



The

Highlands

Voice

2000
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T&T Hits The Skids

Mining Matters
by cindy rank

DEP To Pay For Yet Another Coal Fiasco

For those of you who may be keeping score or making lists, T&T Fuels is the latest in the long line of coal companies to go broke and leave the state holding the bag.

Attention to the problems at T&T began in earnest back in the Spring of 1994 when torrents of acid mine drainage (AMD) broke loose from the hillside mine portals and some 800 gallons per minute of rusty red mine drainage poured into Muddy Creek and on into a favorite whitewater rafting area of the Cheat River near Albright in Preston County WV.

As luck would have it, a raft guide captured the event in full color video, took it to the media and showed it at the first statewide Rivers Conference in Morgantown thus capturing the attention of the multitudes and triggering an outpouring of concern the likes of which is rarely seen.

The past year has been filled with state and federal actions and investigations pursuing the company and its representatives for solutions to the problem — and the money to pay for them.

Now T&T has declared bankruptcy, leaving hundreds of thousands of dollars in unpaid pollution fines (and reportedly Workers Compensation dues as well); and has forfeited its meager \$10,000 bond, leaving the state of WV with an estimated water treatment cost's of \$1/2 million per year.

So ends the NEW news, i.e. 'T&T' is a new name.

The rest is history. Be it T&T, DLM, F&M or Omega, WV's response has become all too familiar: big problem, big expense,

(and most importantly) BIG NEWS, therefore the state acts.

But, how the state acts and what WV DEP says about those actions tells the larger story about the official WV DEP attitude toward permitting, bonding and water treatment in acid areas — especially in those areas with problems that are less in the public eye than T&T.

WATER TREATMENT / BOND POOL / FORFEITED SITES

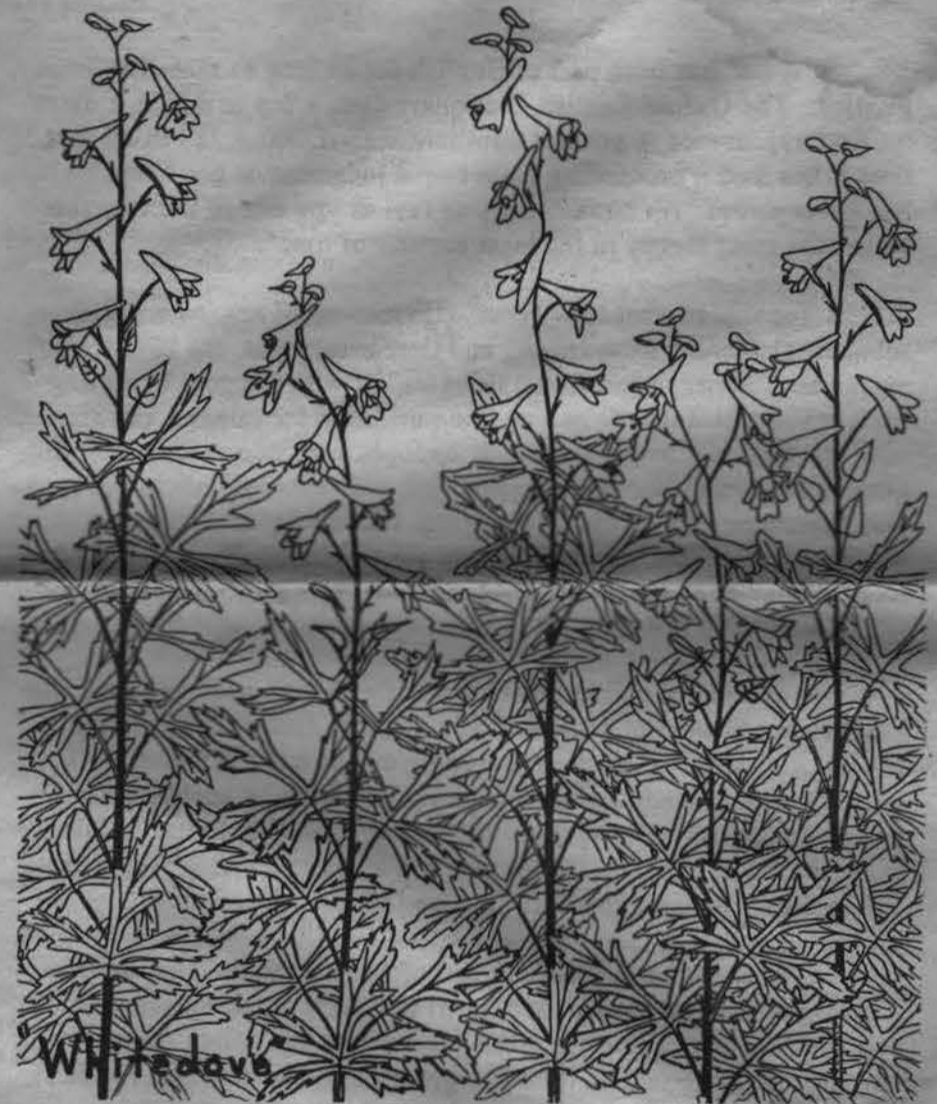
What is DEP saying by it's actions at T&T, and by the words of it's agents interviewed for an article in The Dominion Post newspaper?

-Is the state admitting that it has a legal mandate under federal and state law to treat water at forfeited mine sites? NO, but it will step in as it has at F&M etc., because it feels some sort of 'moral' imperative. READ: There's far too much publicity to ignore this one.

- Is the state going to treat the discharge so that it meets the same water quality standards required in the company's permits? NO, no indication of that either. READ: As long as the agency does something, it can say that it's better than nothing.

- Is the state admitting that this might be the straw that finally breaks the back of the bond pool/Special Reclamation Fund? NOPE. DEP still says the fund is solvent. READ: DEP believes they have no legal requirement to treat water or to treat to standards and that there is, therefore, no liability for those measures. Consequently, what monies are spent for water treatment is pure gravy.With thinking like that, how can the fund be anything BUT solvent?

It's an interesting point of view that the state maintains, but it's flat-out illegal. The Federal Office of Surface Mining (see page 8)



Delphinium exaltatum - by Glenn Scherff
(see page 8 for the Delphinium story)

WTI Demonstration

On December 15, 1995 the Ohio Hazardous Waste Facility Board will visit the WTI Hazardous Waste Incinerator. It is extremely important that as many folks as possible attend the demonstration, beginning at 8:30 am, to show the board that WTI is illegal, dangerous, unacceptable, and inexcusable. Please bring friends and signs. For more information call Terri Swearingen (304)-387-0574, June Archer (216)-385-4515 or Alonzo Spencer (216)-385-4584

Another Contract on Corridor H

by Hugh Rogers

If you haven't been reading the Charleston Gazette recently, you've missed the fun with the Division of Highways' out-of-state lawyers. Word got around that a D.C. firm had been hired to double-check the Corridor H Environmental Impact Statement, for which we have already paid \$10 million. First, DOH admitted hiring Cutler & Stanfield but denied knowing how much the firm would be paid. Then DOH's own legal office gave us a hint: Cutler & Stanfield would be paid by the hour. The rate was still unknown.

Two days later, after a Freedom of Information Act request, reporter Ken Ward was able to read the contract himself. The

top rate, for partner Eliot Cutler, was \$325 per hour. The Maximum fee on this contract is \$85,000—but this is not likely to be the only contract with Cutler & Stanfield. This contract is only for "review"; supposing Cutler & Stanfield is hired to defend the project's environmental compliance, the sky is the limit.

Some language in the contract was puzzling to those who have been following the Corridor H issue. Why would Cutler & Stanfield be asked to deal with "land acquisition"? The answer came five days later. DOH's legal staff must have researched state law to learn when outside law firms may be hired. The commission clearly has the authority to hire additional lawyers for—land acquisition. Why not tack on those magic

words to a contract for environmental review?

Unfortunately, the contract failed to require Cutler & Stanfield to perform construction or repair work. Perhaps the lawyers balked: "All right, if you insist, we'll do a little land acquisition, but absolutely no construction or repair!" This omission has come to the attention of the director of the state's Purchasing Division, who is supposed to review all of DOH's contracts except those dealing with consecution & repair. Now the Attorney General's office is looking into the matter.

DOH seems to operate on the theory that one embarrassing news story is never enough. At the Gazette, unsympathetic editors wrote that DOH officials (see page 2)

---from the heart of the plateau---

by John McFerrin

Scrabble

I love words. Scrabble is my favorite game. I have two unabridged dictionaries, a Scrabble dictionary, and the Oxford English Dictionary. As new volumes of the Dictionary of American Regional English are published, I add them to my set. In college I took an entire course in etymology, the study of words and word origins.

Love of words is another reason to be offended by the "Wise" Use movement.

"Wise" has been part of English for as long as there has been English. The Oxford English Dictionary cites a use in which it dates its first appearance in print at approximately 1,000 A.D. In all that time it has meant proceeding from sound judgment or good sense. It has never meant "rip up resources as fast as you can in the way that makes the most money in the least amount of time".

Yet that is what the "Wise" Use movement suggests. With substantial funding from mining and timber interests, the "Wise Use" movement lobbies, cajoles, and litigates, all with the goal of rolling back environmental laws and opening up lands for mineral extraction, over-grazing, and over-logging. It opposes such things as increasing grazing fees on public lands so that they will approximate the cost to graze cattle on private land. It opposes such things as ecosystem management in Yellowstone National Park. It supports the continued sale (give away is more like it) of minerals from public lands at ridiculously low prices.

It is true, of course, that nature has to be "used" in some way. People cannot exist in a state of pure nature. Our nearly hairless bodies, dull sense of smell, and weak eyesight make it necessary that we alter nature in some way to survive. We have to build houses, make clothes, and use the other technology available to us. While mankind did at one time live by hunting and gathering, it was a brutal and mean existence to which I have no interest in returning.

Yet at the same time, our use of natural things must be wise. It must proceed from sound judgment and good sense. It must be use at a rate which can be maintained. It must be use which nurtures and sustains the earth just as the earth nurtures and sustains us. It must be a wise use.

Let the "Wise Use" movement find themselves another word. Let them call themselves the "Unwise Use" movement. Let them call themselves the "Use It Now!" movement. Let them call themselves the "Future Be Damned, I Want It Now!" movement. Just don't let them label themselves with a word which for a thousand years has meant proceeding from sound judgment and good sense.

To allow that debases the language just as their policies seek to debase the land.



Corridor H

(from page 1) "must either be lying or stupid." Here's another possibility: in their twisted way, DOH may be trying to save us from a stupid project.

Cutler & Stanfield represented the Disney company when it proposed to build a history theme park on I-66 in Virginia. Did

the D.C. lawyers advise Disney to give up that land acquisition? Can they persuade DOH to do the same? \$10 million has bought an EIS that DOH is still reluctant to release. For \$85,000, we could bet an environmental review that says Corridor H is a disaster. Memo to Purchasing Division: cheap contract. Pay it.

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The Highlands Voice is always printed on Recycled Paper. Our printer uses 100% post consumer recycled paper when available.

Letters, Conservancy News, Reviews, Websites

Dear Editor,

I had the occasion to explore the Little Fork of the Williams River in the Cranberry Backcountry a couple of years ago. I found it to be wild and primeval, with a fine, tall climax forest of northern hardwoods, spruce and hemlock. The valley is in fact virtually indistinguishable from the Cranberry Wilderness which borders it to the east. It seems though that the Little Fork is about to become a very different kind of place. When the Forest service is done with it there will be mile after mile of bulldozed truck roads, many large gaping wounds in the now-unbroken Forest canopy, and a once-clear mountain stream will become, at least for a time a muddy battered mess. In Freddyspeak they call this 'timber-stand improvement'. In reality it should be called 'Forest fragmentation and exploitation for the purposes of perpetuating the economic status-quo'. If the Forest Service was really interested in forest improvement in the Little Fork they wouldn't be logging there at all, for the only possible way to 'improve' the mature, diverse forest of the valley is to leave it alone and let it evolve into old growth.

Such an option, however, is clearly an anathema to the current MNF hierarchy. Over the past decade Forest Supervisor Jim Page and his rangers have been engaged in what appears to be a systematic attempt to isolate current wilder-

ness and wild areas within themselves by roading and logging near or right on the borders of many of those areas. Although I have no doubt that the MNF would vigorously deny such speculation, the logging roads and clearcuts do not lie. Otter Creek, the Dolly Sods, North Fork Mtn., Spruce Mtn., the Laurel Fork Wildernesses and the Cranberry Wilderness all have had major logging operation around their perimeter areas in the last 10 years, with more obviously on the way. If nothing else this is conclusive proof that the MNF believes that those wild areas are plenty big enough already and should not be allowed to grow any larger. Perhaps the presence of blocks of unmanaged land is almost too much for them to bear, and they feel compelled to surround such land with 'new and improved' forests that they can control and manipulate to their heart's desire.

As shortsighted and homocentric as those past timber sales have been though, it appears that the Little Fork project may set a new standard of logging debauchery for the modern MNF. Not only does this boondoggle border the largest, wildest, woodiest wilderness in all of West Virginia (and the entire Central Appalachians for that matter) but even if the Little Fork were in a less ecologically sensitive region it would still be a very poor candidate for Forest exploitation, as it is a narrow, steep-

sided valley that is undoubtedly going to be quite expensive to log out and highly vulnerable to erosion afterwards. But of course the Forest Service never seems to let mere facts get in the way of the caterpillars and chain saws, just as they routinely dismiss public opinions that are contrary to their plans, even those firmly supported by conservation biology.

It is unfortunately becoming increasingly difficult to have any respect for the way the Forest service conducts its affairs. It seems that the only principle they adhere to is to do whatever is necessary to extract as many resources as they can get away with. They can call it ecosystem management or timber-stand improvements or creating wildlife openings or any one of dozens of other terms in their perverse lexicon but it always comes out the same- the roads get built and the trees get cut. That they seem to regard the Little Fork project as a fait accompli is the sadly typical attitude that we have come to expect from what is ostensibly a public agency, but is in reality little more than an expediter for exploitative interests. In any case though we must not let the Little Fork go down without a fight, a big ugly fight if that's what it takes, for this is a place where logging of any kind is just plain wrong.

for the wild
Robert Stough

temore Inc.'s giant pulp mill proposed for Apple Grove, WV, along the banks of the Ohio.

In *Southbound*, he uses the same techniques of juxtaposed interviews and footage of the forest, logging, and wood products plants to give viewers an intimate knowledge of this chip mill invasion. When followed by scenes of utter forest devastation (including a few scrawny pine seedlings), the ignorance of Keith Argow's (President, National Woodland Owners Association) statement that "People really believe in putting the trees back as quickly as they take them out" is quite obvious.

In "Green Rolling Hills", many of the locals, who had not yet experienced large wood using mills, responded to Mr. Hawes-Davis probing questions with hope and expectation that the new mill would bring prosperity and clean up the woods. In *Southbound*, the locals have experienced the devastation for several years. Very few of those interviewed felt the mills had a positive impact. Most were very disgusted with what was happening to the forests and jobs in their area. Sawmill owners, local farmers, woodsmen, ecologists were all very outspoken about the

tremendous negative impact the chip mills were having.

No one interviewed (except for one Alabama state official) more the reluctantly accepted the mills. Jon Loney, TVA, said that "Ultimately, the market will decide whether or not there are chip mills in the area." One logger felt that folks were going along with the vacuuming of the forests because "Timber's as high as it's ever been."

Its probably impossible to get a true idea of just how large and devouring these chip mill operation are, but the footage of the plants, the mountains of chips and logs, the incredible grinders pulling two foot diameter trees into their maws is scary enough.

As we don't have a VCR, I ended up watching *Southbound* at my neighbor's house. She's a good enough person, but I sincerely doubt she's every thought about man's impact on the environment. The video had her complete attention. Towards the end she said she had never realized where all the paper towels, plates, and other products she used regularly came from and was visibly uncomfortable with the realizations she'd had on seeing *Southbound*.

WVHC' Board of Directors Winter Meeting will be in Charleston on Saturday, January 13th.

Spring Review will be on the weekend of May 17-19

All members are welcome to both meetings. Call Richard diPretoro and watch future VOICES for more information. Please mark out those dates on your calendars right now.

About that URL

A few folks have had trouble accessing the WVHC WWW website using the URL in the last issue of the VOICE. All you have to do is add "/" to the end of the address - or - "http://www.marshall.edu/~ragette2/".

Other Websites

National Biological Survey

My latest favorite website is the National Biological Service's (NBS) Breeding Bird Survey at <http://www.im.nbs.gov/bbs/bbs.htm>. Here you can find maps of hundreds of species' territories, population trends, as well as pictures and songs of the birds.

According to NBS's great new book "Our Living Resources" the highlands of WV are one of the few areas in the country where all types of breeding birds are in decline. I'll try to have the whole story on this, the book and the website in the next issue of the VOICE.

MINING EXCHANGE ON THE INTERNET

(This is the extracted from the welcome message for the mining exchange.)

Hi and welcome to 'mining-exchange', an international forum established to help people resist unsafe mining "in their neighborhood." Subscribers to mining-exchange share information about resistance strategies, mining, and mining companies.

To post information to the everyone on the list, send your message to: mining-exchange@igc.apc.org.

Information posted by subscribers to mining-exchange includes (but is not necessarily limited to):

1. What people/groups are doing in their communities to resist mining
2. Discussion/documentation of any of the following activities by mining companies
3. Mining companies:
 - a. Parent companies, subsidiaries,

directors, officers, corporate owners, and individual owners, etc...

4. Sustainable alternatives to mining-how to effectively rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle.

Would you like to share information about mining?

Would you like to receive information about mining?

If you are an authority in a field related to mining, would you be willing to be a contact when information from an expert in that field is needed? Send your requests and your information about mining to mining-exchange@igc.apc.org

"People have the power to redeem the work of fools." Patti Smith
Subscribe to the mining-exchange by posting the message "subscribe mining-exchange" to the email address: majordomo@igc.apc.org.



Scene from *Southbound*

Southbound

A video documentary by Doug Hawes-Davis
Soundtrack by Ned Mudd
Videography by Eric Gravely

Available for \$25 from
Ecology Center Productions
1519 Cooper Street
Missoula, MT 59802

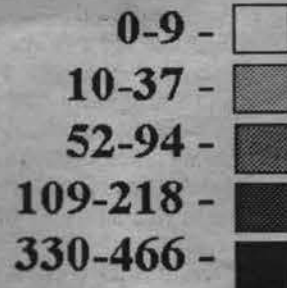
Southbound documents the quiet move, over the last several years, by multi-national wood products companies from the heavily logged National Forests in the Pacific Northwest to the mostly privately-owned, recovering forests of the southeastern United States. The video examines the controversy surrounding the proliferation of high-capacity chip mills, which are used to convert the diverse hardwood forests of the region to raw wood fiber for export. As these companies race to feed global demand for paper and lumber, citizens are fighting to protect remnants of the once great southern forest.

Some of you may have seen Mr. Hawes-Davis' last video "Green Rolling Hills", reviewed in the VOICE not too many months ago. This video explored the controversy surrounding Pratt & Whit-

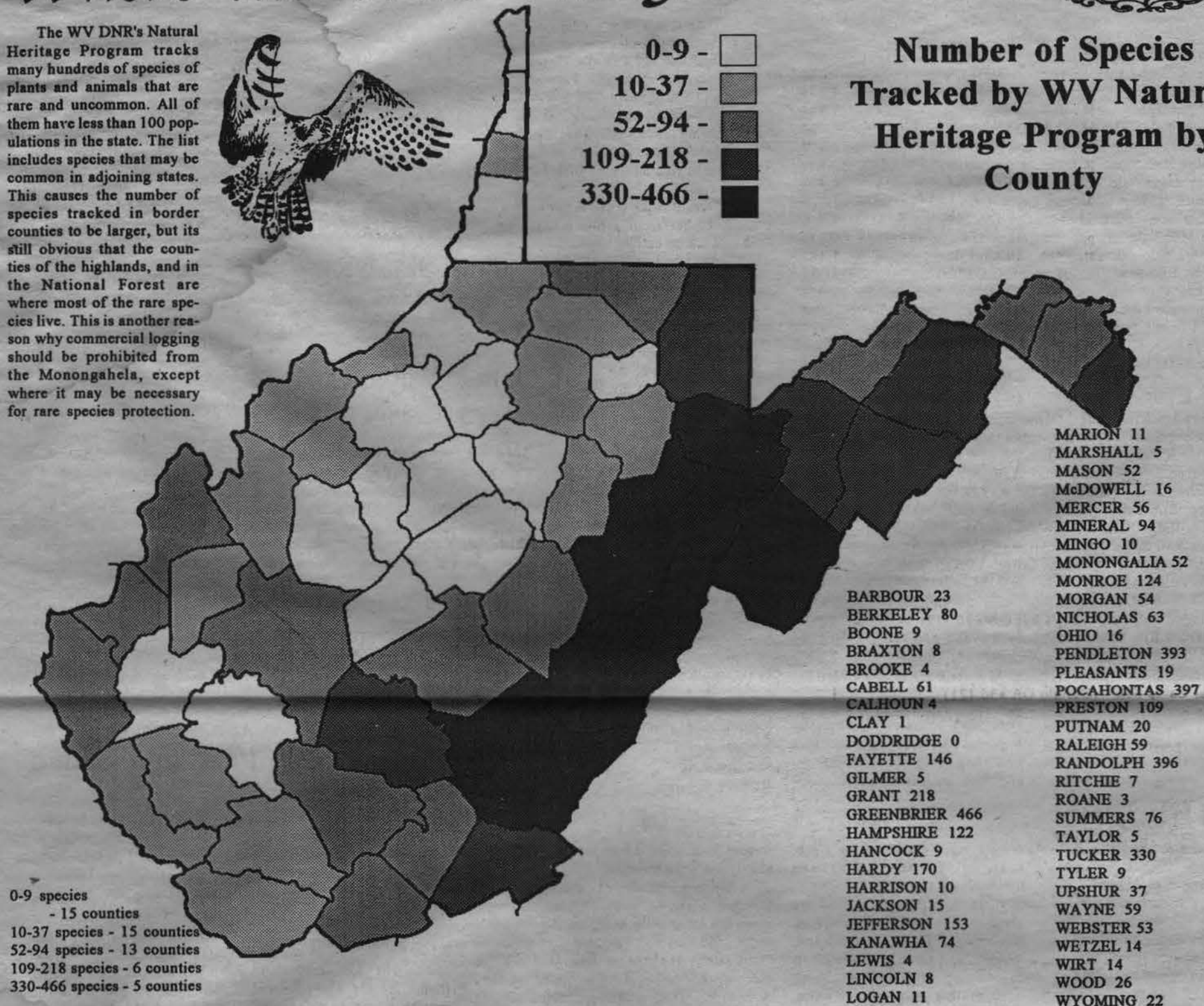
Where the Wild Things Are



The WV DNR's Natural Heritage Program tracks many hundreds of species of plants and animals that are rare and uncommon. All of them have less than 100 populations in the state. The list includes species that may be common in adjoining states. This causes the number of species tracked in border counties to be larger, but it is still obvious that the counties of the highlands, and in the National Forest are where most of the rare species live. This is another reason why commercial logging should be prohibited from the Monongahela, except where it may be necessary for rare species protection.



Number of Species Tracked by WV Natural Heritage Program by County



0-9 species - 15 counties
 10-37 species - 15 counties
 52-94 species - 13 counties
 109-218 species - 6 counties
 330-466 species - 5 counties

The Companies

Companies actively logging in the Monongahela National Forest and the total board feet they have purchased.

- Georgia Pacific Corp., Richwood, WV - 18,131 MBF
- W. M. Cramer Lumber Co., Rt 1 Box 503, Marlinton, WV 24954 - 14,846 MBF
- BA Mullican Lbr & Mfg. Co., Ronceverte, WV - 12,922 MBF
- Hooke Brothers, Monterey, VA 24465 - 12,245 MBF
- Mongold Lumber Enterprises, Inc., Rt 1 Box 6, Elkins, WV - 9,577 MBF
- Interstate Hardwoods, Inc., PO Box 7, Bartow, WV 24920 - 8,379 MBF
- Leslie Bros. Lumber, Cowen, WV - 6,099 MBF
- Wood Products, Oakland, MD - 5,870 MBF
- Allegheny Wood Products, PO Box 867, Petersburg, WV 26847 - 5,296 MBF
- Judy's Fencecraft, Bartow, WV - 4,600 MBF
- Jim Hamer Co., Kenova, WV - 4,148 MBF
- Dixon Lumber Co., PO Box 907, 152 Boyer Rd, Galax, VA - 4,141 MBF
- Allegheny Hardwoods, Petersburgs, WV - 2,400MBF
- Roscoe Moyers, Bartow, WV - 2,300 MBF
- Richard Coombs, Marlinton, WV - 1,827 MBF
- Jayfor Logging, Wilcox, PA and Lewisburg, WV - 1,800 MBF
- Sherman Kinkaid, Neola, WV - 1,776 MGF
- John C Bradley, Covington, VA - 1,728 MBF
- Mill Creek Bldg Supply Beverly, WV - 1,000 MBF



Tis the Season To Be Green

or environmentally friendly Christmas gifts

Gift Membership - special price for gift memberships only - \$12

WVHC Conservancy Hiking Guide - \$12.95

Guide and Gift Membership - \$22

Support the Conservancy's work and educate your friends (or enemies).

Contact Richard diPretoro 264 High St. Morgantown, WV 26505
 Phone (304) 296-8963, Fax 296-8623

Where the Wild Things Were

| # | Sale Name | Opportunity Area | Volume in MMBF |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Marlinton Ranger District | | | |
| (1) | Upper Williams Sale | (Williams R West OA #43.007) | 1.414 |
| (2) | Spice Run Sale | (Upper Beaverlick OA #66.161) | 1.756 |
| (3) | Spice Run Sale | (Stillwell OA #46.114) | 1.715 |
| (4) | Buckeley Sale | (Buckley Mtn OA #46.116) | 2.126 |
| (5) | Webster Sale | (Buckley Mtn OA #46.116) | 1.488 |
| (6) | Warwick Run Sale | (Cloverlick OA #46.111) | 0.327 |
| (7) | Broken Ridge Sale | (Upper Beaverlick OA #66.161) | 0.494 |
| (8) | Lost Bottom Sale | (Douthat Creek OA #46.118) | 1.728 |
| (9) | Hopkins Sale | (Hopkins Mtn OA #66.169) | 1.656 |
| (10) | Two Mile Sale | (Upper beaverlick OA #66.161) | 0.171 |
| (11) | Hightop Sale | (Hightop OA #46.119) | 1.147 |
| (12) | Brushy Run Sale | (Brushy Mtn. OA #46.117) | 3.331 |
| (13) | Hopkins Pine Sale | (Hopkins Mountain OA #66.169) | 0.229 |
| (14) | Warehouse Pine Sale | (Lower Middle Mtn. OA #66.164) | 0.088 |
| (15) | Seven Mile | (Upper Anthony OA #66.162 closed) | 1.465 |

Marlinton Total - 19,069,000 Board Feet

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| Greenbrier Ranger District | | | |
| (16) | Burner Mountain Sale | (same name OA #36.115) | 3.3 |
| (17) | Backfork Sale | (Chestnut Ridge OA #36.106) closed | 2.3 |
| (18) | Buffalo Ridge Sale | (Buffalo OA #36.121) | 2.5 |
| (19) | Carr Run | (Beaverdam OA #33.002) | 3.6 |
| (20) | Crawford Sale | (Ward Run OA #33.005) | 3.9 |
| (21) | Elleber Run Sale | (Elleber Run OA #36.122) | 0.735 |
| (22) | Grassy Ridge Sale | (Mountain Lick OA #36.114) | 2 |
| (23) | John's Run Sale | (Burner Mountain OA #36.115) | 2 |
| (24) | Laurel Lick Sale | (McCray Ridge OA #36.101) | 1.8 |
| (25) | Little Beech Mountain Sale | (Little Beech Mountain OA #36.103) | 3.6 |
| (26) | Mullenax Run Sale | (Pig's Ear OA #36.112) | 4.6 |
| (27) | Saulsbury Run Sale | (Saulsbury Run OA #36.120) | 0.3 |
| (28) | Span Oak Sale | (Mountain Lick OA #36.114) | 2.4 |
| (29) | Hawchen Hollow Sale | (Burner Mountain OA) | 1.8 |
| (30) | Sugar Camp Sale | (Buffalo OA #36.121) | 1 |
| (31) | Little River Norway Spruce Sale | (May OA #36.110) | 0.273 |

Greenbrier Total 35,835,000 BF

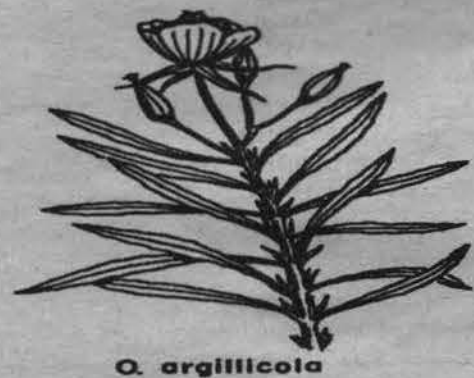
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|-------------------------------|---------------|--|--------|
| Gauley Ranger District | | | |
| (32) | Laurel Run | (White Oak Fork West OA #23.003) | 1.522 |
| (33) | Curtain Run | (Holcomb OA #23.005) | 1.334 |
| (34) | Music Run | (Holcomb OA #23.005) | 0.336 |
| (35) | Barrenshe | (Briery Knob OA #23.007) | 3.34 1 |
| (36) | Briery Knob | (Briery Knob OA #23.007) | 3.930 |
| (37) | Panther Den | (Sawyer Run OA #23.002) | 5.190 |
| (38) | Queer Branch | (Snake Den Mtn. OA #22.001) | 0.651 |
| (39) | Hunters Haven | (Briery Knob OA #23.007) | 5.020 |
| (40) | Holcomb Ridge | (Holcomb OA #23.005) | 2.378 |
| (41) | Perry Ridge | (Perry Ridge OA #23.004) | 1.770 |
| (42) | Craig Run | (Red Oak North OA #26.103) | 3.879 |
| (43) | Twin Mill | (Red Oak South OA #26.104) | 5.824 |
| (44) | Johnson Run | (Red Oak North OA #26.103) | 3.275 |
| (45) | Old Trail | (Sawyer Run OA #23.002) | 1.133 |
| (46) | Foxtree | (Briery Knob OA #23.007/ Snake Den Mtn. OA #22.001) | 6.733 |
| (47) | Jakeman | (Holcomb OA #23.005/ Cherry River OA #23.006) | 2.989 |

Gauley Total 49,304,000 Board Feet

Here it is, all the timber cutting currently underway in the Monongahela. 127,157,000 Board Feet under the chain saw. Lots of acres and lots of board feet, lots of disturbed habitat. Go check out a few logging jobs on your next hiking trip. Contact the local ranger districts to find out exact their locations.

Does it make sense to cut so much timber from public lands? Should we be cutting any?

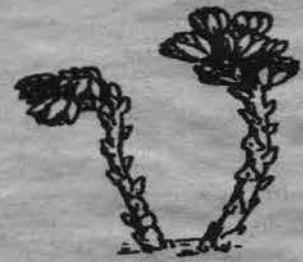
All data from the US Forest Service. I'd like to thank each of the ranger districts in the Monongahela National Forest for so amiably providing the information. Even though I kept requesting more information about the sales (and hope to continue) my contacts in the offices were always glad to help.



O. argillicola



S. saxatilis



MONOTROPSIS odorata



MMBF, MBF and Board Feet

1 Board Foot = 144 cubic inches of wood, or a board 1" by 6" by 2'.

MBF = 1,000 board feet.

MMBF = 1,000,000 Board feet or 1,000 MBF.

The Old Growth harvested out of Dolly Sods around the turn of the century produced over 50,000 B.F. per acre. WV Division of Forestry considers forests harvestable when over 2,500 Bd. Ft per acre can be harvested. Clearcutting in mature stands will produce 10 to 15 MBF per acre. A good rule of thumb for the Monongahela is that each 10,000 B.F. will require 1 acre of woods. The 127,157,000 Bd. Ft currently being logged in the Mon would require approximately 12,716 acres to produce that much lumber.

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cheat Ranger District | | |
| (48) | Hile Run | (13.002) 2.9 |
| (49) | Shingletree | (13.008) 0.569 |
| (50) | Mtn Grove | (13.001) 2 |
| (51) | North Pheasant | (13.006) 1.2 |
| (52) | Fork Mtn | (12.001) 1 |
| (53) | Close Mountain | (13.005) 1.2 |
| (54) | Indian Run | 1.5 |

Cheat Total 10,369,000 Board Feet

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Potomac Ranger District | | |
| (55) | Cold Spring Run | (Big Mtn OA # 53.012) 1.769 |
| (56) | Dever's Run | (Osceola OA #53.009) 2.277 |
| (57) | Sam's Run | (Big Mtn OA # 53.012) 1.963 |
| (58) | Frontline | (Star Run OA #56.101) 1.972 |
| (59) | Spruce Mtn East | (same OA #53.006) 1.361 |
| (60) | White Oak Flat | (Big Mtn OA #53.012) 2.259 |
| (61) | Alphabet Ridge | (Big Mtn OA #53.012) 0.979 |

Potomac Total 12,580,000 Board Feet

Total Board Feet of all active timber sales - 127,157,000 B.F.

Forest Service Road Goes Full Circle



By Dave W. Saville

This is the story about a wilderness trail. That's how it begins and that is how it will end. It now has an official name, North Fork Trail, and travel is by foot, but traveling along the North Fork of the Cranberry River has been done in many different ways over the years. Native Americans used these lands although no permanent settlements are known to have existed. Early settlers began coming into the area in the mid 1700s, but it wasn't until this century that the people using these lands began having a serious impact on them. "The precipitous banks and dense undergrowth prohibited travel except directly in the river's bed", from *The Last Forest*; - this is how G.D. McNeill describes traveling on the North Fork in the 1890s. Time will tell if the trail along this stream will ever regain the character of a century ago, but its well on its way, back to the wilderness.

The Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company began purchasing lands in Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Nicholas Counties in 1899. This truly was, as the title of McNeill's book would indicate, the last forest. While most of the surrounding lands in this and other states had long been timbered, the steep terrain of the highlands made their timber inaccessible. The mountainous areas of West Virginia finally came under assault with the advent of the geared locomotives. The Shay engines, with their all wheel drive, could climb these hills and negotiate the tight turns that the railroads required to reach into the mountains and valleys of the highland region. By the turn of the century, lumber companies of all sizes turned their attention to these, the last reserves of timber in the eastern United States.

Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company was one of the biggest. They established their big, triple band mill in Richwood, and began their woods operations on the Cherry River by 1901. Within 10 years, the Cherry River basin was logged out, and by 1910 they turned their attention to the Cranberry River. A new "10 year town", Dogway, was established on the Cranberry at the Dogway Fork replacing North Bend on the North Fork of the Cherry. These towns served as outposts for woods management and equipment maintenance. Logs from the Cranberry River were hauled over Kennison Mountain and down the North Fork of the Cherry River to Richwood. The Mills of the Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company would saw the amount of timber from 25-30 acres of virgin forest each day. At this rate the entire drainage of the Cranberry River was cut in less than 10 years. By 1920, operations had already begun on the Williams

River and the next 10 year town was built at Three Forks. In its peak year of 1929, it produced over 100,000,000 board feet of high grade lumber.

To get the timber to the mill in Richwood required an extensive rail system that eventually covered over 300 miles. The company usually had between 70-90 miles of track down at a given time. They took up old spurs and laid new ones at a rate of 15-20 miles each year. Building the railroad grades was done mostly by hand with picks and shovels and crews of 25-30 men who could cut a mile of grade in 5 weeks. These gangs of "Gandy Dancers" were expert at building rail lines and bridging rivers and creeks. Often it was easier to lay a trestle up the stream bed than cut a grade. Even large streams were crossed at will. Steam powered Barnhart log loaders were used to erect cribbing and place the connecting stringers. The jobs of hundreds of men were dependent on a regular supply of logs to the mill, this kept the pressure on all aspects of the woods operations.

The railroad lines often went up both sides of the Cranberry River. Every tributary of any size had a spur going up it. These spurs would often switch back and forth to reach higher portions of the surrounding hills. Teams of horses were used to drag the logs off the hillsides, and were eventually augmented by steam skidders. Portable "lobbies" or camps dotted the valleys and housed hundreds of men. As the railroad was extended up the Cranberry, it naturally had a spur going up both the North and South Forks. It was the spur following the North Fork that eventually became the foundation for Forest Service Road 76.

In 1933, then President Franklin Roosevelt allocated \$20 million for forest acquisition. From this allocation the Forest Service purchased just over 153,000 acres from the Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company at \$2.50 per Acre. This purchase included most of the Cranberry River Watershed, and much of the Cherry and Williams Rivers also. This land was all cut-over and much of it burned in the Black Mountain Fire of 1930 and the Three Forks Fire in 1936. The purchase created a whole Ranger District (Gauley) in one fell swoop. It was necessary to extend the Proclamation Boundary, or purchase area, south and west to do this, the new boundary included the present Gauley, Marlinton, and White Sulphur Districts.

Forest fire control was a major concern on the forest in those early days. The first thing usually done after purchase was to build roads to make the remote areas more accessible to transport men

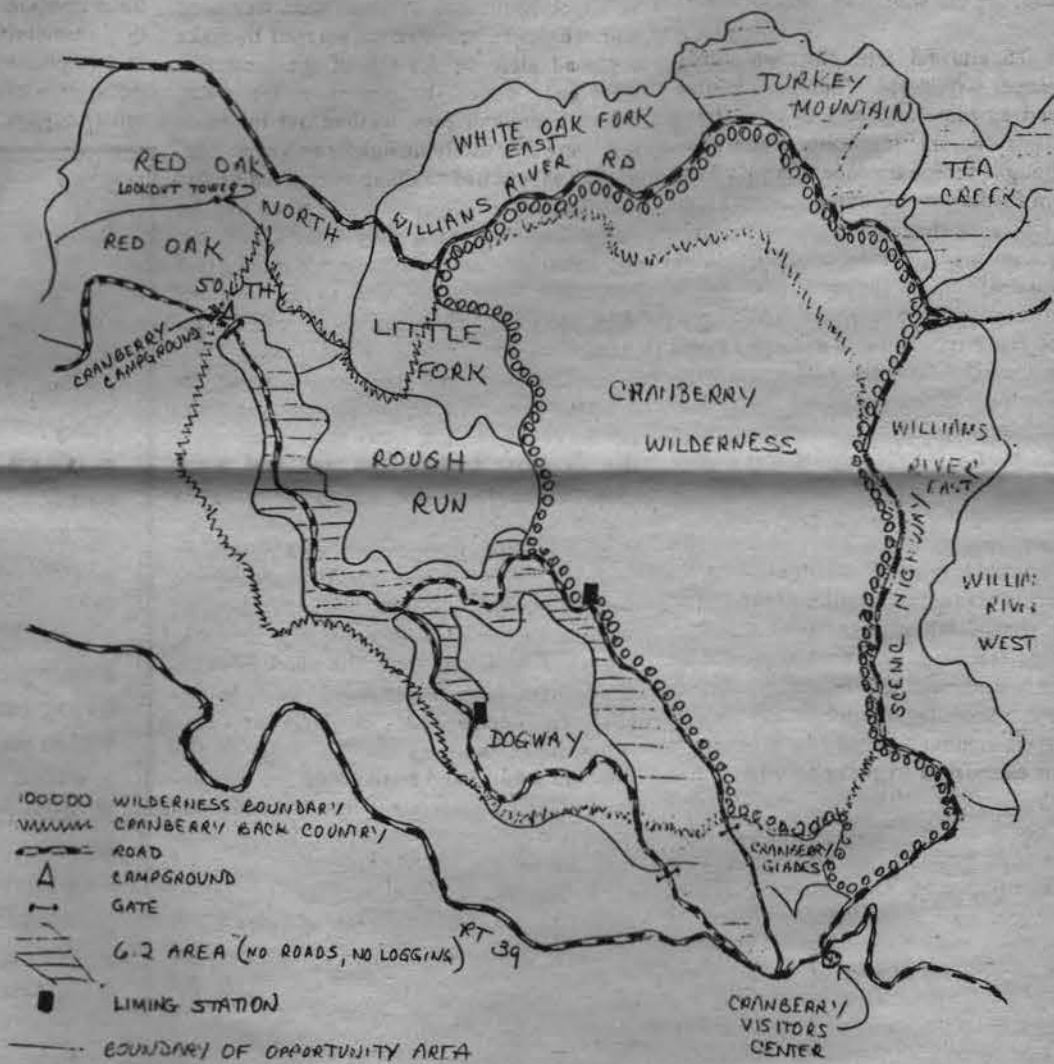
and equipment to fight fires. At the time of the Great Depression this was accomplished by using Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) labor. CCC Camp Cranberry was located half way up the Cranberry River with a spike camp located at the forks of Cranberry. Among the numerous accomplishments of these workers was building many of the Forest Service Roads in the new Gauley Ranger District. Since the area was already riddled with railroad grades, much of the work was already done. Unlike the railroad grades however, the Forest Service roads couldn't cross the streams regularly and couldn't use the stream bed either. This necessitated cutting many new grades to

stay on one side of the stream or the other.

The old Cherry River Boom and Lumber Companies spur line up the North Fork of the Cranberry River became part of Forest Service Road 76. The road traveled from Richwood, over Hinkle Mountain to Woodbine, up the Cranberry River, followed the North Fork, over Black Mountain and down to the Williams River at Handly. Improvements of the original RR grade included road widening, installing steel culvert pipes (18" to 4' in diameter) with stone drop, or sluice, boxes and a steel I-beam bridge where the road makes its only North Fork crossing. The North Fork segment of FS 76 was

never opened to the public. It was part of a network of gated Forest Service roads in what came to be called the "Cranberry Backcountry" and was to be used for "infrequent administrative use only." That is until the passage of the Eastern Wilderness Act in 1975.

The landmark conservation legislation known as the Eastern Wilderness Act was passed in 1975 by a frustrated congress. Eleven years had passed since the passage of the Wilderness Act, and still no Wilderness had been designated in the eastern United States. It said "...in the more populous eastern half of the United States, there is an urgent need to identify, study, designate and preserve areas for



1996 Legislative Session Full of Unknowns

The uncertainty of the political plans of Speaker of the House Chuck Chambers, an election year and a decidedly more conservative legislature make it very difficult to predict the fate of "Green legislation" this year. The West Virginia Environmental Council, the umbrella coalition of nearly all the environmental groups in the state will again field a team of citizen lobbyists at the capitol.

The Council Board has major representation from the WV Highlands Conservancy with 6 Conservancy Board members also serving on the Council Board. Major issues

that are likely to be addressed include "Brownfields", timbering on State Forests, Dioxin testing for dairy and meat products, drinking water regulations, increased timber severance taxes and a bill to force lobbyists to disclose who and what they are being paid.

That's a full plate without the big one! As a result of Judge Stamp's ruling on the unconstitutionality of our solid waste laws the policy on how we handle waste in our State is subject to radical weakening by the solid waste lobby.

The West Virginia Environmental Council with major support

from the WV Highlands Conservancy publishes a weekly legislative update of environmental issues during the 8 week session. This 8 page update is unique to any statewide environmental lobby effort in the country and is an excellent way to keep up with the ever changing political scene in Charleston. To order a free sample copy, just call the WVEC at 346-5891. Membership to the Council which includes 8 legislative updates and 8 to 10 monthly "GREEN" newsletters is 25 dollars per year. For more information: write WVEC, 1324 Virginia Street East, Charleston, WV 25301. ♦

Central Appalachian Ecological Integrity Forum

January 26-28, 1996
at Massanetta Springs, Virginia

The last two issues of the VOICE contained more info on this important conference. Here's a reminder and a piece

addition to the Wilderness Preservation System..." This Act automatically designated 15 areas as Wilderness including Dolly Sods and Otter Creek on the Monongahela National Forest. In addition to this, 17 areas were designated as "Wilderness study areas." Cranberry was one of these. Study Areas are to be managed to protect their wilderness attributes, until a final decision is made concerning its Wilderness status. It wasn't until 1983 that the Cranberry received official Wilderness designation, but FS 76 was, for the most part, abandoned in 1975.

FS 76 and FS 108, the two Forest Service roads within the Wilderness boundary played an important part in developing alternatives for the proposed wilderness. Some thought their existence precluded the area from further consideration. Others suggested different, separate areas on either side of these roads, similar to the situation at the Laurel Fork Wilderness. The Forest Service proposal said "the existing structures and facilities represent a minor impact and do not detract from the wilderness quality of the area." It further stated "The roads and their associated improvements could be easily removed and/or revegetatively regenerated," and "the overall effect of these manmade facilities is such that their frequency and relationship to each other do not exceed an "undeveloped" ambiance." In the Management Direction section of the Forest Service proposal it states, "Road culverts, low water crossings and bridges would be removed." Although the Wilderness Implementation Schedule perennially has "bridge and culvert removal" listed, no money has yet been earmarked to make this happen.

As the years have gone by, Mother Nature has done some work to begin returning this road back to the wilderness from which it originated. Grasses have grown over most of the roadway and Red Spruce encroachment has been so great in some areas as to create a problem in keeping the path clear as a hiking trail. The bridge has been washed away and now rests in the stream bed. Portions of the grade have been washed away and many of the culvert pipes have failed and become exposed. It has been the management policy thus far to attempt to keep the culverts in working order and to conceal exposed portions of pipe when possible.

It was decided in 1994 to begin the process of removing the failed and exposed pipes. With the help of volunteers from Dr. Hollenhorst's WVU Division of Forestry students, seven 18"-20" culverts were carried

from the brochure. To get the brochure or for more information, contact Steve Krisbaum at 412 Carter Street, Staunton, VA 24401 - (540) 886-1584

"...To begin to protect and restore the integrity of the Central Appalachians we need to establish a comprehensive

out of the wilderness from the old Forest Service roads. In addition to this, two 15 ft. long, 4 ft. dia. pipes were skidded 2 miles out of the wilderness by a team of draft horses. These were the two largest of the culvert pipes in the wilderness and took water from the Left Fork of the North Fork under FS 76. Lee Workman from Marlinton with the skills from a lifetime of draft animal experience and two beautiful Percheron horses named Barb and Queen made an easy task of skidding these huge pipes to the top of Black Mountain. A small sled was used and the ample snow cover seemed to make the load glide to the top of the mountain with ease under the power of the team. These pipes had been washed out for years and were extremely unsightly and even dangerous as you had to climb over them as you hiked along the trail. It was a good day for the wilderness when they were finally removed. There are still hundreds more pipes left under these roads, and as help is available, hopefully more of these will be removed.

The large task still remaining is the removal of the North Fork Bridge. The roadbed has been washed away above and below the structure making the task that much more challenging. Air lifting the bridge is one of the few options left. Its size requires it to be dismantled before that would be possible. 1995 began the first attempt to tackle this job. Again, with the help of volunteers, the tar surface and wooden decking were removed from the steel I-beams. Wilderness designation mandates no power tools or mechanical transportation. This necessitated walking the 1.5 miles to the site and using hand tools to do the dismantling. Negotiations are currently underway to have a military operation airlift the materials out of the wilderness.

The North Fork Trail is still on its journey from wilderness to wilderness. A "Wilderness", according to the Act, is "in contrast to those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape." We can never totally erase the signs of mans presence, but removing the most obtrusive will reduce the impact on wilderness visitors and hopefully increase the overall quality of the Cranberry as a superb wilderness resource.

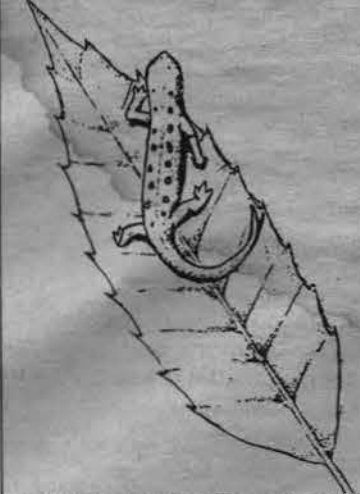
Dave Saville is a research assistant in the Biology Department at Wheeling Jesuit College. He spent 2 years as the Wilderness Ranger for the USDA Forest Service at the Cranberry Wilderness.

system of buffered and connected ecological reserves based on principles of conservation biology. The Wildlands Project is an international effort to apply such a land conservation strategy throughout the North American continent. The Appalachian Restoration Campaign (ARC) is a regional initiative to apply this proactive and preventative strategy to the Central Appalachians.

"This conference will be an educational event and working meeting to advance this process. Scientists, land stewards, and the concerned public will meet to appraise the ecology and conservation of the Appalachian portions of PA, OH, VA, WV, MD, and KY. The primary goal of the forum is to forge scientific support for citizen actions that will reverse the ongoing region-wide deterioration of native biological diversity. Ultimately, this means formulating and implementing a landscape-scale ecosystem protection strategy for the entire region."

Heartwood
Appalachian Restoration Campaign

Central Appalachian Ecological Integrity Forum



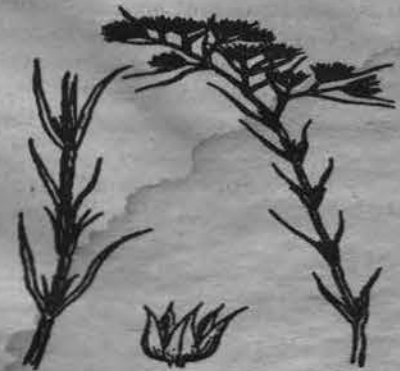
Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide Makes a Great Gift

The Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide is bigger and better than ever, with 368 pages, 96 pages of maps, 49 photographs, 177 trails totalling 812 miles, and a 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. The Guide 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 \$12.95 (this includes \$3.00 first class shipping) to

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
PO Box 306
Charleston, WV 25321



P. virginica

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: _____

Little Fork

Bill Schiffer, Forest Ranger for the Gauley District, said that they are still proceeding with the Little Fork OA analysis (the 1000 acre timber 'harvest' adjacent to the Cranberry Wilderness), but at a slower pace than originally planned. Perhaps this is due to the mountain of comments you all sent in. He expects the Environmental Assessment to be released this winter. Don't go away.



T&T Hits The Skids

(from page 1) (OSM) continues to say so in every evaluation of the state program and in its newly clarified regulations; several levels of the judicial system have ruled as much—including the Supreme Court of West Virginia, etc., but the state persists.

Sad but true, enforcement is often only a response to extensive media exposure rather than a fulfillment of any mandatory duties under the law. So, for all intents and purposes, the magic formula for enforcement, especially - but not exclusively, where mining interests are concerned is: Publicity + Facts = Privilege - Power = Adequate Enforcement (sometimes).

(Believing, as I do, that sanity, security and salvation of the human race lies in our ability to learn to do more with less, and that the survival of humanity depends on the same three R's that are basic to the survival of the world: REDUCE consumption, REDUCE waste, REDUCE pollution, I have never been one to look for redemption in some unknown

sugar daddy, sweepstakes, or - god forbid - that heinous tax on the poor known as the lottery.

But realizing the power of the publicist, I've secretly begun to lust after a visit from Ed McMahon - today's incarnation of the benevolent Millionaire of the popular TV series of several year ago. — What a million dollar trust fund could do to help expose those horror stories that never quite achieve widespread attention of the media.)

PERMITTING AND BONDING

And what does the state's action at T&T say about its attitude toward permitting and bonding in acid prone areas?

- Is the state adjusting bonds at current operations where acid is known to be a problem and treatment costs are currently borne by the permitted company? No, DEP refuses to accept the fact that water quality is a part of the 'reclamation' required by law to be covered by the bond. DEP didn't adjust T&T's bond when it became obvious that \$10,000 just wouldn't cover more than a cou-

ple of days of treatment. Nor has DEP increased bonds at other acid producing sites either. There is a better that even chance the each of these operations will eventually go the route of T&T and the rest.

(Nearly two years ago WVHC submitted a request for a listing of the currently permitted sites where acid is a problem. Our hope was that estimates for treatment at those acid sources could be included in the liability picture for the bond pool. The list exists but WVHC has yet to receive a response. — Oh, for that Million \$ trust fund to afford full time attention to following all these details as well!)

- Is the state currently permitting new operations that will produce acid and eventually end up in the T&T-DLM-F&M alphabet soup list of forfeitures? DEP says no, and insists that mines like T&T are thing of the past. Yet, this idea of 'the past' can be a slippery devil because it seems to be redefined on a regular basis as 'the day before yesterday'. In fact, DEP has recently permitted

some mines in acid areas (e.. a Patriot mine in Preston county, Nepco in Monongalia county, etc.) relying on the assumption that the most recent prediction, handling and closure techniques will be adequate to prevent those evil AMD fiascoes of 'the past'.

However, for anyone with a memory that functions beyond yesterday, it's not hard to recall that the DLM's, F&M's and Omega's were all granted in recent times relying on those same hopeful assumptions about the latest in mining technologies - not to mention the Island Creek Tenmiles, the Kittle Flats and a whole slew of other operations permitted in the early, mid and late '80's that are out there oozing death and destruction.....

The bottom line, if history is a good indicator?

To put it simply, today's list of best technology permits promises to be tomorrow's list of forfeitures.

The state's liabilities continue to climb; enforcement in the field struggles to keep up; enforcement

from the top turns a blind eye to all but the problem sites that hit hard in the media or those the coal associations disavow as 'renegade' and hence expendable; OSM wrings its hands fearing that Newt is looking over its shoulder; industry smiles as union employment declines and profits soar; communities do what they can to survive; and the wells, springs and streams in the hollows of W.V. and Appalachia continue to disappear, be rerouted, buried, suffocated, and poisoned.

A good percentage of West Virginia coal may be exported abroad, but a high percentage of the devastation continues to be left at home in the hills.



Delphinium exaltatum

...also known as tall larkspur. With less than 100 colonies of the plant in the world (a 'G3' status by the Nature Conservancy) and with but 12 in our state, Delphinium (Dolphin plant - from the shape of its flowers) exaltatum should receive federal protection. At the present time it is one of the over 3,000 species that the Fish and Wildlife Service has had to 'put on the shelf' due to lack of resources. Of course, the current Congress has been quite busy trying to reduce funding for the agency even more.

Tall Larkspur has been located in the following WV Counties -- Hampshire, Greenbrier - 2 locations, Mineral - 2, Pendleton - 3, Grant - 2, Hardy, Monroe. Populations size range from 2 individuals to 100 over a half acre near cave mountain. It prefers limestone woods, but has also been found in woods underlain by sandstone. ♦

Boycott Shell Oil

from Sierra Club Action #139 - Responding to the Execution of Saro-Wiwa

The Nov. 10 execution of Nigerian environmentalist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other citizen activists, stunned environmental and human rights advocates across America. We were outraged that a multinational oil company could be allowed to develop so close a tie to such a brutal military regime while repeatedly denying responsibility for its shocking pollution. Americans were additionally outraged that the Nigerian government could completely ignore international calls for amnesty. The last international environmental incident that so mobilized U.S. citizens to respond followed the murder of Brazilian rubber tapper and rain forest advocate Chico Mendes.

Like Chico Mendes, Ken Saro-Wiwa has become an environmental

martyr. While Chico Mendes fought against the effect that consumption of forest products was having on the rain forests, Ken Saro-Wiwa fought the end results of a world addicted to oil - and a government that would stop at nothing to make sure that oil revenues were not interrupted. Ken Saro-Wiwa has become a tragic symbol of our addiction.

On Nov. 19 the Sierra Club Board of Directors responded to this tragedy. The Board condemned Nigeria and unanimously endorsed a number of actions in order to force a change in that country. The Board of Directors approved a Sierra Club boycott of Royal Dutch Shell and its subsidiaries - including Shell Oil in the U.S., and announced support for an international embargo of Nigerian oil.

The U.S. Senate has also taken action. Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-

KS), with Senators Leahy, Feingold, Jeffords, Simon, Pell, Wellstone, McCain, and Gregg, introduced S. 1419, a bill "To Impose Sanctions Against Nigeria." It closely follows the actions endorsed by the Sierra Club board. Among other things, the bill calls for an embargo on the sale or distribution of any crude oil or refined petroleum product from Nigeria, the prohibition of new investment in Nigeria, the freezing of Nigerian assets, and for banning Nigeria's participation in the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.

ACTION: Write to the President of Shell Oil Company, Philip J. Carroll, P.O. Box 2463, Houston, TX 77252. Fax: (713) 241-4044. Tel: (800) 248-4257. Tell the company that you will be boycotting their products until they clean up their environmental mess in Nigeria and compensate to the Ogoni people for past damage.

From the beginning, Shell U.S.

has denied any responsibility in Nigeria. They have tried to hide behind the company's diversification. The fact is, both Shell U.S. and Shell Nigeria have the same parent company, the Netherlands-based Royal Dutch Shell. The fact is, nearly 50% of the oil Nigeria exports is distributed in the U.S. - by Shell Oil. The fact is, the Chairman of the Board of Shell U.S. is Mr. C.A.J. Herkstroter, the President of Royal Dutch Shell. There is a direct connection - at the gas pump.

*Write to you Senator. Urge their support for S. 1419, a bill to impose sanctions against Nigeria. The U.S. must show the rest of the world that we will not give financial support to brutal military regimes. For more information including a copy of S. 1419, contact: Stephen Mills, Human Rights and Environment Campaign Director, Sierra Club, 408 C St., NE, Washington, DC 20002 (202) 675-6691.

E-mail: stephen.mills@sierraclub.org.

Join the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

| Category | Individual | Family | Corporate |
|----------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| Senior/Student | \$ 12 | — | — |
| Regular | 15 | \$ 25 | \$ 50 |
| Associate | 30 | 50 | 100 |
| Sustaining | 50 | 100 | 200 |
| Patron | 100 | 200 | 400 |
| Mountaineer | 200 | 300 | 600 |

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____

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

Membership Benefits

- * 1 year subscription to the Highlands Voice
 - * Special meetings with workshops and speakers
 - * Representation through WVHC efforts to monitor legislative and agency activity
- The WVHC, at age 28, 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.