5

PAOLI, Indiana — Heartwood will host a Heartwood Forest Council, May 3-5 at Camp Ondessonk in Southern Illinois' Shawnee National Forest to broaden public understanding of the politics and ecology of the forests of the Central Hardwoods.

Heartwood is a coalition of forest activists and leaders for Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio who have called for an end to unjustified logging in the small public forests of the Midwest. (See Heartwood, page 5). Those forests are remnants of the once continuous Central Hardwood Forest that stretched from the the Appalachian Mountains to the Central Plains, nearly to the Great Lakes, and well south of the Ohio River.

Pre-council activity May 1-3 includes overflights of Midwestern forests for public officials, news media, and forest activists by LightHawk, a national conservation organization. The overflights provide an unprecedented opportunity to see and show others a birds-eye view of the clear-cut fragmentation of our public forests.

Overflights will continue through registration and orientation at Camp Ondessonk, May 3. Guided hardwood hikes in Shawnee National Forest will also be offered all day.

The History, Ecology, and Current Status of the Central Hardwood Forest will be the focus of the May 4 morning session with Dr. Paul Yambert, professor emeritus, School of Forestry, Southern Illinois University, Max Hutchison, Natural Lands Institute, and Dr. Bob Klawitter, Hoosier Environmental Council.

Concurrent workshops in the afternoon include: public participation in forest planning; legal and administrative challenges to Forest Plans; forest ecology and biodiversity; sustainable forestry; economics, politics, and public forests; and working with the media.

In the evening, Jeff DeBonis of the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (AFSEEE) will present a new perspective on Public Forest Management.

Live music and refreshments will follow.

Sunday, May 5 will focus on The Role of Midwestern Forests in National Forest Reform. Invited speakers include: Indiana Congressman Jim Jontz; Lou Gold [see Carnegie Institute symposium above and notes below]; Tim Hermach, Native Forest Council; Mark Winstein, Save America's Forests; Brock Evans, National Audubon Society; and Jeff DeBonis, AFSEEE.

In late April and early May, Lou Gold's outstanding slide-show, "Lessons from the Ancient Forest," is scheduled for locations around the Midwest. For the nearest location, contact Beth Howell (503) 249-2958, or Heartwood, P.O. Box 352, Paoli, IN 47454.

(ed. note: Although the Highlands Conservancy Spring review is the same weekend as Heartwood Forest Council, their emphasis seemed so well related to issues we face in West Virginia, that I included detailed information. Maybe we can touch base with them sometime in the future.

# The Central Hardwood Forests

*This information is reprinted from Protect Our Woods, Paoli, Indiana.*

The deciduous forests of the Midwest are mostly in the central hardwood region which extends from the western slopes of the Appalachian Mountains to the Great Plains, from just below the Great Lakes to well south of the Ohio River.

This region is considered to be the best hardwood growing area in the northern hemisphere. The native forest that once blanketed West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, southern Illinois, eastern Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and portions of surrounding states, contained over 70 species of hardwood trees, and supported a great variety of plant and animal life.

It included black walnut trees up to 8 feet in diameter, white oak up to 13 feet, and American chestnut trees 10 feet in diameter and 120 feet tall. One tulip poplar tree was measured to be 25 feet in circumference, 195 feet tall, and 91 feet to the first limb.

Bison by the thousands wore travelways called "traces" through the forest, and seemingly endless flocks of passenger pigeons darkened the sky above the huge trees.

During the American westward expansion of the 19th century, most of that dark, forbidding forest was cleared, at first laboriously to make way for sunlight and subsistence farming, and then later at an accelerated pace to feed a booming timber industry that removed the best of what remained, before moving on to the virgin forests of the South and West.

The clearing of the great forest led to the loss of untold plant and animal species including most of the large mammals native to the area. It is a testimony to the wealth of the soils and the resilience of the native forest that portions of the forest not replaced by crops, pasture, or settlement grew back to be cut again.

Cut over and seriously eroded hillsides were bought by the states and by the federal government to ensure that some forested land would be available in the future, for timber if needed, and for watershed protection, and other public values. These are our Midwestern public forests.

### The Central Hardwoods today

Recent forest inventory data for West Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee provide some surprises: The trees are coming back again.

There is currently 76 percent more standing timber volume than there was in 1952, when the first comprehensive national inventory was conducted; there is more land growing timber (+954,000 acres since 1952); and the timber is growing far faster than it is being cut (Forest Statistics of the United States 1987: USDA Forest Service).

In an independent evaluation of the national hardwood timber supply, the National Hardwood Lumberman's Association drew three conclusions:

"Currently, the United States is growing almost twice as much hardwood sawtimber as is being used! (emphasis in the original)

"Most of this hardwood sawtimber is growing on the 194 million acres of non-industrial private hardwood forest lands in the East. (emphasis added)

"Forest industry owns nearly 29 million

acres of hardwood forests. These forests are proportionally more productive than those owned by federal or state government."

In the eight central hardwood states, 90 percent of the timberland is privately owned, with farmers and other non-industrial landholders owning 95 percent of the private timberland and a similar amount of the timber volume in those states.

In other words, most of the trees that are growing are on private land.

Though the trees and the volume are on the increase, there have been declines in some desirable grades, species, and sizes, through a reverse Darwinian process known as high-grade logging, in which the best and most desirable trees and species are cut, leaving the rest to grow and reproduce. Any attempt to improve the quality of timber reaching them mills must take into consideration the extensive private ownership of forestland and timber volume.

### The Role of the Public Forests

While sufficient timber for the region's important timber industry is evidently growing on private land, public land — especially public forestland — is in relatively short supply. The com-

## Why we should stop logging the Central Hardwood Forests

### Biological Diversity

Respected scientists identify the loss of biological diversity as the greatest threat currently facing this planet. Many plant and animal species have already disappeared from the central hardwoods as a result of nearly two centuries of land clearing, livestock grazing, irresponsible timber harvest, and other population pressures.

Currently, the central hardwoods provide crucial nesting habitat for migratory songbirds among others whose populations are in continuing decline. Private forests throughout the Midwest are traversed by roads and utility corridors, interspersed with settlements and open lands, and subject to repeated harvest. Only the remnant islands of public forest contain acreages of sufficient size to regenerate a biologically diverse native forest, and to safeguard the wealth of genetic information they contain: from potential sources of new foods or medicines to sources of breeding stock for future tree plantations on private land.

### Rural Economics

To provide for economically diverse rural communities, quality hardwood timber, and a healthy timber industry in the central hardwoods, sustainable timber management must be profitable for private woodland owners. Tax-subsidized, below-cost timber cut from the public forests competes directly with private timber, and may act as a disincentive to proper management on private lands, by keeping prices down.

The tax dollars that are currently spent to manage public forests for timber pro-

duced acreage of public forestland in the central hardwood states is less than 3 percent of the land and only about 10 percent of the total forestland.

Even on the public lands, there is almost no old-growth forest anywhere in the region. Meanwhile, a growing, and increasingly urban population is looking to the public forests for the diverse recreational opportunities available only on public lands.

Nearly one in five Americans lives in the eight central hardwood states, with twice as many more a half-day's drive away.

Despite a study by the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station that determined the recreational value of the national forests to be nine times greater than the economic value of the forest's timber, tax-subsidized, below-cost timber sales on central hardwood public forests over the last two decades have increased dramatically.

The National Forests of the Eastern Region, which includes most of the central hardwood region, harvested a record level of timber in 1989. The Eastern Region's recently released ten-year timber target calls for doubling the harvesting of hardwoods by 1995.

duction would be better spent providing management assistance to improve the productivity of those private forest lands that are going to be cut anyway. Sufficient timber could be provided from private lands to meet anticipated demand and the public would still have their forests for recreation, watershed protection, and other public values. Healthy old growth forests make rural areas attractive places to visit or to live.

### Public Opinion

Throughout the central hardwood region, from the Shawnee National Forest of Illinois to the Shawnee State Forest of Ohio, grassroots groups have arisen to protest the environmental degradation, the economic folly and the spiritual impoverishment associated with logging the public forests.

Nowhere has this public opposition been more evident than in Indiana where more than 120,000 signatures on petitions and thousands of personal letters have called for protection of biological diversity, and the regeneration of old-growth forest.

These sentiments were expressed by every member of the state's congressional delegation by one, and by the governor of the state. A poll conducted for 8th District Congressman Frank McCloskey revealed that 69 percent of voters in his predominantly farm and forest district, that includes half the Hoosier National Forest, oppose all logging in the Hoosier National Forest, with only 19 percent in favor and 12 percent unsure.

Public forests should be managed for

See Logging, page 5



# Heartwood: a regional coalition to stop logging in Midwestern Public Forests

Leaders and activists from grassroots groups in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio with common concerns and a shared vision for the future of the central hardwood forest have united to form Heartwood, a regional coalition calling for an end to unjustified logging on Midwestern public forests.

Participants include leaders of Protect Our Woods, the Regional Association of Concerned Environmentalists, Appalachian Science in the Public Interest, ForestWatch, the Knob and Valley Audubon Society, the Hoosier Environmental Council, the Cumberland and Hoosier Chapters of the Sierra Club, the Miami Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the Hoosier Hikers Council.

Heartwood recognizes that the small public forests scattered around the Midwest are remnants of the once continuous central hardwood forest that stretched from the Appalachian Mountains to the Central Plains, nearly to the Great Lakes, and well south of the Ohio River. Heartwood's mission is to broaden public understanding of the politics and ecology of that heartland hardwood forest.

Farmers and other private landowners own nearly 90 percent of the timberland in the central hardwood states of West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky and

Tennessee. Less than three percent of the land in those states is public forest. It is Heartwood's position that the public forests should provide values not available on private land.

There is sufficient timber for timber harvest on private lands. Only our public forests can guarantee the sources of clean water through protected watersheds, the diverse recreational opportunities, the native plants and animals, and the big old trees people have a right to expect from their public forests.

Recent polling data suggest broad support for an end to logging on Midwestern public forests. Sixty-nine percent of voters polled in the 8th District of Indiana oppose logging on the Hoosier National Forest.

For information on Heartwood, contact Andy Mahler, (812) 723-2430.

## Logging — from page 4

values not readily available from private land, and in compliance with the wishes of their owners. If the American people want their forests protected, then it's time for the logging to stop.



## Who is Protect Our Woods?

*We are landowners and other citizens of South Central Indiana. We are people who have lived here for many generations, as well as newcomers for the last 20 years, who treasure this wild and rural country and its traditional values. We are friends of forests, streams, and wildlife everywhere. We are forest people everywhere acting to preserve our natural heritage and life-support systems.*

*Finally, you are Protect Our Woods—wherever you live, however you help, we cannot protect our woods without your support.*

Since 1985, we have

Plans for the 1990's

### Public Forests

- \* Prevented construction of 112 miles of ORV trails on the Hoosier National Forest.
- \* Temporarily ended clearcutting on the Hoosier National Forest.
- \* Designed a no-logging management plan for the Hoosier National Forest.
- \* Published research proving that Hoosier National Forest timber is not needed by the local economy.
- \* Formed state, regional, and national coalitions with other groups to protect our endangered native forests.
- \* Support the no-logging management plan for the Hoosier National Forest.
- \* Monitor Hoosier National forest operation and influence project decisions.
- \* Begin Hoosier National Forest planning for the year 2000.
- \* Protect our public forest from clearcutting, logging, mining, damming, roadbuilding, and gas and oil development.
- \* Seek passage of the Native Forest Protection Act.

### Private Forests

- \* Led the nation in arguing that public timber sales make private timber management unprofitable, damaging private growers and the wood-using industry.
- \* Twice defeated amendments that would have weakened the Indiana triple damages law against timber theft.
- \* Promote profitable private timber management.
- \* Defend the rights and interests of private forest owners.

### Air and Water Quality

- \* Appealed state construction permits allowing the largest air polluter in Orange and DuBois counties to increase toxic emissions damaging to forest, crop, and human health.
- \* Preserve our natural rivers and streams, including the world-famous Lost River, the Patoka, Little Blue and Anderson Rivers.
- \* Get the poisons out of our air and water.

### Sustainable Development

- \* Helped Crawford County citizens fight off a state-subsidized timber operation that would have increased logging while reducing jobs and competing unfairly with small local operators.
- \* Prevented for two years, so far, the construction of an \$80 million theme park on Tillery Hill at Patoka Lake, a threat to water supplies, wildlife, and to traditional rural life and values.
- \* Provided the only environmental analysis considered by the Southwest Indiana Highway Feasibility Study.
- \* Help solve our garbage and industrial waste problems in ways that increase prosperity.
- \* Promote profitable, sustainable agriculture.
- \* Defend the rights of landowners against speculators and developers and their allies in public agencies.
- \* Defend our rural communities against the urban blight creeping out from our major population centers.
- \* Seek sustainable development compatible with the wild and rural nature of South Central Indiana.

The fifth edition is 320 pages and includes:

- \* classic West Virginia hiking areas like the Allegheny Trail, Otter Creek, Spruce Knob, Blue Bend, Dolly Sods and more;
- \* detailed descriptions of 164 hiking trails covering 780 miles;
- \* 60 maps;
- \* 39 black and white scenic photos;
- \* hiking and safety tips;
- \* conservation concerns.



To order your copy of the **Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide** send \$9.95 to:

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
P.O. Box 306  
Charleston, WV 25321

Please include \$1.50 for shipping and handling. West Virginia residents include \$.60 sales tax. (\$11.45, or \$12.05 in W.Va.)

I have included a  check or  money order for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the WVHC for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the **Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide**.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

## Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide, Fifth Edition

by Bruce Sundquist and Allen de Hart

*with the cooperation of the Monongahela National Forest staff and numerous hikers*



# Proposed coal-fired power plants, transmission lines cause concern

Pocahontas 2000+ is concerned about four 250 Megawatt Power Plants being proposed for Greenbrier, Webster, and Nicholas counties.

At a Nov. 15, 1990 meeting in Richwood, former state senator Carl Gainer, now chairman of Richwood's 5/10 Year Long Range Planning Council, said Texas-based CRSS Capital is ready to move ahead if they get certain assurances from state government. Meeting attendance included John Ranson, Secretary of Commerce, Labor, Energy and Environmental Resources, State Senator Walt Helmick, Eli McCoy, head of Water Resources Division of DNR and a variety of current and retired state and local elected officials and business and industry representatives.

According to a report of the meeting in the Richwood News Leader, Gainer explained the firm would construct the facilities and transmission lines to export power, if government officials would offer some assurance that the state would assist in acquisition of rights-of-way for the lines.

According to the News Leader, Gainer told the group, "When the state sends a letter (to CRSS), with teeth in it, that says they will obtain options on property or stating the fact that they will use the right of eminent domain to get rights-of-way for transmission lines, the company will proceed."

The proposed coal-burning plants would be located at Lost Flats in the edge of Greenbrier County southeast of Richwood, in the vicinity of Muddlety, in or near Carl, and at an as-yet-undetermined site in Webster County. The Lost Flats site involves a dam on the South Fork of Cherry River. Transmission lines for the projects would cross Pocahontas County, near Hillsboro.

State Senator Walt Helmick of Pocahontas County is among those working for approval of the projects. Pocahontas 2000+ has found deeds recorded in the Pocahontas County courthouse which show Helmick owns mineral rights to coal reserves underlying the National Forest at Briery Knob. A new request for valid existing rights to strip this coal has been filed with the U.S. government by Ernest J. VanGilder of Elkins. Pocahontas 2000+ is still looking for a relationship between Helmick and VanGilder.

Pocahontas 2000+ raises the following issues related to placement of the plants and transmission lines:

\* If even one of the plants is built, it will be an invitation to build more. Only the lack of transmission lines is slowing development of the plants, so once they are in place, the stage is set for additional plants.

\* Proximity of the plants to the surrounding coal producing areas will create more strip mines, with the threat of more acid mine drainage, polluted groundwater, and unreclaimed eyesores in the area.

***"When the state sends a letter (to CRSS), with teeth in it, that says they will obtain options on property or stating the fact that they will use the right of eminent domain to get rights-of-way for transmission lines, the company will proceed."***

**Former State Senator Carl Gainer**

\* Problems created by the transmission lines themselves are far-reaching. More studies are being done on the health effects of large transmission lines, but what is known is frightening. A definite connection has been shown between living near transmission lines and the incidence of childhood leukemia and other cancers.

\* The map shows transmission lines running right by the Cranberry Mountain Visitor Center, a proposed new cross-country ski center, the Pearl Buck Birthplace, Watoga State Park, and the Greenbrier River and Trail, all of which would dramatically change the current focus of the area on tourism and renewable resources.

\* The proposed plants are Integrated Gas-

ified Combined Cycle (IGCC) plants, which reduce but do not eliminate sulfur emissions into air. These plants would increase the already severe acid rain problem in the area, and could further affect local farming and timber industries. In addition, this type of plant produces toxic flyash which must be disposed of in local landfills.

People who are concerned about this proposal should write Governor Gaston Caperton, with a copy to John Ranson, Secretary of Commerce, Labor, Energy and Environmental Resources, Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305. Among the issues that could be raised are:

\* Abolition of the largely unregulated Public Energy Authority, which has been willing to promote construction of large power plants anywhere, including downtown Morgantown. Failing abolition, the Public Energy Authority should be held accountable to the public through public hearings and comment periods on all proposed actions.

\* The requirement of a full Environmental Impact Statement for all proposed power generation facilities and proposed transmission lines, followed by public hearings and comment periods.

See Power, Page 7

***"Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress."***

*Beth Little, vice-chair of the the West Virginia Chapter of Sierra Club, expressed her concerns about the projects in a Nov. 21 letter to John Ranson, Secretary of the Department of Commerce, Labor, Energy and Environmental Resources on Sierra Club letterhead that includes the above motto.*

Dear Mr. Ranson:

On October 25, at the West Virginia Conference on the Environment, I asked if you were aware of a project to build a coal-fired power plant on the South Fork of Cherry River. I believe this is one of four projects that were discussed in a meeting you attended in Richwood on November 15.

As a member of local economic development associations, I understand the need for confidentiality during the negotiations for a development project. But without any state environmental policy requiring an environmental impact study, with the Public Energy Authority having power to condemn land without public input, and with the recent history of government officials colluding with industry for their own profit, we are concerned that this "need for confidentiality" is used to screen maneuvers to set up a committed coalition of government agencies, politicians and business before a project is ever submitted to the public or subjected to environmental scrutiny (if at all).

We have repeatedly voiced our concern about the proliferation of power plants in the state without comprehensive land use planning and without public involvement. The public comment provided for in the permitting process regarding discharge into water or air is not adequate to address the larger environmental issues that bear on the design and siting of industrial facilities, particularly power plants that threaten the wildest part of the state with transmission lines. Twenty-eight other states have specific regulations for the siting of power plants, because it is such a critical element in regional planning.

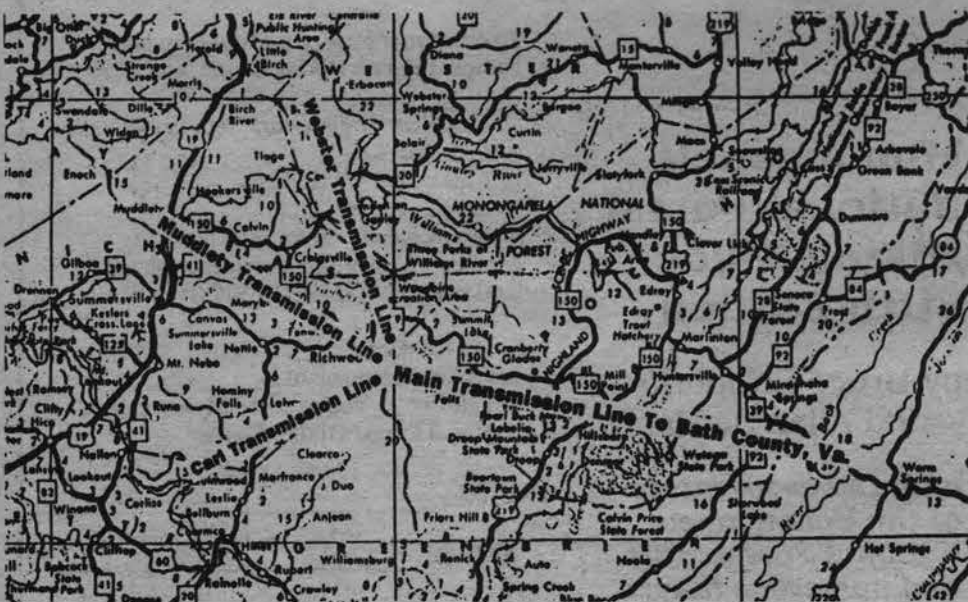
In this particular instance, because of the parties involved, I have no reason to believe that any consideration has been given to the impact these projects will have on the environment, on the Cranberry Wilderness, on wildlife and recreational opportunities or local tourism. CRSS Capital promised the Pocahontas County commission that they would send a representative by a certain date to answer questions regarding the Hillsboro project last year, and then ignored repeated phone calls and written attempts to get more information, leaving the Commissioners in an embarrassing and embattled position. And we do not have confidence in our representative, State Senator Walt Helmick, to either keep us informed or represent our interests, because his record on environmental issues and his sizable coal interests on nearby Briery Knob.

When we talked at the Conference on the Environment, I also expressed my regret at the time and energy that was wasted in fighting when there is so much work to do for the future of West Virginia. To avoid this battling, we must be able to trust that our state leadership will give fair and timely consideration to all interests. It would certainly help to have siting legislation which lays the groundwork for how issues are to be considered and resolved, and I sincerely hope we will achieve this in the next legislative session.

In the meantime, I hope that your office will be willing to work with the environmental community. We have many questions regarding the status and design of the four projects addressed at your November 15 meeting. You can reach me at (304) 653-4277, or by writing me directly at HC 64 Box 281, Hillsboro, WV 24946.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Little  
Vice-Chair



Proposed location of electric transmission lines for proposed CRSS Capital, Inc. power plants. (From Richwood News Leader)



# River Rap ... news from the W.Va. River's Coalition

by Roger Harrison

In 1968, Congress decided that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of U.S. rivers needed to be complimented by a policy which would preserve other selected river sections in their free-flowing condition. Thus, Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542, as amended).

The intent of the act was to establish a national system to protect selected free-flowing rivers with outstanding remarkable scenic, fish and wildlife, recreational, cultural, and other similar values and their immediate environments for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

What does this all mean, you ask?

Well, the U.S. Forest Service is currently studying several rivers or river segments in our Monongahela National Forest for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Final Eligibility

Report is due out soon and should be very consistent with the recommendations of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition. Each river segment found eligible will be classified as either "wild," "scenic," or "recreational" depending on the amount of development along the river.

However, the eligibility/classification phase of the river study is only a small part of the overall analysis.

The second and most complex phase of the Wild and Scenic Rivers study is the suitability study. During the suitability stage, the Forest Service will determine if the selected river segments are suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In order to decide whether a river/river segment is suitable for inclusion in the national system, the Forest Service will analyze a wide spectrum of issues along a potentially designated segment, identifying resource values,

defining a set of alternatives, and analyzing existing government programs.

This particular stage of the study is of great importance to the entire study and, thus, is of much concern to the West Virginia Rivers Coalition.

What happens at the end of the suitability stage?

When the Forest Service completes its final suitability report, they will make a recommendation to Congress, which, in turn, will weigh the testimony of local landowners, businesses, politicians, recreationists, and other designated persons. Congress will then decide how much, if any, of the river to designate Wild and Scenic.

One common misconception is that after a river is designated Wild and Scenic, it will be managed like a national park or wilderness area. The designations are very different.

The goal of a national park is to preserve the natural, physical, and

biological environment. Wilderness areas are established in undeveloped areas of 5,000 acres or more on predominately federal lands, to preserve their primitive, undeveloped characteristics.

People do not reside as a permanent part of a national park or wilderness area, and the long-term goal of the managing federal agency is usually to purchase any private lands within their boundaries.

On the other hand, Wild and Scenic Rivers are established to maintain the existing conditions at the time of designation. Many people fear Wild and Scenic designation will force the riverside environment to revert to a "primitive" state.

In reality, the intent of the legislation is to "keep the rivers the way they are" at the time of designation. In contrast to national parks and wilder-

ness areas, people have an important and active role as part of the riverside environment.

Thus, Wild and Scenic designation can be an excellent tool in the preservation of our nation's quickly diminishing free-flowing streams.

The West Virginia Rivers Coalition, comprised of hunters, fisherman, hikers, boaters, farmers, and conservationists, has formed to promote river conservation and build support for keeping our beautiful mountain streams the way they are now...clean and free-flowing.

To learn more about river conservation and the West Virginia Rivers Coalition, please call or write:

Roger Harrison  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition  
P.O. Box 247  
Elkins, WV 26241  
(304) 636-1589

## Effects of logging regulations debated before panel

(reprinted from the Charleston Gazette, Feb. 22, 1991)

by Eric Niiler  
staff writer  
Charleston Gazette

Sportsmen and environmentalists say timber operators should be regulated just like all the other West Virginia industries that affect the water and land, but loggers say new regulations will run them out of business.

Both sides spoke out during a public hearing Thursday afternoon in the House chambers on legislation to put controls on an unregulated industry. Coal, chemical, oil and gas, and other environmentally sensitive industries are regulated by federal and state laws, but loggers are not.

"Let's get real folks," said Norm Steenstra, director of the West Virginia Environmental Council. "Nobody's going to be put out of

business. Where are the trees going to go?"

House Speaker Chuck Chambers is sponsoring a bill that would require timber operators to follow a set of best management practices when they build roads through the steep mountain hillsides. Loggers would have to leave barriers around streams to prevent erosion, keep machinery out of creeks and build barriers on roads to prevent erosion.

Chambers' bill also sets up a permit process where loggers would be tracked by the Division of Forestry. Enforcement of pollution laws would be handled by the Division of Natural Resources.

A weaker bill, sponsored by Delegate Robert Burk, R-Wood, would require loggers only to register their

operations with the state and pay a permit fee.

Dick Waybright, director of the West Virginia Forestry Association, said voluntary best management practices are working well. Additional bureaucracy will drive the smaller operators out of business.

Waybright said DNR officials have used the media to portray a negative picture of loggers who don't play by the rules and to "discredit" the Division of Forestry.

Steenstra said during the hearing that Division of Forestry officials were working against the bill during legislative hearings. State ethics laws prohibit appointed officials from getting involved on either side of legislation, but they can be called to testify at committee hearings.

## Power

from page 6

\* Ethics Commission investigation of Senator Helmick's personal financial interest in the project, if any, so that a possible conflict of interest on his part can be avoided.

\* Enactment of a comprehensive industrial siting law at the state level to insure that large projects such as these come under strict scrutiny for environmental impacts. At this time,

there are very few laws in West Virginia governing these types of proposals. Few localities have zoning and almost no counties do. On the state level, few permits are required for industrial plants.

For additional information on this issue, contact Pocahontas 2000+, P.O. Box 281, Hillsboro, WV 24946.

## Review

from page 1

gram leaders for backpacking, mountain biking, and cross-country ski outings.

Mary's main areas of expertise are in issues related to the Monongahela National Forest and to state water quality. She played a lead role in the development of the Land Management Plan for the Monongahela National Forest and is involved in its implementations. She is active in other issues related to the Forest, such as military use, natural gas development, and Corridor H.

Mary chaired the Sixth Annual W.Va. Conference on the Environment last year, which was planned by a committee of environmental groups, industries, regulatory agencies and elected officials. She is active in establishment of the W.Va. Environmental Institute, which is designed to increase communication between these various sectors of society interested in environmental issues in the state.

Mary serves as Vice-Chair of the W.Va. DNR's Water Quality Advisory Committee and is a member, along with Highlands Conservancy President Cindy Rank and State V.P. Norm Steenstra, of the Governor's Groundwater Legislation Task Force.

She is an associate professor of Biochemistry in the School of Medicine at West Virginia University, where she teaches biochemistry and

does research on the analysis and environmental fate of organic pesticides.

Other Review events include:

Friday night -- check-in, orientation, informal discussion and music (if you bring your voice and any other instruments).

After breakfast Saturday, Frank and Carroll have planned a choice of three outings: a canoe trip of Lower Smoke Hole Canyon on the North Fork of the South Branch; a car and foot tour of Dolly Sods, Smoke Hole and Canaan Valley; and a relatively easy Seneca Rocks climb on a developed trail.

There is also the possibility of a "kinder and gentler" canoe trip for those not up to Lower Smoke Hole Canyon.

Also Saturday, "In Memory of the Land and People," a portrait of strip mining filmed by W.Va. filmmaker Bob Gates will be shown and discussed.

"Zucchini Pickers" will be around for music Saturday night after the Corridor H panel.

More-detailed plans for Spring Review will soon be mailed to you and will be included in the next issue of the Voice, but please call Frank to make reservations if you want to stay at the motel or in the cabins or apartments.

*Spring Review, May 3-5*

*For room reservations: call Frank Young, 372-9329*

*For Nature School: call Linda Elkinton, 296-0565*



# Summary of consensus Groundwater Bill from page 1

stringent as those needed to maintain drinking water use. They may be more stringent.

\* Interested persons can be notified of any such deviations granted by the Director.

### Exemptions

The Act provides exemptions from these standards for some activities which by their very nature cannot

comply with the standards required by this law:

1) Coal extraction and earth-disturbing activities involved with coal extraction;

2) Site-specific areas of geologic formations associated with (a) production and storage zones of gas and oil, and (b) injection zones of Class II and III Underground Injection Wells;

3) Possible exemption for non-coal mining activities.

\* Additional variances from standards may be considered, but only with full public review and Legislative rule-making.

### Standards

The State Water Resources Board shall promulgate standards that shall establish the maximum contaminant

levels (MCL) permitted for groundwater, but in no event shall such standards allow contaminant levels to exceed MCLs adopted by the U.S. EPA pursuant to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The standards may be more restrictive.

Standards set for contaminants not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act shall be no less stringent than may be reasonable and prudent to protect drinking water or any other beneficial use.

Where concentration of a certain constituent exceeds such standard due to natural conditions, the natural concentration shall be the standard for that constituent.

Where concentration of a certain constituent exceeds such standard due to human-induced contamination, no further contamination by that constituent shall be allowed, and every reasonable effort shall be made to identify, remove, or mitigate the source and to strive where practical to reduce the level over time to support drinking water use.

### Beneficial Uses

Those uses which are protective of human health and the environment. Pollution of groundwater shall not be considered a beneficial use.

### Funding of the program, enforcement and appeals

**Fees:** Groundwater Protection Fees will be assessed upon persons/users/firms who own or operate facilities or conduct activities subject to this article. These fees will be calculated to recover the reasonable cost of implementing the provisions of this article.

**Groundwater Protection Fund:** Fees will be deposited into this fund and shall be expended by the Director in the administration, certification, enforcement, inspection, monitoring, planning, research, and other activities implementing this act. Such fees shall not exceed one million dollars per year.

**Groundwater Remediation Fund:** A special assessment of fees (not to

exceed \$250,000) during two years following the effective date of this article shall be deposited into this fund and shall be expended for investigation, clean-up, and remedial actions. The proceeds of all civil penalties and all civil administrative penalties will also be deposited in this fund.

**The article also provides for:** civil penalties, civil administrative penalties, enforcement orders, hearings, appeal to the water resource board, and judicial review.

### Administration of the program

**Coordinating Committee:** Composed of the Director of the Division of Health, the Commissioner of the Division of Energy, the Chairperson of the Water Resource Board, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Chief of the Water Resources Section of DNR, the Director of the Division of Natural Resources (Chair), this committee shall consult, review, and make recommendations concerning the implementation of the act and the adequacy of Groundwater Protection Programs for each agency.

**Lead Agency:** DNR is to maintain the state groundwater management strategy, to develop a central groundwater management system, to coordinate with other agencies, to certify that facilities and activities are in compliance with the requirements of this act, etc.

**Certification:** To ensure a comprehensive, consistent and unfragmented approach to the management and protection of the state's groundwater, including evaluation of the cumulative effects of all activities, the Director shall oversee and coordinate the implementation of this article through a groundwater certification program. The Director may waive, grant, grant with conditions, or deny certification to individual activities or classes of activities.

## More comment on Acid Rain and the NAPAP findings

*I noted you gave Acid Rain and the just-concluded 10-year study of it some coverage. Also, there was a letter from a citizen who assumed the study conclusions would surely follow fairly from their own data, and he was glad that some supposedly appropriate clean-up would begin.*

*No one would expect the official study summary to belittle the problem and lock up into an obviously inadequate clean-up.*

*This was the case. And this citizen, and every citizen, while perhaps glad some clean-up will be started, should be outraged at being misled and made to believe the problem is being really addressed.*

*The following was prepared for those with some responsibilities for acid rain impacts, so they at least would not believe the problem was studied and remedied. You may care to enlighten Voice readers, as it remains a nearly unimaginably serious problem throughout the Eastern U.S.*

Don Gasper

### Acid Rain Today -- January 1991

Submitted by  
Donald C. Gasper  
Biologist II  
W.Va. DNR  
French Creek, WV

New York and Massachusetts. Stream fish loss due to Acid Rain is occurring in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and Virginia.

While tree effects and lake effects are limited or otherwise subtle they are of great predictive concern to many experts.

Stream fish population loss is not subtle. They are clear biological indicators of stream, and hence watershed, acidification — unfortunately after-the-fact, permanent losses. This is an intolerable loss and risk of perhaps one-tenth of eastern U.S. trout fishing heritage that justifies the clean-up.

The clean-up of our air will preserve the forest as well, and surely there are health benefits if our buildings and monuments are being dissolved. Even more of a clean-up than what is now required by law is clearly shown by the federal study to be needed by the West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York trout streams

that for so many years have received Acid Rain of 50 pounds per acre per year as sulfuric acid.

The federal 10-year study contained much good work, and elucidated and confirmed many hydrological and physio-chemical processes in forests and their aquatic habitats. The work of many fine scientists have been made to conform to pre-conceived, politically acceptable conclusions. This misleading summary is presently being given to the press. Correct conclusions from their own reports clearly shows a prompt and thorough clean-up of sulfur emissions is justified.

\* Sulfur emission clean-up costs could have been paid from general tax revenues, like the superfund, or the B-1 bomber this Congress funded for \$5 billion.

\*\* Fish loss would not be permanent in some Virginia soils and limited like soils elsewhere.

It is now apparent that the official summary of the federal ten-year Acid Rain Study will conclude that Acid Rain is not much of a problem. Further, the coal industry will say it does not justify the expensive sulfur emission clean-up costs thrust upon them and their customers. The federal conclusion is very misleading; and the citizen customer should know that he is justifiably paying to preserve perhaps one-tenth of the Eastern trout stream populations from permanent loss.\*\*,\*\*

Very definitely the federal study showed over one-fourth of West Virginia and Pennsylvania trout streams are at risk of permanent loss. This very real concern extends through

### Join the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

Category	Individual	Family	Organization
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Regular	15	\$ 25	\$ 50
Associate	30	50	100
Sustaining	50	100	200
Patron	100	200	400
Mountaineer	200	300	600

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
Mail to: P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25321

### Membership Benefits

- \* 1-year subscription to *The Highlands Voice*.
- \* Special meetings with workshops and speakers.
- \* Representation through WVHC 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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