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Highlands

Voice

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Vol. 28, No. 9 - October/November 1995

Corridor Doubts

by Hugh Rogers

Think of Corridor H as a religious question. Faith in traditional development led many to consent to the highway's costs. The few owners and speculators who would directly gain counted on this faith to carry others along. "We need the road," one of my neighbors used to say. It was a mantra that made him feel comfortable; he could share it with Chamber of Commerce leaders. As his faith has crumbled, he has lost this comfort. He has begun to ask questions.

On his recent visit the Pope called for more religion in politics. Many people - not only Catholics - admire the Pope's spiritual fortitude, at the same time they decline to follow his rules. What is a matter of faith, and what is subject to reason? Most American Catholics disagree with the head of their church on where to draw that line. Political leaders also want to rely on public faith. Last year, as he opened the Buckhannon-to-Elkins highway, Senator Byrd, speaking as it were *ex cathedra*, quoted the Old Testament prophet Isaiah: "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low."

As long as it was a "done deal," those who had faith in Corridor H merely waited for its coming, and those who did not despaired. Now the situation has changed. After three years of wrangling over the Environmental Impact Statement; after one year of unintended benefits from Republican budget-cutting; after six months of media attention--at last, politicians have been drawn out onto the field of reason.

Most are annoyed. In a September 20 speech, Congressman Bob

Wise wished "some people would get off our backs and just let us do it." He would like people to believe again. He wants us to believe that Corridor H west of Elkins is "protecting the environment." Has he driven those miles between the Tygart River and Sand Run? Orange is the predominant color year-round; acid runs from the cuts and fills, and pours down concrete drains into the streams. If he stopped to look, he'd find iron sludge choking the stream bottoms under the bridges. We have asked Congressman Wise about the "innovative ways" he said were used to deal with this acid drainage.

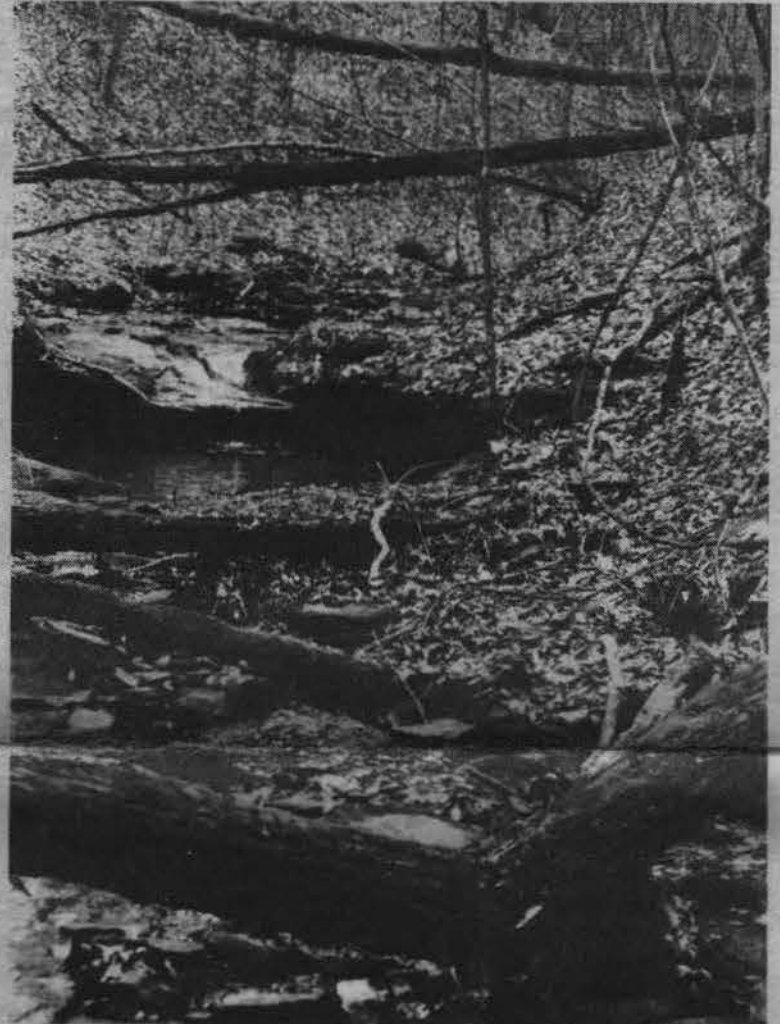
Without conceding problems there, the Congressman announced that the state has developed "methods to seal off acid-bearing strata" on the corridor east of Elkins. Such a discovery would have an enormous impact on the mining industry, where acid drainage has been recognized as a problem much longer than in highway construction. Non-believers, though, will want proof.

It's not clear from his speech whether Congressman Wise has seen a draft of the Final EIS or only a briefing from the Division of Highways. Another problem he wished to

address was forest fragmentation. The state plans to mitigate that by "purchasing extra land adjacent to the highway." Extra fragments? Extra money, for sure. It's also unclear whether the Congressman knew that the price tag for building the highway to Virginia, originally marked \$1 billion, did not include the cost of mitigation.

The Congressman continues to believe, despite evidence to the contrary, that "65 to 70 percent of those populations" in the region support construction of Corridor H. It's true he no longer says "72%," the figure from the highway division's scandalous miscount of the 1993 comments. Since the state responded to a FOIA suit, and admitted that the 4000-plus comments received in the second phase were nine-to-one against, the Congressman's faith is even farther from reason.

At the Fall Review panel on Corridor H, Conservancy members and guests were entertained by a politician who actually enjoyed the chance to argue about the project. Delegate John Doyle, from Jefferson County, kept his humor while trying to answer at least three-quarters of the questions. The fact (see page 8)



Medium sized woody debris, beginning to restore a WV creek.

-photo by Julia Lucas

Destructive Thornwood Pipeline Plan Advances

by Jim Sconyers

Again the Thornwood pipeline proposal rears its ugly head. You might remember reading about it in earlier issues of the VOICE. Now it's time for you to help again. The Environmental Assessment (EA) has now been released by the Forest Service, and it's not good. You need to let them know you don't buy it.

Briefly, six gas wells were drilled over thirty years ago, on the Virginia-West Virginia line near Thornwood, Bartow, Camp Pocahontas, and other sites generally near the Spruce Knob area. The wells were worthless for decades, but now some new investors think they smell a profit. Known as TGI (Thornwood Gas Incorporated) they want to rip a pipeline through the area to the tune of more than 30 miles - yes, that was no typo, over 30 miles of pipeline. Have you ever seen what one of these pipeline swaths is like? Take a look the next time you see one, and picture it in the kind of environment

that the Thornwood area is.

What's wrong with this picture? Here are the main objections.

The affected area in West Virginia is mostly designated Management Prescription 6.1 in the Monongahela National Forest Plan. This is land designated for wildlife species intolerant of disturbance, and for semiprimitive, nonmotorized recreation. Wildlife intolerant of disturbance needs intact forest free from noise and traffic. Semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation means hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, birding, and other similar kinds of recreation. We know too well that lands suitable for this kind of wildlife habitat and these kinds of recreation are disappearing every day. We have no way to replace them once they are gone.

In Virginia, the pipeline route would border the (Virginia) Laurel Fork Special Management Area. Just across the state line, this ecosystem

is more highly valued for richness and rareness of plant and animal species than anywhere else in the entire state of Virginia. Virginians are terrified that building the pipeline will lead almost immediately to gas development in the Laurel Fork itself.

The Forest Service, while patting itself on the back for seeing the light and adopting an ecosystem approach to its job, has stubbornly and deliberately insisted on doing just the opposite on this proposal. They have adamantly refused to acknowledge that the impact of this pipeline would be far greater than they state. This is because once the pipeline were to be built, there would then be enormous pressure to begin gas exploration and development over thousands of additional acres of this area. Whether this is good or bad, it is undeniably a major environmental impact. This greatly enlarged impact must be studied; the Forest Ser-

vice should have done a full-scale Environmental Impact Statement. Instead, they coyly insist that they're here just to talk about the original six wells. Obviously, when it comes to ecosystem management they just don't get it.

Roads have been misrepresented throughout the Forest Service analysis. From the very beginning, they have tried to picture this as a roaded environment. The implication is that there are already roads all over the place, so why object to a few more? Keep in mind that every foot of pipeline immediately also becomes a foot of road. The problem with this rationale is that the so-called roads they cite really aren't. They are functionally trails, and in some cases outstanding ones (I'm thinking, for example, of FR 287, along Big Run near Buffalo Fork Lake. It's a beautiful trail.) These are old logging roads from earlier decades. They generally (see page 6)

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

by John McFerrin

Sedition?

The early 1950's were a dark time for American politics. Entertainers, ministers, teachers, and journalists were being brought before the House Un-American Activities Committee in that Committee's zeal to root out Communism--an all purpose term applied to anyone who disagreed with the political views of those on the Committee and dared to be critical of the United States Government. The singing group the Weavers was blacklisted, toppled from their perch at the top of the hit parade and into unemployment because of their "seditious" songs. One of its members--Pete Seeger--was indicted for refusing to answer the questions of the House Un-American Activities Committee's.

While I would never credit those who brought about this dark time in American politics with having a coordinated effort or even an especially well thought out plan, they did manage one piece of clever strategy: they attacked the singers.

It's a clever strategy because music has the power to move people in a way that logic, argument, and reason do not. People may review documents, talk to experts, and sift facts to reach a conclusion but nothing moves them like a song which says what the people know in their hearts to be true.

Thankfully the days of Senator McCarthy, the House Un-American Activities Committee, and the blacklists are gone. People today do have a chance to speak out. Singers of songs have a chance to move people with their music.

I was reminded of all this by the forum on Corridor H at the Highlands Conservancy's Fall Review.

Hugh Rogers and Peter Kostmayer made sensible and reasonable arguments about the prudence of building or not building it. There were discussions of alternatives and critiques of assumptions made by those who wish to see the road built. Although he spared us the reading of them, Hugh had a box full of studies, reports, and such on the proposal. We had all we needed for a polite discussion and a rational decision to either support or oppose completion of Corridor H.

Then came Kate Long.

Kate took all the sensible, rational arguments about Corridor H, condensed them to three verses and a chorus, and set them to music. The results were songs--songs that said what all the sensible, rational arguments said about Corridor H but said it in a way that could move people. The songs said what we knew in our heart to be true: building Corridor H is a bad idea.

The result was exhilarating. We went from a reflective, sensible crowd which had just listened to sober, sensible presentation on the merits of Corridor H to a riled-up bunch ready to charge into battle in opposition to Corridor H. All because of the power of music to move people. The songs had the power to touch us in a way that the sensible arguments could not. They gave voice to what we know to be true: building Corridor H is a bad idea.

I want to thank Kate for her songs. They were great. I also want to thank her for the lesson in the power of music to move people. It is as true today as it was in the 1950's and will be forever: music has the power to touch people. If Corridor H is stopped it will be in no small part because of those who, like Kate, were able to touch people with their songs.

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

Dear Bill;

The West Virginia Environmental Council is pleased to announce its first publication, *Green Jobs: A Healthy Environment for West Virginia's Economic Future*.

Environmental Council volunteers have plans to distribute copies of the book in person, to each legislator, county commission, county planning commission, development authority, our representatives in congress, and the governor. We aim to complete this task before the legislative session begins.

Anything you are able to do toward spreading the word about *Green Jobs* will be much appreciated. We hope you will mention and show it in speeches, at Chamber of Commerce meetings, professional conferences, and civic clubs. I will be happy to send you more copies. They are \$2 apiece, or \$3 if mailed.

Thank you for your interest in the book. We have hope that this book will be part of the trend toward changing West Virginia's attitude about the terms on which we accept development and industry. As Chuck Chambers wrote in his Introduction, "time has proven that environmental protection doesn't cost jobs; it increases employment opportunities and enhances the quality of life."


Sincerely
Ruth Blackwell Rogers, Moon Run
Kerens, WV 26276 636-2662

GREEN JOBS

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT
FOR
WEST VIRGINIA'S
ECONOMIC FUTURE

A Report by the West Virginia Environmental Council

On February 21, 1995, the West Virginia Environmental Council sponsored "E-Day" at the Capitol. As part of that event, seventeen business and professional people spoke in the House chambers on the subject of jobs created by, or dependent on, environmental protection. This is a collection of their testimonials.



Available from
West Virginia
Environmental
Council members
for \$2
or by mail from:
WVEC
Moon Run
Kerens WV 26276
for \$3

"West Virginia's Troubled Waters"

- a Great New Video
reviewed by Tom Rodd

Do you have a VCR? Are you interested in seeing how a citizens' group can make a crackerjack video about community protection?

I know many Highlands Voice readers will answer these questions - "yes!"

So listen up, boys and girls, and get out your pencils. Take down this address on an envelope, and send a check for six dollars today - yes, postage is included! - to the Laurel Run Watershed Association, Rte 1, Box 261A, Independence, WV 26374.

They'll mail you back lickety-

split a copy of their just-released full-color video, "West Virginia's Troubled Waters".

This exciting hour-long production tells how citizens in Northern West Virginia are fighting the continuing scourge of mine drainage. There is remarkable footage of mine blowouts, an interview with DNR fish biologist Frank Jernejic, great graphics, and much more!

Conservancy stalwart Richard diPreto is also a featured participant in the video. Wait till you see Richard's steamy nude scenes! (However, I understand my review copy has some material that's not included in the PG-13 version sold by mail

- postal regulations, you know).

The "Troubled Waters" video was produced by members of the Downstream Alliance, a group that represents citizens who live along Northern West Virginia watersheds, including Laurel Run, Sandy Creek, White Day Creek, Aaron's Creek, and more. The Alliance's concerted efforts have produced some spectacular results, and this video captures their spirit of vigilance and unity in protecting their watersheds.

"Troubled Waters" is a tribute to citizen activism. This activism is all that stands between West Virginia's treasure, and its destruction. Get your copy today!

Wild Forests:

Conservation Biology and Public Policy

by William S Alverson, Walter Kuhlmann and Donald M. Waller.
Island Press, 300 pp., \$49.95 hardcover, \$25.95 paperback

Many environmentalists intuitively know that wild things need wild places. In the years since the Monongahela National Forest's first ten year plan was written, the field of conservation biology has begun catching up with that intuitive knowledge - *Wild Forests* is one of the results.

This Island Press book should be a valuable tool for people looking to participate in the Mon's ten year Land and Resource Management

Plan Revision, now expected to begin in early 1997. Authors William S. Alverson, Walter Kuhlmann and Donald M. Waller explain some principles of conservation biology and how they were translated into wild forest proposals for two national forests in Wisconsin. On the Nicolet National Forest there, the largest wild forest chunk proposal reaches 28,000 hectares, or 69,000 acres.

The first portion of this four-part book explains why such big areas are better, using postage-stamp patch of old growth in Pennsylvania to demonstrate. The second part covers conservation biology principles including disturbance dynamics and fragmentation effects, while the third

considers recent planning and management on the National Forests. Finally, "Toward a New Diversity Policy (and Twenty-First Century Old Growth)," outlines the dominant-use zoning concept and its partial success in the midwest. There's a lot more in the book you can explore for yourself.

Not everything in the 300 pages is valuable or relevant to planning on the Mon. However, *Wild Forests* will help generate new ideas for how to plan and achieve wild places - for the wild things of our national forest, and ultimately, for ourselves and our kids.

reviewed by Jay Gray

Forest Lovers Listen Up!

Are you ...
interested in...
concerned for...
passionate about...
committed to...
forests in West Virginia? Are they...
national forests...
state forests...
public forests...
private forests...
corporate/industrial forests...
or any other kind of forest in the state?

If the answer is yes (and/or you can remember what the

question(s) was/were) then you're a natural for Forest Watch, a newly revived group of people interested in the well-being of our forests.

Why not come to the next meeting? It's happening on Sunday, October 22, in the beautiful Monongahela National Forest. You don't have to be an expert, just someone who cares about West Virginia forests.

Want more information? Call Jim Kotcon, Forest Watch Director, at (304)594-3322, for time, place, directions, and agenda. See you in the forest!

Dumping in Kumbrabow

The WV Division of Natural Resources has petitioned the US Army Corps of Engineers to dump 200 cubic yards of limestone annually into the headwaters of Mill Creek in Kumbrabow State Forest. As they say in the announcement - "Approximately 200 cubic yards of sand sized limestone fines would be placed into the creek by dump truck and high flows would distribute the material downstream where it would be dissolved by acid flows. The creek would be treated annually through the year 2000."

On the map provided, the lo-

cation marked by a circle at the head of Mill Creek lies near no road. I wonder how tested this practice is, how controlled the addition of limestone to the water flow would be, and how pH would fluctuate. I'll ask them for copies of previous studies.

If you have any concerns or objections or other matters you feel should be looked into you can write to the
WV Division of Environmental Protection
Office of Water Resources
1201 Greenbrier Street
Charleston, WV 25311-1088

'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).

Send your check and name of recipients to:

Richard diPreto - 264 High St
Morgantown, WV 26505 or call 304-296-8963

Buckeye Gathering

The Buckeye Forest Council presents the First Annual Buckeye Gathering, November 3-5.

In Southern Ohio's Shawnee State Forest, home to the state's one and only Wilderness Area.

Join us for a celebration of the wild in all of us! We will explore strategies for the protection and restoration of Ohio's forest ecosystems. Bring instruments and prepare for the feral crooning tunes of Robert Hoyt, Jody Schaub, Matt Peters, David Dietz and others.

Workshops include Wayne National Forest protection, nature hikes, appeals and litigation, stripmining, Ohio's state forests, direct action, fundraising, beer brewing, public education, forest health. Contact the Buckeye Forest Council for registration (614) 594-6400.

WVHC on the World Wide Web

In our latest attempt to reach all those concerned citizens who just don't know what's going down in WV's environment, the staff of the WVHC's Highlands VOICE has opened a Web page containing articles from the VOICE, action alerts, info on WVHC and a listing and drawings of some of WV's endangered flora, as well as links to Web pages of other citizen-activist-tree hugger groups. Here's the URL for those of you in the know - <http://www.marshall.edu/~ragette2>.

New Monongahela Quarterly Released

The new Quarterly has just arrived. Call Kate Goodrich (304-636-1800) for your own copy.

Cheat Ranger District

304-478 3251

PO Box 368, Parsons, WV 26287

(A) - Bear Heaven Project Area (#13.001)

This was listed in the last Mon Quarterly as ready to go, but delays due to loss of staff, and problems with Indian Run and Location Project have put this on the back burner - Vegetation Management (timber sales), wildlife habitat management (create openings- clearcuts), range management (grazing allotments), road construction/reconstruction, trail reconstruction NFMA now; NEPA (that's us) April 1996, Comments due May 1996; Decision August 1996
Contact - Jim Knibbs

(B) - Indian Run (#13.007)

Vegetation Management (timbers sales), wildlife habitat management (create openings- clearcuts), road construction/reconstruction, stream structures.

NFMA now - almost completed; NEPA (any day now) October 1995, Comments due November 1995; Decision February 1996
Contact - Jim Knibbs

(C) - Location Project (#13.004)

Vegetation Management (timbers sales), wildlife habitat management (create openings- clearcuts), road construction/reconstruction, trail reconstruction. NFMA now; NEPA Scoping November 1995, Comments due December 1995, Decision March 1996
Contact - Jim Knibbs

Trail reconstruction Projects - Blackwater trail (#16.102, #13.009 -Canaan Mountain trails (#16.202, #161.03) NEPA scoping December 1995. Comments Due January 1996. Decision February 1996
Contact - Carol Rucker

(D) - Grazing allotments - Wrathford/Vickers Allotment Plan in McGowan Mountain (#16.104) and in Fernow (#18.001) - revisit grazing permit for a minimum of 40 cows. NFMA has been completed. NEPA Scoping September 1995. Comments due October 1995. Decision January 1996
Contact - Carol Rucker

(E) - Queens Allotment - McGowan Mountain (#16.104)

This area was a grazing allotment that is no longer being used. The options being considered are to maintain existing openings and/or create additional wetland areas for wildlife. NFMA underway. NEPA scoping to start in October. Comments due in November, Decision in January 1996.
Contact - Terri Evans

Gauley Ranger District

304 - 846 - 2695

PO Box 110, Richwood, WV 26261

(F) - Gauley Project Area (#261.01)
"The Gauley Project Area is on the western edge of the district just south of Cowen. The area will be evaluated for various projects that will help achieve the desired future condition. Currently there is no public access to the area."

Vegetation Management (timbers sales), wildlife habitat management (create openings- clearcuts), road construction/reconstruction, trail reconstruction NFMA now; NEPA to begin soon; Decision January 1996
Contact - Bill Schiffer.

(G) - Little Fork Project Area (#22.002) - Adjacent to Cranberry Wilderness!!! Vegetation Management (timbers sales), wildlife habitat management (create openings- clearcuts), road construction/reconstruction "Projects WILL include closing several existing roads, timber harvesting, road construction and reconstruction, and creating openings for wildlife."
Comments were due July 1995. Decision date - November 1995.

Cranberry Project Area (#23.008 and 23.004) - too late on this one - millions of board feet. Timber sold this summer.

Greenbrier Ranger District

(G) - North of Richwood Area
Williams River Area
Cranberry Back-Country
Cranberry Wilderness
Richwood
Marlinton

304 456 3335
PO Box 67, Bartow, WV 24920

Beaverdam Ridge (#33.002)
Timber Sale/Vegetation Management Carr Run Timber sale is marked.

(H) - Frank Mountain (#36.117)
Timber Sales -clearcuts. "enhancing age-class distribution". Scoping comments due now. Environmental Assessment (EA) will be out for comments December 1995. Decision - January 1996.
Contact - Ed Clutter

(I) - Stewart Run (#36.118) (formerly Upper Tygart Valley) "Timber sale to improve age-class distribution..."
Timber sale-Wildlife Habitat Improvement - clearcuts. Scoping

ends October 1995, EA out for review early March 1996.

Decision - April 1996 Contact - Laura Hise - see elsewhere in the VOICE for more info.

(J) - Burner Settlement (#33.006)
Timber Sale/Wildlife Habitat Improvement NFMA now, NEPA by December, EA out for review early March 1996. Decision - April 1996. Contact - Scott Wells

Rich Mountain Timber Sale/wildlife habitat improvement - Sold

Marlinton Ranger District
304 799 4334
PO Box 210 Marlinton, WV 24954

(K) - Props run (#46.101) Rocky Point (#46.103)

East Gauley Mountain Timber Analysis - "Timber harvest to regenerate hard mast trees" Those naughty degenerate trees will be treated to clearcuts, and various other vegetation management schemes to restore their rapidly deteriorating mast producing abilities. Also expect more roads, herbicide spraying, burning. Proposed Action Statement due out any time

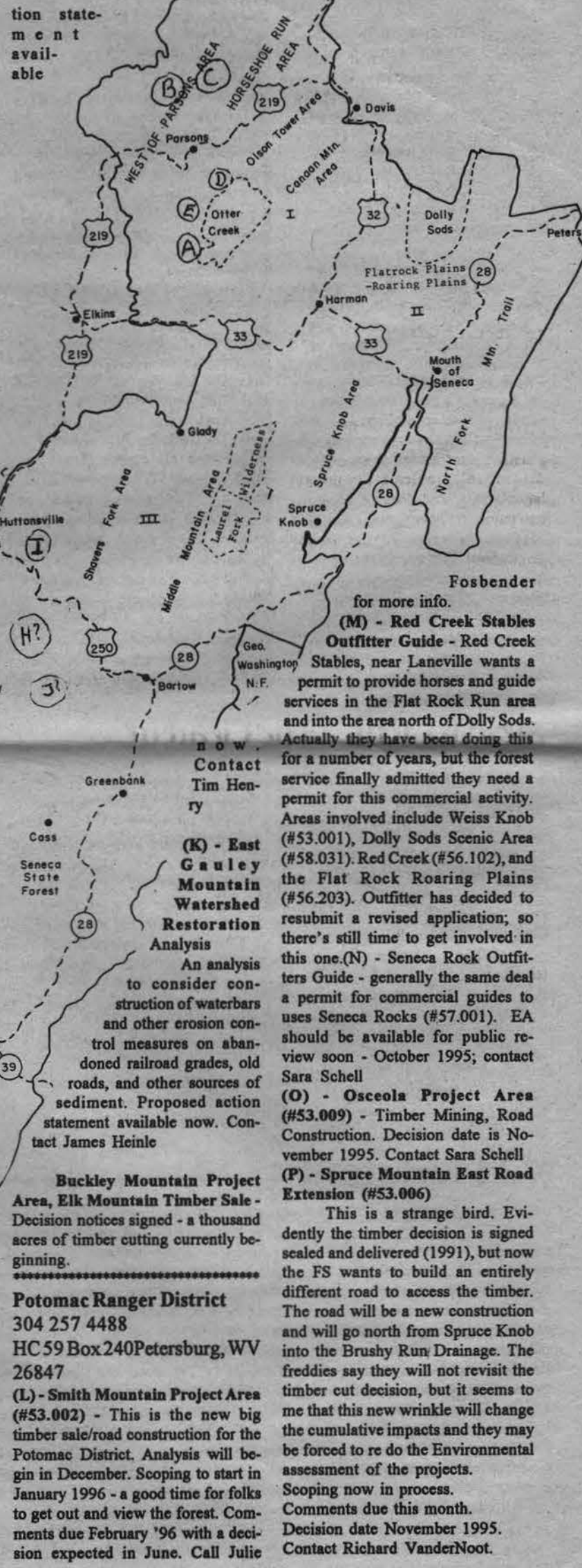
now. Contact James Heinle

(K) - East Gauley Mountain Trail Analysis
An analysis of three specific areas that have potential for development as recreation trails. These include the Props Run Grade, The Chimney Rock Grade and an area near the intersection of Forest Road 24 and Highway 219. Proposed ac-

tion statement available
(L) - Smith Mountain Project Area (#53.002) - This is the new big timber sale/road construction for the Potomac District. Analysis will begin in December. Scoping to start in January 1996 - a good time for folks to get out and view the forest. Comments due February '96 with a decision expected in June. Call Julie

(M) - Red Creek Stables Outfitter Guide - Red Creek Stables, near Laneville wants a permit to provide horses and guide services in the Flat Rock Run area and into the area north of Dolly Sods. Actually they have been doing this for a number of years, but the forest service finally admitted they need a permit for this commercial activity. Areas involved include Weiss Knob (#53.001), Dolly Sods Scenic Area (#58.031), Red Creek (#56.102), and the Flat Rock Roaring Plains (#56.203). Outfitter has decided to resubmit a revised application; so there's still time to get involved in this one. (N) - Seneca Rock Outfitters Guide - generally the same deal a permit for commercial guides to use Seneca Rocks (#57.001). EA should be available for public review soon - October 1995; contact Sara Schell

(O) - Osceola Project Area (#53.009) - Timber Mining, Road Construction. Decision date is November 1995. Contact Sara Schell
(P) - Spruce Mountain East Road Extension (#53.006)
This is a strange bird. Evidently the timber decision is signed sealed and delivered (1991), but now the FS wants to build an entirely different road to access the timber. The road will be a new construction and will go north from Spruce Knob into the Brushy Run Drainage. The freddies say they will not revisit the timber cut decision, but it seems to me that this new wrinkle will change the cumulative impacts and they may be forced to re do the Environmental assessment of the projects. Scoping now in process. Comments due this month. Decision date November 1995. Contact Richard VanderNoot.



(K) - East Gauley Mountain Watershed Restoration Analysis
An analysis to consider construction of waterbars and other erosion control measures on abandoned railroad grades, old roads, and other sources of sediment. Proposed action statement available now. Contact James Heinle

Buckley Mountain Project Area, Elk Mountain Timber Sale - Decision notices signed - a thousand acres of timber cutting currently beginning.
Potomac Ranger District
304 257 4488
HC 59 Box 240 Petersburg, WV 26847

(L) - Smith Mountain Project Area (#53.002) - This is the new big timber sale/road construction for the Potomac District. Analysis will begin in December. Scoping to start in January 1996 - a good time for folks to get out and view the forest. Comments due February '96 with a decision expected in June. Call Julie

for more info.

Trust Fund Completed for Sandy Creek Mine Drainage

by Tom Rodd

After a year of legal drafting and negotiation, the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection and the Laurel Mountain/Fellowsville Area Clean Watershed Association have signed a final trust agreement. The trust will control 3.3 million dollars that the citizens group won in a lawsuit against the insurance companies for F&M Coal Company.

The F&M strip mines, 250 acres on Laurel Mountain in south-

ern Preston County, generate millions of gallons of toxic acid drainage annually. The mines were operated in the 1980s by Donald Frazee, whose company filed for bankruptcy. After a five-year battle that went to the West Virginia Supreme Court twice, local citizens obtained four million dollars, most of which they agreed to use to pay for the state's cost of treating the acid mine drainage. The State has spent over a million dollars of special reclamation funds to reclaim the site, far more

than the company's reclamation bonds.

To keep the Left Fork of Sandy Creek habitable for aquatic life, treatment of the mine drainage will have to go on for generations. Fairmont attorney Bob Cohen negotiated with DEP counsel Bill Adams for a year, to establish a long-term trust instrument that will control the funds that the citizens obtained, well beyond the lives of many of the local residents who filed the suit. The DEP and the Association are to be im-

mended in sticking with the difficult work of structuring this deal.

The fundamental lesson of the mess at F&M is the same lesson that we should learn from every one of the godawful acid mine drainage nightmares that W. Va. mine regulators permitted in the 1970s and 1980s. Regulators simply cannot be trusted to do the right thing. Citizen activism is the only way to protect our communities!



MARSHALLIA grandiflora

Forest Service Bias in Wild & Scenic DEIS???

comments from the

US Dept. of the Interior

Public Participation - "Consequently, it appears that the process and study report established a bias against potential designation by emphasizing unfounded fears of condemnation, problems for private landowners, and loss of resource extraction revenues, etc. The current presentation of the issues throughout the document conveys unnecessary divisiveness."

Fish and Wildlife Resources

"Although the MNF is one of the few remaining, unbroken, large tracts of forest in the East, the DEIS does not discuss its great biological

significance. Studies indicate that there is a severe decline of mixed-mesophytic forests in the U.S. and therefore, protection of this forest is very important."

Private Lands Section

"The statement (from the DEIS), 'However, increased recreation use of rivers would logically be expected to result in some added trespass, littering and loss of privacy,' should be supported by data from documented sources. If supported, the statement should be revised to state that wild and scenic river users are very conscious of resource values and if appropriate public access areas and facilities are developed on

adjacent public lands, private property should not be adversely affected."

Federal Land Purchase Section

"Condemnation is an inflammatory issue and one that was raised by the public. If it is unlikely that the Forest Service would use condemnation to protect the designated areas, we suggest the discussion make this clear in the document."

Summary Comments

"The overall impression we received from the document was that the Forest Service does not support adding as many segments as possible within the MNF to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The

DEIS repeatedly mentions the negative impact to resource extraction and the potential loss of revenues that these activities generate, but does not balance this by describing the economic benefits that increased recreation visitation would produce. The study unnecessarily mentions the possible use of condemnation - a highly inflammatory, and unlikely method of resource protection for this proposal. Other methods are available and encouraged, as we have suggested above. Further, the document often states incorrectly that visitor impacts to private landowners may be adverse. The potential

adverse impacts listed in the document have been prevented in other, very successful projects, as noted."

"Since designation of a stream as wild and scenic does not automatically preclude habitat restoration techniques such as construction of limestone dams, the Department of the Interior supports Alternative A, designation of all streams. We encourage the inclusion of language in the enabling legislation that will allow use of habitat restoration techniques deemed necessary to improve water quality and aquatic habitat to pre-mining and pre-timbering conditions."

Stewart Run - The Clearcut

Comments due October 26, 1995

Located just to the northeast of Valley Head, WV (site of the killing of the last Buffalo in WV), Stewart Run is an artificial division of land containing 3,053 acres of National Forest. It's part of the Upper Tygart Opportunity Area (#36.118). Stewart Run (the creek) runs south to north through the center of this area, while Conley Run flows along the southern boundary. Elevation in this area ranges from 2280 to 4480 feet. Much of this area contains steep slopes, some of which contain rocky areas or have rock outcrops. Currently the vegetation in this area contains representatives of the 514,506 acre Red Oak/Sugar Maple Zone and the 539,571 acre

Mixed Oak Zone(?) The forest service says that this area can support two types of forest - (1) northern hardwoods (e.g. sugar maple, yellow birch, and American beech and (2) various combinations of sugar maple, red maple, and mixed oaks.

A '6.1' management was prescribed for this area by the PLAN. That means clearcuts. The problem is that old nemesis of turkeys and bears - poor AGE-CLASS DISTRIBUTION. Even though WV DNR Wildlife Biologist Walt Lesser told the Forest Service that this area supports healthy populations of turkey and black bear, they are not satisfied. They need more bear and more turkey and of course unless they put in more roads and clearcuts the critters just won't produce at their highest levels.

In order to make this area healthy again the FS is proposing 177 acres of two aged harvest (two step clearcut), 479 acres of intermediate timber harvest, and another 177 acres of regeneration cuts. Since the slopes are so steep they recommend part of the harvest use skyline yarding. I can't find any listing of miles of new and reconstructed roads, but in the map accompanying the notice there are several new roads shown winding back and forth for the whole length of the Opportunity Area. You got a problem with that?

Then write to Patrick Roy Sheridan, District Ranger, PO Box 67, Bartow, WV 24920 - 304-456-3335.

(Q) - Timberline Ski Area/Salamander Run (Weiss Knob #53.001).

Evidently the ski run the Fredies gave to timberline on Cabin Mountain actually does impact the population of Cheat Mountain salamander living there. But don't worry they are going to study it some more and see if they can find some way to have their skiing and their salamanders too! Scoping is now. Decision expected by December 1995. Contact Richard VanderNoot. Call em up today!!

Stewart Run - The Comments

Patrick Roy Sheridan
District Ranger
PO Box 67
Bartow, WV 24920
October 16, 1995

Dear Sir,

I am writing to comment on the proposed projects for the Stewart Run Area. I feel you are jumping the gun on protecting the turkey and bear populations. We need to know if they are really diminishing over the years as you state or are, as in most parts of the state, increasing. Is there any data to suggest that their

numbers are falling as you suggest? What age-classes are represented by private lands in the OA boundary?

It looks like fragmentation may be a big problem if proposed timbering goes forth. What analysis have you done on this? What impact will all this early successional habitat have on deer populations? What is the current density of deer? How does it compare to historical populations? Are deer hurting regeneration in the area? Have any accidents occurred on 219 due to deer? Will this increase?

If a black bear lived in this

OA, what percentage of its normal range would include private land in early successional stages? Where are the nearest cows or other animals that attract cowbird populations? How would openings effect their numbers and populations of forest interior birds that they parasitize? How far will cowbird travel to deposit eggs? Have you completed any surveys for salamanders, other amphibians or fungi? Have you spent any time in Virgin Forests in the east? Where and for how long?

Sincerely,
Bill Ragette'

Mid-Atlantic Highlands Environment

Now and Tomorrow
Conference Announcement
Oct. 24-26, 1995
Davis, West Virginia

The Mid-Atlantic Coordinating Council will hold a conference on October 24-26, at the Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center near Davis, West Virginia. You are cordially invited to attend.

The Council, made up of representatives from nine federal agencies, was founded on May 9, 1995. The mission of the Council is to encourage collective and holistic approaches to the sustainability of the Mid-Atlantic Highlands.

The focus of this conference is the issues and concerns related to the valuable natural resources in the

Mid-Atlantic Highlands.

Day 1-Exploring the history of the Mid-Atlantic Highlands and its current ecological and economic conditions.

Day 2-Hearing presentations from various organizations interested in the Mid-Atlantic Highlands and its values/opportunities. Field trips are scheduled to nearby natural resources and restoration projects.

Day 3-Presenting case studies and engaging in discussions of local organizations working together to achieve ecological and economic balance and thus promote sustainability.

Some of the speakers (whose names have appeared in the VOICE over the last few years) include John

Alexander Williams, Robert Uram, George Constantz, Bill Maxey, Bill Ragette' and Allan Mollohan.

Registration is limited. Registration fee is \$30. To register call 617-674-7374 between 9 AM and 5 PM.

Australia to Preserve 15% of Forests

The government of Australia announced in early July [1995] that it planned to preserve 15 percent of all forest types existing in the year 1750. Source: August 1995 "Landline," a publication of the Minerals Council of Australia.

State of the Region

By Bill Ragette'

I've been calling Natural Heritage Program Staff and various experts in WV, VA, KY, MD, and PA recently in order to make an informal assessment of the state of our region's ecological health and just how much we know about it. Actually, the job is much bigger than I anticipated. There is just so much detail to get ahold of. Hopefully the two conferences (see elsewhere in the VOICE for those details) occurring this fall and winter will begin to take the necessary first steps to get a better view of just how bad off we are.

Each state tracks species of birds, mammals, fish, mussels, amphibians, reptiles, vascular plants and a few other species they believe are either endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Special concern is a vague term, but generally this includes all species with less than 100 populations occurring in the state. Species may be added to these 'watch lists' if the biologists in that state feel that keeping track of them is warranted due to other factors; like loss of habitat, or pressures from exotic species (zebra mussel, or gypsy moth, human development).

Let's look at the figures for percentage of species tracked in WV, which are fairly representative of other states in our region -

- Mammals - 32%
(68 species - tracking 22)
- Breeding Birds - 31%
(172 species - tracking 53)
- Amphibians/Reptiles - 37%
(85 species - tracking 32)

- Fish - 41%
(171 species - tracking 70)
- Vascular Plants - 16%
(~2,300 species - tracking 376)
- Mussels tracking - 49%
(72 species - tracking 35)

Now the situation is not quite as bad as these figures suggest. Approximately 2/3 of the tracked species in each category (except for fresh water mussels) are more common outside of the state. This occurs because the edge of the range of a species lies in the state. Habitat for that species may be more common to the north or south.

But our state agencies track these perhaps-not-endangered-globally species for several good reasons. One is that the species is part of the heritage of our state. They make our state more interesting and biologically diverse. These are treasures we have been handed and we should damn well be sure they are part of the web for future West Virginians (or Virginians, or...) to enjoy and study.

The second reason is that the genetics of species members on the edge of ranges tend to be more diverse and adapted to the extremes of the preferred habitat. This diversity may prove extremely important with the advent of climate change and other environmental stresses.

But even with leaving out these range-edge species, its obvious that many species are in precarious situations. With 10-15% of the mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians living in less (often way less) than 100 populations in the entire state and rare globally, we should be sure

all measures are taken to maintain and restore these species.

Very few of these populations have any protection at all. Those that happen to lie in wilderness or state parks are fairly secure. Those in national forests are less so, unless they are federally listed, and that protection is currently being undermined by Newt et al in DC. Most have no protection private land, which makes up over 90% of land in the East.

Kentucky Natural Heritage Program has purchased 31 'Natural Areas' as safe havens for some of these special species. West Virginia currently has none. The money is just not there. Perhaps if we all write the letters on behalf of "Teaming with Wildlife" I so politely asked you to do elsewhere in the VOICE, we will have some of the cash to begin preserving endangered habitat. But many conservation biologists fear that isolated reserves will not serve in the long run without corridors for genetic interbreeding.

Historical Trends - Unfortunately none of the Heritage programs have been in existence long enough to give us a sense of how these species of special concern are doing over time. We can't compare the number of populations now with the number of 10, 20 or 30 years ago, the data is just not there. We do know that we have lost many species in historical times. Pennsylvania reports 107 species of plants collected from PA that occur only in their herbarium. Many of these are the more coastal species collected from around Philadelphia. WV lists 12 plants as definitely extirpated. Ex-

tended searches have not turned up any of these plants once found in WV. Another 57 are listed as 'Historical', meaning they haven't been reported in 20 years, and no locations for them are known.

Another indication of trouble is the number of alien or exotic species in the state. Some of these have become notorious for the havoc they introduce into the ecosystem- kudzu, zebra mussel, gypsy moth, dutch elm disease, homo sapiens. Often these transplants have no natural enemies to balance their spread, expanding and overrunning native species. Pennsylvania reports 1,242 exotics have escaped cultivation and are now living in the wild. Compare this to their 2,076 native vascular plants - of which 605 (29%) of them are E,T, or of special concern. West Virginia has about half this many exotics.

Studies in Florida have shown that for each ten exotics entering the state one native species is lost. While at first glance it appears that the state gains 9 species this way, the global diversity decreases. In the long run we might be facing a planet with generic fauna and flora, with the species most adapted to man circling the globe.

So it looks bad for species we are tracking, but with more funding we might avoid losing too many species (how many species is too many? - one?). How about the majority of species that we aren't tracking or just don't know about. If we applied the logic of tracking species with less than 100 known populations then almost all of the 850 or so species of Moths Dr. Linda Butler of WVU has

located would have to be tracked.

Of course most of these probably are common enough, but the fact is we just don't know if they are. At least 25 species that she has trapped have been found from only one location. And Linda keeps finding new to WV species all the time. Kentucky, which is one of the best studied states for Moths has identified over 2300 moths in that state. WV certainly has a gap in just identifying which moths occur in the state, let alone if they are imperiled.

According to Shawn Clark, head entomologist for the WVDA, our moths studies are probably more complete than for just about any other order of insects. More than half the families of insects have no one studying them at all. He has identified 5,000 different species of insects in WV, but estimates that there are probably 10 times that (50,000) living in the state. He fears that at the present funding levels we may never catch up.

Even though the picture looks bleak enough, I've left lots out. There is the mosses, the land snails, fungi and other aquatic organisms where the picture is similarly dim and grim. But we are getting a clearer picture all the time.

If we truly want to restore the full ecological health to our region we will need much larger and connected wild areas not only for the creatures on the brink, but for the cougar, the wolf, the bison, and the elk. Until we can restore all possible inhabitants to our region, it will be but a shadow of full ecological integrity.

Thornwood Pipeline

(from page 1) have no traffic at all. Under the pipeline proposal, these trail/roads would be cleared anew, opened up, and subject to regular daily traffic in connection with pipeline maintenance. Say goodbye to remote habitat for species intolerant of disturbance and semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation.

Trying to have it both ways, the EA raises an artificial safety issue and uses it to justify even greater destruction. On the whole, pipeline technology is well developed, and pipelines are safe. But with the safety nonissue, the Forest Service attempts to push the pipeline off roads altogether, thereby requiring ripping completely new 40 foot swaths through intact maturing forest. This is inexcusable. These new gashes tear right through some of the last remaining large parcels of intact forest in the Mon National Forest. These new swaths cut big forest up into little forest. Science is learning more every day about how this forest fragmentation leads to declines in biodiversity.

To raise a final problem area, consider existing acceptable alter-

native routes (please do, since the EA didn't). The study cavalierly discarded a number of far less damaging alternatives. Why? It's hard not to conclude that the real reason was to save some money for the TGI entrepreneurs.

So, its time for you to make yourself heard. This pipeline is a bad idea, in the wrong place, doing far too much damage to our precious wildlands. Please, write a letter NOW. Tell them you don't want this pipeline, and why.

Address your comments to:
Linda Tracy
Monongahela National Forest
200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, WV 26241

Please, don't procrastinate or assume somebody else will do it. Your input is needed, and it must be received by the deadline of November 15. Write as much or as little as you are comfortable with. Express your opposition; give your reasons. Write a paragraph or a ream. It would also help to send copies to U. S. Senators and Congressional Representatives. Thanks so much for your part in protecting our Forests.



Drawing by Glenn Scherr,
WV tracked flowers on pages 5 & 7 -
from Flora of WV

Kentucky

- Mammals 69 species - tracking 20.3%
- Breeding Birds 165 species - tracking 13.1%
- Amphibians 51 species - tracking 19.6%
- Reptiles 52 species - tracking 34.6%
- Mussels -103 historic species, 18 extirpated, 51 tracked (includes extirpated)

Maryland

- Mammals 94 species - tracking 24
- Breeding Birds 175 (?) species - tracking 75
- Amphibians 43 species - tracking 10
- Reptiles 53 species - tracking 15
- Fish 117 species - tracking 16
- Vascular Plants ~4,000 species - tracking 924



Teaming With Wildlife

or Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is.

by Bill Ragette'

Do you guys realize that most of the DNR's money, which they so jealously guard actually does come from hunters and fisher-folk? And not just the fees from licenses, which I've argued in the past should be spent on protecting all wild creatures. Anyone who buys hunting or fishing equipment pays a 10% 'federal surcharge fee'. They have been doing this for about sixty years. These monies are then handed over to the state's hunting and fishing programs to increase game and hunting opportunities. And you know how much they have done with those monies. WV DNR maintains over 300,000 acres of public hunting areas in the state.

Now if only the recreational users paid a similar fee (on binoculars, tents, what else - see below), we could have the same for non-game critters and their human devotees. We could begin to study the 90% of species no one has had the resources to document and study (see articles elsewhere in the VOICE). So here is your chance. Read the exciting info today and if you love bambi or the cheat mountain salamander please write those all important letters today. Get your groups to sign on and contact your Congressional Reps and your favorite recreational equipment sellers today. Don't be lazy or cheap, this is one of the greatest advances we can make to insure the biological jewels we were bestowed with will pass on for other generations to study and enjoy.

Hunters and Fisherfolk have long realized the great benefits this fee brings to their

avocation. I sometimes get the feeling that non-game lovers feel morally superior to hunters, then here's your chance to show you are at least their equals.

Actually it seems absurd to pay for wildlife, but the truth is that if someone doesn't offer to help all the Nongame species, they will surely suffer and possibly perish with all the big money interests (coal, timber, development, you name it) lined up against them.

Here's the scoop from Brian McDonald - Coordinator of WV's Natural Heritage Program.

Teaming with Wildlife

What is it? A proposed Federal Funding package for the management and conservation of Nongame wildlife and natural areas nationwide.

How Much? A projected 350 million dollars nationwide of which 2.6 million would go to programs in West Virginia to be administered by DNR Wildlife Resources Section. The state would have to raise 25 percent to maximize its share of federal funds.

How? Teaming with Wildlife is modeled after the Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration Funds which have been successful in funding fish and game management activities for years. A surcharge of .5 to 5 percent wholesale value would be levied on selected outdoor recreation products including camping and hiking gear, binoculars, photographic equipment, boots and apparel, backyard wildlife supplies, field guides, and recreational vehicles. This is a user fee approach; thus only users of the resource - hikers, bird-watchers, outdoor enthusiasts, etc.-would contribute to its stewardship.

When? Teaming with wildlife legisla-

tion is scheduled to be taken up during the current session of Congress. Grass roots support and the backing of large manufacturers of outdoor goods, i.e. L.L. Bean and REI, will be vital to the passage of the bill.

Why? Currently millions in the US (10's of thousands in WV) take part in the use and enjoyment of non-consumptive wild resources, yet funding for conservation and enhancement of these assets has traditionally been meager, and often subsidized by game and fish programs. It's time that others start contributing to the promotion and conservation of Nongame species and the enhancement of their habitats.

What to include in letters to Congress and Industry - (attach one to your next purchase).

To Outdoor Products Companies:

* Teaming with Wildlife would increase consumption (this is good? - editor's note) of outdoor products by enhancing outdoor recreational and wildlife opportunities, thus luring

more participants.

* The average increase of the price of an item would be negligible: 20 cents for a bag of bird seed, \$3.00 for a pair of top-of-the-line gortex hiking boots.

* Each item to which the surcharge was applied would be tagged as a "green product" thereby giving its manufacturer a "green image".

* Teaming with Wildlife has widespread support among the public, conservation groups, birders, wildlife organizations, hunt clubs, and hiking groups. It is gaining support from industry.

* Teaming with Wildlife will be a dedicated fund, i.e. money raised through it will be used for conservation, outdoor recreation and habitat improvements which will impel more people to use the outdoors.

To U.S. Senators and Representatives:

* Teaming with Wildlife is not a tax but a user fee, to be paid only by those people who will directly benefit from the funding. (see page 8)

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 \$12.85 (this includes \$2.90 first class shipping) to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy PO Box 306 Charleston, WV 25321



MONARDA fistulosa

West Virginia residents must add \$.60 sales tax. (total of \$13.45)

Age-Class Distribution Alert!!!

The Monongahela National Forest Plan declares that the forests on the Monongahela are severely lacking in Age-Class Distribution! The US Forest Service is very concerned about this tragedy and is busy rectifying this atrocious condition. By conducting lots of timber harvest CLEARCUTS every ten years or so, they hope to produce lots of little (well, not so little) patches of trees all the same age, adjacent to other patches of trees all the same age, but not necessarily the same same age. But mind you, on the ecosystem landscape scale, there will exist the perfect harmony of Age Class Distribution. So even if the US Government loses money on the timber sales, its really worth it to have such a balance of Age-Classes.

Congressional Phones, Faxes, Addresses, Email

ROBERT BYRD
Committees:
Appropriations (Ranking Member),
Armed Services, Rules & Administration
311 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Phone 202-224-3954
Fax 202-228-0002

JOHN ROCKEFELLER
Committees: Commerce, Science &
Transportation,
Finance, Veterans' Affairs (Ranking Member)
109 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Phone 202-224-6472
Fax 202-224-7665
Email Senator@Rockefeller.Senate.Gov

ALAN MOLLOHAN
Committees: Appropriations, Budget
2427 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
Phone 202 225-4172
Fax 202-225-7564

NICK RAHALL
Committees: Resources,
Transportation & Infrastructure
2269 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
Phone 202 225-3452
Fax 202-225-9061

BOB WISE
Committees: Government Reform & Oversight,
Transportation & Infrastructure
2434 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
Phone 202 225-2711
Fax 202-225-7856



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: _____

Central Appalachian Ecological Integrity Forum

Sponsored by Heartwood's Appalachian Restoration Campaign, the Forum is scheduled for January 26-28, 1996 at Massanetta Springs, VA. According to the brochure - "The Central Appalachians are one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world. However, a multitude of assaults are degrading the region's ecological health. Due to past environmental impacts, most of the remaining Central Appalachian natural areas are diminished and fragmented. What must we do to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of the Central Apps?"

This region offers a tremendous potential. However, our existing protected areas are far too small and our present conservation efforts much too timid.

Attendees should come prepared to address the following questions:

- 1.) How would you assess the current status of the ecological integrity of the Central Apps? What species and ecosystems are threatened and/or depleted?
- 2.) If current land use trends and patterns continue, how will ecological integrity be affected?
- 3.) What are the most useful recommendations we could make to enhance ecological integrity?
- 4.) What are the worst things we, as a society, could do, or fail to do?
- 5.) What short term actions would you recommend? Long term?
- 6.) What are the knowledge gaps and research priorities?

Agenda for Saturday - Opening address, Introductory presentations (who is doing what and where in the region. Research and advocacy), Assessment Working Groups (Plants, Vertebrates, Invertebrates, Soil, Hydrology, Community Ecology, Anthropogenic Effects on Ecosystems, Ecosystem dynamics, Conservation Biology, Genetics), Concurrent mapping sessions, Reports from all working groups.
For more information contact: Steve Krichbaum, ARC Virginia Coordinator
412 Carter St.
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 886-1584
e-mail: loki@cfwnet.com

Zebra Mussels Invade Ohio River

from the WV Rivers Coalition Journal - Headwaters

The zebra mussel - an alien invader from Europe - has infested the Ohio River all the way up to Pittsburgh, according to National Biological Survey studies and reports.

Although the heaviest populations are in the lower reaches of the Ohio River Basin, some have been found at several locations in the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge and in the Kanawha River.

This parasitic species population can reach astronomical numbers - over 100,000 per square meter. These populations can foul-up water intakes and in-stream structures, requiring costly cleaning operations. Worse yet, they are a serious threat to the native mussel species and other aquatic dwellers.

The zebra mussel attaches itself to the larger native mussel shells, disrupting feeding and creating anaerobic conditions. Native mussels, crayfish, snails and other aquatic organisms have suffered se-

rious losses after zebra mussel infestation - with rare, threatened or endangered species being especially vulnerable.

The threat of the zebra mussel is also an important factor in the controversy over the proposed dam on the North Fork of the Hughes River.

Increased boat traffic would increase the likelihood of zebra mussel infestation in the proposed impoundment. Altered water quality would increase the potential for population explosions - leading to infestations downstream from the impoundment, and dangerously fragmenting the populations of native mussels upstream.

No proven methods have been found to eradicate the zebra mussel, so management focuses on ways to slow the spread and minimize impacts to aquatic habitats.

Just as the gypsy moth is disrupting West Virginia's forest habitats, zebra mussel invasions seem inevitably poised to remain a permanent threat to our rivers.

Corridor Doubts

(from page 1) he had no help was not our fault. West Virginians for Corridor H had agreed to attend, after we found a "neutral" moderator, but at the last minute they reneged anyway. They have an expensive D.C. public relations firm to speak for them on matters of faith.

Peter Kostmayer, our other panelist, was a seven-term congressman, hence a politician, too, but he came to us after service in the EPA, a federal agency that purports to rely on scientific evidence. It was the scientists on his staff who persuaded him that Corridor H was both harmful and wasteful. Politicians, who depend on revelation from well-heeled sources, have said Kostmayer was biased all along because he supported the findings of his staff, even after he was fired. Post hoc, ergo ante hoc is the essence of their charge (in Church Latin). Delegate Doyle had repeated this slur last July in The Journal, a Martinsburg paper. If he'd said it on September 16 at Canaan, the panel could have been even livelier.

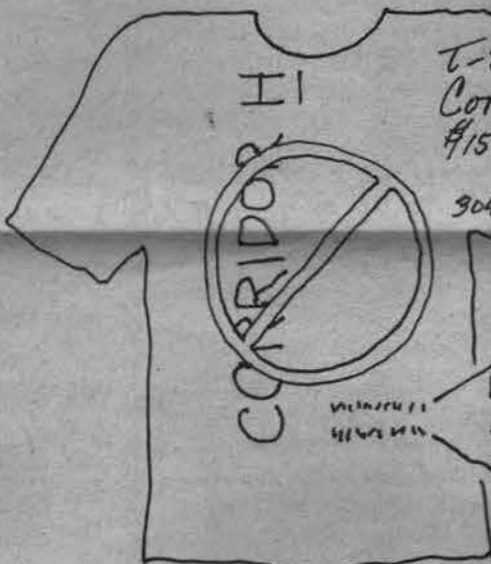
What's a politician to do? If he makes specific claims about how

the road can be built without environmental damage, he risks looking foolish. Few people these days believe in miracle cures for acid drainage, forest division, stream degradation, and habitat destruction. So he reverts to ad hominem attacks. Peter Kostmayer must have been prejudiced, which "calls into serious question the validity of those environmental ratings," wrote Doyle. Or, "environmental organizers said at the time, 'If you just go the northern route, that's fine with us. We just think it ought not be the southern route.' Well, they got their wish and yet now some continue to protest," said Wise. He'd like to believe there was a deal. To him, it's not nature, it's personal; he can't see the forest for the WVHC's.

In 1995, thirty years after Corridor H was proposed, the agency comments and newspaper reports were finally critical. Editorial writers lagged behind—most (pre)tend to believe in the old religion—but good reporters wanted the facts. The agencies were ultimately controlled by politicians. But the facts were put before the public, and their

doubts will kill the project. There is a spiritual dimension to our relation with the environment, but it is not recognized by those whose old beliefs have cost us so much.





T-shirts to benefit
Corridor H Alternatives
\$15 Contact: CHA
Moon Run
Kerens
WV 26276

Improve existing roads
Save land Save taxes



Teaming with Wildlife

(from page 7) * Teaming with Wildlife will cost the average outdoor enthusiast only about 10 dollars a year (hey we can pay even more than this - ed. note)
* By enhancing

West Virginia's wildlife resources, Teaming with Wildlife will increase nature tourism in the state, thereby generating jobs and stimulating local economies. (Hmmm, now I'm worried - bill)
* Teaming with Wildlife would bring

in 2.6 million dollars of federal funding annually to West Virginia.
* Teaming with Wildlife legislation is modeled after the Pittman-Robertson and Wallop-Breaux Acts which have enjoyed widespread popularity and success in funding game and fish management.

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.