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The Highlands Voice

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Kumbrabow, in the courts and in the snow.

by Bill Ragette

On the Ridge. The trees still stand. On December 11, nine determined tree huggers met in Elkins and drove to Kumbrabow through the last of the snowstorm that had dumped a foot of snow in the lowlands and over 18" at the state forest. After driving as close as we dared through the unbroken snow, we put on our gaiters to keep snow out of boots and pant legs. Hiking in on the 60' wide timber-access road through the selection cuts and clearcuts of 1991, we gained the heights and the view of the largest stand of the largest red oaks left in the state. At least no one I've taken there knows of a stand as grand.

A great blue heron incongruously flew overhead. The veterans visited old tree friends, took pictures of the snow covered giants, showing them off to the newcomers. Winter and the snow had hidden the ground flora and fauna, although tracks were plentiful. The trees dominated as never before. We could look up and see the canopy's unevenness and the large, irregular branching structures that suggested the trees were reaching maturity, but not debility. Other signs of a forest approaching

Old Growth were the large dead standing and fallen trees, so valuable as wildlife habitat. We again looked futilely for the signs of decay and weakness in all the trees along the trail that were marked for cutting. I longed to slide down the steep slope into the heart of the grove, but time was short and traveling was difficult. Long before I was satiated, the group decided it was time to hike out and cross the bitter, windy clearcut adjacent to this present proposed

timber harvest.

In the courts. December 17. No snow, no cold. All the wood is in the panelling. No great blue herons. Quite a few turkeys though. At least 13 Division of Forestry (DOF) employees were there in uniform to show the judge they cared. This was to be the showdown. Kanawha Circuit Court Judge King had agreed a fortnight earlier to reinstate the injunction, against cutting the trees, that had expired a few weeks earlier.

At the end of November, we felt that the trees were protected for the time being because Darryl McGraw, the Attorney General, had rescinded the contract the DOF made with Coastal Lumber to sell the trees. But Supersecretary John Ranson decided to step in and try to overrule the AG, and rumor had it that Coastal was going to bring in the dozers after the weekend. So we all converged at court on Friday in order to get the injunction renewed until the Judge had time for a full hearing. Thankfully the Judge had the sense to see that cutting the trees would render any legal decision moot. We had to scrape up a bond of \$1000 by the end of the day. If we lose the case we most likely lose the money too. I did ask the DOF that day if they had received any money from Coastal and if they had spent it. Yes to both questions. To the tune of tens of thousands of dollars. It still appears to me that the DOF thinks citizens and the courts have no business in even slowing down their rush to harvest the trees before they fall over and rot.

Back to the 17th. Lots of DOFers, lots of tree huggers. Both sides stay (see page 7)



A Billion-Dollar Exit Ramp

by Hugh Rogers

The voice of reason wants to reassure you about Corridor H. Here's a standard response to protest letters: "In considering development questions, I always seek a sensible balance between economic and environmental concerns." But the project is still in trouble, after 25 years, because both concerns point the same way. So what's on the other side of the scale? A few chunks of self-interest, a whole lot of inertia.

Corridor H doesn't make sense on its own economic terms. This idea shouldn't be a surprise. Other big government projects that degraded our environment did not boost our economy. Resource uses of public lands are familiar examples of poor investment, but new highway construction in rural areas belongs at the top of the list.

The Appalachian Development Highway system had two purposes: first, to attract the east-west travel that had bypassed the mountains, with the notion that development would

follow, and second, to ease commuting within the region. Corridor G, an example of the second kind, has increased commuting into Charleston, and may contribute to job growth in Boone and Logan Counties. But the impact of a highway in a densely-populated area that lacked easy access to a nearby city has nothing to do with a corridor through two national forests, precious farmland, and rural communities. Appalachia isn't all one thing.

Do jobs follow new roads into the country? After more than 25 years of special funding for these highways, we have an answer: no, they don't. Highway construction in rural areas often hurts the people it was meant to help. The politicians haven't caught up, but economic development specialists know it. Terry Rephann, an assistant professor at WVU's Regional Research Institute, wrote a dissertation on the subject. His article, "Will Corridor H Help Our Economy?" appeared in *Cacapon* last year. (See notes below.) He concluded, "The zone along Corridor H is likely to experience net negative economic impacts."

Ralph Widner, the first executive director of the Appalachian Regional Commission, reviewed its programs for the 25th anniversary. More than half the money was spent on highways. "With hindsight," he said, "the original premise for the system in this connection can be called into question." Manufacturers didn't escape the cities to rural areas. If wages were their main concern, they moved to Mexico or Malaysia instead. Otherwise they went only so far as the suburbs.

The ARC insists that most jobs have been created in the counties with major highways, and that Corridor H "Needs Study" relies on this claim. But where were those counties located? Widner found that most job growth occurred close to metropolitan areas on the fringe of Appalachia—Atlanta, Cincinnati, even New York and Philadelphia—or around cities within the region—Winston-Salem, Huntsville, and others. That "spillover growth" won't reach the Potomac Highlands.

Widener called for a redirection of investment in Appalachia. (see page 7)

WVHC Winter Board Meeting
Will be held January 8, 1994 at the office of the WV Rivers Coalition in Buchannon, beginning at 10 A.M. Everyone welcome!

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—from the heart of the mountains—

by Cindy Rank

GIFTS IN BIG SHINY BOXES

What's all the fuss about the new Division of Environmental Protection (DEP)?

Has the W.V. environmental community gone over the edge on this one? Are the individuals speaking up against DEP only sore losers because in one or another particular battle recently the current director hasn't supported their position? Was the legislation that spells out the form and functions of DEP a "consensus" document that the environmental community is now reneging on merely because it didn't get its way during negotiations?

If you are to believe industry hype (and statements by DEP and the Department of Commerce, Labor and Environmental Resources: CLER), the answer to each of the above questions is YES.

I, for one, admit that it's all a bunch of hooey.

Were there people at the legislative committee hearing in early December that had personal grudges against the DEP and /or its representatives? Yes...and there were also people there who spoke in favor of DEP for equally personal reasons.

In fact, one of the greatest weaknesses of this legislation is the excessive amount of discretionary authority it gives to the one person appointed to head the new umbrella agency. All rises and falls on that person's whims-be it good, bad or indifferent. No doubt you'll love it if the director is on your side, but it just doesn't make for good or responsible government.

Is this a "consensus" piece of legislation, at one time agreed upon by all the interest groups represented on the Advisory Committee that defined the structure of the new DEP? NO.

A carefully crafted letter of support signed by members of the drafting sub-committee might lead you to believe there was consensus, but in truth there was not; nor does the careful reading of that letter require such a conclusion.

I was one of the Committee members who refused to sign off on the bill being proposed to the legislature. I believed then, as now, that the present version of the bill only addresses a portion of the purposes set out in the enabling legislation (H.B. 217 passed in October 1991) but it falls far short of providing the increased environmental protection the new name implies.

So, what was this legislation meant to do that it doesn't do?

Back in the summer of '91 House Bill 217 was conceived to ward off Big Brother Federal Office of Surface Mining who was nipping at the heels of a woefully inadequate mining regulatory program and threatening to take over control of that program and the substantial funds that accompany it.

I was "at the table" in 1991 and didn't like the direction that the legislature decided to take. To me, problems in the mining program could and should have been resolved by garnering more money from industry to strengthen WV's effort to enforce both federal and state surface mining laws and increasing the legislature oversight of that whole process, period.

Instead, someone, somewhere had the bright idea that the Legislature should also tinker with the rest of the environmental regulatory programs so that all would work together a little more smoothly. Hence, the birth of DEP.

It was a coup for the coal industry: Attention was no longer focused on coal and the mining program, but was dispersed (continued on page 8)

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Coal Futures Conference Update



From around the US and West Virginia, coal specialists will be descending on West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV on January 15, 1994. They're coming for a jam-packed day of deliberations that are open to the public.

They plan to find out what each other, and WVU coal experts, predict the next few years will have in store for the coal industry. Some are bullish about coal's future, others aren't so sure. Some are environmentalists, coming from as far away as the Rocky Mountains to discuss an array of issues ranging from Global Warming to Acid Mine Drainage. Some others plan to tell them, in effect, "Don't be so worried."

The keynote speaker is West Virginia's native historian John Alexander Williams, who has accepted the tough topic, "What Coal's Past Can Tell Us About Coal's Future." Dr. Williams is now head of Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. His speech is slated for Saturday at 1:00 P.M. in the Mountainlair's Gold Ballroom.

The other 12 sessions of the conference are partly concurrent with each other so the whole conference can be squeezed into one day. All activities will happen in the Mountainlair and are free of charge. The first round of speakers starts at 10 A.M. Among the first speakers are WVU sociologist Sally Maggard and WVU historian Ronald Lewis. They plan to show slides illustrating the "life-cycle" that coal mining towns follow throughout the world. Mining electrician Paul Rakes is to follow, describing "The Living Life Cycle Underground." At every session, audience participation is planned to follow the speakers. Other sessions will focus on the Citizen's Coal Movement, the impacts of longwalling, backhauling, mountaintop removal and acid mine drainage; coal law, jobs and the environment, international demand for coal, labor, coal reporting as well as other topics. At least three WVHC board members will be on the panels.

For a full brochure or other information call the Mountaineer Policy Institute at 296-8963.

'Wise Users' Separates Environmentalists

from an article by Joel Bleifuss in the September 20, 1993 issue of *In These Times*. Thanks to Tom Michael for the passing it on.

In a speech to the 1991 National Cattleman's Association titled: "Take an Activist Apart and What Do You Have?" (Ronald) Duchin separated activists into four different categories: opportunists, idealists, realists, and radicals.

Opportunists "exploit issues for their own personal agenda," he explained. Idealists "apply an ethical and moral standard" and are usually "naive". Realists, though, are "willing to work within the system" and "are not interested in radical change." They "should always receive the highest priority in any strategy dealing with a public policy issue,"

Duchin told his audience. "In most issues, it is the solution agreed upon by the realists which becomes the accepted solution, especially when business participates in the decision-making process."

The radicals, by contrast, "see multinational corporations as inherently evil" and "want to change the system." The best way to deal with radicals, Duchin contended, is to form an alliance with the realists and then co-opt the idealists. The opportunists will then jump on board, leaving the radicals isolated. This tactic works best between the time that "a radical group begins to push an issue and when the issue becomes accepted by credible groups." If corporations wait too long, they will lose "control" over how the issue is framed, and may wind up facing legislation they do not like.

Thanks to Vince Packard for all drawings, except coal futures (by Carol Jackson) and Corridor \$\$ from CHA.

Thanks to the following folks for donations made to the Conservancy in memory of Karen Farris:

- William McNeel
- Sandra and Arthur Strother
- Cathryn Schanz
- Joseph Lazell
- Evelyn Swartout
- Environmental Design Group, Inc.



Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge

Public Input Sought

This month the youngest of all National wildlife refuges expanded by 160 acres with the acquisition of Buffington Island, the ninth and largest island in the refuge. Heavily used by man for its natural resources, Buffington will be returning to its natural state. Used most recently for its gravel and timber, the island was once important to native Americans for the abundance of mussels. Recent excavations have uncovered native American mussel shell disposal pits containing species now extinct. Wildlife is still incredibly abundant on the island.

Thirty eight islands were originally considered for inclusion in the refuge, but probably no more than 25 will ever be

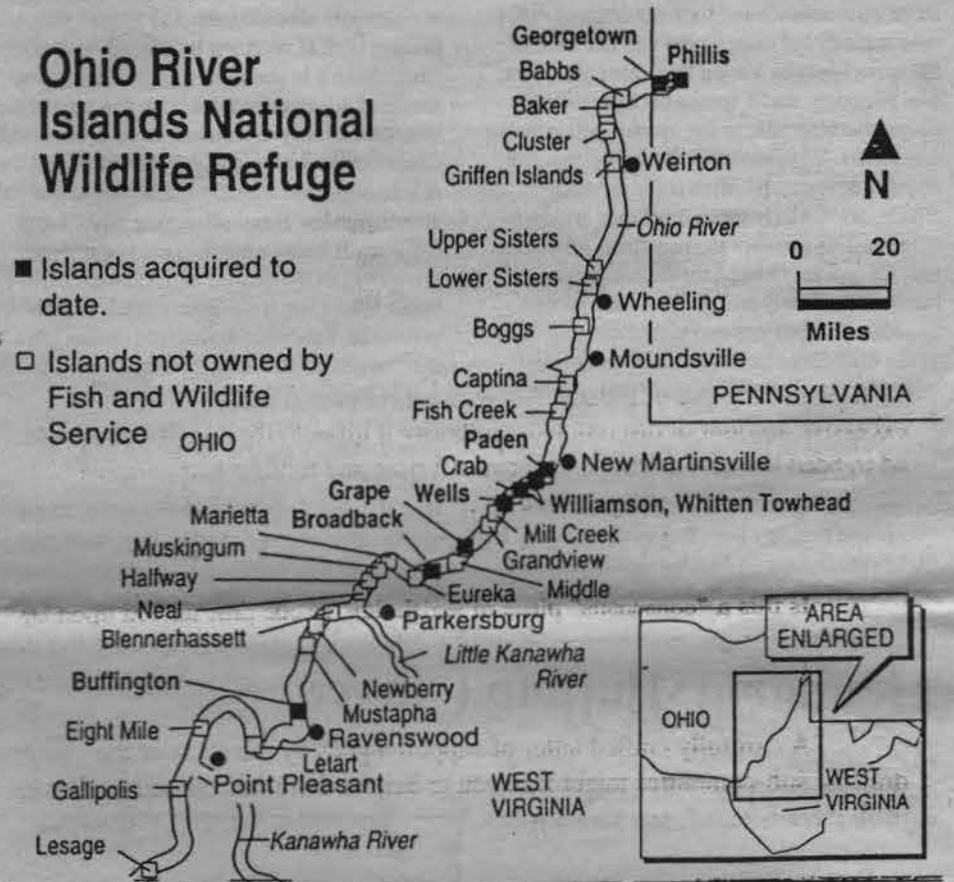
acquired. Two islands have already been lost through commercial dredging since the refuge was conceived. Fourteen others have disappeared in the same stretch since 1900.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is now developing plans for the management and use of the islands. Various projects and activities being considered are wildlife habitat creation, preservation, hiking, bird and animal viewing and killing (er, hunting). Public input is being sought till January 31, 1994. If you are interested in getting involved, write or call the ORINWR office as soon as possible. ORINWR, PO Box 1811, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1811 (304)-422-0752.

Thanks to the Charleston Gazette and Rick Steelhammer for graphic and information.

Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge

- Islands acquired to date.
- Islands not owned by Fish and Wildlife Service



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Gazette graphic

Apple Grove Pulp and Paper

The pollution permit applications for land and water discharges are close to the public comment stage, according to Eli McCoy, formerly chief of Water Resources and now deputy commissioner of WV Department of Environmental Protection. After they are released for comment, citizens will have 30 days in which to obtain, read, digest and make comments on the permit application. Kim Baker, community organizer for the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, said she was surprised to hear this from Eli McCoy. Many had not expected Apple Grove to submit the applications until the Legislature adopted the new weaker water quality standards proposed by the Water Resources Board.

Extirpated WV Vertebrates

- Bison
- Eastern Timber Wolf
- Elk
- Fisher*
- Mountain Lion
- River Otter*

- Bigmouth Shiner
- Lake Sturgeon
- Longnose Sucker
- Mississippi Silvery Minnow
- Shovelnose Sturgeon

* designates reintroduction from the WV Natural Heritage Program

Recognizing Old-Growth Trees

By Robert Leverett.

This is another piece from the forward to *Old Growth in the East* by Mary Davis, which we featured in the last issue of the VOICE. The book is available from *Wild Earth*, POB 455, Richmond, VT 05477 for \$20 postpaid.

Evaluating old-growth characteristics requires a wealth of experience. Subtle, overlapping patterns must be recognized and differentiated. There is no substitute for field experience. However, one can learn quickly how to identify age in specific tree species.

Although counting the annual rings of a tree is the only way to confirm exact age, old trees exhibit signs of aging just as humans and animals do. The overall shape, crown characteristics, root spread, and bark appearance differ substantially between young and old trees of the same species. Young trees have thin bark, fine twigging, and a somewhat symmetrical shape characteristic to the species and growing conditions. With maturity, bark thickens and changes texture and often color. In many stands, particularly those on slopes, a noticeable twisting appears to accompany advanced age. Of course, twisted trunks make poor lumber, one likely reason they were spared. David Stahle has pointed to this characteristic in the Post Oaks he has dated. Competition with other trees, weather, poor soil, insect damage, disease, and other environmental stresses result in loss of branches: a natural pruning process. The tree progressively loses its symmetrical shape. The crowns of hardwoods and conifers usually become broader and flatter, the term 'stag-headed' describes these shapes. Old Northern Red Oaks that have

matured in a closed canopy forest appear somewhat like oversized stalks of broccoli.

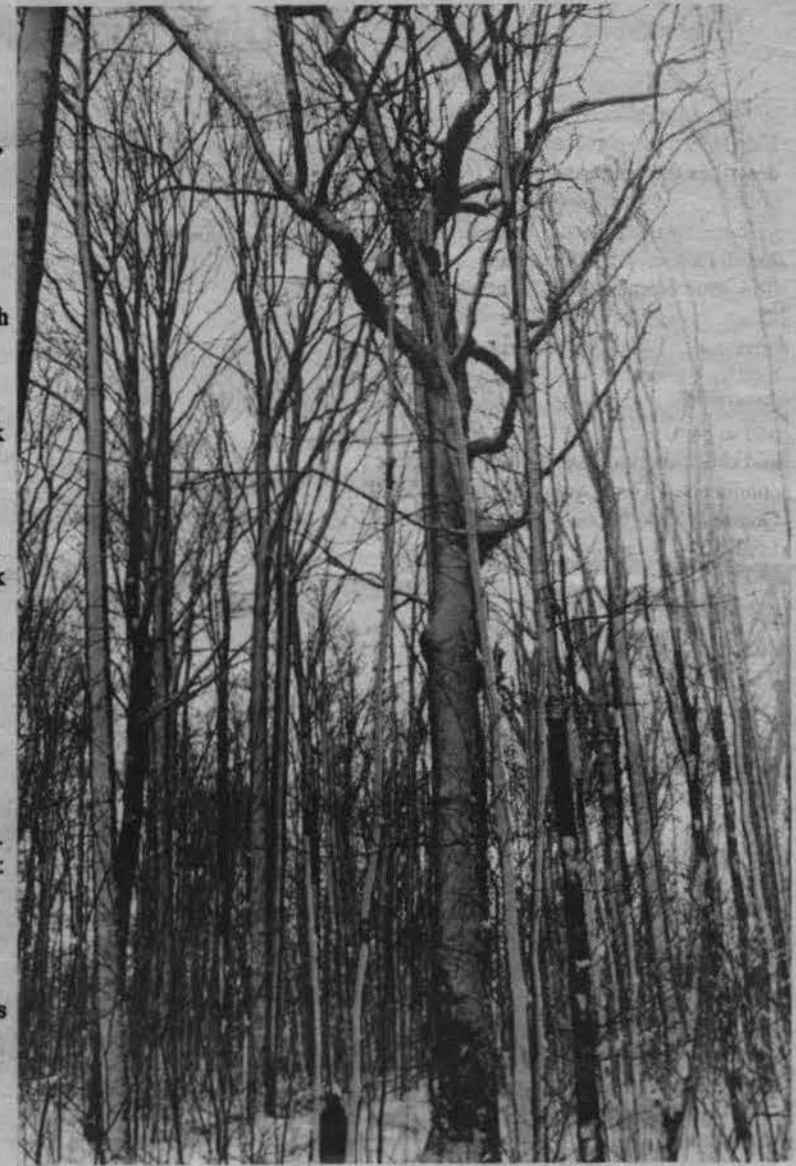
With age, a tree's other extremity, its root structure, becomes more prominent and massive. For trees that have matured in a closed canopy forest, energy has been expended growing upward instead of outward, lower limbs die due to insufficient light and fall off. Old-growth trees may show no branching for 40 feet or more.

An in-depth description of old-growth characteristics in individual tree species would require a complete book, but some species show age characteristics more prominently than others. It is instructive to examine a few.

Yellow Birch: Advanced age in Yellow Birch is especially conspicuous. The young, yellowish peeling bark is replaced by whitish-gray plates which have a broken-up, shingle-like appearance and are usually thicker on one side of the tree, particularly in concave areas of the trunk. Great Smoky Mountain National Park and the Adirondacks are excellent locations to see old-growth Yellow Birch of varying sizes. Large old-growth Yellow Birches are particularly prominent in the central and southern Adirondacks where the species may reach its maximum size. I recently discovered an old giant that measures 54.2 inches in diameter and 103 feet in height. A tree some miles away measured and reported by Barbara McMartin, an Adirondack expert, measured 53 inches in diameter.

Red Maple: *Acer Rubrum* is another tree that shows advanced age clearly. Brownish-gray bark strips curl conspicuously outward. Some people confuse the bark of old Red Maples,

when at a distance, with that of Shagbark Hickory. **Tulip Poplar:** Young tulip trees have an unmistakable symmetry with elbow-like branches and a spear shaped crown. Young bark is slightly furrowed. With age, the Tulip Poplar changes shape and bark texture. Thick ridges and deep furrows develop, later flattening with extremely advanced age as the outer bark is lost. Old crowns are broad and foliage is clumped. **Eastern Hemlock:** This conifer is relatively easy to age by visual means. Young eastern Hemlock is greenish-brown to brown. The bark of old hemlocks (see page 5)



A large red oak growing at Kumbrow State Forest. The branching pattern shows progression to Old-Growth characteristics.

Running Buffalo Clover

by P.J. Harmon
from *Native Notes* (Vol. 1 No. 2), published by the West Virginia Native Plant Society

Running Buffalo Clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*), one of the few clovers native to West Virginia, was once thought to be extinct until Rodney Bartgis, formerly of the West Virginia Natural Heritage Program and an original organizer of the WVNPS, found a small population in the New River Gorge at Cotton Hill, Fayette County, West Virginia in 1984. Within a few years, several populations had been found in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. By 1989, the plant had been declared a federally endangered species and there was a little money available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to search for new populations of Running Buffalo Clover (RBC). Since this species had once been associated with sizeable herds of bison, elk and deer that grazed in savannas of the clover and prairie grasses, we of the West Virginia Natural Heritage Program decided to investigate the possibilities of this species being associated with game trails in West Virginia. We wanted to know, "Where were the large herbivores feeding and traveling across West Virginia at the time the first trappers and surveyors came into our state? Were there any references to RBC in the earliest journals of the early explorers of that hugely forested wilderness?"

To help us answer these questions, in 1989, we hired Linda Smith to search the historical archives of our larger libraries to find any references she could to 'bison', 'buffalo', 'salt licks', 'elk', 'clover', and more. We asked her in the end to create a coarse map of the known

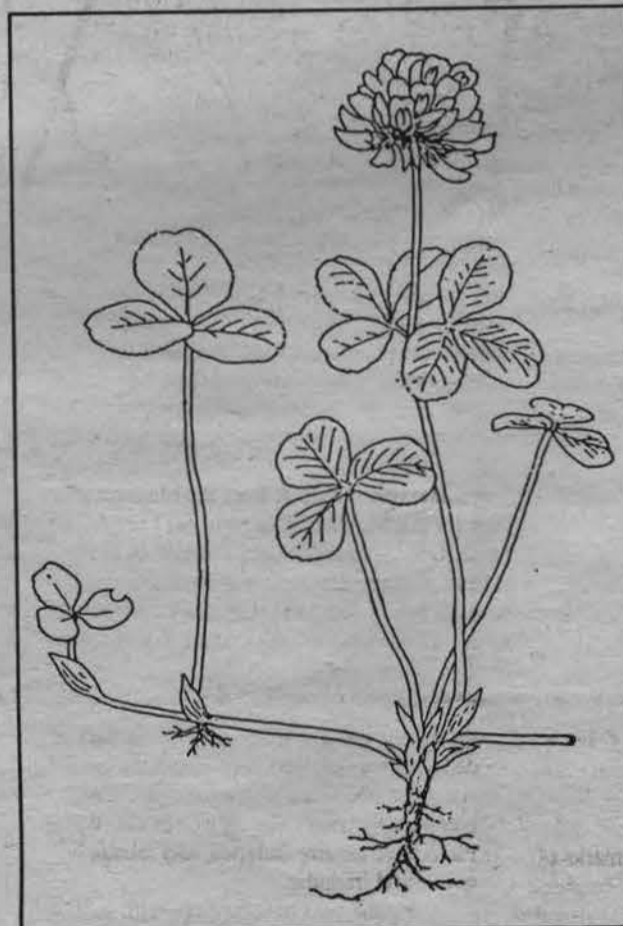


Figure 1 Running Buffalo Clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) (illustration by Sam Norris).

major game and indian trails across West Virginia at the time of settlement. One of the more helpful references Linda found was a Ph.D. dissertation about the early salt industry in the Ohio Valley and associated tributaries. She also found important journals like those of George Washington when he first came surveying down the Ohio River. Washington reported that thousands of bison, elk, and deer were seen grazing in a large savanna near present Letart, West Virginia, and that the prairie-like open woods was filled in part with a lush white clover. At the time Washington came down the Ohio, it is reasonable to assume that clover was not yet the introduced White European Clover but the native Running Buffalo Clover.

In the fall of that same year, a group of birders with the Brooks Bird Club stumbled onto two small clumps of the species in the middle of an old road on Rich Mountain West (there are two in Randolph County)! We confirmed it, and the adrenalin began to soar!

The following year, we sent 6 seasonal botanists across the state to search for this elusive native clover, but after a

month, no new sites had been found. Finally, Bill Roody and Donna Mitchell found a sizable patch along a jeep trail on Laurel Mountain along the Barbour/Randolph border, and we began to focus our attention in Randolph County at disturbed sites. By the end of the summer, four more populations had been discovered in Randolph County, all at sites that had been recently grazed by cattle or deer or in old roads or relatively new logging roads. In 1992, Linda Smith led us to a new site along a US Forest Service road on McGowan Mountain and we subsequently found four more populations in the same general area. The amazing fact about these most recent sites is that they occur in the middle of access roads that are annually mowed for wildlife or logging haul roads and skidder trails!

In a recent meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio with researchers who are investigating and protecting RBC, it was reported that this species has a very low genetic diversity throughout its range with the notable exception of a few populations in West Virginia and Kentucky! This may mean that the species is in serious long-range trouble, but that those genetically diverse populations in West Virginia could indicate that the center of this species' distribution could be the Allegheny Mountains.

The research continues! Over 50 volunteers throughout West Virginia have been trained in the identification of Running Buffalo Clover and are looking for it throughout much of the state, If you would like to keep an eye out for this interesting endangered species, here's what to do: look along (see next page)

Monongahela National Forest Staff Releases "NEPA" Quarterlyly

The Monongahela National Forest Staff has released its first ever "NEPA" Quarterly. This fifteen page document lists and briefly describes the range and status of all projects occurring or soon to occur on the Forest that are required by the National Environmental Policy Act to have an environmental assessment. This first issue promises that future issues will follow every 3 months to keep citizens informed. Many forest activists have been looking forward to such a quarterly report in order to get a chance to review project status and to have more time to get out into the forest and check out the areas before the cutting commences. To get your very own "NEPA" Quarterly reports contact Kate Goodrich - USFS, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241.

Projects (listed in the NEPA Quarterly) for the Cheat Ranger District
 PO Box 368
 Parsons, WV 26287
 304 478-3251

Mill Run Salvage Sale
 Timber sale, Removal of wind thrown timber
 Status: under analysis, Opp. Area #13.005,
 Decision date 1/94, Implementation 3/94

Location Project Area
 Vegetation Management/wildlife habitat management
 Timber sales, road construction/reconstruction, construction of openings for wildlife
 Status: under analysis, Opp. Area #13.004,
 Scoping starts 7/94, Comments due 10/94,
 Decision date 1/95, Implementation 10/95

Olson/Canyon Rim Project Area
 Vegetation Management, recreation, wildlife habitat management
 Timber sale, construction of openings for wildlife, management of abandoned railroad grade. Status: under analysis, Opp. Area #16.102 and #13.009, Decision date 1/94, Implementation 1/95

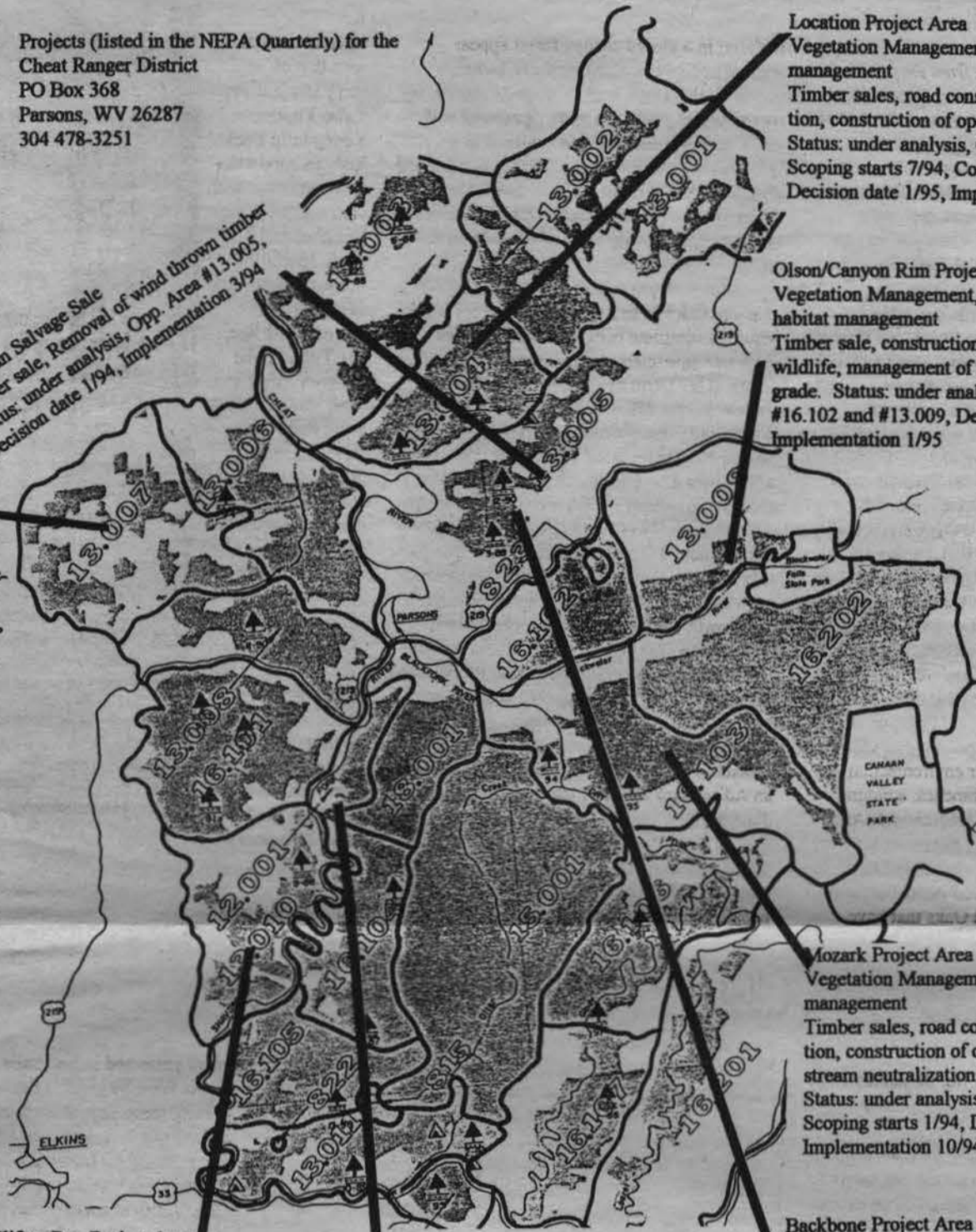
Indian Run Project Area
 Vegetation Management/wildlife habitat management
 Timber sales, road construction/reconstruction, construction of openings for wildlife
 Status: under analysis, Opp. Area #13.007,
 Scoping starts 3/94, Comments due 3/94,
 Decision date 9/94, Implementation 10/95

West Virginia Native Plant Society

After a long hiatus the WVNPS is once again an active organization. Early in 1993, over 20 old members and newly interested folks met and started the reorganization and revitalization process. The West Virginia Native Plant Society was founded to promote the preservation and conservation of the native plants and vegetation of West Virginia and to further the education of the general public on the values of native plants and vegetation. Already several meetings and field trips (to Fernow Experimental Forest, Greenbottom Marsh and Greenland Gap) were held and three issues of the newsletter (called 'Native Notes') have been published. The Kanawha Valley has already formed their own chapter and both Huntington and Elkins seem to be on their way to forming chapters. For more information on membership and Society activities write WVNPS
 Corresponding Secretary
 PO Box 2755
 Elkins, WV 26241

jeep trails, old roads, historical home sites and cemeteries, or similar habitats where partial to filtered sunlight reaches the ground and the area is generally moist. The plant can be identified by its long runners (stolons), large pointed bracts at the base of its leaves (stipules), and a flowering head on a stalk that arises from between a pair of leaves which in turn arise from a larger stalk off a runner (see figure 1). Wouldn't it be exciting to find a population in a county where we didn't have a record for it? If you want to see what this fascinating species looks like, join us for a WVNPS hike at Fernow Experimental Forest.

Editor's note. Its too late to get in on the Fernow Clover Hike, but if you join now you won't have to miss out on future expeditions.



Clifton Run Project Area
 Vegetation Management/wildlife habitat management
 Timber sales, road construction/reconstruction, construction of openings for wildlife
 Status: under analysis, Opp. Area #13.010,
 Comments due 2/94, Decision date 6/94,
 Implementation 10/94

Fork Mountain Project Area
 Vegetation Management/wildlife habitat management
 Timber sale and construction of openings for wildlife
 Status: under analysis, Opp. Area #12.001,
 Decision date 1/94, Implementation 3/94

Backbone Project Area
 Vegetation Management/wildlife habitat management
 Two timber sales, road construction/reconstruction, road closures/obliteration, opening roads to public motor vehicle use, and construction of openings for wildlife
 Status: under analysis, Opp. Area #13.005,
 Decision date 12/93, Implementation 3/94

Mozark Project Area
 Vegetation Management/wildlife habitat management
 Timber sales, road construction/reconstruction, construction of openings for wildlife, stream neutralization project
 Status: under analysis, Opp. Area #16.103,
 Scoping starts 1/94, Decision date 6/94,
 Implementation 10/94

Upcoming projects for the CHEAT Ranger District.

The above map is from the Management Plan for the Monongahela National Forest. Shaded areas represent lands owned by the federal government. Bold outlined areas with decimal type numbers inside area Opportunity Areas. The 'projects' can occur anywhere inside the OA boundaries.

Some projects are just about to begin implementation. Others are still in the 'scoping' stage. This is the best time for activists to become involved. Timber sales usually involve hundreds of acres and millions of board feet. Wildlife habitat management may mean clearcuts, mowing, herbicides.



OLD GROWTH (from page 4) has a very noticeable rusty brown to almost reddish appearance. Along with this color, deeply furrowed bark, massive root structures, and stubby branches are distinguishable marks of age. A word of caution about the stubby shape of older trees. As master tracker Paul Rezendes correctly points out, porcupine damage can mimic long-term pruning by the elements.
White Pine: Old-growth *Pinus Strobus*

specimens are easy to recognize. The bark is deeply furrowed. However, with truly great age, bark scales fall off, and the pine looks increasingly 'platy'. The crowns of old White Pines have usually flattened, and foliage is sparse and irregular.

People tend to equate age with size. Formulas have been developed to employ tree girth in age computation. Unfortunately, the correlation is poor and has not produced

consistently reliable results for any Eastern tree species. On favorable sites, I have found isolated hemlocks of great dimensions that turned out to be considerably younger than diminutive, gnarled specimens growing in dry rocky terrain, often within a couple hundred yards. In all but a few cases the large trees exhibited only moderately advanced age characteristics compared to the older, stunted trees.

Water Quality Forum- January 18, 1994

by Frank Young

The West Virginia Environmental Institute will sponsor a public forum on water quality on January 18. The forum will be held at 7:00 P.M. in rooms C and D of building 7 (called the Little Conference Center building). This is on the east side of California Avenue at the State Capital in Charleston.

The main emphasis of the forum will be a public discussion of a proposal to institute Harmonic Mean Flow as the method for determining base amounts of water for dilution of carcinogens discharged into streams.

Because water quality is expected to be a legislative issue, this forum is scheduled early in the session and all legislators are being invited to attend. Hopefully, many will. This is an opportunity to help legislators better understand the issues surrounding water quality changes.

To focus on the issues, the meeting is expected to begin as a short discussion session by one advocate each for Harmonic Mean Flow, 7Q10 Flow (the present method), and an advocate for Zero Discharge of any known carcinogens. The remainder of the forum will be open to anyone present to ask questions and make public comments.

The proposal to change from 7Q10 Flow to Harmonic Mean Flow came to light in the wake of a proposed large pulp and paper mill on the Ohio River in Mason County. Although the pulp and paper mill proposal is not dead, it has been eclipsed by a larger argument over proposed changes in water quality standards to accommodate the mill.

The concern by many environmentalists is that the lowered water quality standards, proposed to accommodate the pulp and paper mill, will apply to all industry in the state.

Indeed, the situation has developed that the primary advocates of changing to the less strict Harmonic Mean Flow are representatives of established chemical plants and the WV Manufacturers Association, advocates for existing dischargers. The pulp and paper mill promoters are, publicly at least strangely silent on the water quality issue.

The WV Environmental Institute, sponsor of the forum, is a group of Environmental - Regulator - Industry - Elected Official Representatives who attempt to explore environmental issues facing West Virginia.

For further information, contact Frank Young, WVEI environmental representative, 372-3945

Where is the Corridor H process now?

from *By The Way*, published by *Corridor H Alternatives (CHA)*

The West Virginia Division of Highways selected Scheme D (from Elkins through Parsons, Scherr, Moorefield, and Strasburg VA) as their preferred route for the proposed 120-mile highway. But this does not guarantee that the highway will be built. More public hearings are scheduled this spring, and we understand the Highway Division plans several information meetings this winter in West Virginia. Watch your local newspaper for meeting announcements.

WHEN DO THEY WANT TO BUILD?

Money has been authorized by Congress but not yet appropriated. The Highways Division wants to start building late in 1995. But next year is an election year for all US Representatives, many U.S. Senators and state legislators. Politicians these days are doing very little bragging about this unneeded, destructive, billion-dollar highway, because so many people are starting to question it. Your voice counts now, more than ever, so keep accountability alive by getting involved and communicating with your representatives.

WHAT DO WE WANT? Our curvy, sometimes dangerous, mountain roads in Virginia and West Virginia need improvement.

However, traffic through the Shenandoah Valley and Potomac Highlands does not justify 100 miles of four-lane tearing through some of the most beautiful scenery and traditional small towns in the east. We'd like to invest in a variety of improvements to existing roads. Virginia taxpayers don't need Corridor H at all and should not have to pay for it. West Virginia taxpayers would have to cough up \$200 million as the state's 20% matching share for Corridor H federal funds. These monies could be better spent improving and maintaining existing roads and bridges in both Virginias.

CHA obtained draft alignment maps using a Freedom of Information Act request. The alignment maps are much more detailed than the Corridor maps. They show the actual road placement. CHA has taken these maps to over a dozen community group meetings to educate the folks. If you haven't already, you should join Corridor H Alternatives, and get all the latest info, as well as help this all-volunteer group in their efforts. The latest issue also has a petition you and your friends can sign. Even if you don't live in WV, you can write to your representatives and ask them how they can support this boondoggle in another state, when most of the citizens of West Virginia don't want this particular highway.

THINK GLOBALLY - ACT LOCALLY -

AND KEEP MORRIS INSIDE

by Norm Steenstra

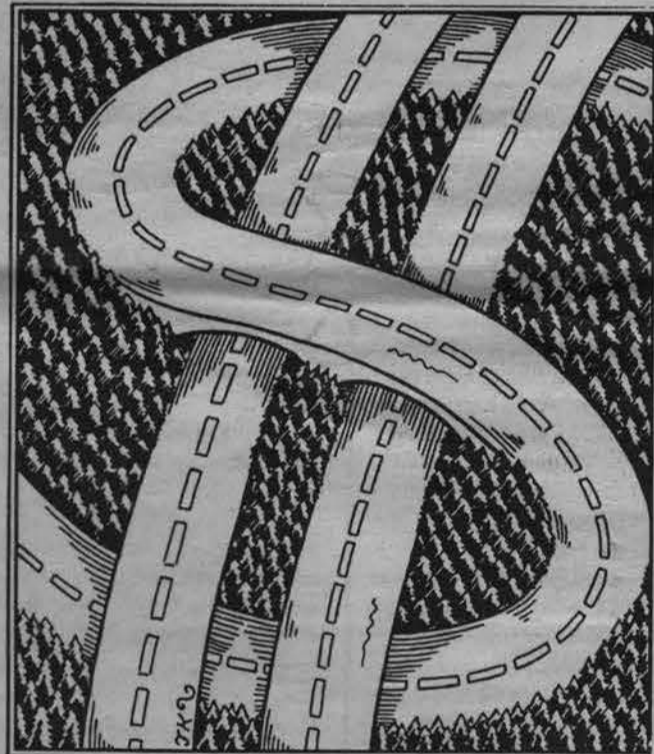
Various national and state conservation groups have been warning us that there is solid evidence of a world-wide decline in the number of songbirds. Loss of rainforest habitat as well as "local" habitat changes are some of the explanations given for the decline. Increased usage of pesticides and lawn chemicals are also seen as causes of the decline in population. Most bird watchers one talks to will agree that certain, once common species are getting harder and harder to spot. [or hear].

Consider the whippoorwill. This nocturnal bird's call is often used by 8th grade literature teachers as the definition of anonomatopoeia. How many whippoorwills have you heard recently? As a boy growing up in northern Ohio and Missouri it was one of those expected night sounds that along with croaking bullfrogs made summer campouts such an exotic experience. Camping in the Daniel Boone National Forest in central Kentucky last spring, I heard my first whippoorwill in many years. What should have been a pleasant nostalgic moment was in fact quite disconcerting.

Granted my mind was groggy from waking, but I could not place the eerie night sound. I felt much like the frustration of seeing a familiar face with no name attached. Whippoorwills are not that hard to identify. After finally figuring out the source of the sound I began to analyze why it had stumped me for so long. I just plain forgot about whippoorwills. I had forgotten because I hadn't

heard them for years. Over the past eight years, I had spent more time in the woods than in any other period of my life, yet I stopped hearing whippoorwills.

Recent discussions with other folks have substantiated that either the birds have adopted a new night song or there aren't as many as there were a while ago. I have no science on whippoorwills. No statistics of decline of the species have crossed my desk. I doubt that any thing definitive even exists on the subject. Very little research is occurring on such mundane subjects. The most people like me can do is grovel before the legislature and ask that a non-game program be funded at minimum levels. I must confess that I care more about Whippoorwills, than if WVU wins the Sugar Bowl. I'm in a minority. Until my position becomes alot more popular we won't know what other irreplaceable but intangible natural assets we are losing. What our state needs is a major public commitment to catalogue and identify all the species that contribute to our quality of life. Neither Governor Caperton nor the legislative leaders have yet made such a commitment. The non-game/natural heritage programs that virtually every environmental, conservationist, and sportsmen groups are working to provide-funding for is in danger of falling through the legislative cracks. Already the DNR Director is talking about reducing the accepted minimum figure of 1.5 million dollars. The various groups will be lobbying this next session for the funding of the programs yet we can never expect to create a program worthy of our state until activists get active not in yearly budget fights but in changing society's values.



The Real Scheme

Proposed Corridor H is a waste of tax dollars.

Drawing from a recent issue of *By the Way*.
Contact *Corridor H Alternatives* at PO Box 11,
Kerens, WV 26276 (304) 636-4522

Wapiti (from page 8) threats.

Once numerous and extensive, the wapiti (elk) were wiped out in the east well before the turn of this century. As one authority (G.M. Allen) pointed out, the enormous range could be mapped "by plotting the cities, counties, creeks and rivers named after it." But by the beginning of the nineteenth century human population pressures, loss of habitat, demand for meat and the sport in the east of running down the elk on horseback, they had already vanished from south of the canadian border. Some claim it was the fetish of using Elk teeth as insignia for the Fraternal Order of the Elks which caused the exacting toll. The last pure Eastern Elk was shot on September 1, 1877 in Pennsylvania by the famous half breed elk hunter Jim Jacobson.

The last elk was killed in the Kanawha Valley in 1820 on Two Mile Creek of the Elk River, 5 1/2 miles from Charleston. The elk survived for a few decades longer in remote mountainous areas of the state. There is a report of an elk killed at Elk Lick on Middle River, Pocahontas County in 1867 and tracks were seen in 1873 near the headwaters of Cheat River.

One of the saddest sights I've ever seen was the lone elk enclosed in a small 'pasture' at the DNR's French Creek Wildlife area. That day a canadian goose was keeping it company. Someone told me that there were originally two elk imported from out west, but one had died. What is an elk without the migration, the herds, the fights, the births, the wolves? A reminder of what we have lost, and of what we might someday, with a little humility, allow to roam again through these hills.



Billion Dollar Ramp

(from page 1) Local economic development, he said, will depend on the quality of labor more than any other factor. Appalachia's biggest problem remains its "education gap". We should put the money into schools. One benefit he didn't mention: an educated public is harder to fool.

At last winter's preliminary hearings, road supporters told stories about people who had left to find work. One of my young neighbors from Montrose had gone to South Carolina. He had returned, as most West Virginians do, sooner or later, but he remained unemployed. His wrenching emotional plea for a new highway was based on the promises he'd heard. He should sue his representatives for fraud.

The Congressional Budget Office was set up to give politicians support for rational decisions. It's hard to kick old habits; it's easier to point to tangible, tried and true projects in your district. This would be true even if highway builders did not give money to politicians. Congress doesn't always listen to its budget office—the Stonewall Jackson Dam is a concrete example—but at least it has the information. In 1988, Congress asked the CBO to review highway investments, both new construction and rehabilitation. New construction in rural areas was rated a very poor investment, with a low rate of economic return.

How can a highway change economic patterns and yet fail to bring economic growth? An academic answer is "Spatial polarization"; a practical answer is Wal-Mart. Corridor H would channel more business to the new store near Elkins. In Rephann's words, Elkins, the larger town, "will merely siphon off economic activity from less competitive towns along the highway's route (e.g. Parsons)." It's amazing to find people in Parsons supporting the road. Even Elkins, though, would not necessarily see a retail boom. Its downtown would be bypassed and the same polarization would encourage more shopping at the malls near Clarksburg. Superhighways can redistribute growth, but they can't generate it.

Small retailers aren't the only ones who would suffer. The effect on most local manufacturing would be opposite what the politicians claim. Instead of encouraging "value-added" business, e.g., furniture manufacturing, a super highway would make it cheaper to ship the wood to producers who are located closer to other inputs. Our present road system actually protects new and less efficient producers. Corridor H would accelerate an old routine: strip WV's resources, and let others make the profits.

Outside the state, our highway officials admit this would happen. In fact, they hope it will persuade Virginia its piece of Corridor H. WVDOT's presentation to the Virginia Transportation Board included this headline: "Corridor H will Provide Access to Raw Materials in Central West Virginia to Boost Manufacturing Sector of Economy in Virginia." The manager of Howes Leather, in

Pocahontas County, has pointed out that real estate speculators are the road's main proponents. His employees would see their property taxes rise as second-home developments brought demands for new services. The speculators' model is Aspen, Colorado, where local people have been displaced.

Here in the Highlands, we have seen a vision of the future along Corridor H: high-speed exit of timber and job-seekers to Virginia, ghost towns in the mountain valleys, real estate developments that push up taxes and force older residents off their land, a brief boom in chicken-raising to further pollute the Potomac, and a couple of new truck stops.

This vision won't come true. Corridor H is an idea whose time has gone. The last "link" in the Appalachian highway system wasn't built because it was too expensive (it would cost as much as the original estimate for the whole system) and because it would have crossed the most environmentally-sensitive region. Its purpose as a truck route between Cincinnati and Washington duplicated Corridor E. The project stalled long enough for everyone to see it would be as bad for the economy as for the environment.

Notes

1. The quote comes from Senator Jay Rockefeller's letter (our copy is dated Oct. 25, 1993), but the sentiment is common.
2. Cacapon, Vol. 4, No. 4, Autumn 1992, published by Pine Cabin Run Ecological Laboratory, High View, WV 26808. Several papers on highways and rural economic development by Terance Rephann and others are available from Regional Research Institute, WVU, 511 N. High St., PO Box 6825, Morgantown, WV 26506. (304) 293 2896.
3. Widner, "Appalachian Development After 25 Years: An Assessment" Economic Development Quarterly, Vol 4, No. 4, Nov 1990, pp 291-312.
- His earlier article on ARC transportation investment appeared in Public Administration Review, May/June 1973.
4. The ARC study is quoted in the Corridor Selection SDEIS at I-4, in Sen. Rockefeller's letter, and many other places. The author did not claim that his partial survey of planning districts was reliable. 241 counties with Interstate and ARC corridors reported more new jobs than 156 counties without such highways. This was not net growth; plant closings and other job losses were ignored. If spatial polarization resulted from the highways, some jobs were simply moved.
5. The CBO study is quoted in Lewis, "Primer of Transportation, Productivity and Economic Development", National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report No. 342 (1991), published by the Transportation Research Board, National Research Council, Washington, DC.
6. Conversation with the plant manager of Howes Leather Co., Feb. 1, 1993. He had witnessed the effects of development in Aspen.



Kumbrabow (from page 1) separate.

Both sides have high school students there. (The wise users are really copying our tactics). Darryl McGraw comes in and sits on our side. And we wait. I'm all ready for the big story, the expert witnesses, the DOF 15 minute video, the bullshit and the truth. There's no announce-

ment, but word of mouth has it that the Judge is sick and will not be in today.

The trees still stand. No new date has yet (December 20) been set. We know it'll be soon. Stay tuned and send money to help pay legal expenses to Joe Marshall, 108 3rd St, Elkins, WV 26241. Thanks, Joe, for doing this and everything else too.

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.

To order your copy of Edition 6 of 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: _____



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

to all corners of environmental regulation...a brilliant move on someone's part!

So, with a broader scope of reorganization (while problems with coal continue in other forums), what was the proposed legislation supposed to do?

Legislative staff crafted a brief policy statement and list of nine purposes in an attempt to address the perceived goals of the administration/agency, legislature, industry and environmental community alike.

The policy statement is decent enough even in its brevity and expansive generalities. The purposes are a bit more to the point. The 1400 page proposed legislation may well streamline the interaction of the agencies in permitting, but it leaves unaddressed any number of the stated purposes that might advance public input, increase environmental protection, etc.

Does the legislation "encourage the increased involvement of all citizens"? Does it open the process and make it more understandable or accessible to people in the communities affected by water, air and reclamation standards, or regulation of the chemical, manufacturing, mining and drilling industries? NO

...It assigns one person the hefty task of sitting on yet another advisory board with full-time paid industry lawyers for the purpose of offering the definitive environmentalists' viewpoint on every aspect of every program imaginable to a director that is not bound to listen. It may ease the decision making process for the director, but it hardly represents true public involvement or agency accountability.

Does the legislation increase active advocacy for environmental protection, i.e. "to strengthen the commitment...to restore, maintain and protect the environment"? NO

...In fact, it even provides incentive to adopt federal regulations which are (contrary to comments made at the public hearing) not "goals" to strive for, but the bottom line, lowest standard that can be tolerated.

Does the legislation "increase accountability to the governor, the legislature and the public generally"? NO

...It eliminates civil service protection for a number of key position (a flaw in

H.B. 217) and increases the discretionary powers of one appointed individual with whom the agency rises and falls.

So in this season of gaiety and gift giving, what does this legislation offer?

Industry's dream of one stop-shopping has been dressed up to look like efficiency in government. The Administration's dream of more control of the rag tag factions of government has been wrapped up in the attractive package of leaner more cost effective government. The Legislature's dream of erasing the stigma of its DOE creation nearly a decade ago is glittering in the tinsel trim of a new name.

But, as far as I'm concerned, the environmental community's dream of greater environmental protection will have to continue it's dance with the visions of imaginary sugar plum fairies because this piece of legislation does little to make that dream become reality.

Rather than setting clear standards and procedures to direct the interaction of various agencies and interest groups, this bill molds all into one form that is to be determined by the whim of the appointed head honcho who may be Prince Charming one year only to be replaced by the Big Bad Wolf the next.

Granted, there is always some degree of flexibility, discretion and personal choice with any appointments and agencies, but this bill creates an inordinate amount of each without the guidelines, and directions that make for accountability and good government. The trappings are there, but the substance is not.

The old DOE (Department Of Energy) suffered from the heinous "wolf-guarding-the-henhouse" image from the day it was created. And though this new DEP was meant to change all that, it merely changes the external image. At it's worse the new DEP promotes the wolf so that now he is not only in charge of just the henhouse, but the entire barnyard and all the pasture land as well.

No thanks. Count me among the ungrateful children on this bogus Christmas gift. The big bow and shiny wrappings are only hiding a box full of hot air and a passel full of those spring loaded snakelike surprises gleefully waiting to be released.

Extirpated Species of the Month



Wapiti (Elk) - *Cervus canadensis canadensis*

Extirpated from the east - 1877

Really a giant form of European Red Deer, elk are the second largest deer in the universe, surpassed in size only by the moose. A full-grown male may weigh 1,000 pounds and stand more than 5 foot tall. The males grow antlers, which they shed annually. These massive structures will reach a spread of more than 5 feet. During the summer, elk prefer to graze and browse in the mountains. Older bulls spend the summer alone, with females and younger males forming great herds.

In the fall, for the mating season, new herds are formed consisting of a single bull and 5 to 20 females. Males fight for possession of these mating groups, challenging each other

with their characteristic call, known as a bugle. The males then rush one another, crashing into each other with their antlers, until the weaker bull runs away. The force of impact is incredible and the resounding crack can be heard for long distances.

As winter moves in, the elk move down to protected valley, often migrating several tens of miles. In the spring, on the return trip to the mountains, the females give birth to a single calf, which weighs 30 to 40 lbs.

Wolves, coyotes, cougars and bears prey on the elk. A blow from an elk's hoof can easily break a wolf's back. The elk are excellent runners, able to attain speeds of 35 miles per hour and can often outrun any (see page 6)

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Membership Benefits

* 1 year subscription to the Highlands Voice

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* 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.