



The Highlands Voice

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The Michael Baker Two Step

How you ended up supporting corridor H

by an unsung hero of the *Corridor H Alternatives* citizen group

After the February 20, 1993 deadline for tabulation of the Corridor H Letters of Comment, the public was notified through WV DOH that 75% of the responses favored the building of the road while only 25% opposed it. Virginia officials, on the other hand, found that their Letters of Comment ran 87% "No Build". This seemed puzzling to those of us who knew that local opposition to Corridor H ran very strong in West Virginia as well.

The Letters of Comment were evaluated for their content by Michael Baker Jr. Inc., the consulting engineers who stand to receive additional contracts for the future design work as the Corridor H study continues. Overlooking the need for an unbiased evaluator of these comments seems to us a serious breach of public trust. This opinion was confirmed when we visited Baker's Pittsburgh offices on April 24 to review these files.

Baker filed each comment in only one category. They selected which category to file it in when the letter said several things. Some expressed a strong sentiment against the road, a resignation that money would be wasted on it regardless and a recommendation that it take the least damaging route "if it must be built." These were routinely considered as support for that route and therefore support for Corridor H. Others stated a preference to avoid certain areas "if it must be built". Baker filed these as opposition to that route or as support for the opposite route, but always as support for Corridor H either way.

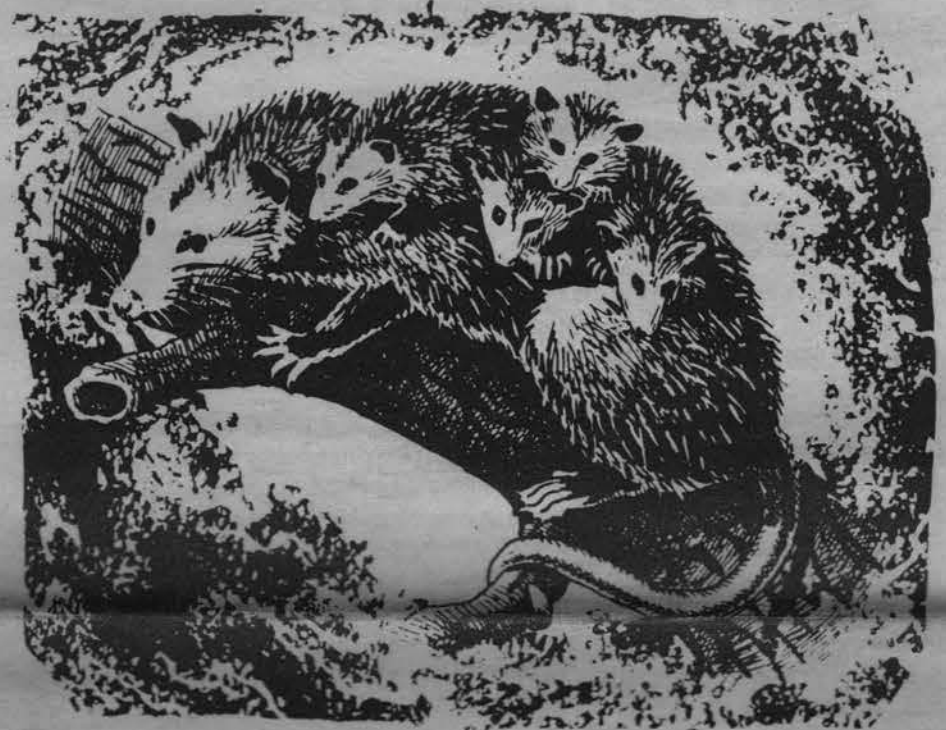
Many clearly stated a preference for "No Build" but gave a particular scheme as second choice. Baker counted these as support for that route and therefore as part of the 75% in favor of building the road. When 1173 identical form letters supporting scheme A arrived in a

package TWO MONTHS after the comment period closed Baker also counted those into the 75% favoring the road. When a petition of hundreds of signatures opposed to Scheme E was filed, Baker counted those into the 75% favoring the building of Corridor H as well! Even 77 people who wrote or called for more information or an extension of the comment deadline were counted as being in favor of Corridor H! In fact, if one mentioned ANYTHING ELSE at all in a letter other than "No Build", they were considered to support the road. Using guidelines like these it was easy for WVDOH to come up with the inflated support figures for Corridor H in West Virginia.

In our short time at the Baker Offices, we were able to find several hundred examples of missing, mis-categorized or uncategorized comments which would NOT have supported the continued waste of our Federal and State tax dollars on Corridor H. Most did support the idea of region-wide improvement of the primary road system.

| Position | Number | Counted as |
|--|----------------------------|------------|
| Opposed (No Build) | 1856 | No Build |
| Opposed to A | 229 | Build |
| Opposed to E | 790 | Build |
| Prefer North | 1533 | Build |
| Prefer South | 317 | Build |
| in 2 month late form letters | 1173 | Build |
| Prefer A | 95 | Build |
| Prefer D | 36 | Build |
| Prefer E | 333 | Build |
| Prefer KP (all on 2 form letters) | 260 | Build |
| Prefer Build 28 | 28 | Build |
| Request more info or comment extension | 77 | Build |
| Total Comments | 6727 | |
| "No Build" = 27% | (using Baker/WVDOH method) | |
| "Build" = 73% | | |

After studying the Baker files, Corridor H Alternatives estimates that the actual level of support for Corridor H to be found in the



Letters of Comment filed by the official deadline would be LESS than 50%. We have asked Senator Byrd and Transportation Secretary Charles Miller to have the Comments re-examined by an unbiased party. To date no action has been taken and no retraction has been made.

Please study the letters in this package (which I have reduced here to selected comments - editor). They give a good overview of the kind of "support" Corridor H has. In the next phase of public comment we all should work toward the same goal of defeating the current Corridor H concept altogether and improving the network of primary roads in the region in order to filter the traffic through numerous routes and not try to force it all through ANY ONE route. No one place should be sacrificed for another. Corridor H is no more welcome in the north than it is in the south. Considering ALL the issues, it is quite simply a bad idea WHEREVER you put it. If you truly oppose the road, say so.

Silence is consent. If we don't tell the powers-that-be what we really think, then we give them free reign to do what they want. Silence gives them the opportunity to arrange for their own profits and damaging shortcuts at OUR expense. Letters are an important part of the public process and empower us as individuals. They illustrate awareness and concern and that we do not consent to bad ideas, whatever the issue.

In this packet you will see letters that are evidence of gross misinterpretation of their intent. There is a lesson to be learned here. Remember these when you write concerning

Corridor H in the future.

You are writing to the opposition. Don't compromise your true views of an issue. Short and perhaps blunt seems to be most effective. Example "DO NOT BUILD CORRIDOR H. Signed _____." You don't have to justify your opinion, give numerous suggestions, alternative ideas or your solutions to other issues as well. They don't care and won't read it - apply your energies elsewhere. Don't include any of the key words that will allow them to misinterpret your views in the pile that benefits them. Don't write more than one comment letter and don't change your mind on your position as they're likely to keep you filed in the category that most pleases them.

Here follows selected comments from a dozen different "Letters of Comment" and the pigeonhole Michael Baker Jr. Inc. put them in. -----see page 7 for the letters-----

Inside

- Cindy - Page 2
- Extinct - Page 8
- Federal affairs - Page 5
- Kumbrabow - Page 4
- Mining - Page 7
- Poetry - Page 8
- Steenstra - Page 3
- Waste Stream - Page 6

Forest Activist Weekend

For those of you interested in becoming more involved in state and federal forest issues, have we got a weekend for you - - **August 21-22 at the Woodlands Institute**, near Spruce Knob. Folks in the Seneca Rocks Forestry Working Group (WVEC, WVHC, Sierra, TU, etc) decided a weekend was necessary due to the breadth and complexity of the issues. Depending on who and how many folks come, we may break down into several working groups focusing on timber management, new wilderness areas and corridors, the meaning and preservation of bio diversity, and rivers protection in the upcoming revision of the Monongahela Forest Plan; monitoring management activities on state and national forests, and (see page 3 for more)

---from the heart of the mountains---

by Cindy Rank

FUTURE OF THE FORESTS...
FORESTS OF THE FUTURE...
FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE...

Where to begin?????

How to get there from here???

Who is it that can't see the forest for the trees?

Is it the tree hugger who seeks to protect the primordial ooze of forest ecosystems? Or is it the forest manager who seeks to cut trees as they mature?

Admittedly, the question is over simplified and perhaps sets up an unfair dichotomy, but the concern is no less real: just whose view of forests will prevail into the twenty first century?

How do you manage (or do you 'manage' at all?) the forests of today so that they survive and thrive for generations to come? Are our ideas and goals of the past enough to carry us to the future? Or have things changed so much that we really have to alter our approach to forest management?

By sheer numbers and skills we have become so powerful that we wield life or death, survival or extinction to species upon species. Unfortunately, the greed and speed that often guide our actions are blinders to change and reason.

But change is the name of the game these days, and rethinking old assumptions and traditional rules is part of that game. It's a game being played in all areas of life, especially in our efforts to conserve-develop-protect-use-manage our natural resources all over the globe, and none of our forest resources are exempt from the conflict, no matter how small.

Here in the U.S., the Pacific Northwest Old-Growth debates may occupy the headlines, but the underlying questions are painfully real to all of us blessed enough to live and/or play in the forests of the land, especially to those of us privileged to make our homes in the lush green hills of West Virginia. ...Even here the voices of change are being heard.

Whether the concern is for forests on public lands like the Monongahela National Forest and State Parks and State Forests or on privately owned land like yours and mine and Westvaco's and Coastal's, the questions are similar and are being asked over and over again. ...Who gets to decide what is done with the land and trees and other resources? And how are those decisions made? And by what standards? And by whose rules?

Does private ownership allow for total freedom to do whatever you please or do the rights of others set limits on the development and use even of private lands? The W.V. Logging and Sediment Control Act of 1992 was a timid step into that never-never land of defining where rights end and responsibilities to other begin. The new law recognizes responsibility for the safety of the logger, it recognizes responsibility to the Tax department, and it began to recognize responsibility to protect nearby water resources. (It never even attempted to address actual timber practices or management proscriptions.)

On public lands the questions are no less difficult Public input and the concept of "multiple use" may have worked fairly well in the current Mon forest plan, but even now as the ten year revision is about due, the pressures on our forest resources have increased to a point where the various user and interest groups are vying for the same areas and some of the basic policy and management assumptions are being challenged.

On public lands owned by the state of W.V. there is even less public involvement and no real requirement to evaluate each alternative action, but people are beginning to speak up and question specific actions in one State Forest after the other, i.e. ...in Kanawha State Forest large trees were to be cut in order to 'sunlight' the roads so they could dry out more quickly; in Coopers Rock State Forest proposals were made to build a Tram across the canyon and denude the hillsides in the viewshed (one of our fancy new words that means what-you-can-see), and now in Kumbrow State Forest yet another timber cut is proposed in some of the older age stands of oak, cherry and maple. (see page 7)

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Rt. 1, Box 22, Sherman, WV 26173, 273-5247

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

| | |
|---|---|
| Richard Wood: Membership Secretary P.O. Box 648 Lewisburg, WV 24901 647-5130 | Bill Ragette: Voice Editor 144 Trace Fork Rd Culloden, WV 25510 824-3571 |
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Letters, announcements and Commentaries

Dear Bill;

I just finished reading (for about the tenth time) Bob Mueller's article in the July VOICE entitled Central Appalachian Wilderness in Perspective. I still drool a little each time I read it.

Have you heard the joke about the guy who died and went to Heaven? As St. Peter gave him his tour of Paradise, he couldn't help but inquire about the series of cages just inside the Pearly Gates. "Oh", said St. Peter, "we have to keep those for the West Virginians. Otherwise they would all go back home on the weekends." If we could implement Bob's suggestions, they might need to put my name on one of those cages. West Virginia (especially the Mon Forest) really is "Almost Heaven".

I have been doing some low key musing on this same subject for the past few years - an expanded series of Appalachian Wilderness areas connected by Wilderness Corridors. I think there might have even been another relevant article or two in THE VOICE a couple of years ago. But I had no idea that someone had developed this concept in so much detail. This Mueller guy is serious! Wilderness Corridors instead of Concrete Corridors!

In times like these, sportsmen and other environmentalists working to preserve the Mon Forest should feel akin to the Old Testament Prophet Elijah - the one who recognized the still, small voice. In his day, his mission was to stand up and speak the truth against false prophets. It appears to me that the enemy in our time is FALSE PROFITS. One example pointed out in last month's VOICE was the

subsidized timber sale from the Brushy Mountain Opportunity Area in which the taxpayers who own the Mon Forest are getting clipped for over \$185,000. This for the privilege of having several hundred acres of their trees chopped down! False Profits also abound in the proposed Billion Dollar Boondoggle referred to as "Corridor H". In sheer numbers of taxpayer dollars wasted, Corridor "H" could rival even the "super tax credits". (For those readers who aren't familiar with them, "super tax credits" were created by the legislature in 1985 and 1986. These acts, which I refer to affectionately as the Coal Company Catering Acts, currently cost WV taxpayers around \$100 million per year. What they do, in effect, is pay coal companies to lay off more workers. The False Profits from the coal industry were able somehow to convince the legislature that this would be good for the economy.)

Anyway, do you know how I can get ahold of this Bob Mueller guy? I volunteered to coordinate the Spring Review next April, and I'd like to follow up some more with him about Wilderness Corridors and Wilderness Expansion in general. Maybe he'd even be willing to come and do a presentation. Thanks.
Carroll Jett

Carroll - Unless our authors explicitly include their address with their submissions, our usual policy is to send letters on to authors rather than give out addresses. I'll make sure Bob gets your letter and leave it up to him to get in touch with you. - Ragette'

By Norm Steenstra

Bill R is due here at the office any minute now to "put together" the August Voice. I told him that I would write something - but I haven't. Up until ten minutes ago I had decided to look sheepishly at him, when he came in and tell him how sorry I was that I let him down. Then I got inspired! A reporter from the Charleston Daily Mail called and wanted my opinion on manufactured log homes. He told me he had just gotten a press release on their environmental qualities, and would I react? He faxed over a copy of the press release so I could peruse it. As the fax was coming through, I began to think of what I might say. Being no expert on the "environmental soundness" of one type of home versus another, I decided to laud the company for at least providing "value added" manufacturing jobs for West Virginians. This, of course, being much more desirable than just shipping the raw timber out of state. I also planned to comment positively on the apparent energy efficiency of a well constructed log home. The last thing I anticipated doing this afternoon was attacking the log home industry. That is, until I read their "environmental" press release. The company writer did not tout his employment of West Virginians in the manufacturing industry, defying my expectations. Nor did he offer any specifics on energy efficiency. Rather, the better part of three pages spewed out the Forestry Industry's propaganda on their timber practices and logging in the National Forests. For brevity's sake, what

follows is a series of quotes that ostensibly dealing with the press release's theme that "log homes offer an environmentally sound choice" but in fact contains an all too familiar message. Lest anyone think I quote out of context, I'd be glad to furnish the entire text to anyone interested in it.

"As with the entire housing industry, log home prices have increased as the cost of lumber has climbed - due largely to the pressure from preservations (sic) on the federal government to close the national forests to timber harvesting."

"Nature renews its forests by removing stagnant growths through wildfire, windstorms, insects, disease or simply old age"

"managed forests...are often seeded with genetically superior varieties of trees that grow quickly"

"careful reforestation has already produced woodlands with all the beauty of virgin forests."

The press release concludes by praising the company's utilization of state of the art wood treatment technology and pioneering the usage of environmentally acceptable wood preservation processes including Duratreat - CCA (copper chromium arsenate, the suspected source of the massive fish kill on the Cheat River earlier this month). Is it any wonder that with this organized propaganda machine, Clinton caved in on the "spotted Owl" compromise? Remember, prospective yuppie buyers of log housing are reading this stuff. The Wise Use folks are very busy.

Fifth Annual Fall Convention of the WV Environmental Council

The annual convention is the gathering of the various shades of greens in WV. The Convention is the time that the environmental community

- Develops the Agenda for 1994
- Elects the board members
- Presents legislative drafts
- Ties the various issues into cohesive themes
- Develops strategic goals for the coming years

Plan on attending the WVEC's 5th Convention. Even if you haven't been to one in previous years, no one walks away a stranger. There is a very real sense of empowerment that happens when one spends a weekend with several hundred environmental activists. If you're concerned about the future and values of the environmental movement in WV, the Convention is the time to bring your issues, your concerns, your own unique shade of green to the table for discussion.

Where: Bluestone Conference Hinton, WV (Summers CO.)
When: September 10th-12th, the weekend after labor day
Themes: WV Rivers and the WV Academic Community as a Resource **Why?** See above

The Bluestone conference center offers a variety of lodging and meal plans. Swimming, Youth for Earth, and great energy music For more information call WVEC 346 5891.

Leaders Oppose Below Cost Sales

Norm slipped me this, with no clue as to the source

In his book, *United We Stand*, at pages 68-69, Ross Perot says "Businesses which depend upon the purchase of publicly owned resources at below-market prices offer the illusion of prosperity, not the reality. Stop subsidizing inefficient, environmentally destructive activities in the mining and timber industries that promote private gain at public expense."

In *BANKRUPTCY 1995*, Henry E Leggie, Jr., says at page 47: "Waste and mismanagement- the US. Forest Service, the world's largest road builder, which spent \$487 million in 1991 to lay and maintain roads on federal lands for private timber companies. It makes so little from timber sales however, that it lost more than \$1.8 billion in 1991.

Forest Activist Weekend #1 (continued from page 1) state forests'

'management' and legislation. Members of Sierra, Trout Unlimited, and WV Highlands Conservancy forest interest groups are committed to attending.

This weekend is not being billed as a party, but we hope to have some fun anyway. The Institute is within the boundary of the Grassy Mountain Opportunity Area (home to federally endangered Northern Flying Squirrel and Cheat Mtn Salamander - see Highlands Voice April 93, page 5), for which the Forest Service is currently preparing an Environmental Assessment to justify certain vegetation management projects (read timber harvest). Besides long grueling workshops and brainstorming we'll have a field trip or two in the Grassy Mountain OA to see first hand what the FS is planning to cut.

Woodlands Institute needs to know as soon as possible how many are coming. Several bunks, many cots, yurts and other indoor and outdoor space are available plus cooking facilities etc. for 3 bucks a night. We need to provide our food, although another group also staying there has offered to cook for us. If you are interested in attending please call bill ragette' at 824-3571 or Mary Wimmer at 598-0136.

I called the Supervisor of the Monongahela yesterday to request copies of the plan and maps listing the Opportunity Areas and their status for this ten year period, to use during the Weekend. I asked him what their plans were for the plan revision. He said that he hoped, if the funds were available, to hire someone whose sole work assignment would be to "ramrod the plan revision through." He said that the new revision would have to include an ecological classification an that they had someone (Tom Demeo and his wife) to formulate one. Tom is fresh from Alaska, where he has just finished with the ecological classification/management directive for the Tongass National Woodlot. I feel that we face a tough uphill battle to get a balance and broad ecological understanding of the Monongahela. Hope to hear from some of guys and gals soon. bill r



Peregrine Falcon

Thanks once again to Vince Packard for his artistic contributions to the VOICE.

The WVDOP Plan For Kumbrabow

by bill ragette'

In my article on Kumbrabow in last month's VOICE, I said that we had a hard time getting a copy of the Division of Forestry's Plan for Kumbrabow State Forest. Joe Marshall had requested it from the Charleston office of the DOF two weeks prior to press time and he had not received it. Finally Cindy Rank went to the regional office in French Creek and obtained the plan without any problem. After reading through the 70 page (plus appendices) document I am more convinced that the Division views Kumbrabow as their woodlot.

The plan states on page 1 "Kumbrabow is classified as 95% commercial forest land.... The Division of Forestry will demonstrate forestry practices including harvesting operations, protect watersheds, provide suitable wildlife habitats... When in the pursuit of any of these activities, a significant impact on the forest is involved, the Division of Forestry will advise the other agencies, in writing, and solicit input on the project from them. The final decision on how to proceed rests with the division of forestry."

From all the paperwork, the mitigation measures and practices, the wealth of data about the trees and Kumbrabow, it appears that they are doing an admirable job of maximizing timber production, while minimizing adverse 'side effects'. But to me, their perspective is myopic, i.e. not seeing the forest for the board feet. More than 90% of the plan concerns timber types, reports of timber sales and the rationale for cutting.

The section of Physiology has a few paragraphs on the lay of the land, and a page on soils. "The property is centered on the Mill Creek drainage. There are several large streams which feed Mill Creek. The topography of this area consists of mostly moderate slopes culminating in long flat ridges. More severe slopes exist on the portions of the forest which descend toward the primary river drainage basins. Much of the area is covered with large surface rocks and an occasional talus slope.... Kumbrabow State Forest, due to its position along the first major ridge from the west of the Appalachians, and situated above Pickens, the wettest reporting station in the state, has earned the forest its reputation as the wettest of the state forests....The state owns 6,780 acres in fee

(surface and minerals - ed. note). A reserve of coal under 2,650 acres of the forest is located south and west of the divide between Mill Creek and the other drainage basins."

Forest Types - The section on Physiology then has 12 pages on forest types. As evidence of the complexity of the biodiversity at Kumbrabow the plan identifies no less than 12 forest types in Kumbrabow. These (and their Society of American Forester Numbers) are; Red Spruce-Sugar Maple-Beech (31), Sugar Maple-Beech-Yellow Birch (25), Eastern Hemlock (25) ("once dominant along stream courses"), Sugar Maple (27), Sugar Maple-Basswood (26), Black Cherry-Maple (28), Beech-Sugar Maple (60), Red Maple (108), White Oak-Black Oak-Red Oak (52), Northern Red Oak (55), Yellow Poplar (57), Yellow Poplar-Eastern Hemlock (58), and Yellow Poplar-White Oak-Northern Red Oak (59).

On my short visit to the forest I even noticed a few stands that didn't fit into any of these classifications. I find it revealing how foresters give a number and attempt to pigeonhole the forests. In most of the descriptions of these forest types in the plan they make note of the many different combinations and blends. For the Sugar Maple-Basswood type the plan says "The type will blend into the sugar maple type, the sugar maple-beech-yellow birch type, beech-sugar maple, or the drier oak types."

Each forest type description usually has a description on the understory and places in Kumbrabow where they may be found. Here's my last selection from the section under the Beech-Maple forest type-"This type is considered climax, but often disturbances such as cutting, fire or grazing will delay succession. Generally the type is found on moist, well drained soils and on northern aspects. Frequently the upland oaks, northern hardwoods, and other hardwood types form subclimax stands on moist sites, but dense understories of beech and sugar maple develop and the type eventually becomes beech-sugar maple. Where disturbed repeatedly by cutting or fire, beech has a tendency to dominate. Often this type occurs with a variety of other species and may be considered a remnant of the beech-birch-maple type. On the forest this type is limited to elevations above 3,000'. The beech-maple type

degenerates into numerous related types according to the degree of disturbance and changes in site. Near the lower limits of its occurrence in Kumbrabow the type may grade into upland oaks, hemlock, or black cherry-maple. At other boundaries black cherry-maple, sugar maple, or beech-birch-maple will occupy adjacent areas. In young even-aged stands, short lived species such as pin cherry, fire cherry, and striped maple are often quite prominent. Also yellow and black birch, as well as, other more shade intolerant species such as white ash, slippery elm, basswood, black cherry, and red oak are more common than in older stands. In older stands, understory trees, shrubs, and vines are more prominent; they include grapevines, striped maple, hophorn-beam, serviceberry and dogwood."

Be sure to request a copy of the plan just to get this interesting reading. See below for the address.

Adjacent landowners - Part of our complaint was that Kumbrabow was the only public land in a sea of land owned by the timber companies, that it was the only land in this most excellent of forest growing regions that could be managed (or left alone) for other uses of the forest besides timber production. The plan tells us on page 16 "Considering the amount of boundary necessary for a track this size, there are surprisingly few adjacent landowners. Coastal, Interstate, Mongold, Myles, and WestVaco Lumber Companies own properties which border the forest over the bulk of the boundary."

Area Economic Information - This section includes the logging history of the forest, the local towns and the 20 sawmills and wood-using industries in the area. Although Mongold has been almost the sole buyer of timber in the sales that have occurred since 1977, this section implies that all these industries are dependent to some degree on timber from the Forest. The list of companies contains the address, number of employees and the amount of wood processed each year.

General Management Plan Outside of the forest type description and sale history this is the main section of the Plan and contains several subsections such as... **Goals and objectives of the plan** - "The goal of our management is to produce the maximum amount of high quality, high value timber, on a sustainable basis, over as much of the forest as possible." This section goes on to describe the pros and cons of various 'harvesting' techniques, i.e. single tree selection, shelterwood, group selection, clearcuts, seedtree, deferment trees, single species selection.

Here is a revealing comment in the subsection on **Desired Future Condition**. "Recently the public has expressed interest in *set-aside* areas which will be allowed to progress to *decadent old-growth stands*. These stands will fill a need while being something (changed in the 92 revision to "probably much") less than *productive*." Calling these areas "set-aside" insinuates that it's being locked up and not usable for anything worthwhile. I think the term would more appropriately describe the land used for timber production. Calling old-growth decadent and unproductive reveals the deep ingrained bias against nature-not-for-man. After a billion years of evolution, I imagine nature has developed the optimum productivity as far as species diversity and efficient use of resources.

Policy statements. In this section policy is supposed to be set forth for endangered

species, gypsy moth, forest mission, multiple-use management, pesticides, and fire use and control. In the version of the plan I received there's not one word on endangered species, but four pages on gypsy moth. As you may know the threat of gypsy moth is one of the main reasons for the current proposed timber cut in Kumbrabow (Even though the egg mass survey showed the whole forest to be clean). The plan states "...indicates that repeated defoliation coupled with dry growing seasons result in substantial tree mortality with losses in many stands exceeding 50%." I wonder how often there is a dry growing season in this "wettest of the state forests"? Surely cutting down the oaks to save them from this vague threat makes little sense at this time.

Specific Management Recommendations - This is the section where the plan describes all the sales that have occurred since the completion of the plan. In this draft the words 'sale contract' have been crossed out and replaced by 'treatment unit' and 'sale' replaced by 'management area'. Everything else is the same. New fine sounding words for the same old - same old.

And here they were... Trout Run Sale Management Area. 240 acres, 1,001,000 board feet, sold to Mongold Lumber Company.

Mine Site Sales Management Area. Build road, sell 60,000 board feet to Beckwith Lumber Company.

Morgan Camp Sale Management Area 223 acres; new road; 960,000 board feet; sold to Mongold Lumber Company

Glade Run Sale Management Area. 208 acres, 1,176,000 b.f., 1 mile haul road, 3 miles skid road, sold to Mongold

Beech Run Sale Management Area. 290 acres; 1,466,943 b.f., 1 mile new roads, sold to Mongold

Barkswitch Inventory. 12,313 b.f., 2 miles of road, due to high costs of road and low cut size it was put on hold indefinitely.

Meatbox Run Sale Management Area. 245 acres, new road and 1.5 million b.f. On hold temporarily due to expense of road and threats to water quality.

Rich Mountain Sale Management Area. 267 acres, 1,452,000 b.f., new roads, Sold to you guessed it, Mongold.

Mill Ridge Sale Management Area. 183 acres, 1.4 million b.f., 1.3 miles of new road. Sold to Mongold

Mowry Run Locust Sale Management Area. 1,600 locust trees cut to produce 27,711 posts. If you know much about locust fence posts, you'd realize that these trees were exceptionally large. As locust trees were the only trees cut in this sale and as locust only grows in the light, this sale and cut will in effect ban locusts from this area of the forest for the foreseeable future.

Whew, I'm glad that's over with...oh wait a minute, don't forget this new sale (er, management area) - the Clay Run Sale, 150 acres, 1+million b.f. The section on timber sales ends with this note. "The top priority sale area will be part of the compartments 12 and 13 due to the availability of access and the type of timber." Sounds like a good reason to me, well planned out for the overall benefit of the forest. This is the controversial Clay Run Sale.

Here's what the overview and prescription gives as the reason to cut here - "In order to maintain the health and vigor of Kumbrabow State Forest, the prescribed work for the Clay Run Sale is considered urgent. Following this conditioning cut, a follow up treatment will probably be needed in ten to fifteen years."



federal affairs

Report from Washington by Jim Owens

It wasn't too long ago that I reprinted two articles from the Western Ancient Forest Campaign's (W AFC) newsletter. Now that the president has forged his 'compromise', I thought I'd give you all the sequel. This newsletter was mailed out July 1. I called the folks there today to get the update. Not much really, folks weren't even sure if 'THE PLAN' made it to Judge Dwyer on time. No real details have been publicly released yet. - bill

President announces forest plan
President bill Clinton today announced his Northwest Forest Plan, which I would characterize as a "clean" Option Nine, without the sufficiency or the multi-year ramp-down which had originally been envisioned by the White House Staff. Option Nine, which is described below, provides approximately 1.2 Billion Board Feet of timber each year from the Westside Forests (*west of the Cascades - ed.*). In addition, accelerated logging in Eastside forests will provide up to 150,000 million Board Feet. I would guess that the Region Six cut for this plan, including eastside forests and thinning and salvage in Westside forests, will 2.9 Billion Board Feet annually.

According to the Administration, a quick injection of timber sales in the region will be provided by the release of sales currently blocked by the Dwyer injunction. The Administration explained in a press conference today that it will require at least a year for new sales prepared under the President's plan to be sold, and it will rely upon the 2.2 BBF of prepared sales and sales already under contract that meet

the Forest Plan's guidelines to furnish timber to mills in the region before new sales are developed under the President's plan....

Once the Administration's plan's details are made public, environmentalists will scrutinize the conclusions of the plan, the data which was used to compile the plan, and the methodology and viability ratings developed by the scientists who worked on the plan. Questions have already been raised about the legality of the "medium-high" viability ratings of Option Nine: Judge Dwyer will have to decide if these are adequate to meet the requirements of the National forest management Act. The comment period on this plan, which will last for ninety days, is likely to begin July 16, 1993.

Ancient Forest Reserves

The Forest Plan creates forest reserves totaling approximately 3.6 million acres, about 78% of the remaining old growth (LS/OG older than 80 years) in westside forests. The remaining 22% is in the "matrix" and in the timber base. The reserves were built around key watersheds and ecologically significant areas of old growth most critical to survival of old growth dependent species including the spotted owl and marbled murrelet. Salvage Logging and thinning are allowed in the reserves, but the primary objective must be to "accelerate the development of old growth conditions."

Projected timber harvest levels

The Plan calls for a harvest of 1.2 bbf a year from the westside forests. This figure does not include additional harvesting on Indian lands, or the harvest of timber sales expected to

be released from court injunctions this year: 2.2 bbf worth of timber is presently under injunction, and the Administration plans to rely on released sales to provide an interim timber supply.

The Forest Plan must undergo an Environmental Impact Statement under NEPA before the Forest Plan can be implemented. The question of "rampdown" timber harvest levels is not discussed in the plan, and Administration officials hedged the question during the press conference. Eastside Forests The Forest Plan provides no protection for eastside forests, and calls for an accelerated salvage program (estimated 150 million B.F.) to increase eastside harvest. The President has directed the Forest Service to create an ecosystem based management plan for the eastside forests, based on the several scientific studies recently completed, but there was no projected timeline for an eastside management plan.

Adaptive Management Areas

The Forest Plan will create ten Adaptive Management Areas, ranging from 78,000 to 380,000 acres in size. These areas will be managed for "intensive ecological experimentation and social innovation." experimental forestry techniques will be practiced in these areas, and some level of local control will be allowed.

Private Lands

The Administration plans to direct the Fish and Wildlife Service to lift restrictions on timber harvest from some non-federal lands, affecting designated "owl circles." The Plan argues that improved management on federal lands will mitigate for the impacts of increased

private harvest. Timber companies allowed to harvest private lands in spotted owl habitat will be encouraged to commit this timber to domestic mills, rather than selling it for export. **Log Exports**

President Clinton will seek the elimination of tax incentives on raw log exports from state and public forests, and will seek other means of discouraging raw log exports (*why am I not comfortable with this assertion? editor*)

The Economic Assistance Package

The Forest Plan projects that 6,000 timber jobs will be lost, but also promises to create 8,000 new jobs within the next year, including watershed restoration jobs and new jobs in the secondary wood products manufacturing industry. Funding for job assistance, retraining and relocating will be doubled to \$42 million. Several strategies will be implemented for encouraging business development in the Northwest, with an emphasis on promoting secondary wood products manufacturing. During the press conference, one official mentioned that the Administration was discussing strategies for ensuring a steady timber supply for secondary and value added manufacturers. **County payments to timber dependent counties will be uncoupled from timber cut levels in order to eliminate incentives to overcut timber lands.** Money will be allocated for encouraging economic diversification, and for restoring damaged forest lands and watersheds. Plan to go to judge Dwyer President Clinton intends to have the plan delivered to Judge Dwyer on July 16 and (*continued on page 8*)

Kumbrabow *continued* - Amongst all the appendices on timber contracts, water bar construction, soils maps, filterstrip specifications, pesticide guidelines ... there is a brief letter and map from The Natural Heritage Program. This is the sole reference to non game animal life in the whole plan. Since the letter is brief I'll quote it in its entirety. "Dear Jim Hages

Enclosed is a map showing the locations of three species considered rare in West Virginia. None are listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered. The Yellow Aven and Green Salamander are good records. The swamp saxifrage record is from a poor specimen. It could be the more common lettuce saxifrage. These records are all from different sources and are not part of an overall survey.

We know of no comprehensive rare species surveys that have been done on this forest.

Downstream near Mill Creek is a station for the endangered Running Buffalo Clover. This species as well as other rare species could occur at Kumbrabow. I hope this information is of some value. The exact location of each record is not known but is likely to be close to where marked. Sincerely, Brian MacDonald, Coordinator"

Wetlands - Actually there is one other paragraph on non game critters. The section is called Wetlands. "Areas of Kumbrabow which are sometimes classified as wetlands are of the nature of high mountain bogs and can generally be attributed to the activities of beaver. These areas occur in the upper reaches of Mill Creek, near the CCC camp, on Oxley Run and in the head of Potatohole Fork. All of these areas are located along the crest of Rich Mountain. Other wet areas exist at various places on the forest

including the head of Back Fork of Elk, and along almost every access road located on a ridge on the forest. Some flat areas along the major streams are also occasionally flooded and often soft when traversed.

Old Growth - "Currently on Kumbrabow many areas meet the standards for wilderness designation. Most of these areas will eventually come under active forest management, but some will always be maintained in pristine condition." When will these areas be designated? Or will they just be the areas left that they never get around to timbering. No planning here.

One last item. In response to our claim, in my article last month, that Kumbrabow was receiving the lion's share of "treatments", The regional forester gave Cindy this information. Major timber sales since 1976 for District 3.

| Forest | size | sales | b.f. |
|-----------|-------------|-------|-----------|
| Kumbrabow | 9431 acres | 6 | 7,618,000 |
| Cal Price | 9482 acres | 4 | 2,583,000 |
| Seneca | 11684 acres | 2 | 3,938,000 |

The Governor has been getting lots of calls and letters on this sale, thanks a lot. The new chief of the DOF has been making suggestions that a task force of enviros, industry be formed to deal with the conflict. Cindy passed on a rumor that the chief was suggesting a ban on clearcutting in state forests (this sale is not a clearcut). As this paper goes through the mail several forest activists and WVHC board members will meet in Kumbrabow with the new chief and the regional forester to begin a dialogue. But unless the pressure on the governor increases, we may not be able to delay the sale. If you haven't called or written, please take a moment to do so. If you have done so already, try a follow up letter or call to push things along.

Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide, Fifth Edition

by Bruce Sundquist and Allen de Hart

with the cooperation of the Monongahela National Forest Service staff and numerous hikers.

The guide is the original and most up to date hiking guide to the Forest. Some of its features are:

- *classic West Virginia hiking areas like the Allegheny Trail, Otter Creek, Spruce Knob, Blue Bend, Dolly Sods, Laurel Fork Wildernesses, and more;
- *detailed description of 164 hiking trails covering 780 miles;
- *320 pages, 60 maps and 39 black and white scenic photos;
- *hiking and safety trips;
- *conservation concerns;
- *location of safe water, scenic views, large trees, access and parking areas.

To order your copy of the Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide send \$11.45 (this includes \$1.50 shipping and handling) to

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
PO Box 306
Charleston, WV 25321

West Virginia residents must add \$.60 sales tax. (total of \$12.05)

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

The Solid Waste Stream Reduction Act of 1994

by Ragette'

I have never had garbage service. I attempt to minimize my purchases of anything that will have to end up in the landfill; but now the multiple bags of worn-out boots, broken cassette players, et al. are filling my porches and spilling out and around. I take some of my waste back to the dumpsters at the stores where I bought the junk in the first place. But that's not really a long term solution either.

I'm now in the process of building a "garbage museum" in which to store/display all those things I cannot reuse or recycle. (How big will it have to be?) I'm often sorely tempted to just load it all into the pickup and take it to the dump. Out of sight - out of mind.

I don't know how you all can guiltlessly send your waste each week to landfills that future generations will have to deal with. They may not have the resources to cope with these incredible mountains of toxic chaos on top of other plagues we may be visiting them with - greenhouse effects, loss of soil productivity, loss of topsoil....

Taking the dilemma by the horns I've begun writing this bill, part tongue-in-cheek, part seriously looking for help from all of you far-seeing garbage crazies. Please send in your suggestions, and we'll get some bill introduced this winter. Are you reading this, Senators McNaughton, Withers and Grubb? Write the truth and don't give a damn if it will pass the legislature. I'm tired of lobbying for bills I only support as a defensive tactic. Someday, who knows when, we will have to have a bill similar to this...

The legislature, in (finally) coming to grips with the long range problems associated with the creation, handling and disposal of solid waste, hereby finds that,

Space limitations

- 1.) By logical necessity, even with our present method of landfilling wastes, there will ultimately come a time when every last square inch of west virginia will contain solid waste.
- 2.) Incineration, by reducing the volume of the waste by 1/2 to 1/3 (some say 2/3) will only delay this time and that the solid waste so generated will be more dangerous to the environment than the original material.
- 3.) It is not fair to future generations to leave such messes about.

4.) In order to ensure that pollutants don't ever leak from these landfills, tree roots must not be allowed to penetrate their upper liners. This means the land surface (and in the future the whole of west virginia) must be kept treeless.

5.) As the cost of landfilling increases to reflect the true value of maintaining these landfills in perpetuity, costs to individuals will rise, thereby increasing the amount of illegal dumping that has so sorely defaced creeks and hollows of our state

Industry compensation

6.) Trash hauling and disposal is a large business concern. As we move to a reduction and eventual drying up of the waste stream, many folks will have to enter other businesses and lines of work.

7.) In order to best move to a trashless society the state must insure that these folks are assisted in their transition.

Dimes and Quarters

8.) There are no dimes or quarters lying along the creeks or roads.

9.) There is much garbage lying along our roads.

10.) If items (now called trash) lying along the road and creeks were worth 10 or 25 cents, then they would either be removed or never put there in the first place.

Recycling

10a.) All this garbage was at one time a valuable resource

10b.) Recycling will both avoid the eventual covering of WV with solid waste and return to society these resources

11.) Recycling grows more feasible as the volume of the material increases.

11a.) Although West Virginia has ample coal reserves, it lacks many minerals essential to modern civilization. Our landfills are full of these elements, although they are in a position that renders them almost impossible to use.

12.) Recycling is made difficult as different, though seemingly similar materials, are mixed together. Tires made by one manufacturer at one time will contain different materials from tires by the same manufacturer at another time or by another manufacturer. As manufacturers often guard recipes as trade secrets, the manufacturers must be included in the recycling of these wastes.

Deposits

13.) The most efficient method of returning these goods to those concerns with the knowledge to reuse the material in these goods, would be through the same network and infrastructure they are distributed in.

14.) A deposit system, to get this potential garbage back to manufacturers for proper and efficient reuse, should be enacted in west virginia (then maybe the world will follow).
Heaven

15.) You can't get to Heaven if you have left a mess for your descendants.

Misnomers

16.) The use of "Stream" to describe the flow of garbage in our society is inappropriate and offensive, and as soon as one of the Wits of WV comes up with a better term all references to waste stream in the code will be corrected.

Recycled Content

17.) Unless there is a demand for recycled material it is useless to collect such items. A demand for recycled materials is best created by mandatory recycled content in all non-reusable products.

Therefore the Legislature of West (by God) Virginia hereby creates the WV Board of Waste Stream Reduction (also known as the solid waste working group of the West Virginia Environmental Council) to formulate and manage a deposit/recycling/job transition assistance/landfill reclamation program to insure the eventual (not too distant future) complete end to the waste stream flow and furnish an almost inexhaustible supply of valuable resource to industry.

By the year 2005, no product may be sold or imported into WV unless it has a deposit fee/system to insure 95% return of goods. The board is to be funded by a 1-5% statewide fee to be levied on all garbage bills (or should we force the manufacturers to create the system and infrastructure?).

The Public Service Commission is hereby directed to institute such a fee and place those monies so collected into a fund to be used by the WV Board of WSR to carry out its functions. As the WV Board of WSR implements programs for the items it must attach a similar fee to deposit schemes.

Responsibility of Manufacturers- In order to sell in West Virginia, manufacturers must provide a deposit scheme for their product to the WV Board of WSR. Further, the Manufacturer must provide proof that their product is being reused or recycled at the mandatory rate (95%).

As an alternative, the 10 highest paid executives may store the returned but unrecycled products on their personal property within sight of their residence. The storage buildings

must insure that the elements do not alter the contents of the storage shelters, yet not hide the contents from the residents. Such residence must be occupied 10 months out of the year by the executive and his immediate family. The family assumes the responsibility for this 'garbage museum'.

Penalties- Any official who does not comply with the stipulations of this Act will be buried up to his/her neck in 'solid waste items' that do not have a deposit/return system in place. (this could be disposal diapers).

Loopholes- (I realize industry will come forward with many sensible sounding loopholes, but maybe if we come out with some first we can forestall the onslaught)

The Board may allow another scheme besides deposits if that scheme delivers the same recycling rate.

If the Board feels that the loss of a product of a manufacturer that does not meet the requirements of this act would harm the security or well being of our state, the board must impose a surcharge of at least twice the determined minimum deposit amount before the product may be sold in the state. This money is to be used by the WV Board of WSR to carry out its duties. Anyone buying such products must swear on their mother's grave (or an even more ancient maternal relative if their mother is still alive) that they will return the product to the manufacturer certified mail, return receipt requested.

Priority system

The Board may create a priority list of materials to target for implementation of the deposit fees. Tires, batteries, and other items banned from landfills before the year 2000, must be included in the highest priority category. Items or materials that are currently recycled at rates above 50% may be assigned to lower priorities. In assigning a priority to any item the WV Board of WSR must consider the likelihood of the item to damage the environment.

The WV Board of WSR is directed to implement deposit/alternate acceptable scheme/surcharge scheme for the highest priority class of items/materials by January 1, 1995.

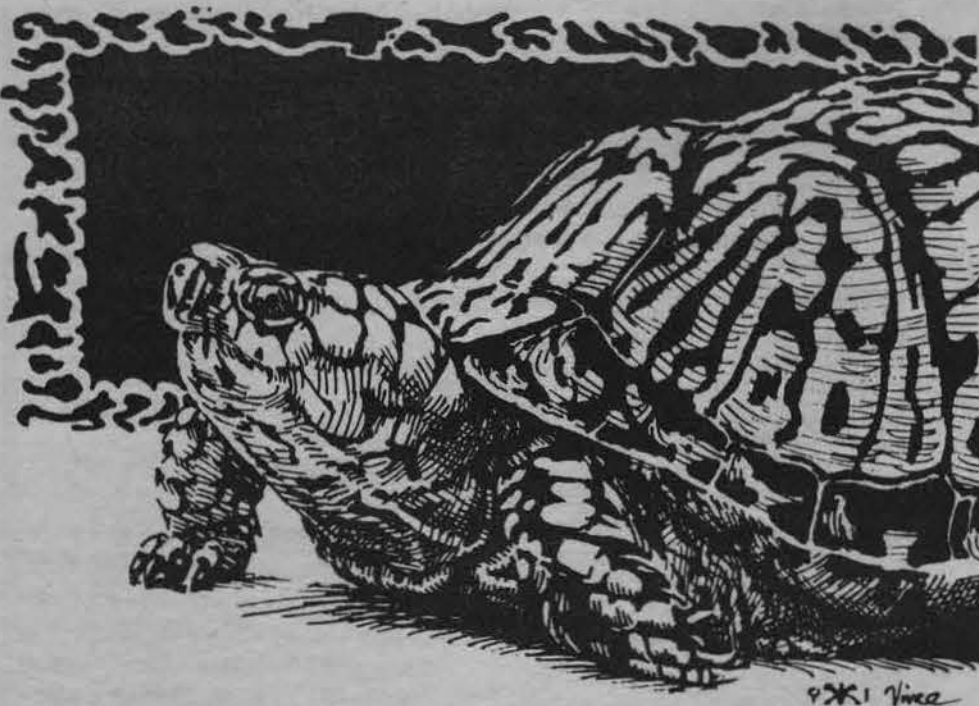
Powers

The board may set fees, promulgate regulations dealing with acceptable fees, deposit schemes, acceptability of alternate schemes.

Board Member Requirements -

No one may serve on the board who has used styrofoam cups in the last five years, unless a ceramic cup hangs from their belt anytime they are not lying down.

(continued on page 8)



from the heart of the mountains (continued from page 2)

The challenge is to balance nature's needs with the needs of shemankind in the midst of a dialogue where the natural world really has no voice of its own, but must rely on the many interests speaking on their own behalf and laying out what they perceive to be the needs of nature - always of course, with a peculiar perspective that might not be nature's own.

Even from the human centered point of view we're in trouble: The pie is shrinking; we have more hungry takers around the table, and we need to leave some for every one else who will follow.

Things are even worse when seen from the point of view that suggests there are reasons aplenty for not eating the pie at all, -- that some of the needs of those drooling at the table may be less important than the existence of the pie itself.

It's a balancing act in the midst of change that would challenge even the most experienced and agile circus performer. ...There just are no easy answers.

Mining in Southern West Virginia

Often in these pages of the VOICE you read stories about the horrors of mining in the north central part of the state where acid mine drainage (AMD) has destroyed miles of streams. Although the southern part of the state is not as plagued by AMD, it too has its problems. The following is an article that appeared in a state newspaper and is printed here with permission of the author. - cindy r

RIGHT TO BARE HILLS:

Mines take hardwoods, leave grass

by Gordon Billheimer

Much time is spent by the state administration and the Legislature to prevent the dumping of out-of-state trash in our lovely mountains. However, no one speaks for our Upper Kanawha Valley mountains which are undergoing destruction that is ravaging our trees, hills, streams and rivers.

The destruction is caused by the present method of strip mining that literally takes a mountain apart. This mining is being done by out-of-state companies welcomed by everyone with open arms because they supposedly create jobs.

Our mountains are being attacked by giant machines and trucks. Few people who drive on the valley floor are aware of the damage because much of it is hidden from view.

On W. Va. 61 in the Pratt area you can see what is happening to our hills that took millions of years to create. Across the Kanawha from Pratt you see the destruction of two mountains by Amax Mining. This is only the tip of the destruction that is quickly becoming apparent. It may be too late to stop it.

The type of mining now used tears a mountain to pieces and supposedly puts it together again by "reclamation." Years ago, a question was put to Ben Greene, now head of the state surface mine association but then in charge of the Department of Natural Resources. He was asked how we could possibly restore strip mining damage. His reply was, "There is a difference between reclamation and restoration."

This statement was made 30 years ago when we did not have the machinery, explosives and truck transportation that we have today. The mountains were greater than the puny machinery.

We now allow the type of mining that is used in the giant strip mines in the West. But in much of those areas the land is barren. They never had giant oaks, hickories, walnuts and poplars soaring toward the skies.

We will not have such trees again with the present relentless attacks on our mountains. The eastern section of the Kanawha Valley is dominated by Appalachian Mining and Cyprus Kanawha-Amax. They control thousands of acres and they are mining those thousands at an alarming, voracious rate.

Mining permits for which they are now applying are in large sections of 500 or 700 acres. Most of these are either for mountaintop removal or contour mining. Supposedly the company submits a plan of reclamation which must be approved by the Environmental Protection Agency of this state. But each forester or agronomist whom I have consulted ways that there is no way that you can blast a mountain apart, put it together again and grow the forests of hardwoods that we now have.

The trees that grow are scrub trees. Our great WVU basketball coach likes to show in a TV advertisement reclaimed land that is used for hunting and grazing. But those areas will never be hardwood forests again.

The mining companies know that the land will never return. More important, so do the agencies that regulate such. When you examine the applications for mining permits you find that the company proposes to reclaim by planting certain kinds of grass. They also list type of trees to be planted, usually along the trenches that are filled with rocks to prevent erosion. Some trees listed are: "Plant two rows black alder, one row gray dogwood, and one row of autumn olive along sediment ditches and ponds. Spacing will be five feet by five feet."

One expert who has both a forestry degree and a graduate degree in agronomy stated in an article that the current surface mining regulations intensify the severity of floods leading to greater property damage and loss of life. He states that the regulations adopt highway construction standards for such things as excess spoil disposal and drainage control. These require compaction which limit water infiltration and the water storage potential of spoil.

He adds that the mine operations are required to save topsoil. Since most land to be stripped is covered with trees, this does not happen. The regulations require the coal operators to bury or burn the trees. When the trees are pushed off to be buried or burned, most, if not all, of the topsoil clings to the roots of the trees and is wasted along with them. What remains is a clay substance. This becomes compacted by equipment used on the mountain and by planned compaction. The water runs off instead of seeping into the ground.

In the past few months I have shown a number of people videos of the damage done to the Kanawha Valley. I have published an advertisement in the Montgomery Herald showing the gigantic operation of Appalachian Mining behind Boomer. People who see these invariably comment that they know this type of mining is going to leave us with grassy hills, barren of any real trees.

However, most people comment that nothing can be done to stop the destruction. "Coal is too powerful. We need the jobs. No one really cares. Think of all the flat land we will have for industrial development such as airports." Some even say the companies own the land and they should be able to do with it what they will.

Since it is obvious that this destruction is irreversible, would it not make sense that an inventory be taken of the land and minerals available for mining and determine how much can be mined without destroying our area? Must our beautiful valley be left with only grass, scrub trees and stunted hills surrounding us?

A coal executive suggested that the new Clean Air Act will have a greater impact on the Southern West Virginia coalfields since our coal is lower in sulfur. This will only add to our woes. Industry will be after us with a vengeance.

Emphasis must be made of the temporary nature of the type of mining we are doing. Deep mines employed people for many years and in great numbers. But with stripping, it takes only a few years to destroy a mountain and move on. Who is going to tour a great

valley that has only green grassy slopes and no color in the leaves in the fall? The mining is temporary, but the damage is forever.

A television program showing timbering in the far West discussed the fight for timbering jobs lost because of environmentalists seeking to preserve some of the great trees. One wife said her husband needed the job. The commentator said that in five years there would not be any jobs because the timber was going to be exhausted. This is certainly the case with our present mining methods.

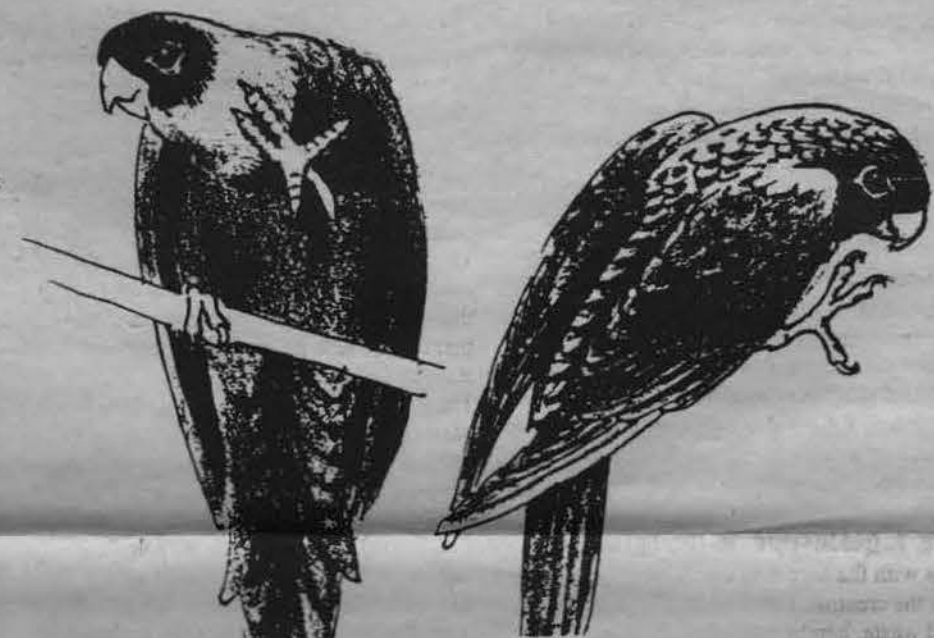
Above Smithers there looms the old Harewood slate dump. Millions of dollars have been spent to reclaim this dump. We now have a terraced grassy slope. One mile farther east, destruction is taking place that is 100 times

worse than Harewood did in 50 years of mining. Appalachian Mining has done it in less than three years.

One of the clever things the mining companies did was to refer to their operations as "surface mining" instead of strip mining. No change of name can hide the ugly things they are doing to our land. The blame doesn't lie only on the companies. They do what they are allowed to do by a lax regulatory agency and government in general.

Night came to the Cumberlands in Kentucky and it is coming to Southern West Virginia.

Mr. Billheimer is a Montgomery lawyer and a former strip mine firm official.



Michael Baker Two Step

(continued from page 1) -

Your letters....

I am writing this letter to express my opposition to the construction of Corridor H. - counted as Opposed to scheme A and in favor of building Corridor H

For these reasons I would prefer it if Corridor H is not built. - counted as pro north and pro Corridor H.

We the average landowners urge you to help put a stop to corridor H. Let the taxpayers vote if they want a road built of not. - considered as pro north and pro Corridor H.

First of all, I prefer no new highway be built. But if this development must occur, I strongly prefer the northern route. - counted as opposed to Scheme A and pro Corridor H.

Please sell Scheme E to another taker! In fact, send Corridor H with it! - counted as Opposed to E and you guessed it pro Corridor H.

The West Virginia Chapter of AFS believes that only way to avoid impacts to these resources is to not build a four lane facility. However, we realize that a No Build alternative, while our first preference, has little chance of being selected. - filed as pro north and pro Corridor H.

I am writing in regard to Corridor H. I would like to see it abandoned completely. - pro north and Corridor H

I am dead set against Corridor H, Scheme E, Northern Route! I want my tax dollars to go for my local roads in Hampshire

County.' This was the entire letter and you guessed right again - it was counted as for Scheme A and for Corridor H.

I would like to voice my opposition to Corridor H..I am against Corridor H. - pro north and Corridor H.

The packet distributed by **Alternatives to Corridor H** had many more examples of this chicanery, but perhaps the above is enough for the true believers. I wonder how my 'Letter of Comment' was filed. Alternatives to Corridor H has four regional offices now -

- CHA Eastern WV
PO Box 463
Wardensville, WV 26851
874-3887
- CHA Central WV
PO Box 11
Kerens, WV 26276
636-4522
- CHA Northern WV
PO Box 173
New Creek, WV 26743
788-5579
- CHA Virginia
Rt 1, Box 319
Lebanon Church, VA. 22641
703-465-5664

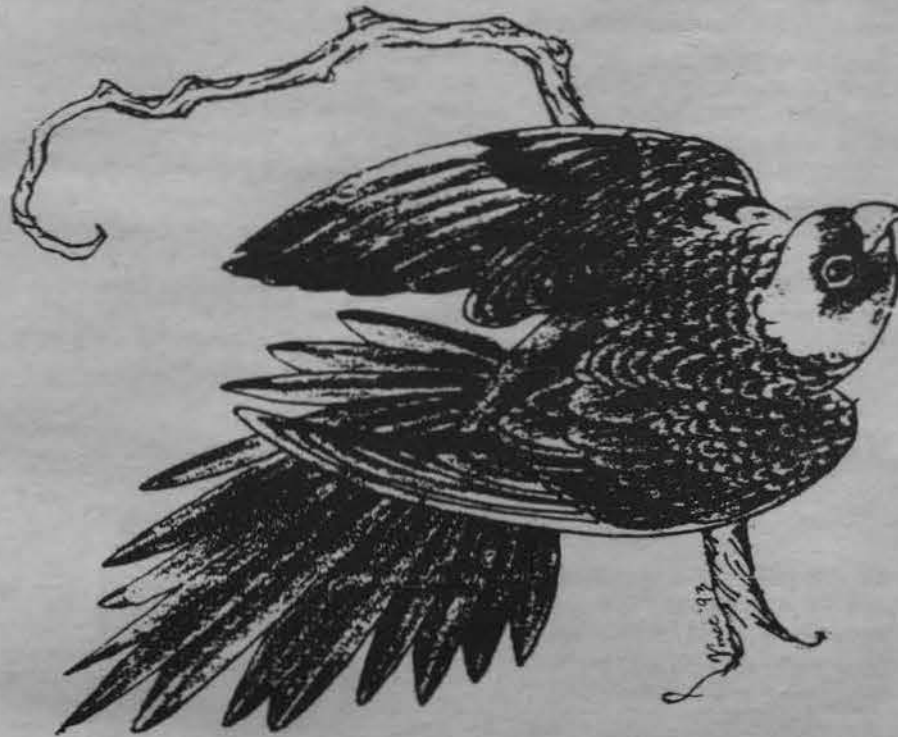
Corridor H Alternatives has started producing a quarterly newsletter. For 15 bucks you can become a member and receive it as well as the satisfaction helping these folks stop this boondoggle. Corridor H topo maps, Video are also available.

stopping off at cathedral state park

once upon a time
 all the woods were like these woods,
 each tree a wise old sage
 sipping clean cold water,
 inspiring pure wild air,
 their huge soaring trunks
 and high green crowns
 sheltering all manner of bugs
 and birds and spirits
 that are only memories now,
 a tiny park yet still split in two
 by a smooth-paved highway
 interconnecting the multitudes
 of our tentacled cities,
 where 'the proper study of mankind is man',
 and we count His measure by the
 quantity
 of His possessions, and the new high
 priests
 have become TV heroes, their pockets
 stuffed full
 of rattling coins, hawking tickets
 to the sun belt on a big jet plane.

Bob Stough

Extinct Species of the month



The Carolina Parrot (Conuropsis carolinensis)

They say that the human genome, the exact DNA code that holds in its cryptic chemicals the secret of being human, would take 100,000 printed volumes to describe. In the same year that the passenger pigeon was lost forever, the Carolina parrot and its 100,000 volumes of ancient lore slipped from our hands - in the same year, in the same zoo in Cincinnati - 1914. The last of these northern-most of all parrots that the planet has produced died alone, refusing, like all its kind, to breed in captivity. In the crucible of the planet over tens of thousands of years, inadequate chemical reactions faded and the forge of time produced this wildness that could not abide with desperate humans. Pearls before swine.

Of two distinct species, they were a foot long, mostly green with a yellow head

and red face. With their large beaks they fed on fruits and seeds and after the Europeans settled in their country, they fed on their gardens, where they were systematically destroyed. They were much appreciated as aviary birds and many thousands were privately owned.

What did they say to each other, as they stood 'round the aviary admiring the birds? Did they see the end of the species, did they deplore it, and what did they do about it?

If I look hard enough I think I can hear them feeding in the persimmons on the ridge. What could be making all that racket? Pale shadows, echoes of what we have lost.

Here's what Audubon wrote about them... "Range: Formerly from Gulf states to Colorado, Nebraska and New York. This beautiful bird, the only parrot of eastern North America, has not been taken since 1904. As in the case of other birds that have vanished from North

at red pine meadow, otter creek

under their green needle-fingers,
 serene in the calm evening air,
 an ancient harmony soothes me.
 a rubythroat is hovering
 among the white rhododendrons,
 a wood thrush is singing
 in the deepening twilight,
 a young doe has come to feed
 out in the grassy meadow.

who says we're trapped
 inside ourselves,
 hurled helter-skelter
 by mad electric dreams,
 each to their own slow lonely rot?

the tao rings like a bell,
 sharp and clear,
 yet with edges
 like the feathers of owls--
 "heaven's nets are coarse,
 but nothing falls through"

mind-roots push deep,
 interweave with the compost
 of ten thousand years,
 pinesap flows easy
 through scripted veins,
 the old creek rolls
 over smooth-worn stones.

by Bob Stough

America in historic times, it was brutally and needlessly persecuted. Many species have been reduced by destruction of necessary environmental conditions; the coup de grace seems to have been given by direct killing. Only concerted action by conservationists can save other species from the same fate."

federal affairs (from page 5) has pledged to lift injunctions and expedite sales as soon as possible. The Forest Plan will undergo assessment under NEPA, and there will be a 90 day public comment period. If you would like a copy of the Forest Plan Summary, you may call the Government Documents Library at 202/395-7332 or Western Ancient Forest Campaign at 202/939-3324

Waste Stream (from page 6)

Industry retooling and job retraining/landfill reclamation

The WV Board of WSR shall implement a program to provide work for those individuals that are put out of a job as the waste stream dries up. This work will consist of cleaning up old landfills and restoring the land and water to useable conditions.

The governor is requested to decorate the mansion with artwork created by WV Artists from materials recovered in this landfill reclamation.

Any citizen that ever committed waste to a landfill shall serve time restoring their nearest landfill.

Folks we need lots more work on this before January. Marsha, are you going to send me that Mississippi law on tire deposits; Martha, how about that Maine packaging law; and who was going to send me the German laws on packaging reduction?

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Make checks payable to: West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
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Membership Benefits

- * 1 year subscription to the Highlands Voice
 - * Special meetings with workshops and speakers
 - * Representation through WVHC efforts to monitor legislative and agency activity
- The WVHC, at age 26, is the oldest environmental group in West Virginia. The Conservancy has been influential in protecting and preserving WV's natural heritage. Your support will help WVHC to continue its efforts.