



The Highlands Voice

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A Walk in the Woods - The Great Divide

Kumbrabow - part two.

by Bill Ragette'

Thanks, in part, to all your letters and phone calls concerning the proposed Clay Run Timber sale in Kumbrabow State Forest, the WV DOF (Division of Forestry) felt compelled to meet with citizens to discuss the timber cut as well as the management of state forests in general. It's not so much that they came to listen to us, but mostly to give us "a dog and pony show"; as more than one attendee later described the day's activities. As a matter of fact, some long time users coming to the meeting with some hope and an open mind were so appalled by the arrogance of the DOF that they have filed a lawsuit in Kanawha Circuit Court to stop this unbridled raid on perhaps the finest stand of red oaks on public lands in the state.

WV DOF was represented at the meeting by the new chief of the division, Bill Maxey, formerly with Westvaco and Georgia Pacific, as well as WVU school of forestry, David Lilly, district 3 forester, and Jim Hayes, forester on Kumbrabow. WV Division of Parks was represented by Kumbrabow Supervisor - Chris Hansroft and his boss from Charleston. According to state records Hansroft wrote to his supervisor stating he felt the timber sale would greatly interfere with recreation at Kumbrabow. Past sales cut trees right on hiking trails and many tops were in close proximity to the trails.

The 'ignorant masses' were represented by about forty citizens. We consisted of all shades of green - rabid tree huggers, WVHC, Sierra, Trout Unlimited, long time users (hunters, hikers, just plain folks) of Kumbrabow, the daughter of one of the original founders of Kumbrabow, and a few folks camping there that weekend who heard about

the meeting and just came by to learn something.

The WV state Ecoladies, Cindy Rank and Mery Wimmer, set up the meeting at Kumbrabow with an agenda for a morning discussion and an afternoon 'tour' of the proposed sale site (also known as 'the glorious red oak/maple cathedral'). We all gathered near a picnic shelter along Mill Run. Bill Maxey led off by giving us his background in school and industry. He also told a touching story about his childhood when he and his dad gathered american chestnuts, searching for a variety of that late noble species that might resist the onslaught of the chestnut blight.

As he went on about his concerns I wrote down many I shared; like wildfires, overgrazing by deer, the small percentage of non commercial forest land that was scientifically managed and strip mines. I was determined to communicate and find common ground. When I finally got a chance to share my two cents, I repeated those concerns. I thanked him for coming and told him how I appreciated his concerns and that I was not there to attack the Division's expertise or commitment to well-managed forest lands, but was opposed to the fact that this particular magnificent grove was being managed this way, with no public input. I thought we could communicate. He even made a note when I suggested that 'wind throws' (trees blown down in high winds) might have some use even if they were not 'salvaged'... Or maybe it was when I mentioned that some of the trees they planned to cut in order to save them from the threat of Gypsy moth might have some immunity to the pests, and that these trees could help restore oaks after the pests came through. But I slowly realized that somehow we just weren't getting across the Great Divide.



Some of the 35 or so users and environmentalists at the Kumbrabow Summit

Maxey wants to manage the state forests for production. He said that we should use the trees or we would lose them. (He did apologize for using the incendiary "Use it or Lose it" phrase, but I sense that in their hearts the foresters truly believe it.) He bragged that his company gave away a billion seedlings for land owners in the South to help reforestation. But when Mary asked him what kind of trees they were he had to admit they were mostly, "but not all" one species of pine. Simply, he

believed a forest could be managed for one of man's uses (timber) and still be a natural forest that would, for all intent and purposes, be an old growth forest.

Maxey tried to sell the management of Kumbrabow on many points. One was that by cutting out the deformed trees, the ones that remained, the straighter trees, would improve the gene pool on the forest. Sayre Rodman, WVHC's Public Lands Committee co-chair responded by saying that he often preferred a crooked or hollow or rotten tree to a straight one and that mother nature might too. He then asked Maxey why he thought a straight tree was better, Bill had to admit it was only because it was more valuable as lumber.

Bill insisted he was aware of 'den trees' and that the Division recommended that 6-9 be left per acre even in (continued on page 7)

The Michael Baker Two Step - Part 2

Did you support Corridor H? Here's how to find out how your Letter of Comment was interpreted

It's easy and free to find out.

Just call 1-800-245-1412 and ask for Patty Gassing. Patty is the PR person in charge of the Letter of Comment and public opinion survey conducted by Michael Baker Jr, Inc. She should be able to tell you into which pigeon-hole your comment was filed. Ask also if it was counted as supporting the Build or No-Build option. I had two listings, one as one of the clearly written "Opposed" letters of comment, the second listing was a phone call counted as favoring the build option. In my phone call I simply asked for a public hearing in the Huntington area. So I suppose I get counted as 50% and 50% against the road even though I'm 200% against Corridor H. Let me know how you did. - ragette'

Hike, Bike or Trike to WVHC Fall Review: October 8-10

by Frank Young

This year's WVHC Fall Review may be a weekend of lounging in the sun and crisp October air at the Ritchie County 4-H Camp. Then again, it may be packed with hiking, biking or horseback riding on the nearby North Bend Rail Trail.

Or it may include some browsing at the area factory outlet clothing stores or at the world's largest marble factory. Or it may include enjoying the deer and other wildlife at nearby North Bend State Park. The choice will be yours.

In any event, you can get away from phones, television, "the office", and deadlines for these three days.

This year's WVHC Fall Review will be October 8, 9, and 10. We have chosen the Ritchie County 4-H Camp in Western WV because of its affordability and proximity to several new active and growing environmental activist groups in the Ritchie and Wood County areas near Parkersburg. (And because a perk of being Fall Review co-ordinator includes getting to select a site near one's home.)

The location is four miles south of U.S. 50, just off State Route 16, between the communities of Ellenboro and Harrisville, 35 miles east of Parkersburg and 45 (Continued on page 3)

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

by Cindy Rank

**WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE....
.....OR IS THERE?**

August is a strange month....a time when every drop of moisture seems to be sucked from the earth only to linger in the air and somehow find a way into every nook and cranny, every paper and cotton item in the house. ...Ah, the joys of living in an owner built home in the hills of West Virginia!

But, now, as is true every year at this time, "dog days" have come to an end and hints of drier fall air usher in the constant din of crickets, cicadas and the like.

This year those winds also carry with them the hope for relief from the exceptionally difficult water woes of the summer of '93.

In the midwest, cleanup efforts have begun where torrents of rain had swollen rivers and drowned crops, where people sloshed through foul smelling water in search of higher ground and leeches moved into flooded basements.

Here in the east, occasional showers have begun to tease the bedraggled vegetation where the lack of rain had parched fields and dried crops, where kids have splashed in puddles of foul smelling creeks to escape the scorching heat and snakes have moved out of their dry dens in search of water....

Whether the problem has been one of too much or too little rain, flooded sewage treatment facilities or non-existent ones, people have been flocking to shelters and stores to obtain water safe for drinking.

At times like these it's hard not to ponder the ways we use and abuse the waters of the state.

When Penzoil had drained groundwater wells dry, they turned to neighboring Middle Island Creek to sate the unquenchable thirst of their secondary recovery operations in Tyler county. The move may have eased pressure on the vanishing groundwater supply, but what of the pressures on the creek and its inhabitants and other users?

When Snowshoe dammed up the head of Cup Run to provide additional snowmaking capacity, the impact was minimal since pumping was done during the winter months when water is in great supply. But this year Snowshoe has added another reservoir in the head of Shavers Fork and pumping from both is having a great impact since its being done to bath the new golf course during the driest of times.

In Ohio the Southern Ohio Coal Co. is daily dumping thousands of gallons of acid and metal laden mine drainage into tributaries of the Ohio River, killing the local streams entirely and threatening the aquatic life in the Ohio, including an endangered species of fresh-water mussels. ...After permitting the discharge of acid water into abandoned workings, the state of Ohio has watched as unanticipated pressure forced the water into active workings thus creating the impossible choice of putting hundreds of miners out of work while slowly but properly treating and releasing the unwanted poisoned water, or just releasing the water untreated with the promise of 'fixing' the damaged streams later. The legal challenges go on, but not as fast as the water flows.

In the oil and gas industry, the pit-waste controversy of the 80's is about to turn into the brine disaster of the 90's. Even though pit wastes from drilling operations were not allowed to be dumped into nearby streams a couple of years ago, the state is about to propose a general permit to allow the discharge of production brines into streams that have never registered any perceptible levels of salt (unless, of course, they happen to lie down dip from those horrendous salt storage piles at Department of Highways maintenance garages that dot the state.)

Even the city of Buckhannon (still smarting from the drought a few years ago when mine drainage from upstream tainted the water system for the entire area) continues to strain its water supply. Surrounding sections of the county continue to request extensions to water lines that suck from the Buckhannon pool below those minesites. Turkey Run to the north has lost its water to other strip mines; Sago to the south has long ago lost its water to an expansive deep mine complex;

And so it goes. Wittingly or not, we first deplete, degrade or destroy one source of water, then desperately turn to the next. - The beat goes on, but we never seem to learn.

With the words of the Clean Water Act to "prevent" ,(see page 6)

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and
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A Corridor H Letter - Intercepted

Senator Robert Dittmar
403 Fitzhugh Street
Ravenswood, WV 26164

Dear Bob,
Several months ago the W. Va. DOH solicited public comments on a proposal to build a highway known as Corridor H through the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia.

I was one of those thousands who submitted a Letter of Comment. My letter said that I did not favor building any four lane highway through that area. My letter went on to explain that should such as highway be built through the area despite the opposition, then I certainly would want it to avoid the Monongahela National Forest area and the areas just east of Elkins, including the Harmon, Seneca Rocks and Spruce Knob regions. In other words, if we are to have the road no matter what, then let it take the more northerly of the proposed routes.

I could go on at length about why I consider those areas to be ecologically sacred. But that is not the point of this letter to you.

Enclosed is a copy of the August issue of The Highlands VOICE, published by the W. Va. Highlands Conservancy, of which I am a member and a Director. The page 1 lead story for this issue is called "The Michael Baker Two Step."

I invite you to read this article. It is well written and to the point. It appears to me that Michael Baler Jr., Inc., has cooked the figures

to reflect a different collective opinion by those who submitted Letters of Comment than what actually exists.

Whether Baker did this for its own purposes or to provided a result that it thought its client (The W. Va. Div. of Highways) wanted is not clear. One thing is certain. I do not favor the building of Corridor H. But Baker reports that I support the building of this highway.

As a member of the Senate Transportation Committee, I hope you will inquire and demand how and why this happened. I also feel that a reexamination of comments should take place by an unbiased evaluator.

If you feel that I misunderstand the Baker tabulated results, I will be pleased to hear from you.

If you feel that this matter needs further DOH study and examination, I will be pleased to hear that too.

Please advise. Thank You.
Frank Young

TEST YOUR ECONOMIC IQ

by Carroll Jett

The WVHC Fall Review will be here in just a few weeks. Frank Young was hard at work even before the Summer Board Meeting trying to come up with just the right mix of business and pleasure. Saturday afternoon and early evening promise to be very interesting and informative. The first part of the agenda will deal with the proposed dam on the North Fork of the Hughes River. If this proposal is completed as it is currently planned, it could very possibly create the longest mudhole east of the Mississippi. Those of you who haven't met Steve and Ann Swadley should consider coming to meet them and others who stand to lose their home to this \$30 million project.

The after dinner program will revolve around the issues of **Timbering and Public Lands Management**. Should the Conservancy advocate a "no-cut" position on the Mononga-

hela National Forest? What changes (if any) need to be made with respect to management of our state forests? How do we measure the economic consequences of any proposed changes? WVHC Board Members will be asked soon (perhaps at the Board Meeting at Fall Review) to make decisions on these issues. I'm sure I speak for the rest of the Board Members when I say we would like to have the input of as many members as possible. Please plan now to come and participate.

I must confess that, until the past few months, I didn't have a very good idea about the economic impact on Timbering in our state. Even less about Timbering in the Mon and our State Forests. In an effort to stimulate interest in these issues prior to the Fall Review program I have devised a quiz which is designed to measure your economic IQ on Timbering issues in WV. Anyone who makes 100% on this quiz will be recognized at Fall Review and be eligible for a door prize. If no one gets 100%, the best three responses will be eligible for the prize.

- Rules:
1. There are no "trick" questions.
 2. Only WVHC members are eligible. If you are a nonmember, you may include your membership application with your questionnaire and it will be counted.
 3. Send completed question to me at my home address listed in the Roster postmarked no later than the September 30.
 4. "Timber and Wood Products Industry" includes everything from the cutting of trees to the manufacturing of the final product - i.e. paper, furniture, fencing, flooring, etc. It does not include the transportation of finished products from the manufacturer to market.

Good Luck. You are now ready to begin the quiz.

1. Measured as a percentage of all wages earned in the state, how much do you think is paid out by Timber and Wood Products?
a. 25% b. 15% c. 8% d. 6% e. 1%
2. How do wages in this industry compare to average wages in WV?
a. about average. b. 10% below average. c. 10% above average. d. 20% above e. 20% below
3. As a percentage of the total timber harvest in WV how much do you think comes from National Forest land?
a. 50 b. 40 c. 30 d. 20 e. 10 or less
4. How many jobs are created as a direct result of timbering on the Mon. Nat. Forest?
a. 317 b. 10,212 c. 8,403 d. 18,450 e. 4500
5. Randolph is the state's largest county in terms of timber and wood products. What percentage of wages in Randolph County is a direct result of this industry?
a. 8.7 b. 18 c. 25 d. 40 e. 50 or more?
6. Pocahontas County contains more Mon. Nat. Forest land than any other county. Which industry do you believe accounts for more wages in Pocahontas County?
a. Lumber and Wood b. Federal Gov't. c. Hotels, lodging d. health services e. eating and drinking places
7. What is meant by the term PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)?
a. Coal Companies who get super tax credits voluntarily contribute to schools.
b. A welfare program for loggers.
c. Money paid by the federal government for acreage in the National Forest since the feds don't pay property taxes. (see page 6)

FORMER VOICE EDITOR DIES

Karen Farris, 37, died while jogging in Kanawha State Forest Sunday morning, August 8, 1993

During her stint with WVHC as editor of the VOICE, Karen worked with the environmental design group in Charleston, W.V. More recently, she had

been working as a paralegal for the W.V. Department of Environmental Protection.

We're grateful for the years she gave to WVHC and extend our sympathy to her mother in Charleston, and to her sisters and brother as well.

WVHC FALL REVIEW

(from page one) miles west of Clarksburg. The cost of \$10 per adult and \$6.50 for children under fifteen includes registration and lodging at the 4-H camp on Friday and Saturday Nights. Meals will be available on the premises at a nominal charge- perhaps three to six dollars depending on the exact items served.

The chef for the weekend may well be world-renowned cook, Gary Zuckett; with culinary advisor M.P. Peck close at hand. Further meal details will be in a separate Fall Review Flyer.

For those of you who might find 4-H camp bunks not to their liking, you may make your own arrangements for lodging at other area overnight facilities. These include: North Bend Pines Bed and Breakfast (304-643-2102) - 5 miles away, Heritage Inn (1-800-528-7944) - 3 miles away, and North Bend State Park- with cabins and lodge rooms- (304-643-2931 or 1-800-225-5982) - 7 miles away.

Our inspection of the 4-H Camp facilities finds them to be in good repair and with enough bunks that no one need sleep on a top bunk. Also, enough separation of sleeping areas exists that we can have male, female and "co-ed" sleeping quarters.

Saturday activities are expected to center on recreation in the form of hiking, biking and/or horseback riding along the North Bend Rail Trail. This trail is a former railroad grade now converted into a trail for non-motorized travel and recreation.

The trail is 60 miles long, although we may not all travel the entire distance. The trail passes through wild and scenic areas, farmland, and a variety of small rural communities that grew up along its length. It includes twelve tunnels, six of which are in Ritchie County, including The Number 10 Tunnel west of Ellenboro, near the 4-H Camp. Number 10 is a "raw" or natural tunnel that was bored through

solid rock. Bicycle rentals are available at a bike shop in nearby Cairo for \$2.00 per hour or \$10 for 24 hours. If those who might expect to use a bicycle on the trail would call Fall Review coordinator Frank Young at 1-800-273-9329 most any evening between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. We will make arrangements for a rental bicycle to be available. Of course you may bring your own bicycles, or horses for that matter.

Horseback rentals and guided horseback tours are available, but details are not yet available. But you may want to take a horseback tour should also call Frank at the above number. He will try to have details and will make arrangements.

Hikers must bring their own legs and feet as we have only our own aching feet to contend with.

Unfortunately, it appears that canoeing will not be an option this year. The Hughes River is not an especially attractive canoeing stream at best. As of this writing, the very dry weather has left the Hughes too low for most recreational use.

While Saturday morning and early afternoon will be outdoor recreation time, the

late afternoon and evening promise lively discussions on a proposed discussion/debate in the evening of Forest and Timber issues. The main thrust of the forum will be on timbering policy in national and state forest areas.

West Virginia filmmaker Bob Gates may be available to show his "In Memory of the Land and People" film about surface mining, and perhaps other films as well. More on this later.

Sunday will be mostly meetings, but you may stay around at your leisure on Sunday as well. Sunday morning we will have the annual membership meeting to select the five WVHC Board-of-Directors at large members for the 1993-1995 term. Then we will have the regular quarterly Board-of-Directors Meeting. All members are welcome to attend this as well.

It will be of great help if those planning to attend Fall Review would fill out the preliminary registration form. It does not need to be accompanied by money. Nor does it commit you to any activities or events. But it will make planning for various activities easier. Please send the form to WVHC Fall Review, C/O Frank Young, Rt. 1, Box 108, Ripley, WV 25271.

WVHC Fall Review Registration

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City/State _____
 # in party _____
 I will be interested in the following: (put X in blank space)
 _____ # of Bike Rentals; _____ Guided horseback tour on Rail Trail;
 _____ Breakfast Saturday; _____ Lunch Saturday (box or eat in);
 _____ Dinner Saturday; _____ Breakfast Sunday; _____ Lunch Sunday

Send to: WVHC Fall Review; C/O Frank Young, Rt. 1 box 108, Ripley, WV 25271 or call 1-800-273-9329 after 6:00 P.M.

New Forestry - Commentary by Robert Stough

This past spring U.S. Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson announced a proposal to end all commercial logging on 62 National Forests by 1997. This plan was developed in response to a directive by President Clinton to the USFS to phase out below cost timber sales over the next four years. The proposal does not include the Monongahela NF but does include a number of other national forests in the Appalachian Range such as the Jefferson and George Washington NF's in Virginia (also both partly in WV - ed. note). Despite its obvious shortcomings, the plan would represent a major step forward in the direction of eco-logical management of public forest lands. However, in reality the proposal is an underhanded attempt by F Dale and his corporate buddies to subvert the President's directive and generate opposition to any kind of meaningful reform of Forest Service policies. Leaving aside the fact that Chief Robertson did not comply with the President's order, which specified phase-out of welfare timber sales on all national forests, there is clear evidence that the Forest service hierarchy is undermining its own plan. For instance, the plan was given to timber-corporo executives before it was submitted to the President, and amazingly enough, they actually didn't like it and proceeded to orchestrate opposition. Then, almost as soon as the plan got to the White House a number of Forest Supervisors across the country spoke out against the plan through the media. Considering the fact that in the past any dissension from official policy in the Forest Service has been dealt with vengefully, it stretches the already woeful credibility of the agency far past the breaking point to assume that this opposition was anything but a calculated, purposeful attempt to discredit the President and continue to cling desperately to the exploitative management policies of the past and present.

This is just the latest in a long series of devious ploys by F Dale during his tenure as Forest Service Chief that have been intended to stifle preservation efforts while tacitly promoting multiple-use, sustained -yield, business-as-usual exploitation. His usual method has been to speak with a forked tongue, telling the public how the Forest service has been changing its management of public lands to better preserve them for the future, and then

doing whatever he can to preserve the status quo, such as attempting to drastically limit citizen appeals of timber sales and suppressing any dissension within the FS ranks that deviates from his multiple abuse gospel. If F. Dale's deeds ever catch up with his rhetoric some progress might be made, but it seems more likely that he will continue to machinate new ways of pandering to corporate interests and trying to sabotage Forest preservation. Those who believe in freeing the Forests need to encourage Clinton and Gore to do some clearcutting of their own in the fetid bureaucratic jungle the USFS has become.

Reformation of the Forest Service, though, would only just begin with the replacement of the hierarchy, because the agency is permeated with the multiple-use dogma, whose 1st commandment is that Man Knows Best. From the agency's current point of view the establishment of old-growth wilderness is a deadly threat, both to the forests and the Forest Service itself. Professional foresters have long considered old-growth to be 'overmature' and 'decadent' and have maintained that long-rotation harvesting is not only necessary for human consumptive purposes but for the good of the Forest. In recent years there has been slight modification of this to acknowledge that a bit of old-growth may be desirable for maximum biodiversity, but there has been little change in official policy. The reduction of timber harvesting on national forests generally has been almost entirely due to increasing public outcry against Forest Exploitation, which has often taken the form of successful litigation against Forest Service timber sales, many of which the Forest Service has attempted to ramrod through by ignoring or by twisting numerous other environmental and ecological statutes.

Lately the Forest Service has been promoting what it calls 'New Forestry', one of whose basic principles is 'ecosystem management', which although rather vague apparently relates attempts to continue timber harvesting in a way that somehow mimics natural processes such as wildfire burns and blow-downs. Any way you slice it, however, the roads still get built and the trees still get cut sown and hauled away. What 'natural' process this mimics is a little hard to ascertain, unless



one perhaps considers it possible that a giant mutant strain of castor canadensis has evolved undiscovered and is chewing down 80 ft spruce trees on the mountaintops and dragging them away to their hydro dams in the high valleys.

Unfortunately, 'New Forestry' seems so far to be just a sloppy coat of paint on the rotting hulk of the 'same-old' Forestry, which apparently the Forest Service hopes to sucker the American people into buying and driving off the lot before it blows up in our faces. This is, of course, classic Reagan methodology, tell the people whatever makes them feel good and then do whatever is best for corporate profits. Certainly this appears to be the modus operandi of the Monongahela Forest managers, who have made many comforting pronouncements about caring for the health of the Forest, but who have done whatever is necessary to keep the welfare trough filled for loggers, miners, gassers, developers etc. The MNF seems particularly concerned about any future expansion of wilderness, for they have been busily roading and logging along the perimeters of every significant wilderness and wild area under their control. This was standard Forest Service practice during the Reagan years. Although true to form, it was never honestly delineated, with the obvious intention to divide and conquer by fragmenting existing wilderness into island habitats and rendering everything around them bureaucratically ineligible for inclusion in the National Wilderness system.

Much to the dismay of the Forest Service, though, are the wilderness/corridor systems currently being nurtured, for these are rooted not in the narrow parameters of human recreative possibilities but the long term health and harmony of entire watersheds, and the ultimate weaving together of individual watersheds into an interconnected system eventually including a substantial portion of the Appalachian range. While it is obviously preferable for the forests to be as old as possible when they are finally freed from subsidized exploitation, the ecological and moral necessity of giving them freedom has little to do with their present condition. Furthermore, one of the fundamental principles of the wilderness/corridor system is the integration of human economic and cultural activities in balances and sustainable ways with the wild Forest and its surrounding environs. Those of us working on wilderness/corridor proposals take it as axiomatic that we must end up with both healthy old-growth Forests and diversified, self-reliant communities or we will have neither. The Monongahela Forest service, however, apparently feels the need to portray these efforts in the most radical and distorted fashion that they can, as the following quote from the environmental assessment of a

proposed timber sale (Hightop Opportunity Area #46.119) illustrates: "large numbers of people would have to move out of the 'Alemong [sic] Wilderness', cities and towns destroyed and recreated elsewhere and wilderness-like conditions created." One would almost think that James Watt had slithered out of his hole and was poisoning the MNF, such is the deliberate and venal ignorance displayed in this dishonest statement. If nothing else, though, it does show the level of fear and paranoia that has been growing within the Forest Service as they watch the sanity of public lands preservation slowly but surely take root and their entire management philosophy threatening to crumble at their feet.

This current dismal state of affairs can be traced back to the original establishment of the National Forest system and the subsequent adoption of the multiple-use method of Forest management, whose overriding principle has always been that the Forests could be made to serve the people in almost any way the people wanted. The fact that the Forest Service was made a branch of the Department of Agriculture is indicative of just how short sighted and homocentric multiple-using really is. Many forestry scientists believed (and some still do, or at least accept money to say so) that sustained-yield forestry, with equal harvest roughly every human lifetime was not only possible into perpetuity but could produce forests that were actually superior (by their definition) to uncut old-growth. To true believers sustained-yield forestry even had the additional benefits of producing 'wildlife habitat', which could be especially favored by deer, turkey, bears and men with guns. What could be better? Everything under control and everybody happy. But somebody forgot to tell the Forests how happy they should be, and in many exploited areas there has been very poor Forest regeneration and local species extirpations, the result or soil erosion, water-quality degradation and loss of habitat, among other things. Roadbuilding, clearcutting, coal mining, gas drilling and real estate development have often made a mockery of even the most egregious definitions of sustained-yield and multiple-use, with the predictable result that large areas of the National Forests have become little more than industrial parks for the enrichment of private corporations. The extent to which the Forest Service has gone to justify medieval policies is revealed in the fact that many of these exploitative activities lose large amounts of money, seriously degrade fragile ecosystems and have demonstrably negative impact on many threatened and endangered species, and yet are still counted as 'wildlife habitat benefits' (timber sales) or Forest infrastructure. (continued next page)



Thanks again to Vince for the two drawings on this page, to Jean Rodman for the photograph on page 1, and Jerry Lee Hutchins and Wild Earth for the illustrations of the tree leaves.

On The Road Citizens' Congress - Environment - Common Ground

by Frank Young

The social justice organization dubbed "Citizens' Congress" recently took to the road in Southeastern West Virginia. On the weekend of August 7 and 8, the Citizens' Congress met with representatives of three environmentally concerned groups at Concord College at Athens, WV in scenic Mercer County.

The Citizens' Congress is a grassroots organization formed in the wake of the 1992 gubernatorial campaign of State Senator Charlotte Pritt. Its single stated purpose is to be a "Statewide organization supporting local citizen groups supporting economic, social, and political justice."

The group rendezvoused in a meeting with the APCO power line opponents organization called Common Ground.

A group concerned about the continued operation and pending sale to northeastern investors of the Hamm Landfill in Monroe County also participated.

Yet another organization, National Committee for the New River, seeking Wild and Scenic status for the New River in West Virginia, joined in the activities.

Activities included and almost two-hour education session informing those present about some of the issues of concern to the three environmental groups from Mercer, Monroe, and Summers Counties attending the meeting. Many issues were discussed, with the primary emphasis on the 765 KV APCO power line proposal.

Following this, the one hundred or so Citizens' Congress participants fanned out into the three-county area for several hours, handing out information and seeking volunteers for additional grassroots efforts related to the power line proposal.

It was soon evident to this writer that the sentiment in the area did not favor a large

power line on 200 feet tall steel towers.

Later in the evening, several area activists made their feelings known in picturesque and sometimes humorous terms.

Common Ground activist Joe Neal said of the impact on the tourism industry, "Nobody wants to come to a hilltop in Mercer County or anywhere else to see a power line. They can see that in New York."

Bob Zacker, with the powerline opposition group ARKS, compared the proposed interstate power line to "an interstate highway with no exits."

A Mercer County landowner, whose land has a site offering a seven-county view, and on whose land three towers of a 345-KV power line already stand, called the towers "visual pollution."

Dan Lutz, a Jefferson County farmer who has a large power line running through his farm told of some of his problems. He said the towers are now rusting, unattractive hulks. His gates must be left unlocked for power company maintenance crews and this proves attractive for ATV riders and other intruders. Lutz also said that his farm was not originally slated as a route for the power line, which runs from Mt Storm in Grant County, West Virginia to Fairfax, Virginia. But battles over the location of the power line through affluent areas of Virginia (a more direct route) resulted in moving the line into the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. "They avoid the affluent communities," Lutz insisted.

Charlotte Pritt, the eternal champion of "empowerment of the people" as she likes to call her efforts toward social justice, had her own barbs to jab at APCO's proposal. Pritt held up APCO's own maps of the area in West Virginia and Virginia under consideration for the proposal. She pointed out that the map areas of Virginia were detailed in identifying historic and recreational areas in that state. But areas of the map of West Virginia were

lacking areas of historical and recreational reference.

Such areas as Bluestone State Park, Bluestone Lake, Concord College and Winter Place were just not shown on the APCO maps. Pritt was indignant that Virginia's historic and recreational areas are shown but that West Virginia is shown as "bland, lifeless and unorganized" as she described the state's description on the APCO maps. (Pritt has spent the past three months as an organizer and grassroots effort consultant for the group "Common Ground.")

Indeed, Pritt's map observations apparently didn't fall on blind eyes to others, either. The West Virginia Public Service Commission, a few months ago, denied APCO's request for approval of the project. Much of the Commission's reasoning was that APCO's maps were insufficient in details and inadequate to help make a determination. But APCO said it would return with updated maps and another application.

A Saturday night session of the Citizen's Congress included the three enviro-groups as well as some other group representatives, including Wayne Whaner of Cottageville, W. Va., who identifies himself as President of Concerned Citizens of West Virginia, Inc. The "Concerned Citizens of W. Va." group is an organization that for several years has advocated "voters'-rights" as a way to deal with what it calls the disproportionate influence of "special interests" in the state legislature.

Where does the Citizen's Congress go from here? Plans are underway for it to meet in October of November in the Potomac Highlands or eastern panhandle area of West Virginia. The issues of Corridor H and the LCS Landfill in Berkeley County are expected to receive attention in those areas.

It is also expected that the Citizen's Congress will work with opponents of the WTI hazardous waste incinerator at East Liverpool,

Ohio, just west of W. Va.'s northern panhandle.

It is also expected that the Citizen's Congress will work with other citizens groups on issues concerning taxes, health care, jobs, and other issues relating to human dignity, quality of life and governmental fairness.

Is the Citizens' Congress and environmental, a political, or a social organization? Charlotte Pritt calls it an "empowerment strike force."

But after meeting for more than two hours Sunday morning, the participants agreed simply that the Citizens' Congress is "A statewide organization supporting local citizen groups supporting economic, social and political justice."

I believe we'll hear more from the Citizens' Congress.



Black Oak

Stough (from page 4) improvements (road-building) as if there were a critical shortage of clearcuts of ORV routes!

The sad irony in all of this is that many Forest Service employees, especially those would work in the field, have an enduring love and respect for the wild Forest and no doubt could be ardent stewards of old-growth wilderness. Those who have ventured to publicly stand up for old-growth, however, have been in a professional sense summarily executed by the unholy alliance in Washington of congressional porkers, rapacious businessmen and an obsequious Forest Service hierarchy. If we are ever to have truly 'New' Forestry this parasitic mutation must be torn out by its roots and replaced by an organization more akin to a healthy forest itself, a symbiotic whole where individual diversity is encouraged as being vital to the long-term health and integrity of the entire forest and human community.

Although major changes are clearly necessary, the eventual protection of all public lands as ecological preserves would certainly not eliminate the need for a National Forest Service. On the contrary, there could even be an expanded role for the agency to play. It is true that old-growth wilderness would require, obviously, little human intervention, but there

would still be a great deal to do, including recreation management, forest restoration projects where appropriate, biological monitoring, expanded public awareness and education programs, and other tasks relating to proper stewardship of the Forest Preserves. In addition to this work on the public lands, the Forest Service could serve a vital role in private forest management by helping to reform the now mainly extractive-type methods of corporate logging toward more sustainable practices based on selective cutting and 'ecosystem management' without the pretense of fixing things as good as new. The government could offer some sorts of tax incentives or penalties to log within Forest Service guidelines, which would by itself help to create jobs, and besides that can be justified for the same reason that we demand (at least sometimes) minimum standards for environmental pollution. Inherent in this would be the recognition that timber 'mining' is a menace to human health and welfare and must be controlled. The 'owner' of a particular forest tract, for example, should not be allowed to simply ravage that forest to make a quick buck and let everybody downstream deal with the consequences. While this would hardly be an ideal situation to those of us who hate the smell of government regulations, there is no use pretending that private landowners

will voluntarily comply with such controls. And it is in this regard that the Forest Service could be particularly important, by working with the landowners to help ensure some measure of environmental sensitivity that would ultimately be to everyone's benefit.

There are of course many more possibilities to New Forestry than this essay can delve into, but by far the most important change that needs to occur is to have a Forest Service that actually, finally serves the Forest itself, and all of the beings who call the Forest home. This would include homo sapiens, but as partners and friends of the Forest, not the feudal lords we have been in the past. In fairness it can be said that the Forest Service over the past several decades has mainly reflected the values of our society rather than followed an exploitative agenda of its own. This certainly does not excuse the agency's many abuses but does at least relegate them to their proper place as yet another symptom of the ongoing degradation of human culture, a large measure of which has been spawned by our destructive treatment of the Earth. The Forest Service's version of New Forestry is in some ways a useful attempt to extract trees from ecosystems in a (possibly) sustainable fashion. If implemented on private forest lands they would be able to provide all the forest products we need and offer some

hope for healthy regeneration and eventual reharvesting. New Forestry could also provide more jobs because it is of necessity more labor-intensive to log forests in an ecologically responsible way than it is to just fire up the Caterpillars and rip the hell out of an ecosystem to maximize short term profits. The jobs created by New Forestry on private lands would not be easy and nobody would get rich, but they would provide a decent, honest living that could be counted on, perhaps, for generations to come.

The Forest Service's current domain, though, is the public Forests, which represent only about 15% of the country's current timber harvests. If welfare sales were ended, the figure would dwindle to almost nothing, and could easily be made up for by private forests, at least if those were managed in anything resembling a responsible fashion. Thus even from a purely economic standpoint, the exploitation of public Forests is and unconscionable waste. And from an ecological perspective it can be called nothing less than cultural insanity, because the public lands represent our last, best hope to do what is right by the Earth, or else continue down the dark road we're on, whose end may well be our own destruction. So the National Forests do not need New Forestry, they need No Forestry, and we need to find enough wisdom to set them free.

Environmental Institute Seeks Comments on Harmonic Mean Flow

Assistant Editor's disclaimer: The following was submitted by Frank Young, a WV Highlands Conservancy board member and a board member of the WV Environmental Institute. This is being published at his request. Its publication in the VOICE does not indicate WVHC's endorsement of the WV Environmental Institute, nor of any summary, report or other publication resulting from the Institute's "Call For Comments" on Harmonic Mean Flow related to water quality standards. But, of course, any WVHC member is free to submit comments for publication by the Institute.

"Call For Comments"

by Frank Young

The purpose of the WV Environmental Institute (WVEI) is to facilitate Environmental Groups, Elected Officials, Business and Industry, Regulatory Officials and Non-Affiliated Groups of West Virginia to work together on environmental issues, concerns and problems to help develop solutions for the good of all West Virginians.

In that regard, WVEI is issuing a call for comments (see below) from its members on the subject of harmonic mean flow and its potential impacts on water quality standards.

I view this as an opportunity for those of us who have expressed concern about the potential impact of changing how water quality standards are calculated. It is the proposed change from 7Q10 to harmonic mean flow (a calculation which will increase from six to eight times the amount of carcinogens permitted to be dumped into major WV streams) that is the regulatory key to permitting a large proposed pulp and paper mill on the already overpolluted Ohio River in Mason.

Although the Institute is accepting comments from members only, it will accept papers done in concert with nonmembers, so long as the comments meet the guidelines set out below and are submitted by a WVEI member. The twelve WVEI members classified as from environmental organizations are: Mary Ann Belling, Drew Forrester, Helen Gibbons, Karl Grandstaff, Connie Gratot Lewis, Joyce B. Manyik, Karen A. Motivans, Cindy Rank, Paula Sanders, Jim Tatterson, Mary Wimmer and Frank Young.

Persons wanting to submit comments, but who are not WVEI members, have two options: (1) They may work in concert with a WVEI member and submit comments in concert with the member. (2) They may join the Institute (there is no membership fee) by submitting an application for free membership. A membership application is available by calling Frank Young at 1-800-273-9329 between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. any evening, or by writing to Skip Kropp, Secretary, WVEI, PO Box 287, Charleston, WV 25301.

It is expected that comments will be submitted by industry. These will probably all or mostly be in support of the harmonic mean proposal. They will also probably be of a rather technical nature and be written mostly by paid industry representatives and their paid consultants. Industry usually gets what it pays for.

But there is no requirement that comments be highly technical nor that they be "expert opinions." Good old common sense is welcome. As a member of the committee which reviews comments before publication, I have insisted that all comments, except for personal attacks and comments deemed libelous, and which otherwise meet the guidelines below are to be published by the Institute.

The introduction, "factual background", and comment publishing policy appear below.

The West Virginia Environmental Institute, Inc. (WVEI) was founded in 1990 with objectives which include;

1.) To bring together a broad cross-section of society to explore environmental issues facing West Virginia;

2.) To furnish opportunities for the discussion and dissemination of information regarding the subject of the environment in West Virginia

In furtherance of these objectives, WVEI is issuing a Call for Comments on the subject of harmonic mean flow and its potential impacts on West Virginia. Any member of the WVEI is eligible to prepare a position paper dealing with the subject of harmonic mean flow and its potential environmental and other impacts.

Comments will be compiled into a single bound document and will be available as of October 14, 1993, either at the West Virginia Conference on the Environment or by request to the WVEI at PO Box 287, Charleston, West Virginia 25321

Factual Background

The Water Resources Board (WRB) is authorized by WV Code 20-5-5(b)(2) to promulgate legislative rules establishing water quality standards for the state. The standards include provisions which designate uses of all waters of the state as well as narrative and numeric criteria which are required to be met in order to protect the designated uses.

In order to ensure that a given discharge will not cause any numeric values to be exceeded, the Office of Water Resources (OWR) of the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) calculates effluent limits for pollutants discharged into the waters of the state. In calculating such effluent limits, a flow rate must be estimated in order to determine the amount of water available in the waterbody for dilution of the pollutant.

Historically, the OWR has used the estimated 7Q10 flow of the stream in calculating effluent limits in permits. 7Q10 is defined as the lowest average consecutive 7-day flow with an average recurrence of once in ten years. The 7Q10 flow rate is, by definition, a conservative estimate of the flow rate of a stream.

In 1991, the WRB added four carcinogenic constituents to the list of organics in the standards (Series I, Section 8.22). The Water Quality Standards rule provides that human health criteria for carcinogens are based on an estimated risk level of one additional death per one million persons.

Human health criteria for carcinogens are based on an assumed long-term exposure of 70 years. In the case of stream water, this is based on the assumption of an average consumption of 2 liters of water and 6 grams of fish per day from the stream.

In the 1991 "Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control", the US EPA provides recommendations for dilution design conditions to be used in calculating effluent limits. In that document, EPA recommends the harmonic mean flow of a stream as the appropriate flow rate to be applied in calculating effluent limits for human health criteria for carcinogenic substances. Harmonic mean flow is defined by EPA as a long-term mean flow value calculated by retrieving several years of daily flow records, taking the reciprocal of each value, calculating

the average, and taking the reciprocal of the average. EPA's recommendation for using harmonic mean flow for carcinogens is based on the fact that the adverse impacts of carcinogenic pollutants are estimated in terms of human lifetime intakes of such pollutants. Based on the assumption that there is a constant daily flow from a wastewater treatment facility, human exposure to any carcinogen discharged from a facility will vary inversely with receiving water flow. Therefore, using a design flow which accurately represents the average dilution over the long term is appropriate in calculating human exposure to a carcinogen.

By definition, harmonic mean flow of a stream will always be higher than the 7Q10 value. In an analysis of the flow records of 60 streams, EPA's Assessment and Watershed Protection Division and the Risk Reduction Engineering Laboratory at Cincinnati, Ohio determined that the long-term harmonic mean flows of all 60 streams were equal to greater than 2 times the 7Q10 low flow, and that 40 of the 60 streams' harmonic mean flows were equal to or greater than 3.5 times the 7Q10.

Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, and Illinois all use harmonic mean flow in calculating discharge limits for carcinogens. Ohio uses a harmonic mean flow for all waters except the Ohio River, where they use 10% of harmonic mean flow in conjunction with a statewide one in 10,000 exposure risk of cancer. Indiana and Maryland use an annual average flow methods for calculating discharge limits for carcinogens.

Based on their review and acceptance of EPA's recommendations, the Board included the following language in the Proposed Water Quality Standards legislative rule which was considered in the 1993 Legislative Session:

8.2c If a permit applicant requests and provides the necessary information to the chief, critical stream flow for carcinogens shall be the harmonic mean flow (as defined and calculated in "Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control", EPA/505/2-90-001, March 1991). Harmonic mean flows are appropriate when criteria are derived from cancer risk assessment based on lifetime exposure to contaminated fish flesh and drinking water (Use Categories B&A). In-stream compliance with carcinogen standards may be assessed by computing the arithmetic mean of all samples analyzed for the carcinogen on an annual basis.

A final resolution of this issue did not occur in the 1993 Legislative Session, however. Instead, Governor Caperton agreed to appoint a study commission to carry out a review of the impacts of adopting harmonic mean flow as the design flow for carcinogens.

Comment Publishing Policy

1. Comments will be accepted from any member of the WVEI;
2. Comments may not exceed 3,000 words;
3. Comments may be typed or handwritten, but must be reasonably legible in whatever form they are received by the WVEI;
4. Citations to factual references are encouraged and may take the form of a bibliography or footnotes;
5. The use of citations to factual references will not count toward the 3,000 word limit;
6. Personal attacks and comments deemed libelous will not be published;
7. All comments must be postmarked by September 13, 1993 and must be sent to the following address:
Edward L. Kropp, Secretary
WVEI

PO Box 287
Charleston, WV 25321

8. The WVEI reserves the right to consult with authors of submitted Comments deemed not in compliance with this policy. A version of such Comments edited into compliance will be published with the author's permission. Comments deemed not in compliance and not edited into compliance may be rejected by the WVEI;

9. All comments must clearly state the name of the author(s) and provide both a telephone number at which the author(s) may be reached during business hours and a mailing address to which the WVEI may send correspondence regarding the Comments.



Chestnut Oak

Economic IQ (from page 3)

- d. When a person can't pay the entire tax bill he makes installment payments.
- e. Unemployed persons with no income are taxed on potential value of their labor.
8. How many acres are encompassed by State Forests?
a. 500 b. 1000 c. 28000 d. 34,000 e. 78,000
9. How many state forests are there?
a. 3 b. 6 c. 9 d. 12 e. 15
10. How many acres of trees were cut in the Mon Forest in 1992?
a. 500 b. 1,254 c. 4,306 d. 10,500 e. over 1 million

Optional essay. If you choose to answer, please submit directly to the VOICE Editor by Sept. 25th. Answer one or both.

- a. Do you favor a ban on timbering on the Mon. National Forest? Why or why not?
- b. What changes (if any) should be made within the WV Div. of Forestry?

from the heart of the mountains

(from page 2) "reduce" and "eliminate" pollution echoing in the deep recesses of our collective conscience, we continually devise ways to permit more and more amounts of pollutants to enter our ground and surface waters and practically ignore the ways we overuse what good water remains.

The vise is tightening even here in the land of plentiful water where even the best of our efforts seem only to be slowing the inevitable squeeze.

Congress acts to renew the Clean Water Act this year. Let us all, each and every one, individually and in our various organizations, work to fend off weakening revisions, and where possible make necessary improvements to this crumbling bottom line of water protection. ...The need has never been greater.

The Chief's First News Release

(with commentary by ragette)

Bill Maxey became the new chief of WVDOF on July 1 of this year, stepping into the job as the Kumbrow Issue was flaring. He took the bull by the horns and issued a news release on July 15, entitled "Maxey Shares State Forestry Philosophy." Basically the release stated that he believed citizens should have a voice in how State Forests are managed, considering how the forests do belong to them. (That wouldn't have anything to do with the hundreds of letters and phone calls about Kumbrow, would it now?)

He then proposes a "Public Opinion Advisory Committee" to recommend forest management guidelines to the Division. (Public input into this recommendation will consist of one environmentalist, one industrialist, one member of the House of Delegates, two citizens chosen by the first three and one non voting member from the Division. (It seems yours truly may be the environmentalist on the committee, even though I believe in my heart the intent of this committee is to offer a show of public input but to trivialize it, and go about business as usual).)

To show how responsive he is to public concerns he formally announced a moratorium on clearcutting in state forests, except to develop wildlife food plots, research, or salvage. (In the new Forest Plan for the GW National Forest, these same reasons are used to prescribe more clearcutting than was allowed in the first GW Forest Plan.) This, even though he believes clear cutting to be the best silvicultural tool for many circumstances.

Kumbrow (from page 1)

clearcuts. Sayre tried to explain the difference between nature selecting survival and number of den trees and man's choosing a number based on his wants. (On the tour of the recent clearcut following the meeting we saw but six 'den' trees in the 15+ acre clearcut, these exposed to the relentless July sun.) Sayre said he thought there was a fundamental difference in our basic understanding and he didn't believe there was any way to bridge the gap, that our mindsets blinded us to seeing the forest from the other's perspective. I believe Sayre was being generous, because I think most of us did see where the Foresters were coming from and wanted them to do their thing on private lands or at least ask the public if they wanted these trees to be cut in the first place.

A little later when the older folks got to asking questions and 'telling it like it is', I can tell you that this rabid environmentalist was soon put to shame for his conciliatory attitude. They were furious. Caroline Brady Wilson, daughter of one of the three men (a governor, an attorney general, and her father) who sold the forest to the state and for whom the forest is named, spoke up. She said they transferred the land to the state so future generations could see what the forest looked like when our ancestors first set foot in this country. Several old timers remembered the time before the trees came back. They felt the clearcut of '91, adjacent to the proposed sale, was a disgrace. For many of them an area of the forest they had hiked and hunted in for over forty years was quickly losing all recreational value.

The attitude that disturbed me most, though, was expressed by Jim Hayes, the Forester for Kumbrow and author of the Kumbrow Management Plan. He said that he spent 7 days a week out in the woods, that he was entrusted by the Governor and the Legislature to manage this forest. He truly felt

He pointed out the difference in the 70,000 acres of parks that are appropriate for "old-growth" (which at the Kumbrow meeting he admitted was but a drop in the bucket in WV's many million acres of forest land being cut regularly) and the 91,000 acres of state forest he says were established, by law, with the goals of growing timber, demonstrating sound forestry practices, protecting watersheds, and providing public recreation.

I read the law a little differently. Under "19-1A-1 Legislative purposes. The purposes are of this article are to provide for ... the management of state forests for conservation and preservation of wildlife, fish, forest species, natural areas, aesthetic and scenic values and to provide developed and undeveloped outdoor recreation opportunities, and hunting and fishing for the citizens of this state and its visitors." (What no timber 'harvest?') Under different sections of the code timber production and the demonstration of state of the art forestry management are but two of 15 different uses of the state forests.

The quote that I appreciate most from the news release is one I often use as a reason to not cut in the very small percentage of land in this state the public owns. Here it is. "Recent U.S. Forest timber inventories show that the State is growing three to four times more wood than the annual harvest." Let's see, by applying the law of supply and demand with supply exceeding demand by threefold, any timber the state sells from public land decreases the value of timber in private hands. And that ends the news release. How much is new?

he was the expert and that we didn't know anything about real forest management. He said that 41 million board feet of timber could and should be extracted from Kumbrow right now to most efficiently utilize the wood product resources. Standing out in the timber access road, he lectured us on how the road, the forest was 'their' factory and they knew best how to care for it.

When asked repeatedly why a certain apparently healthy giant maple right on the trail was marked for cutting (despite the promise to cut only the dangerous trees within 50' of the trail), Jim simply shrugged his shoulders and said, "I marked it." Jim's boss, David Lilly, said it was a judgement call. The experts declared it dangerous and that was sufficient.

Actually every large marketable tree within fifty feet was marked as far as I could ascertain. Some of us that separated in disgust from the tour were surprised when a large limb actually crashed to the ground about 100 feet behind us. We rushed back to see which tree had dropped it and discovered it was from a plainly dead and rotten giant maple that was not marked! The tree featured on the cover of the July VOICE now featured a spray-can-sprawl "DO NOT CUT". I'd like to photograph every large tree in the proposed sale and print them in the VOICE, if that would help.

So now where are we? The governor has many more problems to deal with than 'some old trees'. Bids from industry will be coming in to the DOF as you receive this issue. The contract will most likely be signed before the end of the month. We asked the Chief to delay the sale until a mechanism for public input was developed. He said no way. (The machine rolls on while we meet in air-conditioned rooms.) We asked him in a letter we wrote after the meeting to at least declare a public comment period to coincide with and not delay the sale. He has not responded in over a month.

Kumbrow - a Founder's View

This piece has been transcribed from *Kumbrow - the Video*, to be reviewed in next month's issue of the VOICE.

I am the daughter of one of the founders of Kumbrow State Forest, A Spates Brady. The other founders were Gov. H.C. Kump and E.A. Bowers, attorney. As a young adult, I was living in my father's house when negotiations were being conducted for Kumbrow's purchase by the state of West Virginia. I remember my father saying to me that this would be a forest our children could look at and say, "This is how West Virginia looked when our ancestors, the first white settlers, arrived."

Being a lumberman as well as a civil and mining engineer, he could not understand how the lumber companies had missed this fine timber. All three founders, Gov. Kump, Bowers and my father share this view. The ties between the men were personal as well as commercial. Gov. Kump, appointed my father to the Board of Control, where he served as president, and

later to the state Liquor Commission.

Previously, my father had been active as a people's advocate in public utility rates. According to news accounts of the time my father was one of the most vigorous protesters against the inequities of the Water Power Act, that would have put Blackwater Falls underwater and unavailable to our present tourist industry.

When I first heard about Gov. Barron's sale of timber from Kumbrow in the 70's, I went to the Phillips Camp Run area of the Forest. I measured with my arms big trees that in circumference were five times my arm spread. I watched the loggers cut down in minutes what had taken a century to grow.

I feel that Kumbrow was intended to be a legacy for our children, and citizens of West Virginia. It would be completely contrary to the intent of the founders of Kumbrow State Forest for further timber sales to occur in the forest.

Caroline Brady Wilson.

(from column 2) Do you ask "What can I do?" 1.) Call or write the Governor. 2.) Join the lawsuit as a plaintiff or even interested observer. The suit will most likely be heard in Charleston during the second or third week of September, if you can attend, it will certainly

help. Call Joe at 636-9555 for the latest details. 3.) Work with others during the legislative session to see that this does not happen again. Call Bill at 824-3571. 4.) Go visit the site and photograph it, take it into your memory before it is lost. Each tree that they hope to cut will have a spot spray-painted on it.

Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide Now Out

Edition 6 of Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide is now available. This edition is bigger and better than ever, with 368 pages, 96 pages of maps, 49 photographs, 177 trails totalling 812 miles, and a new full color cover. West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is the publisher. Authors are Allen de Hart and Bruce Sundquist (same as edition 5). Allen has hiked all the trails of the Monongahela N.F. over the past few years. Bruce was the editor for the first four editions. The hiking community and the U.S. Forest Service provided trail reports and photographs. Edition 6, like edition 5, also provides information for ski-touring and backpacking.

The growing throngs of visitors and the public at large regard the Monongahela National Forest as a 'Special Place'. And indeed it is. The hiking, backpacking, and ski-touring opportunities it provides are among the best in the eastern U.S. The more outstanding areas are becoming known far and wide - Otter Creek Wilderness, Dolly Sods Wilderness, Flatrock Plains, Roaring Plains, Blackwater Canyon, Spruce Knob, North Fork Mountain, Shaver's Mountain, Laurel Fork Wilderness, Cranberry Back Country, Cranberry Wilderness, among others.

Profits from the sale of these guides support a wide variety of worthy environmental projects in the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

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Forest Service 1992 Timber Program loses nearly \$500 million

Below cost timber sales on the national forest cost taxpayers \$499 million in 1992, according to a study released last month by CHEC, a Portland, Oregon, forestry policy group. "Out of 122 national forests," says researcher Randal O'Toole, "only a dozen made money on timber last year."

O'Toole's findings contrast with those of a recent Forest Service study which says that 52 national forests made money and that the overall timber sale program earned \$250 million in 1992. O'Toole responds, "CHEC research has shown that the Forest Service is budgetarily rewarded for losing money on timber sales. Naturally it also has an incentive to cover up those losses."

CHEC's new study, "Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics - How the 1992 Forest Service Timber Program Cost Taxpayers \$499 million," says that the Forest Service covers up its losses in four main ways:

1. The agency counts nearly \$600 million of timber receipts as "revenues" even though those receipts were spent operating the national forests, not returned to the US Treasury. O'Toole's calculations count only for those receipts collected by the Treasury.

2. The agency ignores \$66 million worth of road construction costs paid by taxpayers which it admits were needed for timber sales because, it says, the roads "added to the capital

value of the forest." This, says O'Toole, is like saying that "spending \$5,000 to fill a backyard swimming pool with concrete, turning it into a patio, adds \$5,000 to the value of the house."

3. Most Forest Service reports ignore \$305 million paid to local governments in lieu of property taxes. "Every private landowner I know considers taxes to be a cost," says O'Toole. "Why doesn't the Forest Service?"

4. Although the Forest Service counts overhead costs spent by the agency's regional and Washington offices, it doesn't attribute them to individual national forests. This overestimates the returns from individual forest sale programs. CHEC prorated these dollars based on the volume cut on each national forest.

To correct these and other problems, CHEC relied exclusively on Forest Service accounting data of actual receipts and expenditures to compare the income to and outgo from the US Treasury. The results showed that the overall national forest timber program costs taxpayers \$453 million in 1992. When only money losing forests are counted, the cost totaled \$499 million. CHEC'S study includes a comparison of 1992 timber receipts and costs for every national forest in the country. For more information, contact CHEC at 3758 S.E. Milwaukee, Portland, Oregon 97202. (503) 234-4349

CHEC's accounting of Forest Service Data for the Monongahela

Total Revenue	\$3,609,000
Forest Service retained	374,000
Purchaser Credits	887,000
US Treasury	2,438,000
County Payments	879,000
Sale Costs	1,221,000
Road Costs	1,162,000
Reforestation costs	219,000
General Administration	486,000
RO/WO	293,000
NEPA appeals	07
Net to Treasury	minus \$1,913,000
Acres Cut	4,306 acres
Estimated jobs	317

Total Revenues shows all revenues counted by the TSPIRS (Timber Sale Program Information reporting System), including purchaser road credits, Knutson-Vandenburg funds, and other receipts retained by the Forest Service.

Forest Service Retained - identifies the receipts retained by the Forest Service in the K-V fund, salvage sale fund, brush disposal fund, cooperative road maintenance fund, and restoration of improvements fund.
 Purchaser Credits - displays the purchased road credits counted as receipts.
 US Treasury - shows the funds actually retained by the treasury
 County Payments - shows the amounts paid to counties.
 Road Costs - include road construction and reconstruction as well as transportation planning.
 Reforestation costs - replanting, timber stand improvements, genetics, plastic wraps.
 General Administration - overhead at forest and district levels
 RO/WO - Regional and Washington office costs prorated per board foot.

Steenstra Takes a Hike

On Tuesday August 24, I attended an inspection tour of the proposed Clay Run Timber Sale within the Kumbrow State Forest. The group partaking in the 'show me' tour included 3 WV state foresters, 5 timber cutting company officials, and Dennis Hendricks, Traci Hickson and her 6 year old sister Kelly - all from Pocahontas County.

The meeting began on an uneasy note. Clearly neither the Forestry officials nor the timber cutters felt comfortable with our presence. To say that they resented our participation would be a fair way to describe the atmosphere. WV DOF Forestry representative Jim Hayes began the tour by outlining the terms and conditions of the sale. He stated that "this sale has produced some unexpected controversy." He attributed that controversy to individuals and groups that wished to protect a large number of big trees in the timber sale area. Almost mournfully he expressed the opinion that those big trees would probably blow over and die within the next five years. His regret over this 'waste' was profound.

Later in the Forester's introduction to the group, he expressed fear that 'radical elements' might resort to unpleasant tactics during the course of the timbering operation and so the Division of Forestry would go to unusual lengths to discourage such behaviour. Padlocked gates would be the norm. He then proceeded to give the combination of the lock on the gate to all those in attendance. Dennis, Traci and I exchanged relieved glances. Obviously they did not consider us 'radical elements' because we now know the combination.

We entered the Clay Run area by hiking through a 3 year old clearcut. The new timber area abuts the old clearcut. The dynamics between the company officials was interesting. On one hand there was a 'them versus us' camaraderie, but also a sense of competition as

NEPA appeals - includes the cost of environmental documentation, appeals and litigation.
 Net to Treasury - equals US Treasury less the next seven figures.

Estimated jobs - includes direct and indirect jobs. FS doubles direct jobs numbers to get this total.

Even by the Forest Service's accounting the Stillwell OA set of projects will cause a loss of \$66. This does not include all the above costs identified by CHEC and \$50,000 or more that was spent on the EA and appeals. It does include the receipts from all the timber sales (the cut of the oldest stand of trees in the whole 5700 acres).

each company official tried to read each others mind and make rough calculations as to what the competitor might bid.

Gradually conversation between the company folks the state foresters and myself became more cordial. I asked many questions - some dumb ones, some directed at specific timber cutting practices and then the one question that bothered them the most. "Since this is likely to be the most controversial timber sale in recent memory, how much access will the public have to actually monitor and photograph the cutting during timbering operations? This question bothered everyone. The Forester hemmed and hawed and talked about steel-toed shoes, protective eyewear etc, etc. It was apparent that he was trying to stall for time to think about a more restrictive policy. Finally he said "that if anyone was going to observe the cutting they would need to notify the company and the Division of Forestry prior to observing the cutting."

There was an apparent disdain for the folks who admired large trees for purely aesthetic or ecological reasons. This disdain prevailed throughout the afternoon. What was most interesting to me was that among the company officials there was almost reverential appreciation of the board feet contained in the 90 year old oaks.

For almost a hundred years the clash between the value systems of John Muir and Gifford Pinochet have dominated the timber debate. I was struck by the fact that the Div of Forestry and the company officials I met were still adamantly holding on to the concepts of Pinochet with little empathy toward those who saw no need to manage public lands. That day, we were members of the same species talking completely different languages. I was reminded of the earlier debates I've had in my life. Debates with the Hawks during Vietnam and bigots during the late 60's race riots. There was no common ground no hope for compromise.

All in all it was an interesting day. A collage of new impressions and fragments of conversations will remain with me for a long while. One particular conversational fragment I continue to mull over. WV DOF representative Jim Hayes indicated to me how much he resented the need for public input. He compared it to patients telling the doctor how to perform a given procedure. "We are the experts" he said, "we are the scientists ... We should be left alone to do our job."

I'm not sure where to go from here but if indeed the Clay Run area of the Kumbrow is cut I want to do everything I can to make it the last timber cutting on state forests.

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