



# The Highlands

# Voice

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## Worse Than WATT

mining matters, report from the mining committee  
by Cindy Rank

The absence of a report from the mining chair in the last issue of the VOICE is somewhat due to a growing inability on my part to capture any meaningful snapshots of the moving targets of our appeals, lawsuits, state program amendment comments, etc.; as they are batted about by the inevitable barrage of political waffling.

Unfortunately, my level of fatigue and waning enthusiasm is only exacerbated by the antics of this current self proclaimed 'pro-citizen' Congress that is about to tear apart the very fabric of the laws that protect us and the agencies charged with enforcing those laws. It's a scenario that causes a friend familiar with the internal workings of the James Watt regime to mutter quietly "WORSE THAN WATT."

I wince at lawyer jokes.

I happen to believe that good laws are often all that stand between the preservation of our homes and lives and the destructive tendencies of greed and profiteering. And good lawyers are a must to counter those lawyers who do the bidding of the special interests who stand to profit from stretching the law for their own economic benefit.

To a believer like myself, the main reasons environmental laws like the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Surface Mine Act (SMCRA) haven't worked is not because of inflated budgets or over restrictive regulations, but because they haven't been enforced strongly enough.

Industry is able at nearly every turn to outmaneuver, out influence,

out spend and out lawyer citizens in every neighborhood, community, city and town in the good ole U S of A, while their publicists create and promote the snake oil sales pitch and razz-matazz that hypnotize those same citizens as well as local government and regulators into believing they should roll out the welcome mat and cheer while their homes, communities and futures are sold down the highway, exhausted up the smokestack and flushed out the drain.

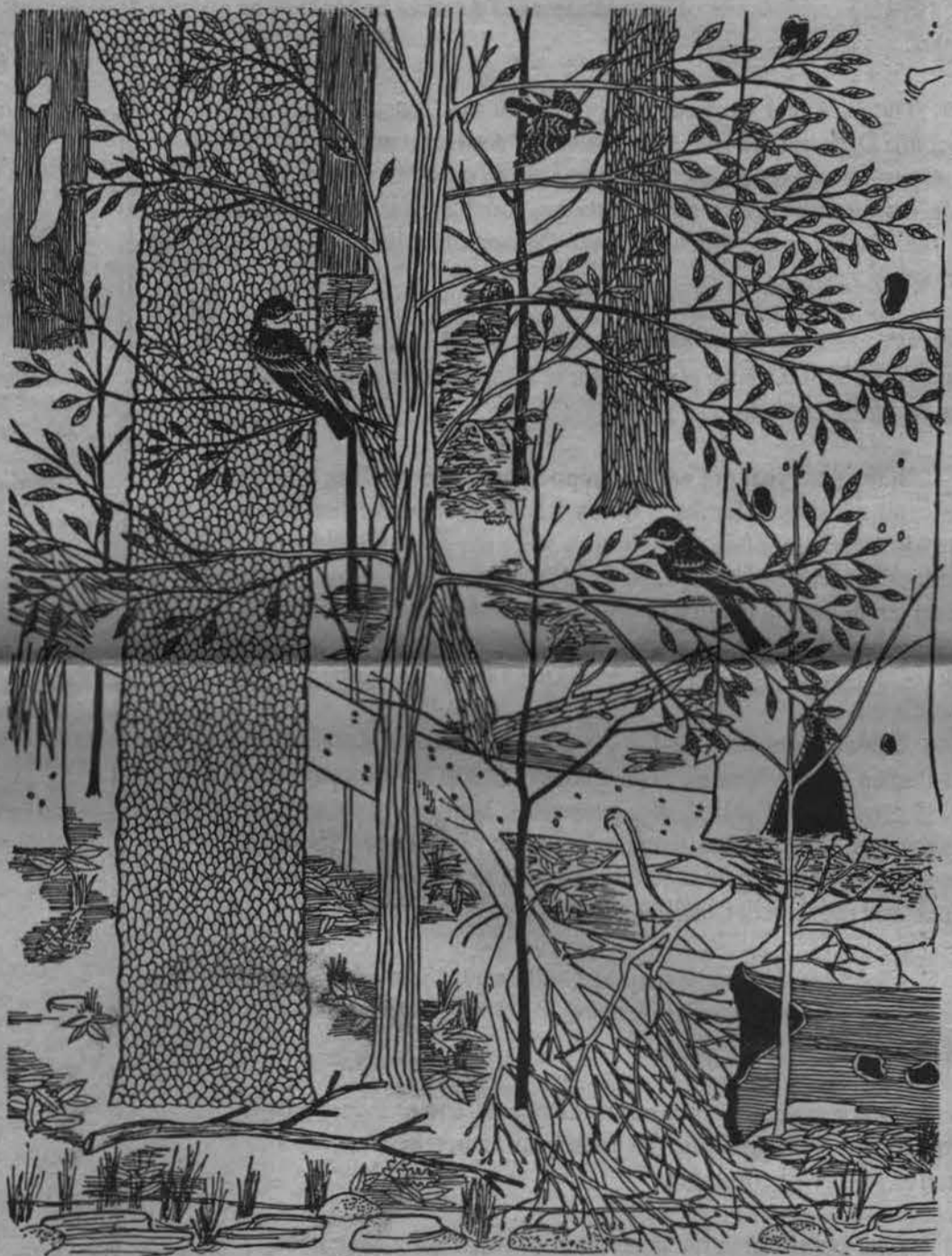
Congress in its wisdom 20-30 years ago recognized the need for protecting the public trust, the waters, land and lives of coal field communities and created the CWA (and EPA) and SMCRA (and OSM), etc. Congress today has lost sight of those needs and is instead responding to the cries of those who believe their profits are not large enough by slashing away at every aspect of environmental protection and environmental justice.

These actions are going to have dire consequences in every state across the country. The evisceration of the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) by budget cuts and limiting current enforcement powers of the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) will bring those bitter consequences home to West Virginia.

Coal industry profiteers must be laughing on their way to the bank secure in the knowledge that Congress is about to do for them what they have been unable to do for themselves in other forums, lawsuits, challenges and delays of the last two decades.

- It is particularly disappointing to know that official voices of the state of WV are supporting these actions against SMCRA and OSM.

Governor Caperton, past DEP Director Dave Callaghan, and current DEP Director Eli McCoy and Deputy Director Mark Scott have all supported reduced budget, enforcement and oversight for OSM. WV belongs to the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC), a lobbying group supported by all of the coal states, and reportedly pays about \$10,000 per year in taxpayer funds as membership dues. During the last several years, the positions taken by the IMCC have been almost identical with the coal industry's lobbyists. Currently, the IMCC is lobbying FOR cuts in OSM (see page 6)



Glenn Scherff

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## 1995 West Virginia Highlands Conservancy - Fall Review

Dance with Peter Kostmayer, rub shoulders with gubernatorial candidates, explore a cave, get the latest inside scoop on Corridor H with tour and panel discussion, wander around Canaan, band birds, etc... - and do it all at WVHC's Fall Review September 15-17, 1995.

Its been a year and a half since EPA Region III's newly appointed chief spent a morning with us at Spring Review. A lot has happened in that time, Peter's no longer in favor with the administration, but Corridor H is still not built. Its certainly time to get together and celebrate the victories we have had and figure out what the heck we have to do now.

See page 8 for the schedule and rates. We are not sending out a special mailing this time, so this is all you get. Hope to see you there.



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

by John McFerrin

*Thanks*

As I write this we are getting ready for the Fall Review, including our annual meeting for 1995. It reminds me that it was at the 1994 annual meeting that I was elected President.

It also reminds me of the old saying: I'd rather be lucky than smart.

The past year has been a good one for the Conservancy. With Richard DiPretoro as our Administrative Assistant and Tom Michael as our Treasurer all our business is taken care of. Our membership renewal notices go out; our money (such as it is) is all accounted for. As far as the business of the Conservancy goes we run very smoothly.

We continue to put out an excellent newsletter. No brag, just fact. With Bill Ragette at the helm, it has been consistently interesting and informative.

In the past year we have continued our longstanding advocacy on mining issues. Thanks to Cindy Rank and the other members of the Mining Committee, we continue to be the most visible and active conservation groups working on coal mining issues. Thanks in no small part to Hugh Rogers, we were able to file substantial comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for Corridor H.

The endowment fund has become more active. David Elkinton has taken it upon himself to do a solicitation in an effort to help that fund grow. The Public Lands committee is planning some new initiatives. We are beginning a project to recruit new, younger members. Such organizational members as the Downstream Alliance and the Rivers Coalition are doing great things.

From what I hear, Carrol Jett and Frank Young are working very hard planning the Fall Review; from all indications it will be a hum-dinger.

There are probably many more people and activities I have forgotten. Even with just the ones I can remember, we are a pretty active and energetic group.

The politician in me is tempted to say, "See all the good things which happened on my watch. I must be doing a great job." Any politician with such a record could probably get re-elected without having to kiss a single baby or go to a single ramp dinner.

The truth of it is, however, that I am not responsible for any of this stuff. I have had the good fortune to be president during a year when lots of positive things happened to the Conservancy. Through their energies, our members are making these positive things happen for the Conservancy. To them, I say THANK YOU.

For myself, I say "I'd rather be lucky than smart." For the past year I have had the good fortune to be president of an organization which is alive and energetic. Even though I didn't have much to do with it, it makes me proud. How much luckier could someone be?

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# THE CENTRAL APPALACHIAN ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY FORUM

December 8-10, 1995

What must we do to restore and maintain ecological integrity of the Central Appalachians? What must we do to implement policies that operate in conjunction with, rather than in opposition to, natural processes? This conference will be an educational event and working meeting for scientists and the concerned public to discuss issues and share knowledge regarding the biodiversity of the Appalachians. The primary goal of the Forum is to start building valid scientific support for citizen actions that will slow and stop the accelerating region wide losses of native biological diversity.

## Opportunity

A multitude of assaults are degrading the region's ecological health. Due to ongoing and past environmental impacts, most of the remaining Central Appalachian natural areas are impoverished, stunted, diminished and fragmented. Even so, an incredible opportunity remains. The remnant forests of the Central and Southern Appalachians offer an incredible opportunity for ecological recovery, an opportunity certainly unmatched in the East, perhaps anywhere in the world. Here lies an opportunity for intact, fully functioning deciduous forests.

The wild old-growth forest ecosystems which naturally blanketed this region have been extirpated, battered, and dismembered. It's up to us to re-member these forests before it is too late. These mountains

are a world class center of biodiversity, a crown jewel of wild America. They offer an incredible opportunity, but we are blowing it.

## Need

To protect and restore the ecological integrity of the Central Appalachians we need to establish a substantial system of buffered and connected ecological reserves. And we must do it now. Some of the data necessary for reserve design is readily available, other data sets are very incomplete. However, we have adequate knowledge to begin the process of reserve design today. It is critical that we provide policy makers with information about such a system. And convince them of its validity, applicability, and necessity. Equally critical is the need to fuel the public political pressure which will bring the vision to fruition.

## Vision

The Central Appalachian Project of Heartwood (a regional coalition of grassroots forest conservation groups) is a citizen initiated campaign to apply the Wildlands Project Land Conservation Strategy to this region. This is a proactive and preventive alternative to the commodity focused management and infrastructure that now dominate the region's natural areas. The goal of this regional wilderness reserve system is to protect, preserve, and restore the native biotic communities and all their natural processes in perpetuity.

A key element of this plan will be to shift the management emphasis on the large public land holdings (e.g. national Forests). In biogeographic terms, these islands of habitat -defacto wildlife refuges- have paradoxically become the "continental" source pools of the region. It is essential that they no longer be treated as mere tree farms, game feedlots, or roaded playgrounds. Instead, they must serve as and be managed as the "core reserves" of the protected lands complex. Such core reserves are components of the overall strategy, a regional wildlands recovery webwork of reserves connected to corridors connected to island refugia connected to buffer zones.

The ecological reserve system will be a new form of federal/regional/state/local/individual partnership. This proposal is not designed to further erode local control, but to help restore control of the region's destiny to its citizens and to decentralize responsibility.

## Work

There is lots to do. To properly provide for ecological integrity, we must:

- \*assess the current situation and trends
- \*identify areas of ecological richness, significance, or rarity
- \*identify data gaps and prioritize research
- \*design a network of reserves that both protects and restores native biological diversity
- \*integrate the management of

public and private lands to minimize conflicts with purposes of the reserves

\*alert, educate, and mobilize the public

\*overcome political interference and special interest meddling in the process.

## Purpose

This regional council is being convened in order to:

1. bring a focus on critical issues regarding native biodiversity here
2. provide information on the pressing needs and threats facing our region
3. shape policy for protecting the ecological integrity of the Central Appalachians.

Some of the critical issues are the status of knowledge regarding biological diversity, assessments of ecological integrity, effects of human activities, research needs, and corroboration of the presumed necessity of a reserve network. The region's remaining natural areas are coming under increasing threat from within and without. Their content and context are being damaged by development, highways, pulp mills, mines, industrial recreation, acid deposition, and so on. A region wide proactive land conservation policy is the only viable strategy that offers a way out of this ubiquitous mess. We have to think BIG and think CONNECTED.

## Action

Attendees should come pre-

pared to discuss the following:

1. How would you assess the current status of the ecological integrity of the Central Appalachian region? What species and ecosystems are depleted and/or threatened? What information exists to support this assessment?
2. If current land use patterns and trends continue, how will ecological integrity be affected?
3. What is the most useful recommendation we could make to enhance ecological integrity?
4. What is the worst thing we could do, or fail to do?
5. What short term recommendations would you make?
6. What are the knowledge gaps and research priorities?

For too long agriculture, development, and industry have defined the debate and set the agenda for our relationship with the Appalachian forests. The time is way past due for treating these lands as the priceless ecological crown jewels that they are. These precious remnants of the original great eastern Forest are vulnerable arks in a sea of human disturbance. And we're all Noah. Now it is time to start acting like it. The forests, the plants, the animals - we all need your help!

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## The Northern Forest Forum



## HIGHLANDS CONFERENCE

The Mid-Atlantic Highlands Coordinating Council will sponsor a Highlands Conference at Canaan Valley State Park Lodge, Davis, West Virginia, on October 24-16, 1995. The purpose of the conference is to highlight the uniqueness of the Highlands resources, outline federal agency activities, and foster interagency cooperation including the involvement of the private and public interests. The Mid-Atlantic Highlands Coordinating Council is a collection of several federal agencies who seek

to encourage a collective and more holistic approach to the Mid-Atlantic Highlands natural resources.

The conference will include speakers on Appalachian culture, Appalachian ecology, and regional environment, economics, forests and tourism. Representatives of various groups and industries who have an interest in the Highlands will also make presentations. They include such industries as agriculture, fisheries, mining, wildlife, forestry, recreation, and conservation. Bill Rag-

ette' will make a presentation on behalf of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

The conference will also include field trips to the Blackwater Treatment Drum Facility, Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge, and Spruce Forest/Acid Deposition Effects.

The conference is open to the public. For more information call Ronald Preston, United States Environmental Protection Agency, at (304) 234-0245. ♦

## Ecosystem Management

(from page 6) Oak, something that is not supposed to happen under Ecosystem Management. Fake Ecosystem Management says that human needs are the context in which management must take place. We need Oak, then come hell or high-water, we'll have Oak.

### Ecosystem Management: What It Should Be

R. Edward Grubmine, from the Sierra Institute in Santa Cruz, California, identifies five goals of Ecosystem Management in a March 94 article in Conservation Biology; maintain viable populations of all native species, protect areas that represent native ecosystems in all of their variations, maintain evolutionary and ecological processes, manage in time periods long enough to maintain the evolutionary potential of species and ecosystems, and accommodate human uses and occupancy within these constraints.

Grubmine's goals recognize that if we do not place ourselves within the context of the ecosystem there will never be any reason to do ecosystem management. There will always be someone with a heck of a good reason why their own needs should come first over the needs, if not the out right survivability, of species that just so

happens to already be there. Only true Ecosystem Management will keep that selfishness in check.

We are where we are today due to a wealth of natural resources that are a result of ecosystem management. To continue to behave as if the health of our ecosystem is less important than fulfilling our own needs is unhealthy itself. To continue to pretend that we understand what is going on is delusional. To humbly approach true ecosystem management with a sense of place and value will ensure our own survivability. Anything less is just a giant crap shoot. The day our foresters can understand and discuss how to implement these principles is the day we can trust them enough to give them back the forests. ♦

## Public Lands

(from page 4) abandoned. A more appropriate way would be to look at the forest as the interconnection of watersheds.

6.) Monitoring of management activities, as required in the Plan was not occurring, and should be given a much higher priority.

If I missed anything let me know, there's still time to talk. ♦



# Conservancy's Living Forests Project Begins



by Richard diPretoro

The Conservancy has recently initiated a new project called the Living Forests Project. Modeled on Mountain Stream Monitors' successful Living Streams Project, the new project is designed to systematically follow developments in the logging industry using publicly available records. We have started this project out of Morgantown and will focus on District One of the Division of Forestry (Brooke, Hancock, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Monongalia, Marion, Harrison, Taylor, Barbour, Preston, Tucker) but we hope to transplant the project statewide after an initial shakedown.

We envision the project to work as follows:

We will check logging notifications in the Fairmont Forestry office. The three-page notifications are required to be filed by the logger within three days of starting the operation. We will note the location of each job on a set of topo maps we keep for that purpose. We will then locate the job on highway maps and

plan a route to get to it using public roads or private land with permission. (On occasion we may fly over the site.) Next, we will find the job on the ground. We may return to the same site after heavy rain. We will take photos and videos. When needed, we will file complaints. We also plan to use our data, photos, complaints, etc., to push for any needed reforms of the law and regulations. We hope by these means to establish a trained group of citizen monitors as logging continues to expand around the state.

To begin this project, I sent a Freedom of Information Act request to the Fairmont office to inspect their files. On August 17, I spent two hours there interviewing the District Forester, Lowell McPherson, and learning about the workings of the Logging Sediment Control Act. He was cooperative and gave me some interesting data. Roughly 800 logging notifications are filed annually for his 12-county district. In the first 6 months of 1995, 62 complaints were filed. Of those, 53 (85%) were

deemed valid. That indicates to me that the program is still maturing. A mature program would have mostly invalid complaints. Nearly half of the complaints (26/62) came from citizens and rest from Forestry and other agencies. Twenty-three complaints involved lack of licensing or notification. Nineteen complaints (of which 16 were valid) involved mud on roads or in water. Twenty-seven compliance orders and 14 suspension orders were issued. No legal actions were taken.

The heart of state logging oversight (I won't call it regulation, because it doesn't merit that term yet) is a set of suggested Best Management Practices (BMP's). The definition of BMP in the law reads as follows, "sediment control measures...to reduce soil runoff from land disturbances associated with commercial timber harvesting." Notice that the law does not require the supposed Best Management Practice to actually BE the best practice or to prevent soil runoff in excess of pre-logging conditions. The regula-

tions go on to further define BMP's as "the technically feasible and economically reasonable procedures, as currently used in the state's silvicultural water quality management plan..., used to reduce sedimentation of the waters of the state by soil erosion...associated with commercial harvesting of timber." It is important to note that the BMP's are not mandatory. Only if the "failure to use a particular best management practice is causing or contributing, or has the potential to cause or contribute, to soil erosion or water pollution" may the Forestry Division require corrective action.

On August 31, Jason Huber and I returned to the Fairmont office

with our maps and began the process of recording the locations of active logging operations on our maps. At that time, we found out the District offices supply the main office in Charleston with computer disks each week with information from the latest logging notifications. We hope to computerize our data and keep it up to date using the electronic data supplied to the state. We will be filing another FOIA for that information soon.

For more information on the Living Forests Project, or to volunteer, contact Richard diPretoro in Morgantown at 296-8963; email rdipretoro@igc.apc.org; or on WNPB's WISE computer bulletin board. ♦

## Public Lands



from the Public Lands Committee by *Quercus Ragette*

Maybe you read about it in the last VOICE, but except for 12 or so Conservancy members, you missed it. And what was that? - a great public lands committee meeting on the upper deck of the Cheat River Inn, overlooking the Shavers Fork.

Well here's your chance to review the discussion. The following is probably only a small slice of all the views aired at the meeting as it comes from my memory only. Cindy took notes, but hasn't made them available to me yet. If you would like a copy of the minutes let me know, I'll forward them to you when Cindy gets them to me. I hereby invite you all to inform me via phone, email, or snail mail of your ideas and opinions and what you are interested in doing to see them implemented. See Roster of Board on page two for my address/phone.

We had several items on the agenda, but the biggest draw was the formulation of a policy on Timbering in the Monongahela National Forest. The issue has been raised in a couple of board meetings over the years, but the issues were too complex, and emotions too intense for any resolution. I called the meeting to see whether an afternoon dedicated to the problem would allow us to come any closer to consensus.

The group unanimously agreed that commercial timbering in the Monongahela had only a negative

effect on the forest, its health, its diversity. We recognized that some counties, notably Pocahontas, consisted of half National Forest land; and that the county was becoming more dependent on timbering public lands for income (and more dependent on tourism). It has been only in the last decade or so, as the forest recovered from the clearcutting and fires of the early part of the century and as the trees reached commercial size, that logging and forest products industries have grown.

I think the group hesitated to endorse an end to logging on the Monongahela out of concern for folks living in those counties and the effects it would have on their lives. We felt we needed to get a better understanding on just exactly how a timbering ban would effect locals.

Cindy Rank raised the concern about loss of funds to local schools. I reminded her that the so-called 'Recht Decision' which required all students in the state to have equal educational opportunities would force the state to distribute more funds to Pocahontas county if they received less from the Feds. This would have a small ripple effect across the state to other schools. How great would this be?

Joe Marshall felt that there definitely was a conflict between logging and recreation. According to Joe, who makes his living in the tourism industry and is on the Board of Directors for the Potomac Highlands Travel Association, recreation pressures were building in the popular areas of the Mon, and that at times they were way too crowded. Logging precludes the expansion of

certain sectors of the recreation and tourism industry. Several folks suggested that development of a strong recreation industry and more efficient use of timber from private lands within the effected counties, might more than make up for jobs lost from a Timbering Ban.

Several attendees felt that the forests belonged to all Americans, now and in the future, and that the 'jobs' issue was really a smoke screen for the extractive industries. Do we allow whalers to continue killing whales just to preserve their jobs? Would the economy be better off if we had much larger tracts of wilderness and old growth?

Continued logging at present rates would also preclude the expansion of Wilderness. There seemed to be agreement that the Wilderness Areas were too small, both for the preservation of biodiversity and to offer a true 'wilderness experience'. We all supported a several fold expansion in the size of wilderness areas. We felt that if timbering was to continue it should be far away from Wilderness, in areas already fragmented, preferably along highways and county roads.

Don Garvin cautioned that a loud and strong voice in support of expanded wilderness would be like raising a red flag. He could already hear the cries of certain interests shouting about the Conservancy trying to 'lock up the National Forest'. Some felt that making a strong statement against logging on National Forests would create a backlash that might erode the gains that were made in the formation of the Forest Plan. Several folks suggested a moratori-

## Best Management Practices for Logging Workshops

These workshops are offered by the WV Division of Forestry to educate loggers about the 'best' ways to log in order to reduce erosion and soil runoff. They are open to the public. If you are at all interested in the Conservancy's new Living Forest Project, I recommend attending one to educate yourself before going in the field and checking out logging operations in your area. Call WV Division of Forestry (558-2788) for the phone number of your district office.

Date	Place	District
SEPT		
11	Milton VFD	V
13	Dunmore -Pocahontas Co HS	III
OCT		
5	MacArthur-DNR HQ	IV
11	Romney-DNR HQ	II
NOV		
8	New Martinsville/Moundsville Ar	I
16	Parkersburg Farmers Market	VI
DEC		
4	Milton VFD	V
13	Romney-DNR HQ	II
JAN		
4	MacArthur-DNR HQ	IV

um on logging might be more palatable (while we research the effects of the loss of topsoil, species diversity and restoration methods).

What about the Elk, the Buffalo, the Wolf and Cougar? Someone suggested we should focus on the charismatic creatures, Wolf and Cougar restoration would be another red flag.

But what can we do? Should we silence our beliefs because certain voices in industry and their puppets will always complain at any attempt to preserve more for future generations and for nature? Would our silence be a strategic one, to better further our goals of more preservation?

I reminded folks that public opinion polls have consistently shown that the general public overwhelmingly does not want cutting in National Forests. I suggested that we try to get a similar study done in WV and in the effected counties.

The group felt that the Forest Service puts timber first, often making decisions about locations of timber cuts and number of board feet years before any other decisions were made. The other 'multiple uses' were fit in around the timber cut, although once in a while they would limit or at least move the location of the cut.

Other points of consensus (I think) were

- 1.) Clearcutting should be eliminated entirely, except for endangered species restoration.
- 2.) Below cost timber cuts be eliminated. Costs should include all road building, maintenance, monitoring.
- 3.) No new roads should be built, many current roads should be abandoned, and the hydrology restored.
- 4.) Cessation of logging on all state lands
- 5.) The current Forest Plan's carving the forest into arbitrary Opportunity Areas should be (see page 3)



# The Eastern Forest - Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

by Don Gaspar

What is "Old Growth" or "An Ancient Forest?" As we cannot at this moment visit one, it is best understood by contrasting it with the woods you generally see and regard as "natural", and a review of the four basic successional phases of any re-growing forest.

"Reorganization" is the first stage, occurring immediately after a disturbance in the forest caused historically by fire and wind or today also by man. In the early 1900's West Virginia's virgin forests were logged. In 1908 one tenth of the state was burning. This stage generally lasts less than two decades during which many nutrient cycles and other soil processes interact to stabilize the area at a lower level of productivity because nutrients and soils were lost. Through this period seedlings and saplings strive to become the new forest canopy. Stream flow may increase by 1/3 for perhaps five years leaving stream beds wider. These higher flows transport nutrients and soils, of course, but also gravel in sediment waves that erode banks further. Clearing for settlement extended this process.

The second stage is called the "aggradation" or pole stage. It may last for a century. Most of West Virginia's forests are approaching

the end of this period. As the trees rapidly grow, they accumulate nutrients and biomass faster than any other stage. They are also drawing up soil moisture in evapotranspiration faster. Stream flows are lower in summer than at any other stage - in still wide stream beds. The generally warmed, shallower streams limit trout populations. Commercially managed forests are often harvested toward the end of this stage, and "clear cutting" is often the preferred method to start the regeneration of a new "crop". While some important wildlife flourishes in such generally uniform stands, especially at its edges, the "biodiversity" or species richness is low.

Stage three is one hundred year long "transition" stage. If a forest is permitted to continue to evolve naturally, tree growth begins to slow as their crowns compete for sunlight and their roots for water and nutrients. Trees continue to thin out. As some fall, they damage other trees. More and more nutrients accumulate in the organic matter of the forest floor. As soils are enriched and the amount of dead wood accumulates in the system, the abundance and diversity of life responds to the increasing food resources and habitat complexity. Timbermen would now call this an "over-mature for-

est." Some would call this an old-growth forest.

The last stage is termed the "steady-state" of "climax forest". This stage begins approximately 200 years after the initial disturbance. Increasingly, nutrient levels and biomass stabilize more. Tree growth slows more and trees take up fewer nutrients and less water. Stream flows increase for this reason alone. The death of a tree is balanced by the regeneration of a number of seedlings. The young trees tend to be shade tolerant, and over large areas beech and maple replace oak, cherry, poplar and pines. This gradual conversion will cause less mast, an important game food, to be produced. The only resistance to this trend is the death or fall of big trees creating a large enough opening for regeneration of less shade tolerant species. This would be more likely in an uneven aged forest and would be self-perpetuating. There will be different species with different sites, and a forest of spruce should extend at high elevations and hemlocks in coves. There would be oaks and poplar, even some cherry and walnut, as these were in the original forest.

Climax forests are characterized by larger trees, more standing dead timber which is important as

wildlife dens, and more downed timber. In places an uneven canopy may develop with many gaps and different tree sizes, and greater variation in the light level. Thus, there is greater complexity in overall forest structure with multiple blending growth layers. Temperatures are more varied, but mostly cooler. It is generally a moister and more humid forest floor. Stream temperatures would be cooler and more influenced by cooling sustained springs and seeps. These flow because the forest floor is more sponge-like and the slower growing forest takes up less soil moisture.

Because of these anticipated complexities in some parts of the climax forest, the diversity and abundance of life should be far greater than that found in all but the earliest successional stages. Many scientists just a few years ago thought that the climax forest was much more uniform, "park-like", more like the late transitional stage, and harbored very few species. This is understandable for succession up to that point had been progressing that way, and also some high interest game animals (deer and grouse) may be reduced. Much understanding, even relearning is needed.

**Editor's note:** This is but the first third of Don's paper which goes

on to talk about trout viability in our current cut over forests.

**Editor's rant:** I've always been suspicious of the statement that as forests mature and the shade intolerant species (oaks, cherry, poplars and pines) are shaded out, that the more mature, shade tolerant species produce less mast. But beech and maple, which tend to be more common in these forests, produce lots of mast. In fact the beech nut is higher in fat and protein than in any other tree, shade intolerant or not. And this is the species mix that has dominated the landscape for eons (not counting the irregular interruptions of the ice ages) and wildlife seemed to do alright through all those times. What the new over abundance of oaks does is create an irregular supply of food for deer and such, producing an over abundance of deer and all the problems we have with folks killed on the highway, rare plants being browsed to extinction, and poor regeneration of oak and other trees browsed heavily by too many deer.

The conversion to Oak dominated forest is akin to monoculture in agriculture, a sure recipe for an epidemic invasion of an insect pest (gypsy moth) to do lots of damage.

## 9th Annual National Forest Reform Rally

### "The Forest Fest"

September 28, 29, 30, and October 1, 1995

Sponsored by the National Forest Reform Network, and hosted by the Newton County Wildlife Association (NCWA), and the Ouachita Watch League (OWL). Celebrate a generation of Forest Advocacy with the Newton County Wildlife Association, founded in 1975 when a group of citizens filed a lawsuit against the USFS aerial application of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T on the Ozark National Forest. The 9th Annual Rally will be a true "grassroots event". Near the

Buffalo National River at Lost Valley Canoe and Lodging in Ponca Arkansas and providing a remote and scenic setting for a weekend of networking, training, and plenty of good old Ozark fun.

#### Some items from the Schedule

Dr. Arthur Partridge, Forestry Professor at the University of Idaho, discusses true forest health.

Gwen Marshall of Protect Biodiversity on Public Forests will report on how public land policy adversely affects private enterprise.

Alison Cochran, counselor and educator, presents "All our Rela-

tions" about how we relate to all around us.

Leaf and Cielo Myczack of Broadened Horizons Riverkeeper Project report on the chip mill invasion of the southeast.

Jake Kreilick, Tom Fullum, and Anne Petermann of Native Forest Network will report on International Corporate Deforestation, the legacy of pulp and paper mills, and an international approach to education.

Mike Roselle will present the Rainforest Action Network's "Cut Waste, Not Trees" campaign.

Phil Nanas of Native Forest Council will report on Weyerhaeuser's management of Northern Spotted Owl habitat.

Leaf Myczack, the Riverkeeper, will be recruiting earth police to patrol the Forest Fest.

#### Workshops

- ◆ Fund raising for non-profits
- ◆ Endangered Species Act - Jim Jontz of the Endangered Species Coalition
- ◆ GIS Mapping - the Ecology Center
- ◆ Introduction to Public Lands Monitoring
- ◆ Introduction to Appeals and Litigation
- ◆ Personal Communications
- ◆ Citizen's Management Alternatives to NF Management Plans
- ◆ Single Tree Selection Forest Management
- ◆ Stream Ecology
- ◆ Water Monitoring On Any Budget
- ◆ Advanced Appeals and Litigation
- ◆ ROAD-RIP: Removing roads from the National Forests
- ◆ Ecosystem Protection Acts and Roadless Areas
- ◆ Ecotourism
- ◆ Direct Action

**Additional activities:** Interpretive hikes will include plant identification, old growth forest and forest ecology, Lost Valley, Buffalo River trail, and early bird hike.

Children's program including face painting, treasure hunt and oth-

er activities.

**Food** will be provided by NCWA as an concession, the menu is vegetarian and primarily organic, meals will be offered for extended hours. BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE! There will be no disposables. This food concession is being provided in the most environmentally sensitive manner possible. NCWA must plan and BUY the food supplies and we need cooperation, so please register early. Those pre-registered will receive an information packet.

All cabins at Lost Valley Canoe and Lodging are reserved, a few cabins are still available in Ponca from Buffalo Outdoor Center 1-800-221-5514. Cabins sleep 2 to 8 people and range from \$80.00 to \$150.00 per night. Tent Camping is \$5.00 per person per night - indicate which nights, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Travel arrangements can be made through: Mike Stout at Sports & Adventure Travels, 1-800-420-2655.

Registration is \$25.00, package price for registration and four nights camping is \$37.00. Checks should be sent to: Newton County Wildlife Association Post Office Box 189 Jasper, AR 72641-0189 phone: 501-861-5838 or email: ncwa@ozarkbbs.boone.com

## Timbering in Rational Forests - Other groups' resolutions

The following resolution unanimously passed the Ohio Chapter Conservation Committee on February 19, 1995, and the Ohio Chapter Sierra Club Executive Committee on March 19, 1995:

"Be it resolved that the Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club is committed to ending commercial and/or extractive logging on state lands as rapidly as possible." (Includes definitions and intent listed in 12/11/95 Conservation meeting notes below.)

A) "Commercial": whenever money or goods are exchanged for trees or forest products;

B) "Extractive": whenever trees

are removed from the land upon which they fell;

C) "Salvage": included in above definitions of commercial and/or extractive logging;

D) Recognition that most wildlife habitat improvement projects involving logging, i.e., wildlife opening (or savanna, etc.) creations or maintenance, are undesirable practices that fragment forest habitats and canopies, are biased towards game species, and may also be commercial or extractive in nature;

E) Recognition that the majority of so-called "restoration" or "regeneration" cuts are nothing more than euphemistically disguised forms of commercial and/or extractive log-

ging;

F) Sole exception: On an individual basis, the ExCom may choose to not oppose genuine restoration projects that are fully non-commercial and non-extractive in nature, provided that strong scientific evidence exists - independent of the timber industry or industry supporting agencies - that the ecological health of the ecosystem will be clearly benefited rather than harmed.

2.) The Ohio Chapter has also had a policy "oppos(ing) all commercial logging and all road building on all federal lands in Ohio" (i.e., the Wayne National Forest) since July, 1993. ◆



# Ecosystem Management: A Matter of Trust —



## from *Protect Our Woods*

*(Although the focus of this article is on Indiana Forests, it could have just as well been written with our West Virginia agencies and the Monongahela Forest Service in mind. - bill r)*

\*Protect Our Woods asked a professional biologist to write about ecosystem management. Because of employment concerns, our biologist asked to remain anonymous.\*

They say its called Ecosystem Management (EM). Ecosystem management is going to be the forest management tool of the future - and the future is now. The US Forest Service has an EM vision for their holdings, including the Hoosier National Forest. And so does IDNR Division of Forestry for their holdings. And so does the American Forest and Paper Association for their, well actually our, holdings, and being a Land Grant College, the Purdue University Department of Forestry and natural Resources has a "big picture" EM vision for every single acre of woods in Indiana. Coincidence or not? You decide.

Up front, Purdue has the most optimistic approach. Ecosystem management involves "sustaining the long-term productivity and health of the total ecosystem and, in doing so, enhance overall biological diversity. Ecosystem management shifts emphasis away from the production of commodities and toward a more integrated form of management where less attention is paid to what is removed from the land and more attention is paid to what is retained on the landscape," (Ext. Pub. FNR 145)

And the US of A Forest Service? How about "A strategy or plan to manage ecosystems to provide for all associated organisms, as opposed to a strategy or plan for managing

individual species." USFS Chief Jack Ward Thomas (a real live biologist, no less) is quoted in Wild Earth as saying "...this challenge is the application of ecosystem management principles and forest plan standards and guidelines while achieving our annual timber sale quotas." What? How do you help all of the "associated organisms" while removing enough trees to satisfy the biggest organism (public timber beasts and their associated politicians)?

And so it goes for others. In its Draft Plan, The IDNR Division of Forestry says that forests and wildlife are "not widely understood by the public... In recent decades, Indiana forests have grown older... While this decline in younger age classes of timber benefits wildlife that favor mature forest, it is occurring at the expense of earlier successional species."

The American Forest and Paper Association's stab at ecosystem management is wrapped up in a document called Sustainable Forestry Principles and Implementation Guidelines, a set of "sustainable forestry practices designed to be more environmentally friendly," that all its members have to abide by in order to remain a member of AFPA. The principles call for, amongst others, protecting forests from pests and diseases through the miracle of modern chemistry, rearranging the timber harvest to "minimize the impact of harvesting on visual quality" and reducing the "average" size of clearcuts "to no more than 120 acres, except when necessary to...."

### Fake Ecosystem Management

The main problems with Ecosystem Management, as defined by the documents available for public review are as follows; first of all, there is no mention, hint, or implication made at all about the need to preserve any forest land anywhere in

an unmanaged state of existence (assuming aside from current wilderness areas). You would think that with all of the scientists running around Ecosystem Management that someone would remember the value of having a control subject, or a baseline set of data, to help us determine to what degree our different management strategies are removing us from the natural ideal and to what degree, if any, that removal from the ideal is good or bad. This would require that every now and then we leave alone a forest large enough to take care of itself through its cycles of adversity; fire, disease, pest, drought, old age, etc. At this point in time the little Deam Wilderness does not fit the bill. We can and should do better. The Hoosier does fit the bill. And as an added bonus nobody is now dependent on it for timber so there would be no hardship involved in turning it into a ecological study area. Fake Ecosystem Management says that every acre can be harvested as long as it is done with an environmental smile.

### Need to Ask the Right Questions

Second, our forest managers still do not understand the most simple and basic principles of biodiversity and the value in preserving it. Despite the fact that the vast majority of Indiana's species that are extinct or endangered have habitats that are found in large blocks of wooded acreage with mature characteristics (that is a wide spectrum of different aged trees and age classes throughout the landscape), IDNR continues to harp about the incredibly minor dip in populations of animals that favor fragmented landscapes. Well of course, as the acreage of solid mature forests increase and acreage of early successional forests decreases then there will be a reduction of early successional populations. But are early successional

populations now endangered and are solid mature forest populations now recovered? Why are we letting these people manage our resources when they can't even ask the right questions? As long as IDNR shows more interest in the Pheasant (introduced from China) and the Bluebird (a prairie bird that wasn't here at all until after forest clearing and settlement had occurred) than in the Bobcat and Wood Thrush, there is no hope that they can make Ecosystem Management work.

### Can't See the Forest

Third, there is still no indication that our forest managers are prepared to look at our forests as anything more than a large collection of tress. All this talk about protecting forests from fires, disease, and pests with the use of man-made fire, herbicides, and "other management techniques" (clearcutting perhaps) is a good case in point. A simple explanation of a complex situation goes something like this; relationships develop between the host (the forest) and the pest or problem, and without a ton of research and study and observation taking place in the first place, the solution we prescribe is often worse than the problem.

Fire is bad. To stop fire we have to subject the forest to lots of little fires so that the bad big fire doesn't happen, like out west. The only problem is that this is the east, different climate, rainfall, moisture regimes, soils, ecosystems, virtually nothing in common with the west. So without so much as a single study under their belts the Forest Service has to start burning big time on the Hoosier. The excuse that it's for the plants that are smothered by undergrowth doesn't wash. Hello, it is a forest. There's supposed to be undergrowth. The best guess is that natural fires occurred only after many

decades, if not hundreds of years, of ground litter accumulation. The fact that native Americans may have burned the woods more frequently for their own uses is totally irrelevant other than to note that the Forest Service isn't copying any past fires regime by burning the same location every other year or so. All they are doing is trying to grow shade intolerant ground plants in a forest. What's wrong with this picture? They don't know. Infrequent burning is appropriate only where old barrens and glades are still present under natural conditions. But hey, it gives them something to do.

The same arguments hold true for pests and diseases. Unless we are willing to spend the time and money to do a Smallpox Operation Routine on a disease or pest, messing around with pesticides or clearcutting an area to avoid damage to the trees (as is often prescribed for Gypsy Moths) just encourages the pests to come up with adaptations and mutations to overcome the man-made cure that make the pest more damaging to the tress. There are times when the use of a pesticide may be warranted but there is no indication that the forestry industry has done anything to define what those circumstances are.

### It' the Money, Stupid

The dirty secret is that most of the burning, pesticide use, and clearcutting is done in a so-far unsuccessful attempt to get Oak trees to grow in areas where they are not naturally inclined to grow. Why? Cause that's where the money is right now. Now of course since we need timber, if there are no Oaks (and of course there will always be Oaks as long as we don't cut them all down) we'll pay top dollar for the next valuable tree in line. So the question remains Why? For no good reason other than too many foresters have an unhealthy fixation on (see page 3)



## Worse Than WATT

(from page 1) funding and regulatory authority.

I testified at a Congressional hearing June 27th of this year when the IMCC representative told the committee that WV's governor (Caperton) and head environmental enforcement agent (Callaghan) fully supported the withdrawal of OSM's direct enforcement powers. In more recent meetings current DEP Director Eli McCoy and Deputy Director Mark Scott have reaffirmed that position.

As I stated to the Congressional Committee in June, OSM may not be a perfect agency, but for citizens who have been unable to get the state to perform its mandatory duties under the law, a fully funded OSM with direct enforcement powers and strong oversight authority is an absolute necessity for achieving the protection SMCRA was meant to provide.

The funding cuts proposed by Congress for OSM (some \$23 million by the House, more by the Senate) will emaciate the agency. Further regulatory restraints like those proposed by Congresswoman Cuban from Wyoming would restrict OSM's direct enforcement authority in WV.

The resulting toothless, clawless, starving tiger of an agency (OSM) is hardly the protector of citizens and coalfield communities envisioned by the Congress nearly 20 years ago when SMCRA was made into law.

WVHC has been on record since the late sixties as supporting and encouraging the enactment and enforcement of a strong but fair federal surface mine act and primacy for the state of WV when our program is equally as effective and protective.

But we all know and remember what a struggle it has been to

make the state fulfill its responsibilities under federal or state law.

From the commentaries by Nicholas Z in the '60's to more recent stories and commentaries by the George's, Purbaugh's, Sim's, Rodd's, and McFerrin's of WVHC, VOICE readers have heard the message over and over again. From the 1988 lawsuit with 15 other WV groups vs. the state of WV for failure to meet the mandatory duties of the SMCRA (i.e. for not doing its job) to the more recent rash of citizen complaints that highlight failures of ownership and control (exposing the ongoing shell game used by the coal industry to avoid cleaning up its messes...), to the recent major efforts re water issues of prevention/ treatment/ bonding, — piece by piece WVHC has worked to make the law work as it was meant to work, i.e., protecting citizens and the environment in the coalfields.

While not always a paragon of virtue on its own, OSM has been and remains an indispensable ally of citizens working to uphold our duties under the law, i.e. holding state and federal government responsible and responsive to the needs of citizens and the environment.

It's imperative that we as groups and as individuals speak out now in support of SMCRA and a fully funded OSM.

If you live in WV, write a letter to Governor Caperton (Capital Complex, Charleston, WV 25305) expressing disappointment at his reluctance to support OSM and to DEP Director McCoy (WV DEP 10 McJunkin Rd, Nitro WV 25143-2506)

- Especially important, before the final budget actions during September, contact your senators (Senator, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 - or better yet

give them a call - S. nator Byrd - 202-224-3953; Senator Rockefeller 202-224-6472) and congressional representatives (Congressman/woman, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515) to vote against any Interior Appropriations bill that does not include full funding for OSM. Tell them why we need a strong and fully funded OSM.

- Letters or calls would also be helpful to Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt (18th & C Streets, NW, Washington D.C. 20240 / phone 1-202-343-7351) supporting current law and a fully funded agency. — And to President Bill Clinton (White House, Washington, DC. 20500 / phone 1-202-456-2883) to veto any Interior Appropriations bill that does not include full funding for OSM. ♦





# Corridor H Update



by Helen Ries  
from the Mountain State Sierran

Once again the WV Department of Highways (DOH) has resorted to whatever tactic is necessary to ensure that Corridor H is built. Apparently, the WVDOH and Michael Baker, an engineering firm, have signed a \$5 million dollar contract for the final design on one section of the highway. Baker has actually proceeded with the engineering and design work on an interchange, drainage, bridge, guardrails and roadway borings.

Federal regulations do not allow a final design until the final Environmental

Impact Statement (EIS) is approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Whether or not the road is built depends on this approval. Evidently, DOH has already decided to build the road before the pre-construction review process is complete. Since proceeding with this final design could prematurely commit money toward the completion of Corridor H as well as expedite its construction, Corridor H Alternatives has filed a conflict-of-interest complaint with the Federal Highway Administration. The Federal Highway Administration is now investigating the allegations and work on the final design has been stopped. ♦

## from the Endangered Species Coalition.

Officials like an agreement reached with a timber company to preserve habitat for the endangered Virginia northern flying squirrel in the Monongahela National Forest, according to a release from the FWS. Beckwith

Timber Co. of Slaty Fork, WV, will be allowed to build a road through the forest saving them costs in accessing their own land for timber cutting. The savings will be used by the company to protect squirrel habitat. ♦

## Do it now

Just in case, if by some chance you haven't written your comment letter on behalf of WV's wild rivers; I'll remind you about it just one more time. The next issue of the VOICE probably won't be in your hot little hands till after the **OCTOBER 8 DEADLINE**. So take a few minutes and fill out the insert that WV Rivers Coalition (read Pam Merritt and Mary Pat Peck) has taken the trouble to print and insert by hand into this issue of the VOICE. Or if you really love the wild rivers of the Highlands, write your own comment letter, telling them how important Wild and Scenic Designation is for your favorite rivers.

# Cheat Greed!!!!

by Dave Saville



We in the Morgantown area who have been denied access to Cheat Lake for years need the help of all our friends around the state to fight the greed of a few wealthy, and politically powerful individuals who would like to further deny us our right to recreational access to this resource!!! West Penn Power, owner of the property in question has had a recreational plan approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as a requirement for relicensing of the dam for Cheat Lake. This plan includes a 4.5 mile hiking trail to a nature preserve along an old rail corridor. It is a stunningly beautiful area, without equal on the lake or elsewhere in West Virginia. The plan for a paved hike/bike/rollerblade/disabled accessible trail has already been approved and now these selfish folks in the Greystone development are trying to reverse it. West Penn Power is proposing to replace it with a much shorter trail from the backwaters to the road at the dam. Please help us. Without a strong showing of support they will probably succeed.

Comments should be sent to:

Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
825 N Capitol St. NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Letters must have as a heading the word **PROTEST** in capital letters at the top of the

page and the project number 2459-012 Lake Lynn Project. They are due by Sept. 28th, 1995. AND if you can believe, they want the original and 7 (seven) copies!

Please cover all or some of the following points in your comments:

1. Make sure to request that FERC not grant West Penn Power's request to renege on its commitment to establish this trail to the nature preserve.
2. This trail is in the best interest of WV citizens and Morgantown residents.
3. The alternative trail proposed by West Penn Power is NOT an acceptable replacement for the 4.5 mile trail to the nature preserve.
4. Land owners along this trail do not speak for this community.
5. The trail provides the only land access to the nature preserve. Without this access, this preserve will become the private playground of the Greystone property owners.
6. This abandoned RR grade is owned by the utility and should be managed as a trail for the public.
7. This is a unique resource. No other such opportunity exists elsewhere in northern West Virginia.
8. The concerns of these landowners (privacy, vandalism, etc.) can be taken care of with good management and design. ♦

# Environmental Stewardship

by Bob Marshall

What does environmental activism and religion have in common? Apparently plenty, as a very attentive group of fifty-some people discovered on August 1st, at the first ever Appalachian Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Charleston. Centering on the Biblical basis for stewardship of the environment, the evening focus was on the Scriptural references and mandates that all faithful people are called to care for the earth and her resources. Following a moving slide presentation accompanied by some inspirational keyboard playing, a panel discussion involving a variety of local people allowed for open dialogue between the participants and the audience. The panel consisted of: Rev David Green from St. Luke's Episcopal Church; Rev Mark Davis from Van Free Will Baptist Church; Allen Johnson of the Green Cross; Pam Nixon, a community activist; Rev Ray Woodruff; Rev Jeff Allen of the United Methodist Church; and Rev John Whittaker, from Proctorville Ohio. Janet Fout, of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, served as the

evenings moderator, doing a great job of keeping everyone on the primary focus of the meeting. Issues discussed ranged from our individual responsibility to preserve God's creation, to the question of how our religious beliefs conflict with today's society's attitude of environmental exploitation in the name of profit.

The evening concluded with the promise of further meetings, to more deeply explore how this group can help the religious community live and model to the world our call of good environmental stewardship. A follow-up meeting will be held Tuesday, September 26th at 7:00 pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church here in Charleston. You may call Rev Dave Green at 342-3272, or Rev Jeff Allen at 342-2556 for directions or questions. Everyone is welcome, as this is a very ecumenical group. Much credit for the initial success of this committee goes to the Conservancy members who worked hard behind the scenes, including Mary-Ellen O'Farrell, Robin Godfrey, and Norm Steenstra. Hope to see many more people on September 26! ♦

## 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

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_





# 1995 West Virginia. Highlands Conservancy- Fall Review

Canaan Valley - September 15, 16, 17, 1995

## Schedule of Events

**Friday, Sept. 15 - 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm.**

Arrival- check-in- hospitality room at White Grass Ski Touring Center  
 Jackie Hallinan will be showing slides of her recent trip to Southern Italy- If you have good slides you want to show, bring them along-  
 Contact Jackie 304-345-3718  
 Jam session- bring musical tools

**Saturday, Sept. 18 -7:00 am to 9:00 am**

Meet at White Grass- have breakfast- prepare for outings.  
 Note: All outings will depart from White Grass at 9:00 am except the birders. If you are interested in bird watching, bird counting, or bird banding, please call Mary Riffenberger 636-4559. Birders will rendezvous earlier and probably just meet on site at Dolly Sods where the activities are going on.  
 Canoe trip- lower Shavers Fork- contact Sayre Rodman (only if we get lots of rain between now and then) 412-828-8983  
 Seneca Creek Hike/fish count -contact Frank Young: 304-372-3933  
 Spelunking (cave exploration)- contact Judy Fisher 304-258-4974, It would be a big help to Judy if you call ahead so she will know how many to plan for and what level of difficulty to attempt.  
 Road tour of nearby areas affected by the proposed Corridor "H" construction. Battle sites from the Civil War, residences, etc. Contact Hugh Rogers 304-636-2662.

Loungers and Shirkers Expedition- There are always folks who prefer to kick back, relax, watch TV, etc. Why not meet at White Grass and do it together?

6:00 pm- Dinner at Timberline (see map)

7:00 pm- Panel Discussion- pros and cons of Corridor "H"

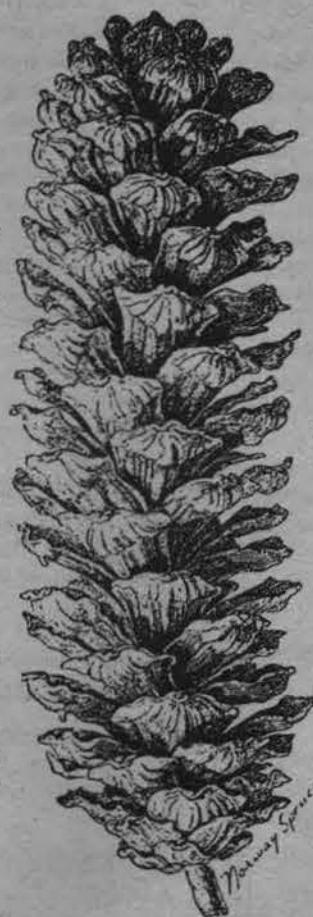
Panelists: Peter Kostmayer, former Administrator, EPA Region 3  
 John Doyle, West Virginia House of Delegates  
 Hugh Rogers, Corridor H Alternatives  
 Bill Hartman, West Virginians for Corridor H

9:00 pm- 12:00 am-Music by Kate Long, followed by  
 Square Dance with music by Gerry Milnes & friends,  
 calling by Denise Reese.

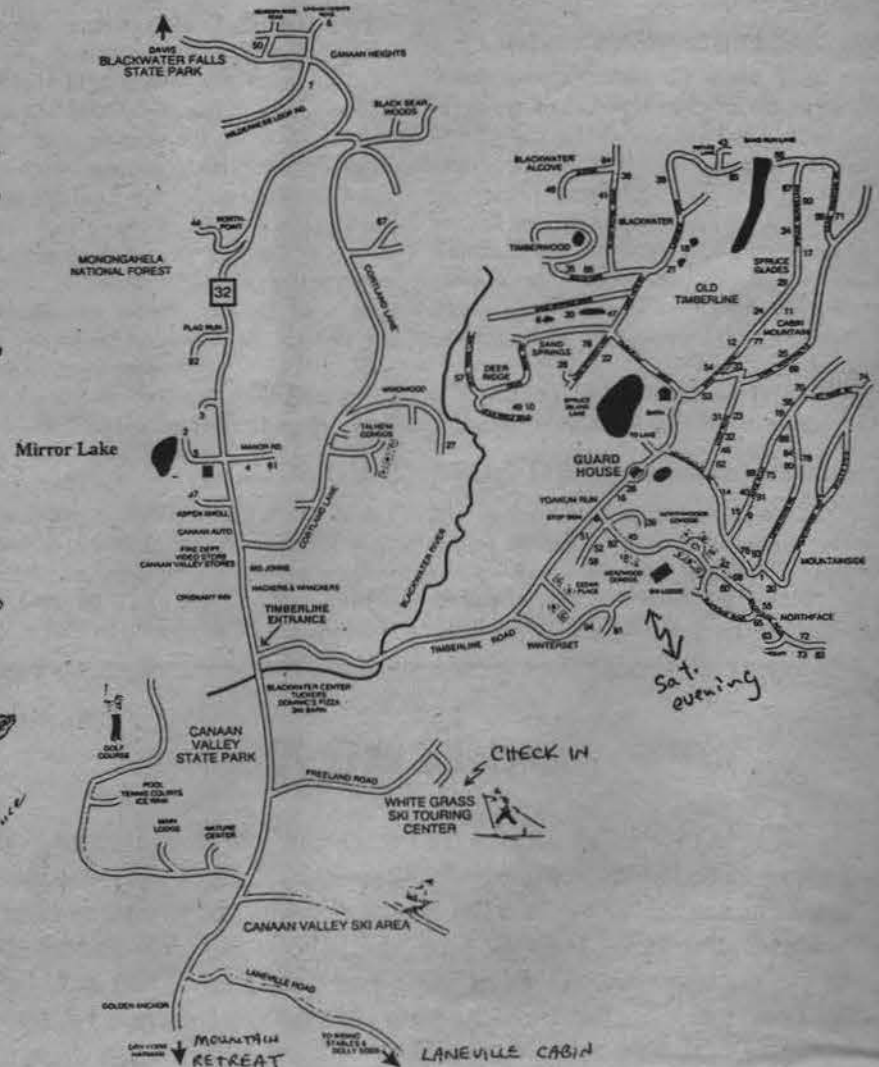
Get acquainted with Conservancy members and Peter Kostmayer.

**Sunday, Sept. 17 - White Grass**

8:00 am- breakfast  
 9:00 am- annual membership meeting and election  
 9:30 am- board of directors meeting  
 1:00 pm- lunch and closing



WILD EARTH



## Make Your Reservations For Fall Review, Now!

Here are the prices and options for lodging for the Fall Review at Canaan Valley on Sept 15-17 (all on a per person per night basis, unless noted):

- Mountain Retreat Center at Harman: \$7.50
- Laneville Cabin: \$10
- Condos at Timberline: \$20
- Village Inn Motel: \$46.87 for two

Here are the prices for meals at the Fall Review at Canaan Valley on Sept 15-17 (all at White Grass except for Saturday night dinner at Timberline):

- FRIDAY**  
 evening snack (wine, cheese, veggie tray): \$5
- SATURDAY**  
 breakfast (coffee, fruit, muffins): \$3  
 brunch (chili and sandwich platter) OR box lunch for outings: \$5 each  
 Dinner (chicken or vegetarian lasagne): \$10

### SUNDAY

- breakfast (yogurt, fruit, eggs, bacon): \$4
  - lunch (tacos and bean soup): \$4
- Prices half off for children.

If you sign up for all meals, you will pay \$25. a savings of \$6 over the cost of purchasing all separately.

Since we are not mailing a registration form, please call 304/296-8963 to register. Leave a message for a return call. We need to have the reservations pretty well nailed down by September 8. If you have access to WNPB's computer bulletin board, WISE, you can leave a message for Richard diPreto. Or you can email him at rdipreto@igc.apc.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.

