



The Highlands Voice

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NEWLY APPOINTED O.S.M. DIRECTOR VISITS WV

By Cindy Rank

When Robert Uram, new Director of the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, met with members of the W.V. environmental community in March he promised to return to see first hand some of the acid problems they discussed.

He kept that promise at the beginning of June when he spent a day and a half looking at AMD (acid mine drainage) sites in the northern part of the state with representatives of WVHC and other conservation, sports and community groups.

The tour was arranged to highlight the 4-F's of AMD: the FAILURE TO PREVENT acid by failing to deny permits where acid is likely to occur, the FAILURE TO ADJUST BONDS when acid does occur and the cost of reclamation increases, the FAILURE TO TREAT acid water at sites where bonds have been forfeited and the state is responsible for reclamation, and the FAILURE TO FORFEIT bonds in cases where the state improperly releases a company from its responsibilities for reclamation.

On the first day, the group visited several sites in the Tygart River watershed that were examples of the 4-F's. They travelled from the Grassy Run area where abandoned mine lands continue to degrade the mainstem of Tygart near Elkins, to the Middle Fork where the Kittle Flats area has destroyed Cassity Fork

and main Middle Fork for the next 40 miles downstream to Audra State Park, to the Buckhannon and Tenmile and DLM where treatment is the fine line between life and death for the Tygart downstream of the mouth of the Buckhannon, to Sandy Creek where community groups forced the state to treat water at the forfeited F&M mine sites that eventually flow into the Tygart Lake.

The second day the group visited Valley and Omega, both mines in the Morgantown area. Later that day Uram met with WV DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) Director Dave Callaghan then attended the Rivers Symposium and appeared on a local public TV call-in show on June 3rd.

Uram returned to W.V. the following week to join the DEP mine tour of some of the big mountain top removal sites in the southern part of the state where contemporaneous reclamation and durable rock fills were the focus of concern.

Though he offered a sympathetic eye and ear, spoke strongly of enforcing the law, and appeared willing to do the right thing when it comes to the 4 magic F's of AMD, Director Uram has yet to face down the pressures from industry and lack luster state agency attitudes. The final chapter is yet to be written and the details are always the most difficult. ♦ ♦



Robert Uram ponders how to cross the acid water at Kittle Flats without getting his boots coated with iron, while OSM inspector and Conservancy members bend his ear about the history of the site

If You Build It They Will Come or ORV trail cancer

by Bill Ragette

Last October over 300 ORV users from 14 states came to Mingo County for a two day off-road riding event. Besides tearing around the countryside, the event also featured a parade in Williamson on Saturday, complete with fire trucks and ambulances from surrounding areas. The town also held a 'street festival' after the parade with string band music and food booths.

This event was carefully engineered by the Hatfield McCoy Recreation Development Coalition, Inc.; headed up by super-lobbyist Leff Moore, who also represents the WV Garbage Haulers and the Motorcycle Industry Council among others. Moore has done his homework, getting politicians on board. His newsletter, the Hatfield-McCoy Update (issue #1) announced that a Memorandum of Understanding was very shortly going to be signed between several of the groups he represents, Mingo County Development Authority, the US Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers. US Representative Nick Rahall announced at the big fete held at Chief Logan State Park on June 7 that his subcommittee on Roads and Transportation had

inserted language into some bill authorizing the expenditure of \$100,000 for trail heads for the Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area.

Moore has been at the Legislative session in Charleston the last few years trying to get bills passed to create an off road trail system for motorcycles and 4 wheelers. Strong opposition to the pro ORV bills (fueled by fear of trails on public lands) killed them. Last session Moore et al got a bill passed that releases landowners who grant a license, easement or lease to a governmental entity from liability for accidents occurring on their land.

Moore's newsletter also announced that a feasibility study will be undertaken by a qualified professional contractor "to assure that the Hatfield-McCoy Recreational Area will be implemented in accordance with the highest quality standards so that it will always be a welcome asset for the community."

Here are some other interesting quotes from Moore's Newsletter...

"The Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area, a pilot project which may ultimately provide thousands of miles of well managed recreational trails for off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, horseback riders, bicyclists, and others, on private land, continues to progress to reality in southern West Virginia." (continued on page 5)

Kumbrabow - Promises and Lies

Caperton, Maxey and Martin

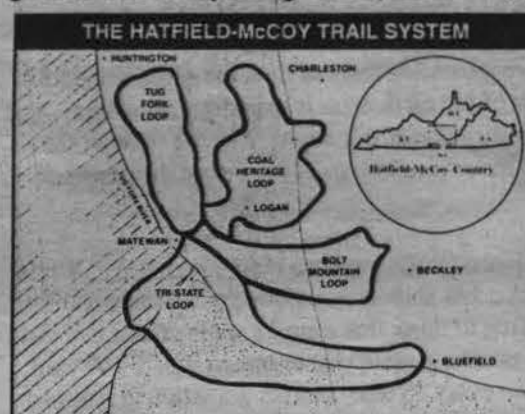
by Bill Ragette

THE CHIEF
 How many of you remember (from one of the many Kumbrabow articles in the VOICE) that our new Division of Forestry (DOF) chief, Bill Maxey, promised to form a committee to deal with the issue of public input on State Forest Management Plans? That was after all you nice people sent letters to the Governor complaining about the pending sale of those giant trees at Kumbrabow State Forest. The governor was actually feeling the heat, and had

the New Chief meet with the friends of Kumbrabow a year ago. We saw their show, heard about the excellent job the DOF was doing. The Chief said he would form a committee to address the question of public input on State Forest Management. Nothing happened. We had the hearing, the postponements and the trial - no committee.

THE GOVERNOR

The next thing you know the Governor in his State of the State address said he was committed to having WV's (see page 8)



Map and quotes from Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Development Coalition, Inc., 205 1st. Avenue, Nitro, WV 25143

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—from the heart of the mountains—

by Cindy Rank

WYOMING COMES TO W.V.

As incredible as it may seem to those of you who know how my flesh crawls when I get within a mile of any source of Acid Mine Drainage, let me tell you how amazed... appalled... overwhelmed... repulsed... humbled... bewildered... perplexed... confused... sickened... angered... horrified... dismayed I was by the spectre of the massive mining operations now being conducted in Southern W.V.

We routinely acknowledge that there are two major environmental problems associated with mining in W.V. these days: acid mine drainage (AMD) primarily in the north, and huge mountain top operations with durable rock fills in the south.

I've seen AMD in many settings, know how people and communities have suffered from it, know how difficult it is to convince regulatory agencies to enforce the laws that are meant to prevent such destruction of our water resources.

But nothing could have prepared me for the sights and sounds of the recent DEP Office of Mines and Minerals tour through some of our southern counties - not articles by Paul Nyden in the Gazette, not pictures of the giant draglines out West, not even Bob Gates' film "In Memory of the Land and People".

I venture to say that as recently as ten years ago no one could have imagined, or would even have suggested, the enormity of the mines we visited in Nicholas, Fayette, Kanawha, Boone and Logan on June 7th and 8th.

Emblazoned in my memory are headlines in the early 1980's in Upshur County boasting that the Island Creek Tenmile Complex was to be the "LARGEST surface mine East of the Mississippi". ...As you well know, I have no love for the Tenmile operation or the destruction it has left in its wake, but it is dwarfed by its behemoth brothers to the south. Giant drag lines like those used out West are taking down hills and shifting them into nearby valleys at a rate that must mystify the authors of the "mountain top" removal provisions of the Surface Mine Act....

Standing on the edge of a Grand Canyon like landscape with 18 splits of coal exposed along a 600 foot wall that extended from high above to far below our level on the canyon ridge, I couldn't help but wonder how these sites comply with the intent or letter of either the Clean Water Act or any Surface Mine laws.

Everywhere we went the scene was similar. Within a 360 degree viewing range, mountains were being ripped apart and dumped into valleys burying miles of headwater streams. These large refuse piles are then molded into hill-like mounds, and seed and fertilizer glued on, presumably to fulfill the "approximate original contour" (AOC) requirements of the law.

If it was confusing for me to imagine that this might be acceptable as AOC, it really boggled my mind that so little is known about future groundwater supplies (especially the shallow or perched pockets that support so many families in rural W.V.) in these porous refuse mountains, and that such widespread filling of stream beds is an acceptable impact to the hydrologic regime of the area.

I have no doubt that grass will grow. (Remember this is an industry that has been known to boast that, with enough glue and fertilizer, it could grow grass on telephone poles.) And trees are growing on the older areas (4 years is the oldest we saw on the tour). But how long or how strong the vegetation will be years from now, or how much of the original ecosystem will reestablish itself is not yet known.

Surely these vast projects are engineering feats to rival the seven wonders of the world, but the significant alteration of the earth mass is experimental at best. And this experimentation is not just on one or two sites, but seems to be the wave of the future in southern W.V. (All of course moving fullsteam ahead before the results of the initial experiments are known.)

If the legalities are questionable, the economics are even more astounding. While it's understandable that the Clean Air Act has shifted attention to the lower sulfur coal areas of southern W.V., it is still puzzling to think that even 18 splits of coal can yield enough money to make it profitable to purchase giant size draglines whose 100 yard buckets alone cost \$500,000 to buy, then every 45 days another \$200,000 to refurbish, and teeth that must be replaced at \$150 apiece every 2 days, and electricity bills that cost anywhere from \$80,000-\$100,000/month just to run the shovel, not to mention all the regular trucks, shovels, dozers, loaders, and other miscellaneous (see page 5)

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and
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Mountain Bike Race on North Fork Mountain Trail?????

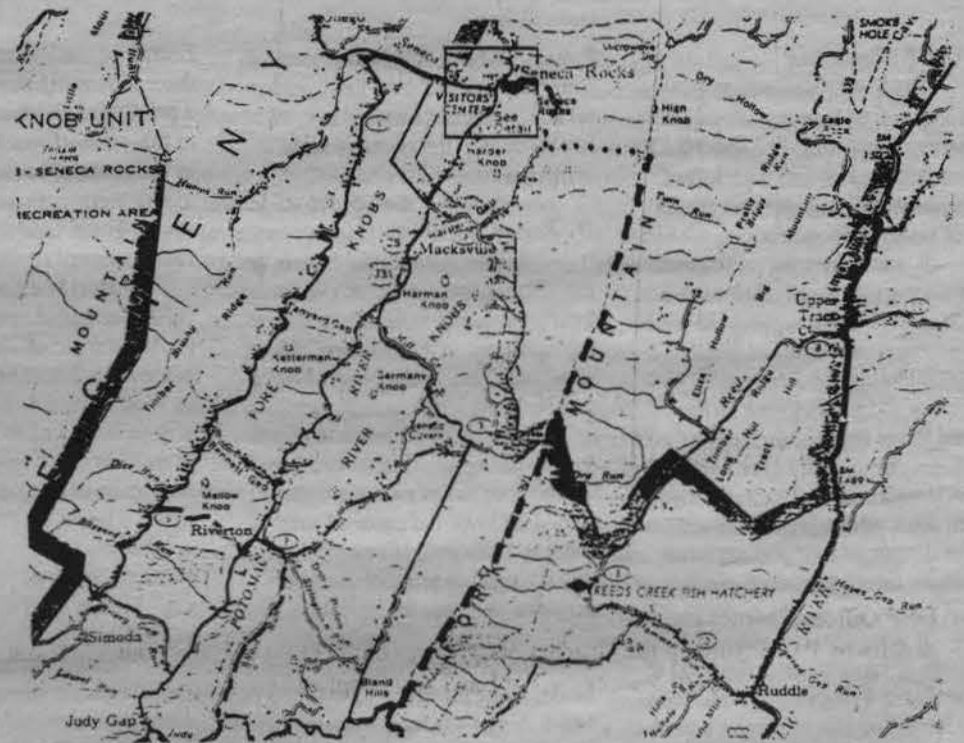
The Conservancy has just received this request from the Potomac District Ranger for comments on the use of North Fork Mountain Trail for a Mountain Bike Race. You all may remember the excellent article by Bob Stough in the March Issue of the VOICE on North Fork Mountain and its Old Growth Forest. I am very nervous about this intrusion into one of the last wild places in West Virginia. As a mountain bike rider myself I know how much damage a bike can do, especially braking downhill. Please notice that over 100 bikes are expected this year, with the sponsors wanting to repeat and expand the race in future years. Comments are due by July 10, better write yours today.

would run on the North Fork Mountain Trail from US Route 33 to a point south of High Knob, then leave the trail on private lands to County Rt. 9. The route then passes through National Forest lands to the Roy Gap road. Length of the race course on National Forest land is 6.8 miles and is shown on the attached map. They anticipate over 100 mountain bike racers will participate, and they would like to repeat or expand the race in future years.

Before determining whether or not a special use permit will be issued, we would appreciate receiving your comments concerning use of the proposed bike race route on National Forest land. Please have your comments to the above address (Potomac Ranger District, HC 59, Box 240, Petersburg, WV 26847 304-257-4488) by July 10, 1994. Additional information may be received by calling Dick Vandernoot at the above number.

Thank you for your interest in the Monongahela National Forest.
Nancy Feakes, District Ranger ♦ ♦

Hello,
The Pendleton County Visitor's Committee has applied for a Special Use Permit authorizing them to conduct a mountain bike race on August 21, 1994. The proposed race



Richard diPretoro (new WVHC Administrative Assistant) at site of lime drum structure being constructed on the Blackwater River above Beaver Creek

WVHC Hires First Administrative Assistant

by Richard diPretoro

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as WVHC's first Administrative Assistant. This job was created to expand upon the duties of the membership secretary and provide assistance to the President.

As an important part of my job I will stimulate, encourage, and generally wheedle articles out of the WVHC committee chairs, organizational directors and others for the VOICE. To each of the chairs and organizational directors send a special plea: write a piece for the VOICE about your committee or organization. Send it, if possible, on an IBM formatted disk as ASCII text to Bill Ragette at the address listed in this issue. If not possible to send on disk, send it on paper, handwritten or otherwise, to me and I will prepare and send it on to Bill. The deadline is generally the next-to-last Friday of each month. I will be calling you all to ask for commitments to write articles.

I plan to use volunteers as much as I can to further these goals. Please consider where you might help. For example, author Judy Rodd is using her experience and expertise in the publishing industry to help place Guides and VOICE. She also will be working with WNPB

in Morgantown on a clipping service.

We need other people to clip articles from their local newspapers. These articles should be of possible interest to the VOICE readership in general. Send them directly to Bill Ragette.

I am also the Endowment Fund chair. I hereby solicit advice and help with ideas for increasing and better managing the Endowment Fund. Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM) in Tennessee is in the midst of a \$500,000 endowment fund campaign designed to provide a reliable stream of income for SOCM by the year 2000. If SOCM can do it, surely WVHC can set and achieve a substantial goal.

In my capacity as membership secretary, my goals are to increase membership and to spruce up the mailing list, putting it to greater use making connections among existing members and between new members and their organization.

In summary, I see my job as catalyzing some of the latent energy in WVHC to help it achieve more of its very substantial potential. I invite any and all prodding, ideas, suggestions, and help. Thanks for the opportunity. ♦ ♦

Kumbrabow Trial May Be Reopened

The plaintiffs in the Kumbrabow State Forest lawsuit have been granted a hearing by Kanawha Circuit Judge Charles King, to allow them to present their arguments on having the case reopened. The plaintiffs contend that the Deputy Chief of DNR's Wildlife Resource Division, Gordon Robertson, stretched the truth about the wildlife inventory done (or not done) for the Clay Run Timber Sale on Kumbrabow State Forest. Under oath Robertson had responded to a question about the existence of an inventory, implying that the DNR's Natural Heritage Program staff had completed one.

In my humble opinion the bureaucrat just plain lied and tried to deceive the Judge into thinking that the DNR had done a wildlife survey. I have filed two Freedom of Information Act requests and have only received the run-

around and general lists of some classes of species found in the general area. The director of the section of DNR that Robertson claimed did the survey, Brian MacDonald, told me that they hadn't done a survey of the area in the fifteen years he has been in charge of the section. In his letter, included in the prospectus for the sale, MacDonald states that a survey should be done for the sale site.

This is just one more incident of government officials bending to the pressure of industry to turn over the State's wealth, before we are sure what we have and if it would be in the best interests of present and future West Virginians to trade it off for a few dollars, which the Governor will pass on to the next polluter that asks, in tax credits and loans.

The trial will be held on July 14, at the Judicial Annex of the Kanawha County Court.
by Bill Ragette' ♦ ♦

Here is the job description prepared by a committee of the Board:

Membership

Maintain computerized membership roll. Send out membership renewals. Deposit membership dues. Prepare monthly reports for Treasurer and quarterly reports for Board. Devise and implement membership development ideas, working with Membership Committee, VOICE editor and board.

Hiking Guides

Fill Guide orders by mail. Deposit Guide receipts. Prepare monthly reports for Treasurer and quarterly reports for Board. Replenish inventory as needed. Contact local bookstores to sell Guides, coordinating larger orders with Bruce Sundquist and American Youth Hostels.

VOICE

Send mailing labels to editor. Assist editor by soliciting info/articles/other copy, Assist editor in contacting locations which could carry VOICE (libraries,

tourist centers, etc.)

Endowment Fund

Use a variety of fund-raising techniques to increase endowment fund.

Administrative

Maintain bulk mail permit. Pick up and reroute mail (Currently handled out of Charleston). Respond to inquiries, coordinating with Membership Chair (thank-yous to special donors, info requests, etc.) Provide mailing labels to Committee chairs and board. Maintain supplies of stationery, membership and endowment forms and other items (hats, shirts, decals, patches, etc.)

Assist Spring and Fall Review coordinators with mailings.

Facilitate communication and networking between Committee Chairs and new members with specific interests.

Maintain official books and records of the Conservancy.

Estimated time: 15-20 hours per week.

Pay: \$500 per month. ♦ ♦

1994 RIVERS SYMPOSIUM AT A GLANCE

by Cindy Rank and ...

The First Appalachian Rivers and Watershed Symposium was held in Morgantown June 3rd and 4th. It was a jam packed two days full of information, discussion and even a bit of time for socializing.

It was timely happenstance that river guide Randy Robinson had made available a revealing video of the recent Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) blowout at T&T coal company at Muddy Creek on the Cheat River that highlighted the acid problem that plagues over 2400 miles of WV waterways. But the symposium dealt with a great number of other threats as well and explored ideas for future use and protection of the rivers of the region.

It would be ludicrous to attempt to summarize the myriad of presentations from the symposium, but I've asked Bill to reprint here the brief but eloquent welcoming remarks made by Roger Harrison, Executive Director of the W.V. Rivers Coalition and member of the WVHC Board of Directors. Roger's comments reflect the breadth of concerns and depth of feelings that pervaded the entire two days.

Thanks to Roger and the many other people who helped the Rivers Coalition, the WVU Division of Forestry - Wildlands Heritage

Project, and the WV Department of Commerce, Labor, and Environmental Resources put on what is hopefully the first of many such symposia.

By Roger Harrison

Someone once said "rivers are the ribbons that tie the people to the land". Nowhere is the tie to rivers stronger than in Appalachia, and especially here in the heart of Appalachia, West Virginia.

Most people associate mountains with Appalachia, but rushing down those mountains, through veiled hollows and emerald valleys there is a labyrinth of rivers. Not just any rivers - but some of the most remarkable rivers in the nation. Cherokee, Seneca, and

Shawnee peoples used the bottomlands, along the river, for hunting and fishing. The rich river valleys of Appalachia drew white settlers who made a living off the land and the waters. Later, rivers were the corridors along which railroads were built.

From the beginning rivers attracted use.

Today, rivers are refuges of recreation and sources of drinking water.

My connection to rivers goes back to childhood days along the S.

Branch of the Potomac River. It was there during the summers where I led a privileged childhood-not privileged in the sense of wealth-but privileged in the sense of having the opportunity to fish the waters and scamper the shores in the headwaters of the nation's rivers.

Later, I helped finance my college education as a full-time river guide on some of America's famed whitewater rivers nestled right here in West Virginia. For me, it was always satisfying to guide people, literally from around the world down the rapids of the New, Gauley, and Cheat Rivers, but I often took for granted my connection to the river, to feeling a sense of place and belonging. That is until a hot summer day in 1992.

During the heat of the 1992 Presidential primary race, candidate Jerry Brown seized a photo opportunity to run the New River with conservationists from around the state.

Along with Brown were two Los Angeles gang members who had never ventured out of the inner city. One was a member of the Crypts gang, the other a member of the Bloods. You'll remember this was just after the LA riots.

After a typical beautiful day on the river, I turned to them and asked

what they thought of the river.

One looked at me and said "I did not know there was a place like this!"

He was amazed at the mountain ridges, the uncut stands of trees, the energy of a free-flowing river.

I will never forget that day. Through the experience of two young men from the opposite extreme of America, I came to appreciate more the rivers of my home.

But rivers attract use.

Many of the byproducts of our modern industrial world end up in rivers.

Acid rain, siltation, acid mine drainage as one author put it - "continue to starve our future generations from their inheritance". In West Virginia alone over 2400 miles of our streams are degraded by the potent witch's brew which is acid mine drainage rendering streams sterile of aquatic life.

And it is quite disheartening that many people in West Virginia and other parts of Appalachia still must drive miles for clean drinking water.

This symposium is about the challenge to people that rivers present.

As home to some of America's best whitewater, some of the East's

best trout streams, and world class warm water fisheries, West Virginia is beginning to recognize that rivers can be the cornerstone of sustainable economic development.

As Tim Palmer has written "a mood in the nation is changing. Rivers are now worth something."

It's fitting that West Virginia is the sight for the first Appalachian Rivers and Watersheds Symposium. West Virginia really is the "rivers state".

Many of the major river systems in the Central Appalachians have their headwaters in West Virginia and as a result we share a great responsibility for the care we give our rivers.

We know that rivers are unhindered by political boundaries. Many of the problems we face here in West Virginia are common in many Appalachian States. In the next two days, we hope to reevaluate the past and identify solutions to the ongoing challenge of caring for our rivers and watersheds.

Through this historic gathering, it is my hope and the hope of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition, that people from everywhere including south-central Los Angeles, continue to be amazed at our rivers. ♦

Community Still Divided on Greenbrier Dam Possibilities

By Rick Steelhammer

from The Charleston Gazette, Saturday, June 18, 1994

Nine years after floodwaters rose out of the Greenbrier River and caused \$70 million worth of damage to Marlinton, Alderson and other downstream communities, a dam is once more being discussed for the state's last free-flowing river.

In recent months, US. Army Corps of Engineers officials have met with representatives of state and federal agencies and private environmental groups to discuss feasibility plans for a dam, along with a battery of alternative flood control possibilities for the Greenbrier.

Congress first authorized a flood control study for the Greenbrier in 1962, and a variety of proposals had been studied before the state's worst ever flooding took place in 1985, causing \$40 million damage in Pocahontas County alone.

Interest in a dam peaked during the year following the flood -- the same year new regulations took effect requiring state or local governments to contribute up to 50 percent of the cost.

The increased local cost and a community that was divided into pro-dam and anti-dam factions chilled the post-flood dam-building fervor.

The local cost share snag still exists, with the state having to contribute 25 percent to 50 percent of the cost of the project, but only about 5 percent in cash. The rest can come in the form of land, easements, rights of way, soil disposal sites and the like, according to Huntington District Corps spokesman Steve Wright.

Community sentiment seems to remain divided as well.

"We need to develop some plan for flood protection," said Joe Holt of the Greenbrier Valley Improvement Association. "If we had a project that had the added benefits of solving our low-flow problems in summer, of maybe producing hydro power, or creating a recreational lake, those would be pluses, too."

"Trying to revive this dam is like trying to pump air back into a flat tire," said Pocahontas County Commissioner Mike Mynuk. "It was a bad idea after the '85 flood and it's a bad idea now. It would take too many homes and too much farmland and too much money, and it would destroy an established tourist attraction, the Greenbrier River Trail."

Mynuk said Marlinton could be protected from flooding at much less cost through channelization work, rather than a main-stem dam, estimated to cost more than \$70 million back in 1986.

Possibilities ranging from channelization on up to a main-stem dam a few miles upstream from Marlinton are being considered in the Corps of Engineers feasibility study.

But for any flood control proposal to move forward, its benefits must exceed costs in a formula calculated by Corps planners

"Right now, the benefit to cost ratio is right on the edge, maybe just slightly positive" for a main-stem dam, Wright said. In addition to requiring at least a 1-to-1 benefit-to-cost ratio and a hefty state or local contribution in construction costs, the Corps expects a new flood control project's benefits to more than equal the cost of construction within 100 years.

The low benefit-to-cost ratio could be a major stumbling block, Wright said. "It's not a

navigation project where the benefit-to-cost ratio might be 10-1," he said. "It's not like the Winfield lock chamber, where there's a lot of pressure to get the job done fast."

Handouts from the Corps feasibility study given to those attending recent meetings indicated that tributary and headwater dam

alternatives were considered infeasible, as were flood walls and levees to protect the towns of Alderson, Marlinton and Ronceverte.

Dry dams, which would retain water only in times of flooding, were considered marginally feasible at best, posting benefit-to-cost ratios below 1:1. Channelization work was



Why We Shouldn't Mine Acid-Producing Coal

by Richard diPreto

The following is based upon a talk Richard gave at the Appalachian Rivers and Watershed Symposium June 3, 1994, in Morgantown as a representative of WVHC.

In this brief article, I hope to present a broad perspective on coal mining and use. Maybe because I'm a geologist, I take a long and global view of these issues. I want to help provide a basis for formulating coal development policy as it relates to the creation of new acid mine drainage sources, right here at home.

Unfortunately, we still have to mine coal. We failed to make the decision in the past to get away from coal so we're still stuck with it for the foreseeable future.

But my message today is simple: we don't have to mine acid producing coal and therefore we shouldn't.

We don't have to mine acid-producing coal

Why do I say we don't have to mine acid producing coal? Two reasons: we will never even come close to mining all of our coal. And only a small fraction of our coal produces stream-killing acid when mined.

How can I say we'll never come close to mining all of our coal? All our statistics tell us that we have at least 200 years worth at present mining rates.

In my judgment, at least four issues, relating to the environmental effects of coal use, will restrict its

use long before it could all be mined. Those issues are:

1) Global climate change

Coal is the worst of the fossil fuels in terms of carbon dioxide produced per unit of useful energy. Coal produces 80 percent more than natural gas, for instance. Coal mining is the third leading source of atmospheric methane which, pound for pound, is 20 times as powerful a greenhouse gas as carbon dioxide.

2) Acid deposition

Even "low" sulfur coal contains copious amounts of sulfur. For example, there is about one ton of sulfur in each railroad car you see going by. Sulfur is relatively easily removed from oil, and natural gas has little or none to start with.

3) Toxic deposition

Most naturally occurring elements are found in coal. The peat swamps, where coal was laid down, served as excellent organic filters for the water passing through. As a result coal burning emits small but significant amounts of such potent toxins as mercury. Such toxins have been shown to bioaccumulate downwind of coal power plants.

Coal mining, burning, and waste disposal are sources of excess radioactivity, meaning levels greater than background. For example, researchers have found radon gas in soil at double the normal concentrations over mined areas compared to nearby unmined areas.

4) Damage to land and waters where mining occurs

Land disturbances for mining coal dwarf all other mining-connected land disturbances

combined. No land is improved by coal mining, unless it has already previously been damaged by mining. Most coal mining causes increased erosion and sedimentation while a small fraction produces serious chemical pollution.

To summarize these environmental effects, coal will exhaust sinks for its wastes long before we exhaust the coal itself. The most recent Worldwatch Institute data shows that world coal production shrank again in 1993, as it has every year since its peak in 1989. For environmental and other reasons we may already have seen the historic maximum in worldwide coal use.

Only a small fraction of our coal produces stream-killing acid when mined.

All coal is not created equal. Only a small fraction of our coal produces stream-killing acid when mined. Data for 1993 shows that in a nine-county area of north-central WV, production of acid-producing coals above drainage accounted for less than 7% of state production. WV can maintain high levels of production without mining any of these coals. If all our coal were equally damaging, it would make no difference in which order they were mined.

So we've covered the first point: we don't have to mine acid-producing coal.

We shouldn't

Now what about the second point: we shouldn't? We shouldn't because we can know in advance which sites will produce serious acid,

and because, once created, acid mine drainage is a very long-lasting and expensive problem to address.

Chemical treatment is only the lesser of evils after acid is created, because the treatment itself adds unwanted chemicals to receiving streams. And even the best, most conscientiously run, well-financed treatment systems fail. Failure is the rule, not the exception.

Demonstrable prevention of acid, or permit denial, are the only two acceptable options for sites likely to produce acid. And demonstrable prevention is not here yet.

Why have we resisted denying mining in acid-producing seams?

Luckily, few applications are made today. But we still hesitate to overtly declare areas off-limits to mining because we fear rendering reserves sterile (to use industry's word). That would be like telling people they can't take their money out of the bank. The owners of the coal don't want its value diminished. So hopes and panaceas, just over the horizon, are always maintained. Denying permits can have severe political repercussions. Just ask former WVHC president, Larry

George. He lost his job as commissioner of the then Department of Energy in part because he denied one permit in Preston County on the grounds of acid potential.

So what are the answers? I don't have them all. But here are some ideas.

We need continued research on prediction and prevention of acid mine drainage.

We need to muster the political will to deny permits where operators cannot demonstrate needed acid prevention.

And we need continued citizen activism. The tenacious presence of groups such as WVHC has been essential to date in focusing attention on severe problem of acid mine drainage, as well in providing stiffness to the state backbone when it wanted to do the right thing.

Conclusion

To conclude, we should discourage acid mine drainage prone mining because all mining will end in the not-too-distant future, long before all the coal could possibly be mined.



Hatfield-McCoy

(from page one) "The area is situated within a day's drive for the owners of over one million off-highway motorcycles and ORVs who currently have relatively few good riding areas available to them."

"Large tracts of private land all over the country could become available for public recreation once the Hatfield-McCoy project shows the way to make it happen."

According to the Lincoln Journal (the weekly newspaper of Lincoln County), this year's ride would occur in Lincoln County in October on private and public lands. The public lands mentioned were Cabawaylingo State Forest, Big Ugly Public Hunting Area and the Mud

River Watershed Dam Property. Condemnation of private land, while not the preferred method land acquisition, was mentioned as probably necessary by Lincoln County Commissioner Paul Duncan.

I don't know about you, but I'm a little nervous about thousands of miles of trails with thousands of Off Road Vehicles from umpteen different states tearing around them. Who will maintain them? How can we avoid soil erosion, habitat losses, dust and noise pollution? What will be the effects on wildlife, especially Turkey and Bear and all the other species that prefer remote habitat undisturbed by humans? Once the ball starts rolling (which Leff Moore has so ably done), where will it end? Think of it - a million ORV users

within a day's drive. How can we deny them (and all the \$\$\$\$ they supposedly will spend in our area) access to the Monongahela National Forest? The riding has begun and no Environmental Impact Study has been completed. Will the feasibility study proposed by Moore et al be a substitute to an EIS? Will the public have any input into the creation of what amounts to a whole new road system running through the back woods of West Virginia? Nick Rahall, as a major supporter of this Trail System, needs to hear about your concerns. Write him today asking that an EIS be done before any more events take place and the pressure to continue with them is irresistible, even if a negative impact is unavoidable. ◆ ◆

Greenbrier

below 1:1. Channelization work was considered feasible, although it would not protect against a flood on the scale of the 1985 flood.

Richard Hartman of the state Division of Tourism and Parks said any Greenbrier River dam should require relocating affected portions of the Greenbrier River Trail, an 88-mile hiking and biking route operated by the state along an

abandoned railroad track. That process could prove extremely costly, since the relocated trail must meet railroad grade and right-of-way standards under a federal rail-banking agreement.

"We've spent \$3.5 million fixing the trail back to railroad grade standards following the 1985 flood," said Leslie McCarty of Hillsboro, vice president of the Greenbrier

River Trail Association, and operator of a streamside bed-and-breakfast. "The work will finally be done this summer. It would be a shame to put it an under water."

"I think there needs to be some type of flood protection," she said. "But it's been almost 10 years since the flood. There are alternatives to a Greenbrier River dam that could have been built long before now." ◆ ◆



Mine Site in Southern West Virginia - photo by Cindy taken on recent Mine Tour

from the heart of the mountains

(from page 2) equipment that are needed as well.

And future land use? Rangeland - Hay - Pastureland - Forest - fish and wildlife habitat - and development was suggested.

At a couple of stops I ask about the people who might want to live there in the future. The answers were usually predictable and familiar. "Oh, people don't live here anyway" Or, "only old Joe Blow over on that ridge"... And I couldn't help but think of all the people I know who live in the hills and hollows far from town who are perfectly satisfied to be blessed with small amounts of

easily accessible good water and I tried to imagine families on these newly created refuse pile hills drilling 600 feet to the nearest nonporous layer of rock that MIGHT support/contain/trap sufficient amount of groundwater.

In a state whose future may well lie not just with tourists but also with people from the eastcoast who are anxious to settle in more rural areas away from the hustle of city life and public water supplies, it would be wise to give more serious consideration to what is being done south of the hinge line.



Dolly Sods and Otter Creek - Further Degradation

Intro by Don Gaspar

There is a proposal to build a coal-fired electric power generating plant 4 miles south of Cumberland, MD. This new plant would be "state of the art", reducing environmental impacts maximally. Still the 180 megawatt co-generation facility is predicted to liberate into high air sheds 1,419 tons of sulfur dioxides (SO₂) every year. The US Forest Service as 'Federal Land Manager' of the Class I air quality area of Dolly Sods and Otter Creek Wilderness Areas, just over 50 miles away from this Warrior Run Proposed Plant, has opposed any further amount of acid deposition on these sensitive areas. They conclude that emission increases within the region would contribute to existing adverse impacts on water and aquatic, terrestrial and visual resources.

The regional office of the USFS has strongly supported this position. The Monongahela National Forest in March 1994 had prepared a difficult paper justifying their courageous position. The USFS is to be congratulated. This paper has far reaching implications for all sulfur emissions. This is the way the system is supposed to work, and it all begins with the silent Monongahela speaking up in defense of its (our) wilderness areas. We must be sure this voice is heard.

The following report has been excerpted from a paper by the staff of the Monongahela National Forest, adapted by Don Gaspar.

The Dolly Sods Wilderness and Otter Creek Wilderness are Class I air quality areas located in Randolph and Tucker Counties, in eastern West Virginia. These wildernesses are administrated by the USDA Forest Service, and located within the Monongahela National Forest. Both areas are located in an

area of previously unglaciated mountains and valleys, in the eastern highlands of the Allegheny Plateau. Both are heavily forested, predominantly by an overstory of second-growth northern hardwoods and Allegheny mixed hardwoods, with red spruce in the higher elevations. These wildernesses area home to a wide variety of gamier and non-game wildlife. The Virginia northern flying squirrel and Cheat Mountain salamander are two special species. Aquatic perennial streams in these wildernesses area acidic and unproductive, with little or no acid neutralizing capacity (ANC), and many have elevated aluminum concentrations. Most of these streams do not support, or only seasonally support, native brook trout. The West Virginia DNR maintains a stream liming facility on Otter Creek in its headwaters to maintain trout and other fish populations

The Pennsylvania-age bedrock is the overwhelmingly dominant bedrock type within these wildernesses. It occupies the upper elevations and most of the watershed area of both (more than 85 percent of Otter Creek Wilderness, and more than 90 % of Dolly Sods.) Streams that arise and flow through the Lower Pennsylvanian rocks tend to be too acidic to support fish, while streams influenced by Mississippian-age rocks have improved water quality and are more suitable for aquatic life. Some of the Allegheny and Pottsville strata contain pyrite, which produces sulfate and acid as it oxidizes. Acid-forming materials in the bedrock of these watersheds are a source of natural acidity in the streams of these two wildernesses.

In addition to natural sources of acidity, both wildernesses receive the highest acid load from atmospheric deposition of all Class I wildernesses in the northeaster United States. Precipitation is among

the most acidic in the nation. Precipitation averages 55 inches a year in Dolly Sods and Otter Creek, with average annual pH of 4.2, but pH below 4.0 is common during summer months.

Of primary concern is that acidifying substances in atmospheric deposition are contributing to acidification of soils and surface waters, by nutrient and aluminum and nutrient leaching. Sulfate (from sulfur in coal burnt in electricity generating plants) is the ion of greatest concern because it is present in greater concentrations in deposition, but nitrate (from coal fired plants and vehicles) in deposition also is important in the acidification processes.

The accumulation of large amounts of anions (sulfate and nitrate) from deposition over time in the terrestrial ecosystem means that eventually the anion adsorption capacity will be reached. Additional sulfate and nitrate ions cannot be retained in the soil, and they leach through the soil, carrying cations (various soil nutrients) with them. In these soils, calcium losses typically accelerate first, but eventually other cations will be lost as more sulfate and nitrate are added and not retained. Thus, base cations necessary for foil productivity are being lost. When a large percentage of base cations are lost, acidic cations (hydrogen and aluminum) replace the base cations as the pairing cation (pairing with the sulfate and nitrates in acid rain). Aluminum becomes available for leaching when the soil becomes very acidic, because Al becomes soluble when soil pH drops below 4 to 4.5.

At the Parsons WV experimental station, USFS researchers Edwards and Helvey documented in 1991 a trend of increasing electrical conductivity in stream water since about 1970, in a control (untreated)

watershed within the experimental forest. It was determined that most of this increase was due to accelerating nitrate and calcium exports over time. These nutrient losses in stream flows were originating in the terrestrial system, so they represent real losses of soil productivity and nutrients for terrestrial vegetation

In soils like the very acidic ones in Dolly Sods and Otter Creek, base cations will be in a limited supply. Continued nitrate and sulfate deposition will result in fewer base cations remaining on site due to leaching losses by the same mechanisms described above, although the process should be faster due to the lower base cation supply. The very acidic stream waters throughout most of the wilderness tributaries show evidence that the buffering capacity of the terrestrial system already has been exceeded. The streams already have extremely low ANC and high dissolved aluminum concentrations, especially during high spring flows. As more and more aluminum is lost, soil becomes increasingly acidic because hydrogen ions are released when aluminum is dissolved. Aluminum analysis in spring baseflow conditions showed that dissolved aluminum and monomeric aluminum are very high in these streams. In most of these wilderness streams during the spring, dissolved aluminum concentrations are 200 micrograms per Liter or higher. At four sites the aluminum exceeded 300 micrograms. Inorganic monomeric aluminum is considered to be the most toxic form of aluminum for aquatic biological effects, the threshold of toxicity being 200 micrograms for brook trout and even lower for other organisms. Many of the wilderness streams already exceed that level for the inorganic aluminum.

One researcher reported that indications of acidity of streams in Dolly Sods and Otter Creek already exist, due to acid deposition. West Virginia DNR data show a long-term trend of increasing stream acidity and fish population effects in poorly-buffered mountain streams. Some of these streams show a recent loss of fish due to acidification processes.

The pH and ANC of Red Creek and its tributaries area presently below both the chronic and episodic red line values, as are most tributaries of Otter Creek. Without the State's liming facility, the pH and ANC of Otter Creek would be below the red line values. As stated in the Forest Service Eastern Region's screening document, "The aquatic ecosystems of the Otter Creek and Dolly Sods Wilderness are under considerable stress from a combination of natural and deposition-derived acidity. Additional acidic loadings from S and N deposition will further stress the aquatic ecosystems, and will jeopardize the existing populations of fish and other aquatic

organisms."

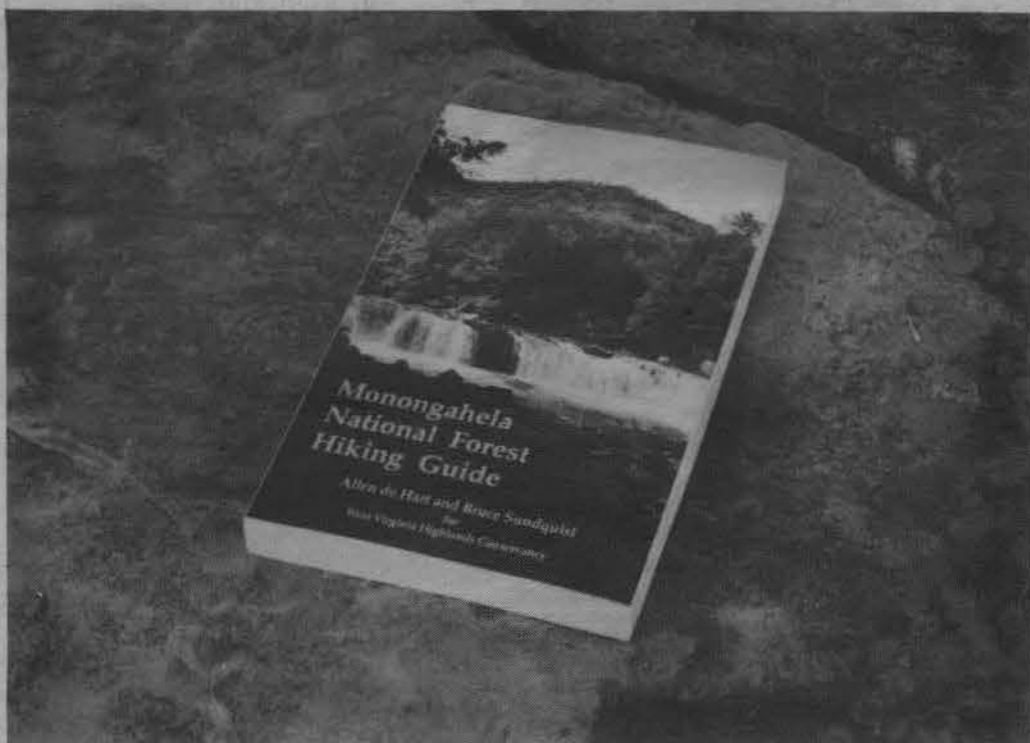
Precipitation data collected nearby in Parsons, WV by the USDA Forest Service, Northeast Experimental Station, documents that precipitation in this area is among the most acidic in the nation. The average annual pH of Precipitation is 4.2, and commonly falls below pH 4.0 in the summer months. The wildernesses are in a region of high precipitation, which averages 55 inches per year. The combination of high precipitation, which averages 55 inches per year. The combination of high precipitation and high acidity means that these wildernesses are exposed to a very heavy loadings of the acidifying pollutants, primarily sulfur.

Water quality data collected recently in Dolly Sods and Otter Creek demonstrate that aquatic resources are being severely stressed by acid water conditions. Water monitoring conducted between 1991 and 1993 demonstrated that all streams located primarily in the Pottsville Group (Pennsylvanian-age bedrock) are highly acid, pH is routinely below 5, and ANC is extremely low or negative. Even the main Red Creek which drains Dolly Sods, and flows through some of the Mississippian-age Mauch Chunk bedrock, maintains acidic water conditions (pH 4.8 to 5.7) during dormant season, and pH falls below 6.0 during summer episodes. Where Red Creek leaves Dolly Sods Wilderness, after mixing with poorer quality tributaries, pH is even lower. Smaller tributaries remain highly acid year round. Yellow Creek in the Otter Creek Wilderness is routinely below pH 4.0. The evidence indicates that aquatic resources in DOLLY Sods and Otter Creek are presently under considerable stress from acidity, and concentrations of acidifying substances, are among the highest in the nation. The water resources of these wildernesses are showing signs of these stresses. Most water in both wildernesses are extremely low pH and ANC, and springtime aluminum levels are above the toxicity threshold for some aquatic species, including eastern brook trout.

It is the cumulative impact of sulfur and nitrogen pollutants from all contributing sources that is responsible for the deposition-derived acidity impacts that are occurring. Though the added acid deposition by the proposed power plant in Dolly Sods and Otter Creek is admittedly small, this incrementally small increase within the region will contribute to an aquatic ecosystem that is already suffering from the adverse effects of deposition-derived acidity.

We have concluded that the cumulative impact of sulfur and nitrogen deposition to the aquatic resources of Dolly Sods and Otter Creek Wilderness Class I areas is adverse. We cannot at this time

WVHC's Hiking Guide, 6th edition, in its natural surroundings somewhere deep in the Monongahela National Forest.



Dolly Sods Addition???

by Don Gaspar

Red Creek of Dry Fork of Cheat heads up just north of Dolly Sods Wilderness. It originates at 4,000 feet elevation draining Dobbin Slashings wetland and flows south. The two forks drain each side of Blackbird Knob in a shallow, high basin between Allegheny Front Mountain and the Potomac drainage on the east, and Cabin Mountain and the Canaan Valley and its Blackwater River on the west. Northward of the divide is the Stony River headwaters.

Red Creek proper drains southward for about six miles, and its Left Fork for four miles, through a four mile wide gently-rolling highland between the two mountain ranges to their confluence having dropped only to 3,500 feet (about 80 feet per mile). There are about 35 beaver ponds in these forks, so there are flatter stretches. Boggy, ponded headwaters has produced a dark reddish stained color that has given Red Creek its name.

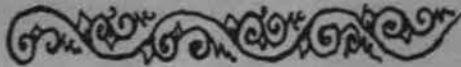
This recent acquisition to the Monongahela National Forest includes Blackbird Knob itself that can be seen from red Creek for half its length above Laneville Cabin and the Wilderness Boundary. The whole watersheds of the Left Fork and Alder Run of Red Creek are now entirely included in the National Forest. In these ten more miles of Red Creek and tributaries lie 35 beaver ponds.

These so warm the flows that there are no native brook trout in upper Red Creek. In this warmer water creek chubs and common white-eye suckers dominate, reaching 8" and 11". It is too warm for the Blackwater Dace to do well. These three are the only native fish presently inhabiting upper Red Creek. About 1970 a Pearl Dace was collected in one station in the very head of Red Creek, but not in about 40 other stations. Temperature of streams

throughout were found to be 80 degrees in August. Largemouth Bass were stocked in some Beaver Ponds about 1964 and they persist and have spread slowly in some reaches, but many ponds are too shallow and 'winter-kill' from low oxygen. Trout also have been stocked. They have even higher oxygen requirements, but brown trout stocked just too large to be eaten by the abundant creek chub may be the top predator and provide a wide distributed, wild, very desirable fishery. There is plenty of food for chubs and suckers averaged 57 lbs/acre. This is so great a population that some richness is indicated, and this is born out in chemical tests.

The terrestrial Resources include Bears, Eagles, Hawks - birds of all kinds including meadow larks, woodcock, snipe, ruffed grouse... There are Huckleberries around the first of August in some places. The vegetation is similar to Dolly Sods proper, only the ground is wetter in generally fairly narrow valley floors. There are a lot of slopes, benches and interesting terrain that you can literally and figuratively get lost in.

There are no roads or structures, but there are over 10 miles of designated trails joining those in the Mon Forest. Blackbird Knob is the highest point in the watershed at 4129'. Part of the knob (4091') above Bear Rocks is included also. From this knob one can see Stony River's MT Storm 3 miles to the north. Also Harmon Knob on the east side of Cabin Mountain, opposite Timberline Developments is now public with many views of Canaan valley. Harman Knob can be reached by a one mile climb from the parking lot on RD 37 out of Canaan Valley. ♦ ♦



Otter Creek and Dolly Sods

(from previous page) quantitatively demonstrate changes in the aquatic community for the proposed plant (Warrior Run) alone. The complexities of the aquatic systems in these Class I areas may exceed the current state of scientific knowledge for predicting direct and indirect effects from a single source. However, it is only reasonable to conclude that the proposed emission increase will not serve to benefit a resource which is presently being adversely impacted.

Soils with high acidity can have significant vegetative stress. First, the base cation nutrients are in short supply, and second, the excessive soil solution aluminum concentrations inhibit root functions, coating the roots and inhibiting nutrient uptake. Excessive aluminum and hydrogen ions disrupt root exchange processes and also disrupt mycorrhizal functions and colonization. Increases in lichen sulfur and nitrogen content since 1987 are believed to be due to air pollution influences, although there is no noticeable effects on the lichen flora or growth rates. These lichen survey results provide an additional piece of evidence that the acidifying substances, sulfur and nitrogen, are accumulating in the wilderness environment, even though they are not specifically impacting the lichen community at this time.

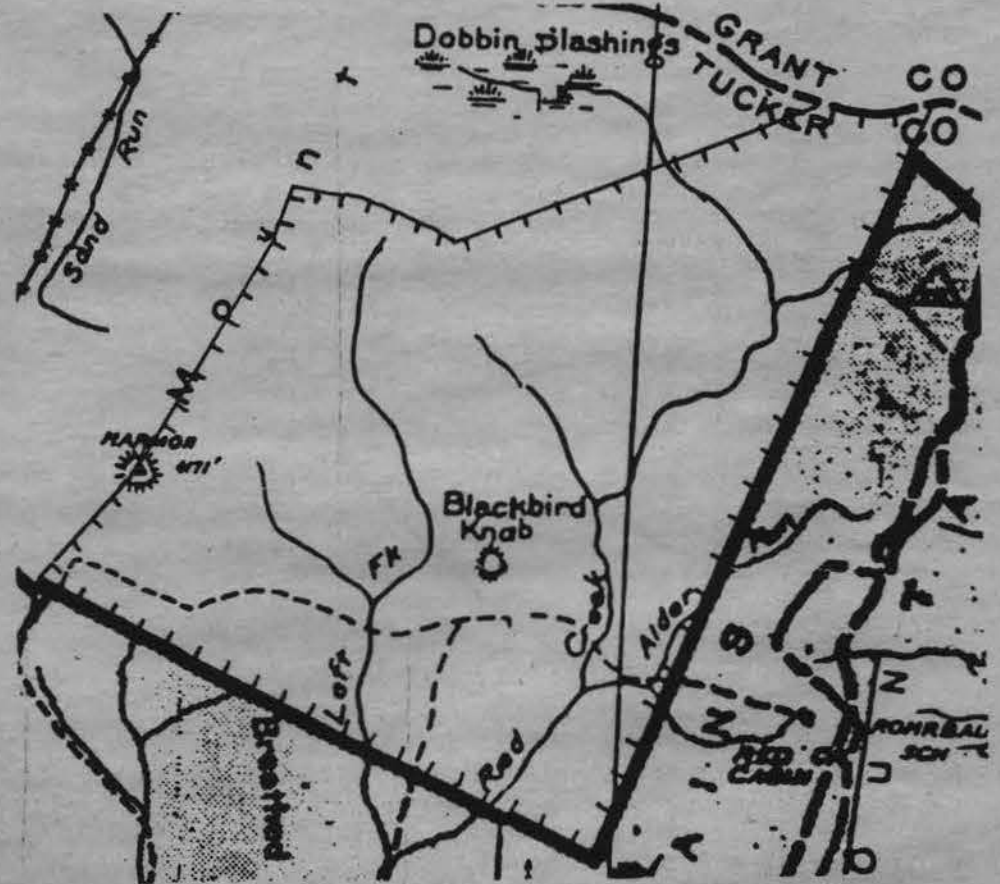
Vegetation is one of the air quality related values of these two wildernesses. The above information and research/survey results provide evidence of ecosystems under stress from air pollution. We believe that we are

experiencing damaging effects on vegetation and soils from existing levels of air pollution.

The Forest Service analysis documents that there is a strong indication that sulfur and nitrogen pollutants in deposition are causing undesirable soil chemistry and nutrient availability changes. These soil impacts are very likely having adverse impacts on vegetation within the wilderness Class I areas. Our resource information is not adequate, however, for us to make an adverse impact determination based on terrestrial resource effects at this time. We expect that as our understanding and data base of terrestrial resource conditions and effects improves, we will be able to make a more definitive determination. However, despite this, we feel strongly that additional sulfur and nitrogen pollutant loadings within this mid-Atlantic Appalachian region should not be permitted.

It is our belief also that visibility at Dolly Sods and Otter Creek Wildernesses has already been impaired. We believe that these levels are high enough to contribute to degradation of visibility and reinforce our concern that visibility conditions not be further degraded by emissions of sulfur and nitrogen.

We further believe that the only way to improve the air quality situation at Dolly Sods and Otter Creek is to take steps to reduce emissions within the region. Permitting additional source emissions increases within the region at this time will not accomplish this.



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

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The Rise of the Zebra Mussel

Swan Song for Native Clams?
By Norman Kilpatrick

West Virginia's waters are home to a good number of native mussel species, including the pink mucket mussel, the fanshell mussel, the clubshell mussel, the northern riffleshell and the rubercled-blossom pearly mussel.

The pink mucket mussel lives in at least the lower Elk River, the upper Kanawha River and in some "pools" of the Ohio River, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service is still developing information on the different species found on or near the Ohio River islands it was deeded several years ago by the Nature Conservancy, they say.

These fresh water clams are all at risk due to man-made pollution, ranging from mine drainage to human waste, still discharged into Mountain State streams in some locations.

However, a major threat to their continuation in West Virginia waters has come from the former Soviet Union, by way of the Great Lakes and the inland river system.

The US Corps of Engineers calls it possibly the "greatest threat" to the inland rivers of America in this century. It was first found in American waters around 1985, in Lake St. Clair.

The threat at hand is the Zebra Mussel, a very small fresh water import, that spread from eastern Europe to western Europe during the 1800's, likely by attaching itself to the bottoms of tugs and barges that moved commercial goods through the highly developed canal system of Europe.

Some believe that fresh water picked up in Europe for ballast purposes contained Zebra Mussel larvae. When discharged in the Lake St. Clair area, it produced adults that attached to commercial shipping bottoms. Thus, the Zebra is now found in all the Great Lakes.

The Zebra Mussel can, according to some sources, produce up to 1 million eggs per season. When they reach a certain age, the tiny larvae drop to the bottom of their water body and fasten to hard surfaces, unlike fresh water clams that prefer soft or muddy bottoms.

The Zebra has tiny, very powerful, bursal threads. This allows them to hold on to the shells of native mussels, power plant and water plant intake pipes, and boat hulls.

By this means, Zebras have passed through the Chicago barge Canal to the Illinois River (from Lake Michigan). From that tributary of the Mississippi they have ended up in the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Kanawha River, according to the Corps, and tow company staff I have talked with.

Zebra mussels use their huge numbers, once they reach a critical mass in a body of water, to remove so much food; so that they may starve native mussels. They also attach in large colonies to the larger local clams, thus reducing their ability to move and otherwise messing up their life cycle.

Lake Erie has seen large "kills" of native mussel types due to the Zebra. Their numbers in the western part of that large body of water are so great it is believed the clearing of Lake Erie water near the Town of Monroe and other similar places is due to the intake activities of the Zebra, which eats plant and animal materials that generally make lake water cloudy.

To date, the zebra is not known in the Monongahela River or the major lakes of West Virginia, such as Bluestone, Stonewall, Sutton or Summersville.

Zebras have thin shells, and are eaten by some fish, such as the fresh water drum (sheephead), catfish, and certain types of ducks. The fresh water drum could be stocked and released by the West Virginia Dept. of Natural Resources,



but is not, at this time.

Arkansas is trying to keep the Zebra out of its Arkansas River and tributary streams. However, no such campaign is being attempted by West Virginia as concerns the Mon River and our lakes.

Natural foes, chemicals that kill the larva, physical removal from the boat hulls, changing water at bait shops and safe disposal of the imported water, are all ways to combat the Zebra.

A Fish & Wildlife official told me that the only sure way to save the Ohio River mussels from death at the hands of the zebra is to remove them from the rivers and raise some of them in Man-made holding areas.

Surely, this tiny (less than 2 inches long), striped, import needs to have a program established to combat its invasion.

It seems that the Highlands Conservancy is the most likely candidate to push the State and the private commercial and pleasure boating interests into and awareness of this threat to our waters.

Better to prepare than to try to play "catch-up"; as has been the case in Lake Erie, to the great detriment of the native mussels of that body of water.

Promises and lies

(from page one) State Forests managed for ALL West Virginians. About that time the Governor asked one of his supersecretaries to get a committee together to deal with this problem. The session comes and goes - no committee; here comes summer, still no committee. All these promises... why did I believe them in the first place???

THE TIMBER SCION-IN-LAW

Well the reason no committee was formed, the reason we are still cutting trees that are worth far more in tourist/recreation dollars than as lumber, the reason citizens will have no say on how our State Forests are managed is Delegate Joe Martin. Take a bow, Joe. Applaud all you who are more concerned with short term profit than long term health of our state.

You see, Joe is Chairman of the House Government Organization Committee. Joe is also Co-chair of the Legislative Forest Management Review Commission. And Joe is married to timber money. Joe doesn't want any citizens studying about the sweet deal industry has with the State Forests and the Governor wants his bills to sail through the Committee.

And we're still waiting for the promises to be fulfilled.

Dolly Sods Trees

Spruce
Jutting from the rock
With backs to icy wind.

Stark
Evergreen soldiers
Surviving winter's cruelty.

Strong
Clinging to life
For unknown reasons.

Dwarf
Lovers of high-country
Through ice bound seasons.

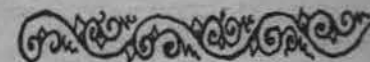
One side
A sacrifice made
To bitter winter cold.

Flattened
Strangely, you endure.
Still small, you are old.

Nourished
By the briefest of summers,
It has been enough.

For you are here.
Growing foolishly lopsided,
Standing stunted and proud
Among the blueberries.

Craig Sims
December 93



WVHC Summer Board Meeting will be held at Kumbrabow State Forest on July 16 at 10 am. Everyone Welcome. A tour of the Clay Run Sale Site will be offered after the meeting.

Join the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

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Senior/Student	\$ 12	-	-
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Associate	30	50	100
Sustaining	50	100	200
Patron	100	200	400
Mountaineer	200	300	600

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- * 1 year subscription to the Highlands Voice
 - * Special meetings with workshops and speakers
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- The WVHC, at age 27, 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.