



West
Virginia
Highlands
Conservancy

Celebrating West Virginia's Wilderness

Spring Review

April 27-29, 2001

Timberline Lodge, Canaan Valley

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Celebrating West Virginia's Wilderness

Spring Review 2001

35th Annual Highlands Conservancy Gathering to focus on Wilderness

For over 35 years, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has been the driving force behind protection efforts of the West Virginia Highlands. While our successes have been numerous and far-reaching, more always remains to be done. The forces of selfishness and greed are alive and well and have their sights set squarely on the exploitable resources of our wonder-full Monongahela National Forest. We hope this special publication will remind folks of what we have achieved in the Wilderness Areas for which we have already won permanent protection, but more importantly, trigger the imagination for what potential still exists.

At our weekend gathering we'll be "Celebrating Wilderness" by experiencing it first hand, looking back at what we've achieved, and looking to the future at what remains to be protected. Please join us to learn more about Wilderness and help us in developing a vision for the future.

Special Thank You to:

*Allegheny Defense Project
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
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WVHC Outings Committee
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
The Wilderness Society
The Wilderness Support Center
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Jim Sconyers
Peter Shoenfeld
Ruth Blackwell Rogers
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Barnes Nugent*

all the Wilderness crusaders who have gone before!

Wilderness Victory in Virginia!!!!

Snatched under the wire at the very last minute, the Virginia Wilderness Act of 2000 was passed - finally - by the US Senate at 5:07 p.m. on October 27th by unanimous consent, thereby clearing the measure for President Clinton's signature on November 9, 2000. The bill designates the 4,800-acre Three Ridges Wilderness Area and the 6,500-acre Priest Wilderness Area on Virginia's George Washington National Forest, the state's first new federal Wilderness Areas in twelve years.

Inside

Read this publication for a crash course on Wilderness in West Virginia, and the east. Do your homework, and come to the Spring Review prepared for some serious fun in some of the East's wildest and most wonderful places. Complete event details and registration form on pages 26 & 27.



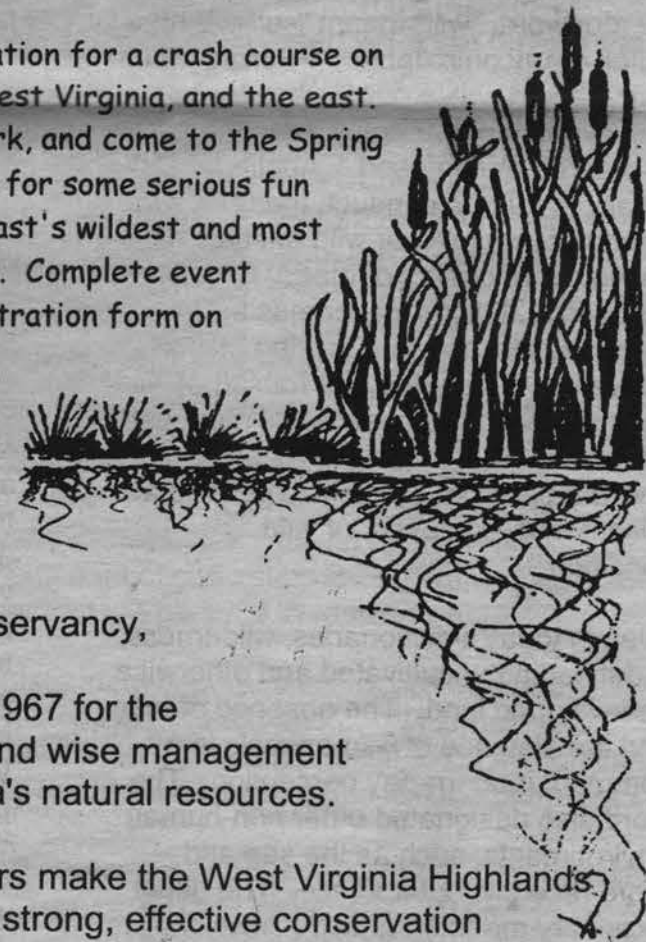
West Virginia
Highlands Conservancy,

working since 1967 for the
Conservation and wise management
of West Virginia's natural resources.

Active volunteers make the West Virginia Highlands
Conservancy a strong, effective conservation
organization.

Conservancy members make a difference. We work
together. We stick with problems and try to build
sensible answers. We believe in negotiating solutions.

We care!



What is Wilderness?

Authors, philosophers, and preservationists have long struggled to define wilderness. For some, it is a concept, a state of mind, an opportunity. For many, wilderness is best described as a place where nature and its forces work undisturbed by human activities. Wilderness areas are generally larger than 5000 acres and have retained their primeval character. In the U.S. there are over 100 million acres of federal land designated Wilderness by Congressional legislation.

Defining Wilderness

Rod Nash, wilderness historian, tells us that wilderness is a difficult word to define. While the word is a noun, it acts like an adjective. There is no specific material object that is "wilderness". There is no universal definition of wilderness. He believes that wilderness is so heavily weighed with meaning of a personal, symbolic, and changing kind that it is difficult to define.

In early Teutonic and Norse languages, from which the English word developed, the root word, "will" meant "self-willed, willful, or uncontrollable." From "Willed" came the adjective "wild" used to convey the idea of "being lost, unruly, disordered or confused." Applied initially to human conduct, the term was extended to wildlife or wild animals as "being out of control of man." Other Europeans defined wilderness as "deserted places" and "lacking of cultivation." The idea of a habitat of wild beasts implied the absence of men, and wilderness was conceived as a region where a person was likely to get into a "disordered, confused, or wild condition."

Even in today's dictionaries, wilderness is defined as uncultivated and otherwise undeveloped land. The absence of men and the absence of wild animals is a common, modern-day perception. The word also designated other non-human environments, such as the sea and, more recently, outer space. The usual dictionary meaning of wilderness implies "hostility on man's part," but the term has also developed positive meanings. On one hand, wilderness is "inhospitable, alien, mysterious, and threatening." On the other, "beautiful, friendly, and capable of elevating and delighting us."



photo by Steve Payne

Today, some define wilderness as a sanctuary in which those in need of consolation can find respite from the pressures of civilization. Bob Marshall, champion for wilderness, demanded an area so large that "it could not be traversed without mechanical means in a single day." Aldo Leopold, wilderness visionary, set his standard as an area's ability to "absorb a two weeks' pack trip." A century-old movement to protect wild country reached its peak moments in time with the creation of a National Wilderness Preservation System, passed into law by Congress as the Wilderness Act of 1964.

According to its authors, the Wilderness Act defined wilderness, "in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." The act went on to require that a wilderness retain "its primeval character and influence" and that it be

protected and managed in such a way that it "appears to have been affected primarily by the force of nature."

Some Native American cultures do not have a word for wilderness or protect land as officially designated wilderness. They believe all land should be respected and all land is used only for survival, whether it be physical, spiritual or mental. If asked, we all have a different and unique definition for what wilderness means to us.

Credit: Wilderness and the American Mind, Roderick Nash, Yale University Press, 1982.



*Climb the mountains
and get their good
tidings. Nature's peace
will flow into you as
sunshine flows into trees.*
John Muir

The National Wilderness Preservation System

"In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States..."

Congress in 1964 was looking ahead to today's problems. Urban sprawl has gobbled up much of America's rural landscapes. Paved ribbons of asphalt and gravel roads stretch endlessly. Cars, and now dirt bikes or jet skis, can go nearly anywhere. We can't easily escape the sounds, the smells, the sights of our civilization.

"...leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition..."

But we try. Record numbers of Americans find enjoyment in getting away. Fishing a cold, clear stream. Reading a book to the soothing chirp of birds. Picnicking with our families. Hiking with our pals. But even our national parks, like Yellowstone or Yosemite, or Grand Canyon and Olympia, are overcrowded. It just seems like there's no place to go. No place to escape the grind and clatter of our hectic lives. To get away from it all.

"...it is hereby declared the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

President Lyndon Johnson signed this magical piece of legislation into law on September 3, 1964. Who would have thought Congress could, and would, act so wisely?

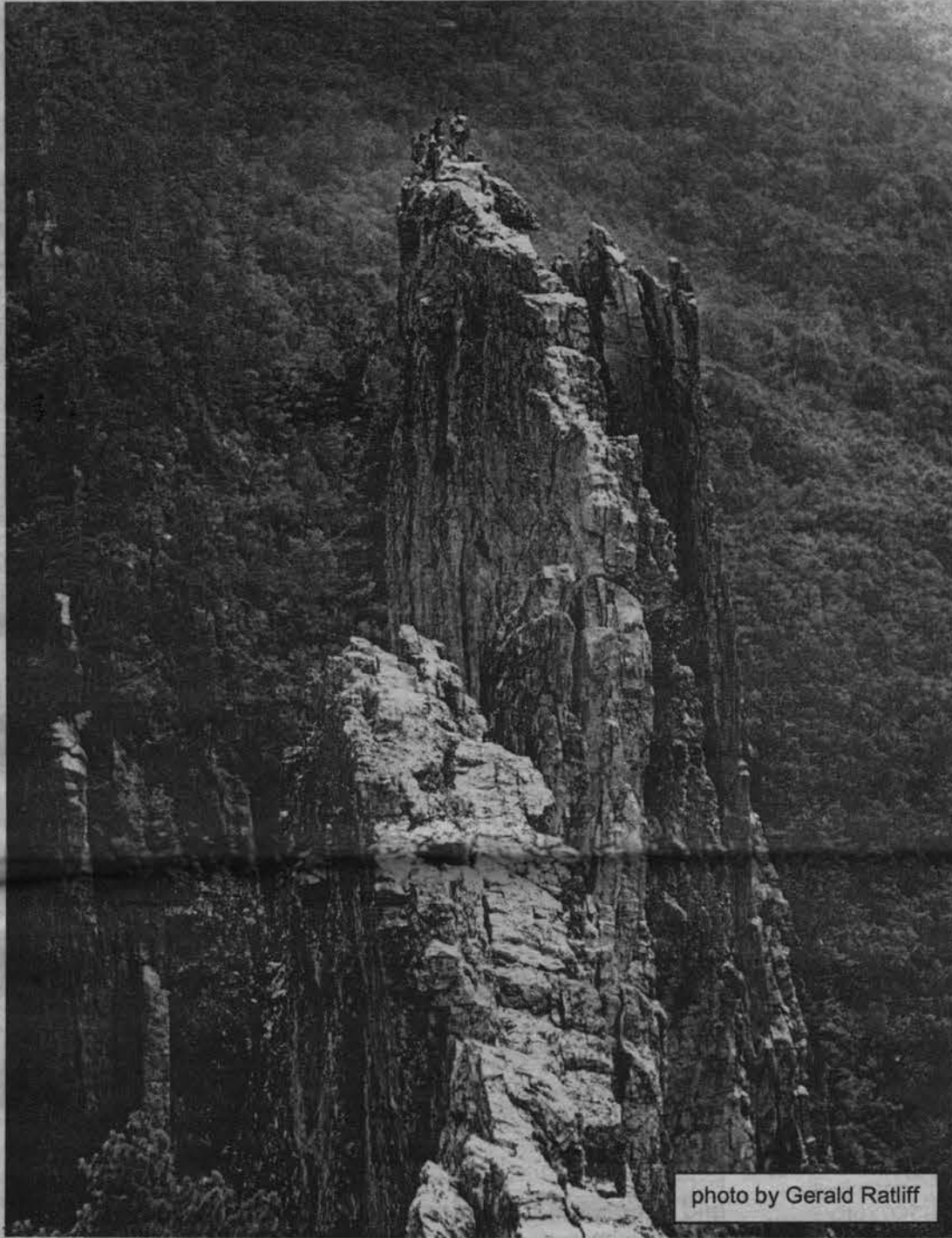


photo by Gerald Ratliff

logging trucks. The imprint of civilization is "substantially unnoticeable," according to the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Wilderness "has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation." Wilderness is a challenge, big enough to get lost in, and needs to be met on its own terms, much as the old timers did, much like the pioneers experienced.

We are part of the wildness of the universe. That is our nature. Our noblest, happiest character develops with the influence of wilderness.

Howard Zahniser

Like the system of national parks, today America has a National Wilderness Preservation System. A bunch of really wild places. Where the deer and antelope play. Where seldom is heard a discouraging word.

This land is your land

Wilderness is open space. Wilderness is a place for horseback riding, for hunting and fishing, for canoeing and hiking. Wilderness is a natural place for wildflowers to flourish, for birds to flit about freely. It's wildlife habitat for mountain lions and grizzly bears. It is a place where the land is pretty much like it has been since the days of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The legal definition says that wilderness is public land, owned by you and every American, which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature." No roads. No buildings, except maybe old, historical trappers' cabins. No mining operations. No

And wilderness "may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value." It's an outdoor classroom to study just how natural systems work. It's a place to hold our connection to the natural world.



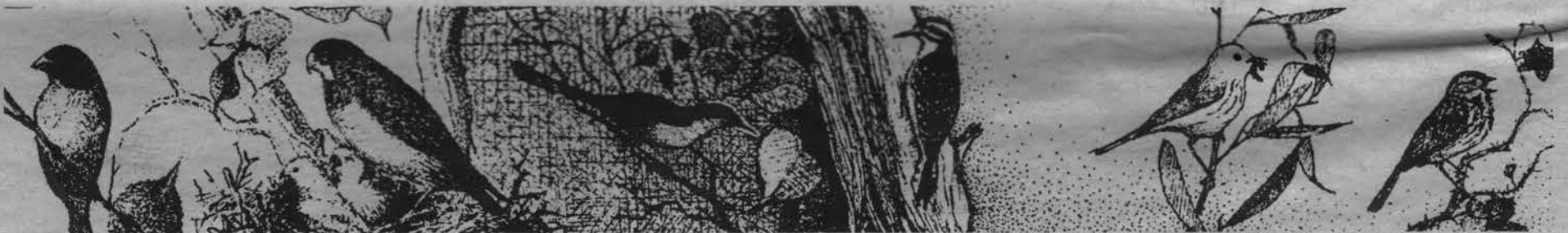
WHY WILDERNESS?

Some thoughts about preservation...

The preservation of wild lands is uniquely American. Our first contact with the "New World" exposed us to the rich culture of the American Indians and their intimate knowledge of the natural world. Toward the end of the 19th century and the end of the frontier era, forward-looking individuals such as John Wesley Powell, John Muir and Gifford Pinchot contributed to a conservation of public lands. They and others recognized that resources were limited and settling the West, with an economic base of natural resources, required conservation practices. Arguments were made for the preservation of land for non-extractive purposes, and laws were passed that today leave us with a precious treasure of undisturbed wild lands.

Through recent history, Western European cultures and traditions have maintained a distinct separation between the land and our human existence. Many people are beginning to see the connections, beginning to see that we cannot separate ourselves from the land. Humans are a part of the natural world, not apart from it, and our style of living has effects upon the health of the bigger global environment.

The preservation of wild lands has many values. Recognizing these diverse and unique values opens a world of understanding about the natural world. Preserving Wilderness may someday be seen through eyes of historians as the most important contribution societies can make to the health of the global environment. Here are some of those values. Together, they show how rare and valuable our wild lands are.



Reservoirs of Biological Diversity

"The outstanding scientific discovery of the Twentieth Century is not the television, or radio, but rather the complexity of the land organism. Only those who know the most about it can appreciate how little is known about it." - Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac* (1949)

Wilderness is one part of the "land organism". Wilderness plays a significant role in the overall health of ecosystems. Rare and endangered plant and animal species require habitats that are relatively undisturbed so gene pools can be sustained, adaptations made, and

populations maintained. Many rare and endangered species are indicators of ecological health, or they may play key roles in the balance of the ecosystem. Natural disturbance, like floods or fires, maintain natural processes, systems, and patterns. Few places are left where rivers, flood and trees are allowed to burn in natural cycles. Wilderness is the heart of the "land organism".

Scientific Value

Wilderness serves as a unique and irreplaceable "living laboratory" for medicinal and scientific research. Wilderness also protects geologic resources. Undisturbed, naturally

occurring geologic phenomena are protected for present and future generations so they may pursue the origin of this planet and the universe.

Watersheds

Many Wildernesses are the headwaters of our rivers and water systems. These watersheds provide sources of clean water. Minimal human activity or development in these areas preserves waters for future generations. Without clean water, societies cannot flourish. The connection between our Wildernesses and our cities is most evident with water, our basic resource.

Life Support Systems

Wilderness serves as critical habitat for animal and plant life. Wilderness maintains gene pools to provide diversity of plants and animal life. Today, as we learn more about the greenhouse effect and the depletion of the ozone layer, more and more people realize that humanity is part of an interconnected "web of life," and that the survival of our own species may ultimately depend on the survival of natural areas.

Historic and Cultural Values

Wilderness is a unique repository for cultural resource. Artifacts and structures protected by the Archeological Resources Protection Act or other laws take on a new perspective when experienced within the context of the Wilderness. These features tell a valuable story about the human relationship with wildlands.



In addition, culture has been defined by wilderness. Our American values of freedom, ingenuity and independence have been affected by the wild environments from which we created societies. Wilderness has been a part of America since its beginnings. For this reason, Americans have a special attraction to wilderness.

Spiritual Values

The spirit of the land can be understood through the Judeo-Christian tradition, the Zen, the Buddhist or simply an individual's connections through experience. These wild lands offer opportunities

for reflection, for observation, for explorations of the ideas and experiences that can only be found in our wild areas. They have become churches of sorts, for our personal growth and our understanding of the relations between humans and the land.

Aesthetic Values

The sudden change from a hot sunny day to a powerful storm exploding in lightning and roaring thunder, the delightful sound of a trickling stream, the feel of bark from a thousand year old Bristlecone pine, the morning light beaming on cliffs and ridges; a glassy lake reflecting a peak. These are moments we cherish, whether seen in picture books or movies or with our own eyes. Call it beauty. Humans are enchanted by nature. We are not in control. We are participants. This is the aesthetic of Wilderness that has a special value.

Recreation

Many people enjoy traveling in Wilderness areas for the challenge or the pure joy of such an experience. Values such as self reliance are particularly important. You are responsible for yourself. Your actions are of consequence. Lessons of the wild teach us something about being human and what our relationship to nature is all about.

Refuge

Wilderness serves as a haven from the pressure of our fast-paced industrial society. It is a place where

we can seek relief from the noise and speed of machines, confines of steel and concrete, and the crowding of people.

Educational Values

Wilderness is a teacher. Wilderness areas are living classrooms from which knowledge about ourselves and our world are lessons, waiting to be learned.



"In Wilderness is the preservation of the world."

Henry David Thoreau

"In human culture is the preservation of wilderness."

Wendell Berry

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by Allen deHart & Bruce Sundquist

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THOUGHTS ON WILDERNESS, DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM AND PATRIOTISM

BY BART KOEHLER

DIRECTOR, TWS WILDERNESS SUPPORT CENTER

When we work to pass Wilderness legislation, what we are really engaged in is Democracy at work. We are taking the law into our own hands, working our political system, and helping shape a better future for our public lands -- by using the Wilderness Act.

Bob Marshall called for vigilant American citizens to "fight for the freedom of the Wilderness". Battling for the freedom of the wilderness in the halls of Congress is one of the purest forms of Democracy that there is. To defend this freedom of the wilderness, we express our freedom of speech at public meetings, while commenting on seemingly endless EISs, by writing administrative appeals and going to court, and by traveling freely across our great Nation to meet with our elected officials and to testify before Congress.

Every American owns our public lands. Owning our public lands is one of our greatest liberties and most deeply held freedoms -- rooted in a strong sense of place. Woody Guthrie was right when he sang about "This land is your land, this land is my land." It is our responsibility to safeguard this liberty and freedom every day. Patriot. The word "patriot" means "one who loves his or her country, and who guards it from harm". Take a good look around this room. I am sure that we are all patriots for our country's wildlands. As patriots we work within our democracy and our "government by the people" to defend and protect our wildlands against all odds.

When it comes right down to it -- after all the strategies, tactics, proposals, campaign plans and other ideas have been discussed - the future of our American Wilderness depends on each one of us. Every acre of Wilderness protected so far has depended on the stalwart actions of big-hearted, strong-spirited people. People like

you -- grassroots and bedrock citizens -- have made all the difference and you will continue to do so in the challenging times ahead. Rachel Carson said it this way, "Protecting our planet is our finest form of patriotism."

We can help change the face our American landscape. Working together we will make a big difference as we fight for the freedom of our great American Wilderness. We can help protect more acres of Wilderness by forging ahead with commitment, responsibility, perseverance, and - as true patriots - with an abiding love for our wild country.



"Strange that so few ever came to the woods to see how the pine lives and grows and spires, lifting its evergreen arms to the light, .. to see its perfect success. But most are content to behold it in the shape of many broad boards brought to market, and deem that its true success!

But the pine is no more lumber than man is, and to be made into boards and houses is no more its true and highest use than the truest use of man is to be cut down and made into manure. There is a higher law affecting our relation to pines as well as to men.

A pine cut down, a dead pine, is no more a pine than a dead human carcass is a man.... Every creature is better alive than dead, men and moose and pine trees, and he who understands it aright will rather preserve its life than destroy it...

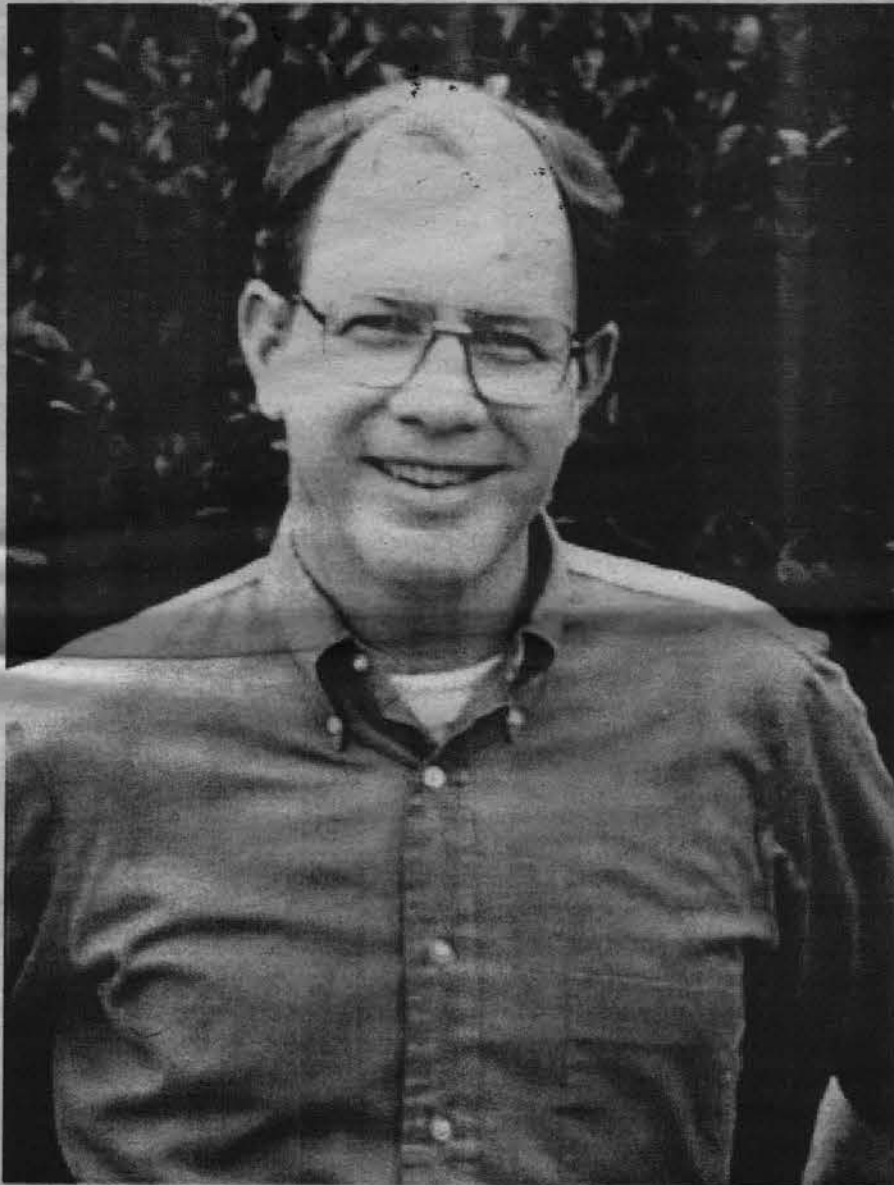
It is the living spirit of the tree, not its spirit of turpentine, with which I sympathize, and which heals my cuts. It is as immortal as I am and perchance will go to as high a heaven, there to tower above me still."

Thoreau 1864.

Wilderness Preservation: It Began in the East!

By Ed Zahniser, Shepherdstown, W. Va.

It is great to see new energy going into protecting wilderness in West Virginia. Organizing to protect wilderness in the eastern United States is a tradition that reaches back to the 19th century. This tradition also shows that the wilderness preservation movement and the Wilderness Act were not 1950s upstarts, not newcomers to the American conservation movement. On the contrary, the wilderness preservation movement harks back to just after the Civil War and the quickening of Americans' concern to protect their federal public lands in their natural state.



The great wilderness champion Robert "Bob" Marshall was the driving force behind organizing The Wilderness Society in 1935. It is a little known fact, however, that Bob Marshall was a second-generation wilderness activist. His father, Louis Marshall, the great champion of civil liberties, was a voting member of the 1894 New York State Constitutional Convention that wrote the "forever wild" clause into the state's constitution to protect wildlands in the Adirondacks and Catskills. And it was Louis Marshall who led the floor fight at the 1915 Constitutional convention that successfully defended the "forever wild" clause. In a speech to New Yorkers in the 1950s, my father Howard Zahniser referred to New York State's resulting Forest Preserve lands as "where wilderness preservation began."

The insertion of the "forever wild" clause into New York's constitution in 1894 actually put the cap on efforts begun in the 1870s to protect Adirondack and Catskill forested wildlands from private commercial exploitation and despoliation. What immediately sparked New Yorkers' concern to protect their forests was the fact that in 1871 they found themselves net *importers* of wood fiber for first time in their history. It was a

rude awakening. Also, the publication of George Perkins Marsh's book *Man and Nature* in 1864 had alerted people to the grave dangers to watersheds posed by indiscriminate logging of forested lands.

It is crucial to remember what was going on in the national conservation scene from the 1870s to the 1890s. That was in fact when John Muir, Robert Underwood Johnson, and others were trying to get the Forest Reserves established on federal public lands. This they succeeded in doing in 1891. Notice the similarity in wording: forest *reserve* and forest *preserve*. New Yorkers accomplished in their own backyard in 1894 what the nation had done on federal public lands in 1891.

The difference, however—and the significance for the Wilderness Act of 1964—is that New Yorkers made their "forever wild" designation stick. It is still in force today. On the forests of the federal public lands, however, the original Forest Reserves were redesignated as National Forests open to exploitation for fiber, forage, and minerals. The Wilderness Act is an overlay to federal lands that can be seen as restoring a level of protection once provided for in the original Forest Reserves. Indeed, my father wrote in a 1946 journal that the "forever wild" clause might be a model for protecting wilderness on the federal public lands. Today, New York State's wilderness system and the National Wilderness Preservation System share the same definition of wilderness.

As West Virginians work to protect the wilderness areas of the federal public lands in our state, then, we do so in a tradition harking back to the mid-19th century. But wilderness preservation also serves a very modern and even futuristic purpose. As Dave Foreman of the Wildlands Project has asserted, wilderness protection is the best strategy for protecting the core natural areas that are crucial to creating connected wildlands that can ensure survival of keystone predators.

This strategy has also been affirmed by Bill Meadows, president of The Wilderness Society, whose program of a Network of Wildlands shares the principles of conservation biology underlying the Wildlands Project, on whose board Bill Meadows serves.

It seems so utterly suitable to me that West Virginians protect substantial areas of wilderness on the common legacy of federal public lands within our border. Our state motto is that "Mountaineers are always free." Ultimately, this means we are free to be who we are. The Wilderness Act serves to protect "the freedom of the wilderness" that Bob Marshall wrote about in the 1930s. In explicitly protecting "natural conditions" and "wilderness character," the Wilderness Act intends that the wilderness should be free to be itself in perpetuity.

What could be more truly conservative than to preserve in perpetuity the "natural conditions" that Aldo Leopold credited as the basis of our civilization? And yet opponents of wilderness call wilderness preservation an elitist posture. I prefer the counter view of anthropologist Richard Nelson. Nelson calls conservation the true patriotism, the true defense of the land. We should be very proud of our work. Again, I am delighted to see new energy going into protecting wilderness and wildness in West Virginia.

Ed Zahniser is the youngest child of Howard Zahniser, the chief architect of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Ed lives in Shepherdstown, W. Va. with his wife Christine Duewel and their son Eric Duewel-Zahniser. Another son, Justin Duewel-Zahniser attends West Virginia University. Ed has worked with the publications group of the National Park Service since 1977 in Harpers Ferry, W.Va. He edited *Where Wilderness Preservation Began: Adirondack Writings of Howard Zahniser* (North Country Books, 1992) and is the author of three books of poems, *The Ultimate Double Play* (1974), *The Way to Heron Mountain* (1984) and *A Calendar of Worship* (1994). He was the contributing editor of an a contributing author to the *North American Book of Trees* (1995) published by the trade division of Readers Digest Books. He is also the author and/or editor of several official National Park Handbooks.



Wilderness on the Mon

The Monongahela National Forest has 5 separate Wilderness Areas. These areas have a higher level of protection than other areas on the Forest because Congress, with the signature of the President, gave these areas Wilderness status. Therefore it would take another act of congress to alter their protection. This is different than simple Agency (Forest Service) designation, which is much more subject (and easier) to change. The Wilderness Act, and the Eastern Wilderness Act, were the 2 primary pieces of legislation guiding the Forest Services management of these areas. These acts mandate that the Forest Service protect not only the physical/biological resource, but protect the social condition (solitude) as well.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 was written by Howard Zahniser and is almost poetic in its wording. It is the culmination of over 20 years of drafting and revising. Parts of it are often quoted and have become familiar buzz words. Phrases such as "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man", "where man is but a visitor who does not remain", etc. are drawn directly from this act. The largest shortcoming of the act was its narrow definition, as read by the Forest Service, as to what qualifies as Wilderness. They interpreted it to say



Many roadless areas of the Mon remain unprotected. Our work is not yet finished!

that if the land had been altered by humans it no longer qualified. This is what led to the passage of the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975.

The Eastern Wilderness Act was passed by a frustrated Congress. 11 years had passed and still no Wilderness Areas were protected in the populous Eastern United States. This Act basically said, even though these areas in the east have had human disturbance in the past, many have regained their natural character and deserve Wilderness protection. The Act automatically designated 16 areas as Wilderness, including Dolly Sods and

Otter Creek on the Monongahela. It went 1 step further and designated another 17 areas as Wilderness Study Areas, including the Cranberry and Laurel Fork areas. A Wilderness Study Area was to be managed so as to not take away from its wilderness character, or, as if it was Wilderness, until a final decision is made. In 1983, Cranberry, Laurel Fork North, and South were designated Wilderness and signed into law by President Regan.

Wilderness protection on the Monongahela includes; no timber harvesting or management, no mineral exploration or extraction, no mechanical or motorized transportation, including bicycles, no motorized equipment, group size not to exceed 10 people, and no storing of equipment. In addition, minimum impact use of the area is encouraged. The Wilderness Act clearly states "these areas are for the people's use and enjoyment". This means all Wilderness areas are open for recreation. It also means impacts to the areas that must be managed. Since most threats to the area are from humans, a large part of managing a

Wilderness area is managing the people who use it.



Jackie LaPlante, Barbara Pavlovic and I were hiking into Otter Creek one fine morning in May when we heard a loud and beautiful birdsong and spotted a rose-breasted grosbeak, high in a large tree, but in the open- and we three were absolutely entranced. We went on to labor over the rocky crossing and to the right, getting our boots a bit wet in the process, and on along the trail. It was a moment to remember, that beautiful song.

Best, Elizabeth Zimmermann

Naked on Otter Creek!
I first saw Otter Creek on a weekend backpacking trip in '76 or '77. Four men and boys drove west from DC Friday night, camped at Bear Heaven, and started down Otter Creek in the morning. We were soon delighted to come upon the big swimming hole in Otter Creek. Some of us removed all clothing and jumped in. The Wilderness Ranger, a young woman, surprised us while we were sunning on a rock. Her business was to check Wilderness permits. We had none, so she issued us one. No one displayed embarrassment.

Peter Shoenfeld



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January, 1975

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Dolly Sods [Photo by Helen McGinnis]

Wilderness Bill Passes

After more than five years of frustrating postponement, compromise and revision, the Conservancy's efforts on behalf of the eastern wilderness bore fruit on December 18 with Congressional passage of S. 3433, the Eastern Wilderness Act. The Act created sixteen "instant" wilderness areas, two of which were Dolly Sods and Otter Creek.

The third area which the Conservancy has proposed for wilderness designation, the controversial Cranberry Back Country, was included in the bill as one of seventeen Wilderness Study Areas. A fourth area in which the Conservancy had an interest, the Laurel Fork unit of the George Washington National Forest, was not included in the bill.

One important management provision of the act will make future protection for Study Areas much easier. The Study Areas are to be managed during their study period "so as to maintain their presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System until Congress has determined otherwise." This key provision of S. 3433 eliminates the problem of proving that certain activities harm the "potential" wilderness character of a Study area. Instead it is now necessary to prove only that a certain activity will "diminish" presently existing wilderness character of an area.

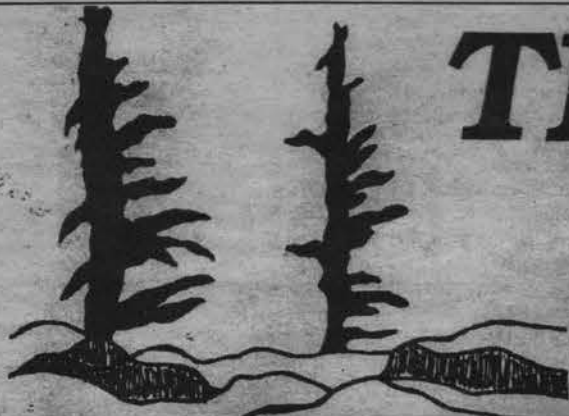
Passage of the Eastern Wilderness Act has also removed a persistent obstacle to eastern wilderness - the "pristine pure" concept of wilderness envisioned by the U.S. Forest Service. The language of S. 3433 unconditionally rejects the Forest Service definition of wilderness.



North Fork of Cranberry, Cranberry Back Country [Photo by Dave Elkinton]



Otter Creek [Photo by Sayre Rodman]



THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

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After 12 years Cranberry becomes Wilderness Area

On January 13, a 12-year struggle came to an end. With President Reagan's signature, 47,800 acres of land in West Virginia were declared federal wilderness areas, and Cranberry Backcountry and Laurel Fork were saved from development.

When the battle began to save these West Virginia wonders, few believed the effort to save the land would take so long. "Back in 1977," said WVHC President Larry George, "I figured this would be all over in two years." As the years stretched on and resolution appeared distant, many must have thought—at times—that this particular environmental issue was an untenable battle.

"The popular press and the people never gave it (the Cranberry bill) much of a chance," George said. "When you see the hoops it (the bill) had to jump through you can see why."

The hoops were often shrouded in political subterfuge. Congressional Representatives, who privately supported the bill, refused to lobby for its passage on the floor of the House; underhanded tricks—using slight-of-hand to substitute the original bill with crippling amendments—threatened its failure and finally, over a decade's worth of work hung in the balance as House Bill 5161 lie on the desk of a President renowned for his stands against wilderness.

The Cranberry issue was never an easy one. When the Isaac Walton League took the U.S. Forest Service to court in the late 1960's over the service's practice of allowing the clear-cutting of timber on federal land in the Richwood-Marlington area, the tone for the upcoming conflict was established. The result of that suit—the Monongahela Decision—would put an end to clear-cutting practices on federal forests.

Although the Monongahela Decision put a halt to lumbering in the region, as long as private interests owned the mineral rights to the land, Cranberry was always in peril of development for its mineral resources.

In 1970, the WVHC, then in its infancy, mounted its first push to incorporate Cranberry under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Under the leadership of Helen McGuinness and others, the Conservancy published the Cranberry Guide and Wilderness Proposal. This effort fell short for lack of support on Capitol Hill.

The Conservancy's hopes were renewed when Senator Jennings Randolph, in 1973, introduced a bill sponsoring Otter Creek and Dolly Sods for

wilderness consideration. Cranberry was included in this piece of legislation, but when the measure went to the House, Representative Harley Staggers, Sr., removed Cranberry from the bill and placed the issue on the backburner by turning it into a Congressional wilderness study area.

The establishment of Cranberry as a study area meant the Forest Service was charged with enforcing the "status quo" in the area until the Service completed its study and made its recommendations to Congress in 1980.

Although Cranberry was to remain in limbo during the five year study, in the spring of 1975, after the snows cleared, the bulldozing access roads for the purpose of obtaining core-drilling samples of coal reserves beneath the region, rekindled the push to turn Cranberry into a wilderness area.

A Chessie System (now CSX Corp.) subsidiary, Mid-Allegheny, leased Cranberry's mineral rights to Powellton Co. of Logan, W. Va. Powellton was interested in mining the area for its high-grade, metallurgical coal.

Upon investigation, George said, it was learned that Powellton was owned by Fiat of Italy. The plan to ship the coal to Italy where it was to be used in the manufacture of sheet steel for Fiat automobiles, and the Forest Service's failure to stop the construction of 12 to 15 miles of access roads into Cranberry resulted in a Conservancy law suit to stop Powellton's bid to obtain mining permits for the area.

In 1977, the Conservancy moved ahead with its suit by preparing to take the Forest Service, Mid-Allegheny and Powellton to court. For six months Conservancy members and WVU law professor Patrick McGinley worked on the suit. The case resulted with the U.S. Southern District Court issuing a temporary injunction halting all mining in the backcountry.

When the West Virginia Legislature met in 1977, a bill was introduced to ban all mining in the backcountry, but the bill was defeated. In 1978, Conservancy member—and then Delegate from Princeton—Jim McNeeley introduced a bill in the state legislature to stop mining in Cranberry until 1980 when the Forest Service's recommendation was due in Congress. At one point during the W.Va. House of Delegate's debate on the bill, 15,000 pieces of mail flooded the House in favor of the bill.

With the success of a direct-mail fundraising campaign, and the recent



Larry George, Chairman of Cranberry Wilderness Committee, is presented a framed copy of Charleston Gazette front-page story announcing successful completion of Cranberry Wilderness campaign, and President Reagan's signing of legislation. The gift to George was presented by Judy and Skip Deegans of Lewisburg, WV, board members of WVHC.

injunction, the Conservancy obtained in wide base of grass-roots support and \$14,000 to wage its Cranberry campaign. "It was a high time for the Conservancy. It was sort of mind boggling," George said. McNeeley's bill, with the aid of the flood of mail, passed the House 96-8 and the Senate 27-7.

Riding a crest, the Conservancy again mounted an effort to convince Sen. Randolph to sponsor a Cranberry bill in the U.S. Senate. The Senator denied the request by stating it was too premature to sponsor a bill in that session of Congress.

By March of 1979, the Forest Service assured the Conservancy that it would recommend to Congress that Cranberry be granted wilderness status. Work began to enlist the support of Representative Harley Staggers, Sr., to have him sponsor a Cranberry bill in the House.

"We were worried that we didn't have a sponsor and we didn't want Harley Staggers to oppose the bill," George said. Arranging a meeting with Staggers, George and five Cranberry area residents went to Washington to persuade Staggers to sponsor the bill. "He dumbfounded everybody. He said it was a good cause and was in favor of the bill," George said.

"We thought we were in really fine shape. Cranberry was going to be recommended by the Forest Service as a wilderness area. But during the summer Staggers dragged his feet."

George said. "We never did really figure out what was wrong."

As the summer wore on, the Conservancy issued a press release which tactfully suggested that Staggers was wenching on his promise to introduce the bill. What ensued was a whirlwind media blitz which resembled "Point-Counter-Point."

In the end, Staggers relented and introduced two bills on Cranberry in the House. Telling the press that the Conservancy had initiated a campaign to "present" him into introducing a Cranberry bill, Staggers also said he did not support the legislation.

The language of the bills showed this lack of support for Cranberry. One bill, George said, created a wilderness area, but left the amount of acreage to be encompassed by the bill blank. The second bill preserved the backcountry, but did not stop oil and gas drilling, lumber cutting or coal mining.

Frantic to save the bill, Conservancy members tried to enlist the support of Senators Byrd and Randolph, but had no luck in obtaining the desperately needed aid.

"We found it very difficult to disengage from Staggers," George said. "That was not a bright moment for this bill or our lobbying ability."

In some efforts, opposites attract, and in 1980 the Conservancy found itself allied with a strange bedfellow—CSX. In the spring of

Continued on Page 3

The Highlands Voice

Cranberry. . . Continued from Page 1

1980 contact was made with CSX Vice-President John Snow and words were exchanged that indicated that the company did not mind if the Cranberry bill was passed.

"They (CSX) were always very upfront. They were representing their shareholders and were in it for the bucks," George said.

While an intensive lobbying effort was getting under way on Capitol Hill, back in West Virginia DNR Director David Callaghan was beginning to make noises that his department would oppose any legislation to make Cranberry a wilderness area. Gov. Jay Rockefeller settled the issue by overruling Callaghan and saying West Virginia would support any bill pertaining to a Cranberry wilderness.

"In 1981 things looked pretty good. All the major players were in favor of the bill," George said, but Reagan was elected and the nation took a swing to the right. Although Benedict had promised that if he was elected he would sponsor a Cranberry bill, he was forced to delay it because of a threat from the White House to veto the Cranberry issue.

In December of 1981, Benedict finally introduced the bill. With the hearings of January 1982 going well, politics were introduced into the proceedings as Benedict announced he would run against Byrd in the November elections.

"It was a very nervous time," George recalled. "The Highlands Conservancy saw the bill as a bipartisan issue and we did not want to see it become a campaign issue."

In June the bill passed the House and moved onto the Senate, which George said was hostile territory. "The Senate hearings on August 14 went extremely well. It was the first time I walked into a Senate hearing and felt better when I left," George said.

Even though the bill went well in hearing, another problem appeared. Meeting with Senators Byrd and Randolph, George said the Senators expressed concern about a loss of tax revenues to Pocahontas and Webster counties collected from private ownership of minerals in the proposed wilderness area.

"Byrd and Randolph wanted the counties compensated for any tax losses. At first I thought the counties would receive a half million dollars," George said. When the Byrd amendment was added, however, the two counties were scheduled to receive \$3.2 million. This amendment added serious problems for passage because it would mark the first time a wilderness bill would compensate an area for lost tax revenues.

While Byrd insisted on the tax compensation as a condition of passage, his support did not appear strong for the bill. In an attempt to show a wide range of support Conservancy members Jim McNeeley and Pery Bryant solicited the support of the AFL-CIO and UMWA in West Virginia. With this show of support, Byrd backed the bill and attempted to get the bill out of the Senate Energy Committee. Again another delay came when Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) stalled. With Congress breaking for the election the Cranberry bill sat at the bottom of the Senate.

In the Lame Duck session which followed the elections, Congress became engrossed with MX missiles, jobs bills, the five-cent per gallon gasoline highway tax and federal agency close-downs. Cautious not to miss an opportunity, Byrd worked behind the scenes and with the aid of Majority Leader Howard Baker, brought the bill onto the Senate floor with the \$2.2 million tax amendment attached.

On Saturday, December 19, with the Senate chamber overflowing, Sen. John East (D-N.C.) began his filibuster on the gas tax. As midnight approached and East continued talking, Byrd walked over to him and whispered in his ear. Out of respect of the Minority Leader, East told the Senate he would defer to Byrd for the introduction of an important bill.

With all eyes in the chamber directed at Byrd, the people in attendance must have expected that the Senator was going to announce a critical bill of national importance.

Instead, Byrd called up H.R. 5161, a proposed wilderness area in the state of West Virginia. According to Byrd's aides, Senators, members of the press and visitors in the gallery registered a state of shock at the introduction of the bill.

At this point, George said, Sen. McClure (R-Idaho), Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee pulled a fast

one and told Byrd he would drop the bill into the box. At 12:15 a.m., December 20, the Senate approved H.R. 5161 and, because of the tax compensation amendment, sent it back to the house for ratification.

The McClure ringer was not noticed until Monday when an aide read the bill. If the ringer had slipped through unnoticed, H.R. 5161 would have been doomed. McClure's copy of the bill authorized the \$2.2 million to Pocahontas and Webster counties, but also contained language to compensate every county in the United States for tax dollars lost due to wilderness designation.

In the house, John Siberling (R-OH) moved to bring the bill onto the floor, but former Representative Mick Staton (R-W.Va.) and Mike Young of Alaska threatened to stop the bill. Behind the scenes work produced a favorable vote in the House and the bill was sent back to the Senate.

With many senators red-eyed from the last minute rush of business, H.R. 5161 came up for vote. At 2 a.m., December 22 H.R. 5161 became the last bill of the 97th Congress to pass!

From the Senate the bill went to Reagan, who had already signed three of the five wilderness bills to come to him.

The fate of the Cranberry issue now rested with Reagan. It was said that passage of the bill hinged with the Florida Wilderness bill (H.R. 9).

Similar to H.R. 5161, H.R. 9 would have granted vouchers to phosphate mining companies as compensation for the loss of phosphate claims on 49,150 acres of land in the Osceola National Forest. Reagan refused to sign this bill.

As the bill lay on Reagan's desk, Byrd intervened on the bill's behalf. From reports given to him after the fact, George said Byrd met with Reagan and discussed the problems facing the country. As he was getting ready to leave, Byrd reportedly told Reagan he had a bill in his possession which meant a lot to West Virginians. Reagan said he had the bill.

On December 23 Reagan signed H.R. 5161 which created the largest wilderness area in the Eastern United States and marked the first time local communities were compensated for the loss of tax revenues due to a wilderness designation.

With the passage of H.R. 5161, CSX will be granted vouchers for the value of mineral reserves lost. These vouchers can be used as credits in future bidding on federal mineral leases.

To establish the value of the coal beneath Cranberry, CSX has one year to perform core-drilling in the area. After this all development and harvesting of minerals in the area will be forbidden.

More from the January 1975 *Highlands Voice*,
on the passage of the Eastern Wilderness Act

from
the
Editor

Two Wins, One Loss, One Tie

by RON HARDWAY

The creation of the Dolly Sods National Wilderness Area and the Otter Creek National Wilderness Area brings to a close one of the most entertaining chapters of Conservancy history. For over five years the Conservancy has cussed and discussed, been cussed and discussed, investigated and been investigated, sued and not yet been sued, earned respect and enmity, finally emerging with a record of two wins, one loss and one tie.

We won, of course, Dolly Sods and Otter Creek, overcoming strong objections from the Forest Service, the timbering industry, the road builders and the ORV freaks. We lost Laurel Fork (for the time being), largely to the Forest Service and the loggers. We have tied the coal industry for Cranberry. The Back Country is in limbo for the present. It is not a wilderness area, but it will be managed as one just the same while it is being studied for possible inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System. We may yet lose it, or win not enough of it to have made the effort worthwhile.

We may yet win not enough of it to have made the effort worthwhile.

But this fight is yet to come. For the moment (and I do mean no longer than that) let us sit down and take a deep breath, perhaps a sigh of relief, and reflect on what has gone before.

The Conservancy has gained many things from this bitter wilderness fight besides two wilderness areas. We have come of age as an organization, leaving behind us the days of a handful of letter writers and an occasional group picnic or hike.

We are now recognized as the leading environmental organization in West Virginia by every major environmental group beyond our crabby borders. Within the state government agencies and politicians with whom we must deal now realize that the Conservancy is not an idle group of do-gooders, but is an organization of active, intelligent and informed environmentalists.

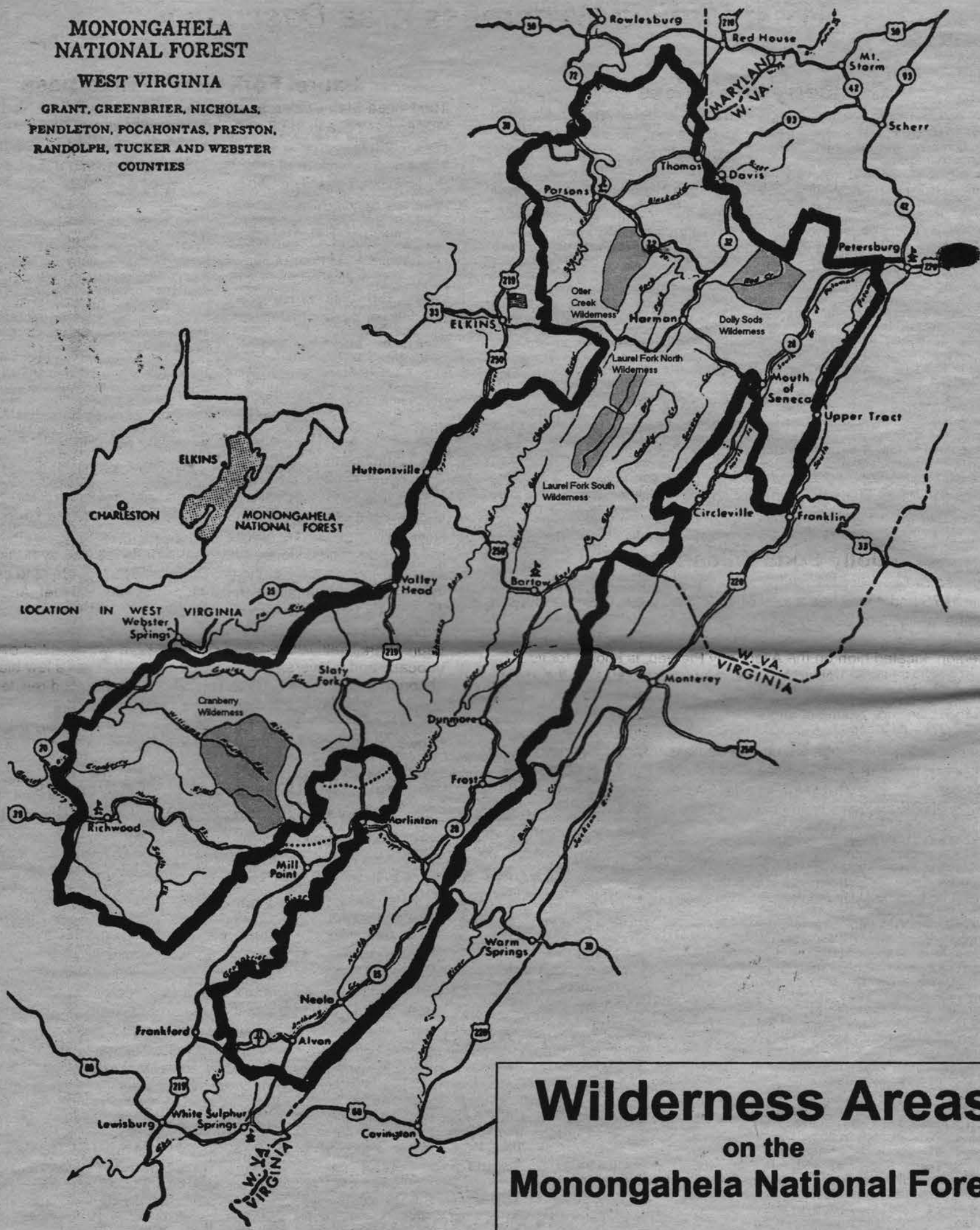
Our interests have remained concentrated in the highlands. But as more and more people from the lowlands join the Conservancy our interests are beginning to spread out over a broader area.

As 1975 begins the Conservancy has earned the right to sit down and relax for a minute. But, hurry up and rest. A new game begins at Hawks Nest on January 24. There will be no time for relaxation after that.

MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST

WEST VIRGINIA

GRANT, GREENBRIER, NICHOLAS,
PENDLETON, POCAHONTAS, PRESTON,
RANDOLPH, TUCKER AND WEBSTER
COUNTIES



Wilderness Areas
on the
Monongahela National Forest

5 Wilderness Areas totaling 78,131 acres

West Virginia Wilderness Area Descriptions

Cranberry Wilderness

The United States Congress designated the Cranberry Wilderness Area in 1983 and it now has a total of 35,864 acres. Broad mountains are dissected by deep and narrow valleys with elevations ranging from 2,400 feet to more than 4,600 feet in Cranberry Wilderness, the largest such area in West Virginia. Here on the Allegheny Plateau, the Wilderness contains the entire drainage of the Middle Fork of the William's River and the North Fork of the Cranberry River. The William's River forms the northern Wilderness boundary, and the South Fork of the Cranberry River marks the southwestern boundary. You'll find primarily Appalachian hardwoods, but there are also stands of red spruce at the highest elevations. Cranberry Wilderness is contained within the Black Bear Sanctuary. Black bears are abundant and share the Wilderness with white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, grouse, rabbits, mink, bobcats, and foxes. Naturally acidic water limits the fish populations, and the streams are not stocked. Frost may occur any month of the year. Precipitation (rain or snow) falls in winter, spring, and fall. Winter snow may block road access. More than 50 miles of maintained hiking trails provide access to the area on at least 10 named paths. Trails follow both the rivers. There are no trails maintained for horses and no bridges over streams. You'll have to wade across them. This works fine during dry months, but it is not advisable during periods of high water.

Dolly Sods Wilderness

The United States Congress designated the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area in 1975 and it now has a total of 10,215 acres. In the mid-1800s, the Dalhe family used open grassy fields called "sods" for grazing sheep in this area, which now bears the name Dolly Sods Wilderness. The region, located high on the Allegheny Plateau, is known for its extensive rocky plains, upland bogs, and sweeping vistas. In the lower elevations, you'll find a forest of northern hardwoods and laurel thickets. Higher up, groves of wind-stunted red spruce stand near heath barrens where azaleas, mountain laurels, rhododendron, and blueberries grow. The bogs are unique depressions of sphagnum moss, cranberries, and the insect-eating sundew plant--an ecosystem you'd expect to see in northern Canada. Beaver ponds dot the Wilderness and the headwaters of Red Creek spill out of the area. Nine trails crisscross this Wilderness. They are relatively rough and wet most of the year. This is easily the most popular Wilderness in West Virginia, and the amount of foot traffic proves it. Maximum group size is 10.

Otter Creek Wilderness

The United States Congress designated the Otter Creek Wilderness Area in 1975 and it now has a total of 20,000 acres. In a natural bowl between Shavers Mountain (on the east side) and McGowan Mountain (on the west side) lies Otter Creek Wilderness. Most of the numerous streams in the area flow into Otter Creek, which runs north across the Wilderness into the Dry Fork River. These streams frequently flash flood during periods of heavy rain. From the mouth of Otter Creek, the terrain rises to about 3,900 feet on McGowan Mountain. The area, logged extensively between 1897 and 1914, now sports a second-growth forest, dense thickets of rhododendron and mountain laurel along the streams, and a variety of mosses in damper regions. Spruce dominate the higher country and give way to hardwoods such as black cherry and yellow birch lower down. Black bears have returned and are reunited with white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, hares, rabbits, grouse, and several species of squirrels. Beavers are active in several spots. Timber rattlesnakes may be seen, and Otter Creek shelters a small population of brook trout. You can explore the Wilderness on 42 miles of trails, many following old railroad grades.

Laurel Fork North Wilderness

The United States Congress designated the Laurel Fork North Wilderness Area in 1983 and it now has a total of 6,055 acres. Laurel Fork North Wilderness straddles the Laurel Fork of the Cheat River and only the corridor of Route 40 separates it from the Laurel Fork South Wilderness. The narrow river valley runs north-south below regularly dissected slopes and long, slim ridges, fed by numerous side streams. Immediately to the east stands Rich Mountain; to the west looms Middle Mountain, with elevations over 3,700 feet. An almost continuous forest cover dominated by beech, maple, black cherry, birch, and yellow poplar is broken only by grassy meadows along the Laurel Fork itself. White-tailed deer live here with wild turkeys, bobcats, and beavers. You might occasionally spot a few black bears, although you're more likely to see some of the myriad resident bird species. You may catch native brook and brown trout in the river, but heavy brush can make casting difficult. Winters typically bring heavy snows; temperatures are pleasant in summer.

Laurel Fork South Wilderness

The United States Congress designated the Laurel Fork South Wilderness Area in 1983 and it now has a total of 5,997 acres. Laurel Fork South Wilderness straddles the Laurel Fork of the Cheat River and only the corridor of Route 40 separates it from the Laurel Fork North Wilderness. The narrow river valley runs north-south below regularly dissected slopes and long, slim ridges, fed by numerous side streams. Immediately to the east stands Rich Mountain; to the west looms Middle Mountain, with elevations over 3,700 feet. An almost continuous forest cover dominated by beech, maple, black cherry, birch, and yellow poplar is broken only by grassy meadows along the Laurel Fork itself. White-tailed deer live here with wild turkeys, bobcats, and beavers. You might occasionally spot a few black bears, although you're more likely to see some of the myriad resident bird species. You may catch native brook and brown trout in the river, but heavy brush can make casting difficult. Winters typically bring heavy snows; temperatures are pleasant in summer.

Mountain Lake Wilderness On the Jefferson National Forest

The United States Congress designated the Mountain Lake Wilderness Area on the Jefferson National Forest in 1984 and it now has a total of 11,035 acres. Virginia contains 8,314 acres. West Virginia contains 2,721 acres. Mountain Lake, the only natural body of water in western Virginia, actually sits just outside the southwestern Wilderness boundary. Inside the boundary you'll find a highland plateau resting squarely on the Eastern Continental Divide, isolated stands of virgin spruce and hemlock in a typical Appalachian hardwood forest, a mountain bog, and War Spur Overlook, which yields a panoramic view of this Wilderness. Elevations range from over 4,000 feet on Lone Pine Peak near the middle of the area to about 2,200 feet. Deer, bears, squirrels, and grouse run wild in the forest. Several trails provide access to primitive Wilderness. Approximately one-fourth of the Wilderness lies in West Virginia.

MOUNTAIN ODYSSEY 2001



Celebrating Our MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST
WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY



photo by Gerald Ratliff

"High Sods"

by Jim Sconyers

The "High Sods" or "Dolly Sods North" was added to the Monongahela National Forest in 1993. It is adjacent to the Dolly Sods Wilderness. Dolly Sods North (DSN) was an expansion of the Mon NF's "proclamation boundary" when its 6200 acres were acquired. The transaction was brokered by the WV Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

Dolly Sods North extends protection upstream in the broad, high headlands of the Red Creek watershed, nearly completing its protection. DSN is made up of huge areas of open heath, the meandering forks of Red Creek, and extensive wetland and bog areas, along with low ridges dividing one fork or run from another. Biologically it is similar to the unique subalpine communities found in Dolly Sods itself.

Logging and fires around the turn of the century devastated the area, burning off all

organic soil in many areas and leaving the open heath of today, with its blueberry, azalea, moss, etc. More recently the DSN tract was used by hunters and ORV users. There are remnants of old logging railroads, as well as de facto tracks made by ORV use. Rail and road evidence is gradually fading away. Some of the ORV or jeep tracks are now serving, in effect, as trails.

Land possessing wilderness qualities is rapidly disappearing from the world, and from West Virginia. At the same time population growth and urbanization in the eastern metropolitan areas generate ever greater need for wilderness. Today Wilderness is less than 9% of the Monongahela National Forest, and only one-half of one percent of the land area of West Virginia.

Aesthetics

Dolly Sods North provides a variety of scenery and vistas. Open or rolling terrain gives long views over wetlands and bogs, with forest as a backdrop in the distance. The forks of Red Creek offer moving waters in crystal clear meandering streams.

For the human spirit, Dolly Sods North today gives the opportunity for solitude and removal from the influences of civilization. Even in West Virginia, this opportunity is fast disappearing. It is increasingly difficult to place yourself in a location free of the sight and sound of human activity, and more than, say, a mile from access by road or rail. Dolly Sods North has this kind of wild natural isolation.

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-----"High Sods" continued from previous page-----

Recreation

The opportunity for self-sufficient backcountry recreation in Dolly Sods North is excellent. Here, away from civilization's trappings, recreationists encounter nature on its own terms. Combining Dolly Sods North with the existing Dolly Sods Wilderness will advance the scale of the protected remote area, enabling more meaningful wilderness experiences.

Former jeep or log roads, now deteriorating, have become a reasonably good de facto trail system. Trails generally follow streams and ridge tops. Links to Forest Road 75, and to Blackbird Knob and Big Stonecoal Trails make an expanded trail system and access available to recreational users.

Hunting and fishing are pursued in Dolly Sods North under West Virginia regulations, and would continue under Wilderness designation.

Management Designation

All parts of a national forest are given a management designation. Dolly Sods North is the only exception to this rule in the Monongahela National Forest. Without a management designation, Forest Service decisions are strictly ad hoc. There are no guiding principles or direction. Projects may be undertaken just because they "seem like a good idea."

The most protective management designations are Wilderness (Management Prescription 5) or Management Prescription 6.2 (MP 6.2). Wilderness status is well-known in West Virginia. In general, this status seeks to preserve an area in its natural state. Human intrusions to the landscape do not occur (no roads, logging, etc.). In most cases the only "projects" allowed are trails. Dolly Sods North's 6200 acres are adjacent to the 10,200 acres of the Dolly Sods Wilderness. Combining the two into a larger Wilderness would enable natural processes and would promote recovery of a fragile area damaged in the past.

MP 6.2 provides a high level of protection where it is applied in the Mon NF. In MP 6.2, logging and road building are prohibited, and "semiprimitive nonmotorized" recreation is featured. There are two major differences of MP 6.2 compared to Wilderness.

First, Wilderness designation can only be given, or changed, by an act of Congress. Thus this is a very permanent kind of status. MP 6.2 designation, on the other hand, is assigned by the Forest Service in the process of adopting, revising, or amending the Mon Forest Plan. This process is mandated to happen every 10-15 years by law as a Plan is revised. Management prescription changes can occur more often than this if the agency decided to amend the Plan. Thus although MP 6.2 has fairly strong protective qualities, it is much less permanent than Wilderness.

Second, MP 6.2 allows for use by bicycles. This is not the case in Wilderness, where all mechanical modes of transportation are prohibited.



Wilderness Issues Analysis

The West Virginia DNR has expressed an interest in liming Red Creek to counteract the acidic condition of the stream due to acid rain. While one-time application of lime is compatible with Wilderness designation, a regular program of periodic treatment with limestone or limestone fines is not. This problem can be addressed by locating any lime application outside of the Wilderness. In fact, the watershed can be accessed, if this were required, from existing roads that reach two tributaries of Red Creek outside the boundaries of Dolly Sods Wilderness and Dolly Sods North. Alder Run and Big Stonecoal Run are accessible by Forest Roads 75 and 80 respectively. Furthermore, South Fork of Red Creek is available for liming, and lies entirely outside the Dolly Sods boundaries. Thus, should it be found necessary to apply lime to raise the pH of Red Creek, this can be done without intruding into Dolly Sods.

The DNR has also mentioned using prescribed burning to arrest natural processes so that Dolly Sods North remains exactly as it is today vegetatively. The purpose, apparently, would be to perpetuate the open blueberry heaths. In fact, however, because of the poor soils and deforested nature of much of the land, forest will not reclaim the open heaths for decades or even centuries. For nearly a century already, once the massive logging of the turn of the twentieth century was finished, there has been little or no change in the vegetative cover there.

There is speculation that the mountain bike community might be opposed to Wilderness designation. Presently mountain biking is permitted in Dolly Sods North. In this regard it can be noted that mountain biking is permitted over hundreds of miles of trail throughout hundreds of thousands of acres in all non-Wilderness areas of the Forest. In addition, further thousands of acres of both public and private land all over West Virginia are open to mountain biking. As noted above, Wilderness protection for landscapes in natural conditions applies to only about one-half of one percent of the land area of West Virginia.

In discussions with mountain bikers, many indicate their sympathy with the goal of preserving some of the best remaining natural areas. While they may wish for places to ride, many appreciate the opportunity to preserve nature intact.

The authors of "A National Study of Mountain Biking Opinion Leaders: Characteristics, Preferences, Attitudes, and Conflicts" state: "The results reveal that mt. bike opinion leaders are overwhelmingly biocentric in their thinking, believing that nature has intrinsic value exclusive of what it does for humans, that humans do not have moral license to infringe on this right, and that many environmental problems are rooted in our societal tendency to dominate, control, and exploit nature. There was widespread support for the idea that there are indeed limits to growth and that a more sustainable form of society is needed. Mountain bikers generally see themselves as environmental activists with much of their lives organized around environmental issues....This finding does much to dispel the conventional wisdom that views mt. bikers as anti-environmental..."





THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

The Monongahela National Forest and the West Virginia Economy

The economic importance of wild forest areas extends far beyond the raw materials (timber) those areas could provide to the forest products industry. It includes the value of backcountry recreation, clean water and air, scenic beauty and wildlife habitat. And, it encompasses the development of rural communities as people are attracted to, or stay in, places that are clean, beautiful and where they have ample opportunities to connect with nature.

Discussions about the protection of roadless areas in the Monongahela National Forest should therefore include a clear picture of the West Virginia economy, including:

- the role of National Forest timber in West Virginia's timber industry,
- the role of the timber industry in the overall economy of West Virginia and
- the economic benefits associated with the full array of resources, including those available especially, if not exclusively, from wild forest lands.

How important is the Monongahela National Forest to West Virginia's forest products industry?

Compared to overall timber harvest, the Monongahela National Forest is a minor source of logs for the West Virginia forest products manufacturing industry.

- Based on USDA Forest Service data, timber from the Monongahela National Forest supplies about 3.2 percent of the state's timber harvest (USDA Forest Service 1999).¹ The average 1995-97 cut from the Monongahela National Forest was 28.0 million board feet (MMbf), of which 20.9 MMbf was in sawlogs.
- USDA Forest Service estimates that inventoried roadless areas in West Virginia's national forests are about 19.6 percent of total National Forest acreage in the state. For 6.9 percent of this area, forest plan prescriptions already exclude road construction and reconstruction. Since many of these areas are already unavailable for harvest, and others are less productive than the average, removing roadless areas from the timber base will have a fairly small impact on future timber harvests.
- Meanwhile many states export some logs out of the state without any further processing. With every raw log exported, opportunities for value-added processing and West Virginia jobs are exported as well.

Do U.S. taxpayers subsidize timber harvest in the Monongahela National Forest? And why does it matter?

- The 1997 timber program for the Monongahela National Forest earned between \$1,025,140 and \$2,844,000, depending on what costs are included.
- Commodity program timber sales on the Monongahela National Forest generated revenues of \$6,493,000 in FY 1997. The basic cost of the program was \$3,649,000. Adding in the administrative costs (\$359,927) and the portion of gross receipts returned to the state (\$1,458,934), the total program costs are about \$5,467,860.
- Rather than contributing to West Virginia's timber supply, the Forest Service (and, by extension, the U.S. taxpayers) would do better to direct resources toward programs, such as the Economic Action Programs, that encourage value-added processing, increased efficiency, and improved marketing of forest products. This would make it more likely that trees harvested in West Virginia could be profitably processed in the state, and would foster a more sustainable forest products industry.

¹ Percentage of state harvest is based on average 1995-1997 National Forest harvest as reported in TSPIRS, adjusted by acreage in each state for forests that overlap state boundaries, converted to cubic feet at 5.2 board feet per cubic foot, and divided by total state harvest from 1996 TPO data.

But won't increased timber harvest lead to more forest products manufacturing jobs?

No. Due to increased use of labor-saving technologies, cutting more trees does not necessarily translate into employing more workers.

- In Maine, timber harvest increased by 38 percent from 1977 to 1992, but jobs in the industry declined by 12 percent during the same period. Phillips (1996) found that, statistically, there is no relationship between timber harvest and forest products manufacturing employment.
- Examples from other regions support the same conclusion. Between 1970 and 1990, 1.8 million roadless acres within three Montana national forests were developed for timber harvest. During the same period, 2,310 timber jobs were lost in the six-county region surrounding these forests (a 31 percent drop) (Rasker 1994a).
- Nationwide, Rasker, Gorte and Alkire (1996) conclude that, with some short-term exceptions, "there is very little predictable connection between employment and public timber harvesting".

How important is timber to the West Virginia economy?

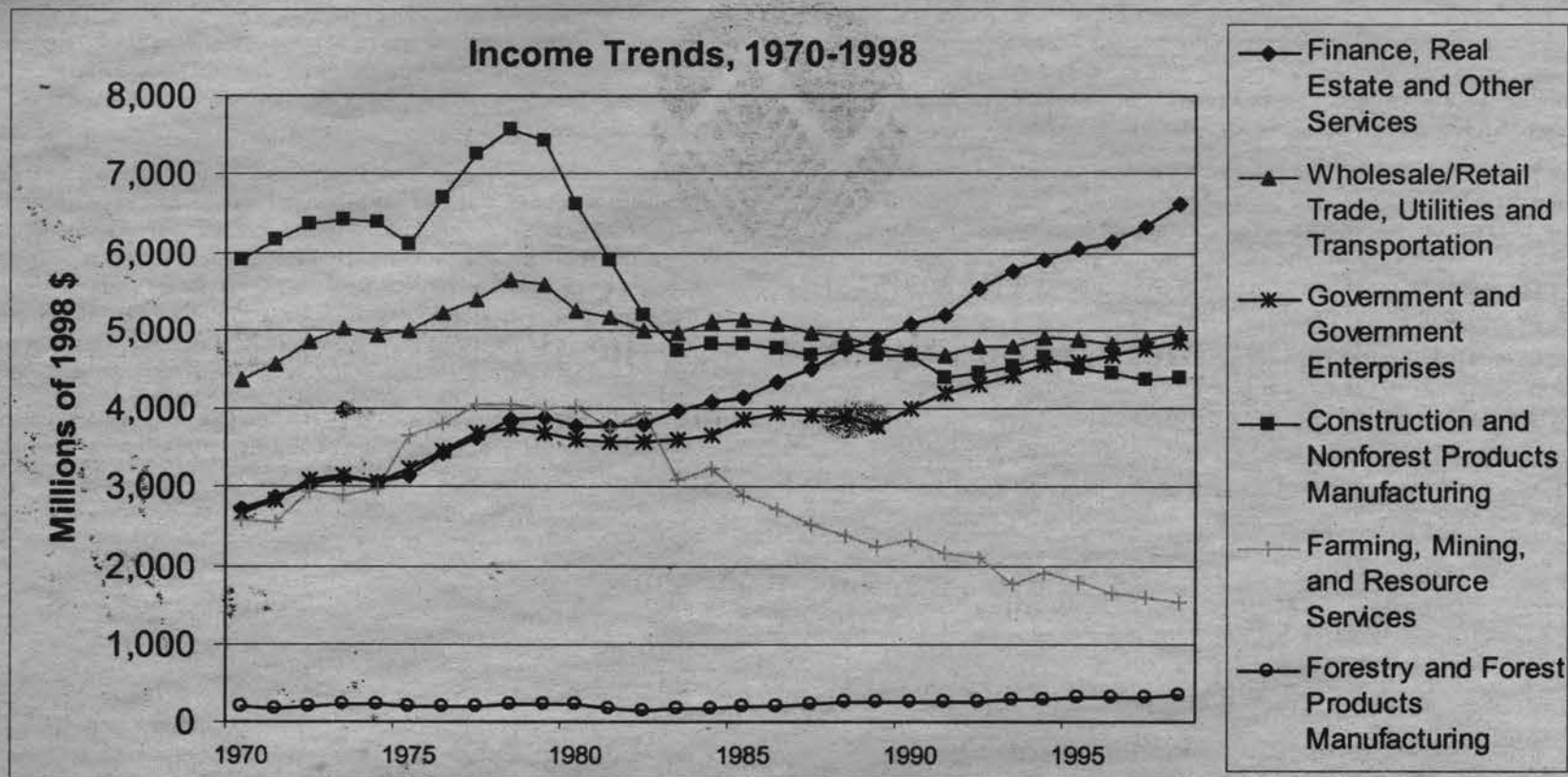
Timber-related industries represent a small percentage of the West Virginia economy, as measured by jobs and by personal income.

- In 1998, forest products manufacturing provided 1.6 percent of all jobs in West Virginia (US Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2000). Forest products manufacturing jobs increased by an average of 2.0 percent per year since 1970.
- US BEA reports that earnings in forest products manufacturing totaled 344.3 million in 1998, an increase of 2.6 percent per year (after adjusting for inflation) since 1970. Income for the state as a whole increased 1.7 percent per year over the same period. Forest products manufacturing earnings as a percent of total personal income for West Virginia rose from 0.8 percent in 1970 to 0.9 percent in 1998, but remained a small fraction of total earnings.

What ARE the biggest and fastest growing portions of West Virginia's economy?

- Total personal income in West Virginia in 1998 was 36.57 billion. The biggest sources of income were Non-labor income (investment income, rental income and transfer payments, like Social Security and Medicare) at 40.8 percent, the Services industry with 15.5 percent, Government and government enterprises at 13.2 percent, and Nonforest products manufacturing with 8.3 percent (BEA, 2000).
- There were 877,900 full and part-time jobs in West Virginia in 1998, 16.6 percent of which were the jobs of self-employed persons. The industries employing the most people in the state are: Services with 252,839 jobs, or 28.8 percent of total employment; Retail trade (160,139 jobs and 18.2 percent), and Government and government enterprises (149,783 jobs and 17.1 percent) (BEA, 2000).
- Non-labor income grew by an average of 3.7 percent per year from 1970 - 1998. Self-employment grew by 1.7 percent per year. Other fast-growth industries include: Services - with increases of 3.1 percent per year in jobs and 3.5 percent per year in income; Retail trade with a 2.0 percent per year increase in jobs and a 0.7 percent per year increase in income, Finance, insurance, and real estate (up 1.5 percent per year in employment and 2.2 percent per year in income), and Construction with 1.3 percent per year more jobs and 0.5 percent per year more income (BEA, 2000).

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But doesn't the "service sector" offer only low-wage, dead-end employment?

- The service sector includes a wide range of industries, from "hotels and lodging places" to "engineering and management services." These industries employ many professionals, from engineers to doctors and architects, whose positions would be neither low-wage nor dead-end.
- Average earnings in several service industries, including health care (\$34,528), legal services (\$51,991), and engineering and management services (\$27,080) compare favorably with the all-industry average of \$25,837 and the forest products manufacturing average of \$24,892 (BEA, 2000).

What does growth in non-labor income and in industries like services and finance, insurance and real estate have to do with the Monongahela National Forest?

Research from across the country has found that people and businesses locate where the quality of life, based in part on a clean natural environment and high quality recreational opportunities, is high. Retirees and "footloose" businesses (those not geographically tied down to raw material supply or output markets) especially can bring dollars and opportunities to high amenity areas.

- Public lands represent natural assets that provide communities with a comparative advantage over other rural areas in diversifying their economies. Public land management can contribute to diversifying local economies by de-emphasizing resource extraction and emphasizing management and budgets on labor intensive ecological restoration, road decommissioning, providing high-quality experiential recreation, and conserving habitat for the region's biological resources.
- As noted by Freudenburg and Gramling (1994): "...it needs to be recognized as a serious empirical possibility that the future economic hope for resource-dependent communities of...the United States could have less to do with the consumption of natural resources than with their preservation."
- In a survey of eleven fast-growing counties across the U.S., Rudzitis and Johansen (1991) found that forty-five percent of long-time residents and sixty percent of recent migrants to counties containing wilderness indicate wilderness is an important reason for living in those counties.
- Rasker (1994b) found that entrepreneurs cite quality of life factors over "business climate" factors (cheap labor, low taxes, lax environmental standards) as reasons for locating and keeping their businesses in the greater Yellowstone region. (See also Power 1996.)
- The Maine Alliance and Maine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (1994) has recently identified Maine's competitive advantages as quality of life, physical beauty, clean air and water, environmental management know-how, and forest resources.

How else do protected wildlands contribute to the economy?

The economic benefits of wildland range from the tangible and immediate, such as the enhanced value of real estate in proximity to protected areas, to the esoteric and the distant, such as the value of preserving species for the potential use and enjoyment of future generations. Some of these benefits are reflected in markets and can be quantified as prices. Others are not traded in formal markets and have no price. That does not mean, however, that they have no value, and all such values must be considered in assessing the economic importance of wild land.

- **Real Estate Enhancement Value:** Protected land can enhance the value of nearby private property. In the area surrounding the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont, land prices are higher in towns that contain wilderness, while land price decreases with distance from a wilderness boundary (Phillips 2000).
- **Lower Public Service Costs:** Though many towns may express a concern about the impact of public lands on local tax revenues, it is *net revenues* that really matter. Open space typically generates more local tax revenue than the cost of the public services it requires – cows and moose don't ride school buses.

Recent studies in Maine and the Adirondacks reveal that towns with more open space have lower tax rates (Brighton 1997) and that amount of protected land is not associated with higher or lower tax bills (Ad Hoc Associates 1996).

For federal lands, Payment In Lieu of Taxes or PILT payments augment local tax revenue. States also receive a share of timber and other revenues generated by National Forest management activities, and these funds have been used to help fund roads and schools at the local level. Legislation is pending in Congress, however, to decouple these payments from revenues and create a more stable system of fixed payments. In any case, according to a study of 100 counties in the Columbia Basin, Schmit and Rasker (1996) found that very few local governments are actually dependent on these revenue-based payments. The vast majority of those counties derive less than five percent of their total budget from those payments.

- **Ecosystem Service Values:** Ecosystem services are those things provided by nature that man would otherwise need to provide for himself. They include air and water filtration, climate regulation, maintenance of biodiversity, scenic beauty and other benefits.

Water filtration is just one example. The US Forest Service estimates that 60 million Americans - more than one fifth of the population - get their water from sources with headwaters on a National Forest. Filtering that water is one example of the services we get "for free" from protected landscapes. Indeed, one of the principal purposes of the National Forests is to protect water supplies. The U.S Forest Service estimates that the National Forests supply 6% of the runoff east of the Mississippi River and 33% of the runoff in the west. At a very minimum, this water is worth \$3.7 billion annually (Sedell, et al, 2000).

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-----The Monongahela National Forest and West Virginia's Economy (Continued from previous page)-----

Carbon Sequestration is another. Mature fully-stocked forests sequester carbon to help slow the process of global warming. With carbon credits already exchanging for between \$1 and \$20 per ton around the world, carbon credits could be worth \$300 to \$600 per acre (Walls 1999).

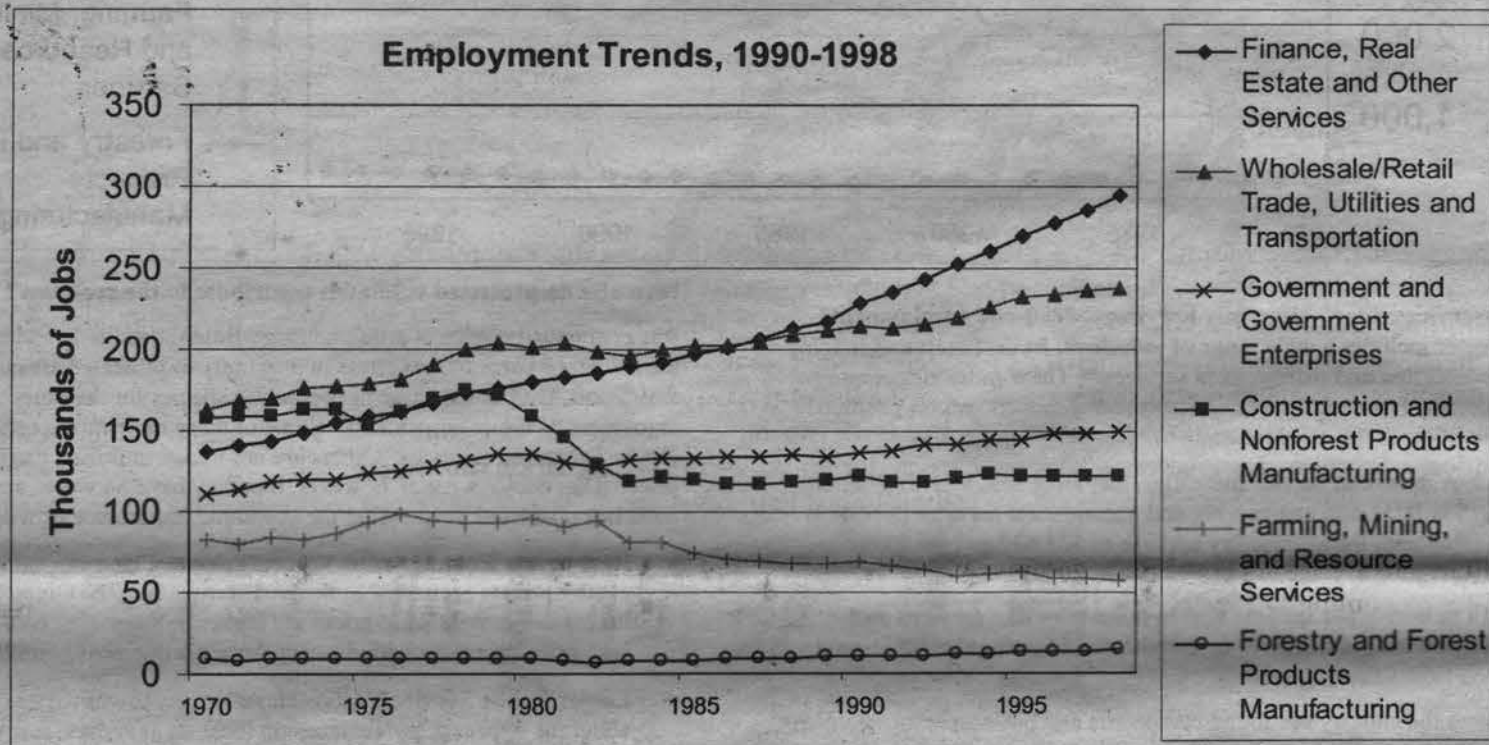
Costanza, et al. (1998) estimate the value of ecosystem services for temperate forests like West Virginia's at \$122 per acre per year. Less than one tenth of this sum is due to raw material production (agriculture and forestry) and about one third is from all direct use values, including recreation. Thus, West Virginia's forests can be said to be providing in excess of \$80 per acre per year even if no one ever sets foot in them.

In a more recent study focused on wilderness in the lower 48 states, Loomis and Richardson estimate \$150 per acre per year for carbon storage, climate regulation and waste treatment (filtering air and water).

- **Passive Use Values:** These include option value (what it's worth to preserve the option of future use), bequest value (what it's worth to pass a resource unimpaired to future generations) and existence value (what it's worth to

preserve a resource that one has no expectation of using in the future). Loomis and Richardson estimate the passive use value of wilderness in the eastern U.S. as about \$4/acre/year. Again, this value is produced before the first hiker puts on her backpack.

- **Recreation Values:** Again from Loomis and Richardson, eastern wilderness produces about \$44 worth of recreation per acre each year. And visitors to wilderness generate an additional \$44 per acre per year of spending in nearby communities. That spending translates into support for one job for every 550 acres of wilderness. A National Sporting Goods Association survey estimates that participation in wilderness camping and hiking by residents increased 47.5 percent from 1990 to 1998, reaching 2,630 thousand visitor days of backpacking and 3,440 thousand visitor days of hiking in 1998.
- **Scientific Value:** Aldo Leopold (1949) wrote that wilderness supplies us a "base datum of normality, a picture of how healthy land maintains itself as an organism." Wilderness is the control by which we can judge the impacts of our management on other parts of the landscape.



For more information, contact: George Gay Regional Director, The Wilderness Society (404) 872-9453

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Wilderness on the Allegheny National Forest

by Kirk Johnson

What are our Pennsylvania friends doing to protect lands on the Mon's northern sister?

Efforts to protect wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964 on the Allegheny National Forest (Allegheny), began in the early 1970s when the Sierra Club completed a study of the largest roadless areas here. Three tracts were recommended for wilderness as a result of this study -- Allegheny Front, Hickory Creek and Tracy Ridge roadless areas.

A chance to give these areas wilderness status presented itself in 1974 when Congress was debating the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act. Unfortunately, despite the strong support of Pennsylvania's Republican Senators Hugh Scott and Richard Schweiker, their inclusion was blocked in the U.S. House at that time by local Congressman Albert Johnson.

Later, the Pennsylvania Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-585) did designate the Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands Wilderness Areas, but it also states that other areas of the forest cannot be considered for wilderness designation while the 1986 Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) is still in effect. Therefore, the upcoming Forest Plan revision process will be the most opportune time to advocate for additional wilderness designation.

It is appropriate to go back and acquire wilderness designation for the areas that should have been included in the 1975 Eastern Wilderness Areas Act. With the new campaign, the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness will be attempting to right the wrongs committed over a quarter of a century ago by Congressman Johnson. Essentially, we hope to complete "unfinished business."

Only 1.74% of the Allegheny, at Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands, is designated wilderness. This is an abysmally low figure as compared to the national average, and even as compared to other eastern national forest land where wilderness is rare anyway. We need additional wilderness here for human recreation -- the Allegheny lies within a day's drive of one third of the nation's

population! But just as importantly we need wilderness to provide undisturbed refuge for many sensitive Allegheny wildlife species such as the Indiana bat, yellow-bellied flycatcher, cerulean warbler, the reintroduced fisher, and hopefully even the eventual recovery of the eastern cougar.

In a speech at the Wilderness 2000 Conference in Denver last fall, Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck stated that "In revising our forest plans, we must specifically look for areas suitable for wilderness designation. Eighteen percent of the National Forest System is already wilderness; we must consider more. We need millions of additional acres of wilderness."

Tracts on the Allegheny that still retain wilderness qualities include areas outlined in the early 1970s but never designated, as well as other areas. The following is a partial list of tracts Friends of Allegheny Wilderness believe the Forest Service could consider for wilderness designation during their Forest Plan revision:

the Tionesta Research Natural Area "is one of the most valuable old-growth remnants in the eastern U.S. This fact is evidenced by the 10-fold increase in research activity on the Area over the past decade." The North Country Trail, a National Scenic Trail like the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails, passes through the Tionesta Scenic Area, and would be a major attraction to the new Tionesta Wilderness Area.

- Allegheny Front National Recreation Area. This area was identified as being roadless during the RARE II surveys, and designated as a National Recreation Area with the passage of the Pennsylvania Wilderness Act in 1984. Lying along the mighty Allegheny River, it stands at 7,393 acres and would do well to gain the additional permanent protection brought by wilderness status.
- Tracy Ridge National Recreation Area. Like the Allegheny Front, this was one of the roadless areas suggested for

wilderness in 1974 during the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act debate. It stands at just over 9,000 acres of forested land lying along the Allegheny Reservoir. There are numerous popular campground destinations in Tracy Ridge, and the North Country Trail also passes through here.

- Expansion of the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area. In 1984, most of the Hickory Creek roadless area was designated wilderness. This wilderness area is approximately 8,600 acres. By expanding the existing wilderness to the north, the headwaters of

Hickory Creek itself could be annexed. Expanding the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area to the north and gaining wilderness designation for the adjacent Allegheny Front tract would achieve essentially one large wilderness area over 15,000 acres in size, separated only by one road.

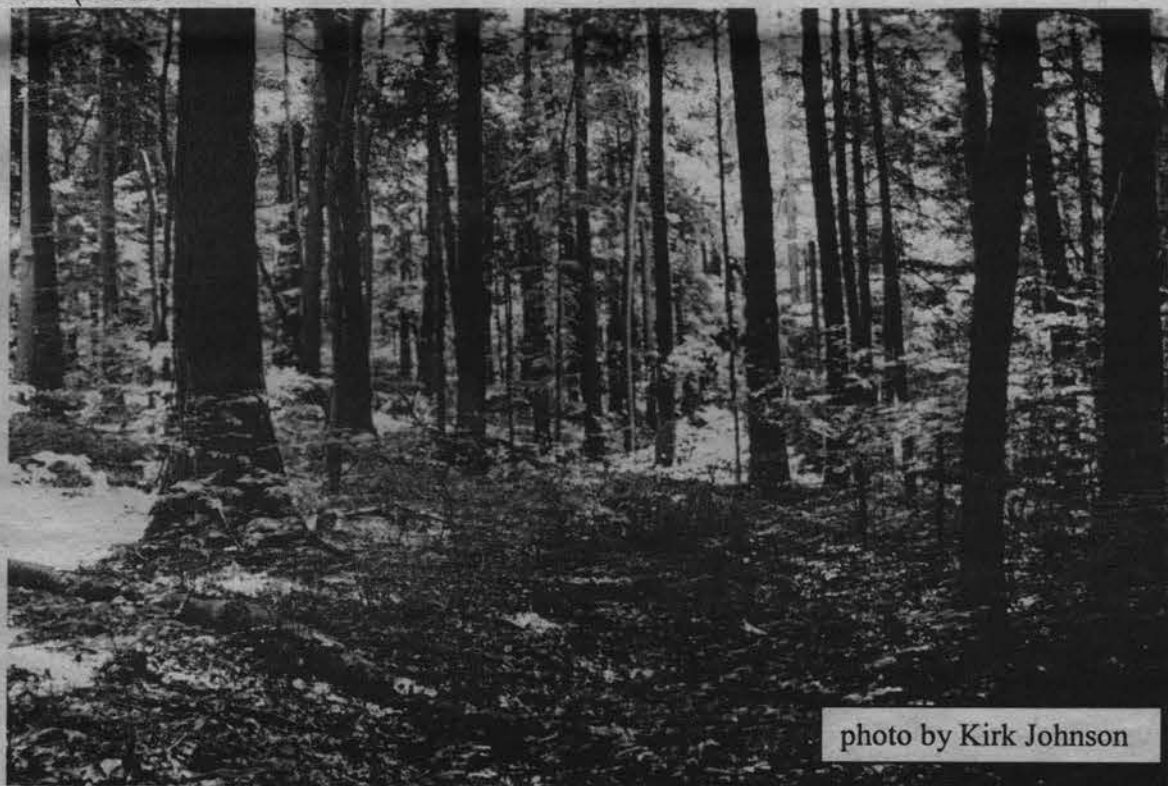


photo by Kirk Johnson

- The 4,100-acre Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas old-growth forest (shown above) and surrounding Forest Service land should be a priority for wilderness designation. This is an extremely rare and ecologically invaluable remnant of eastern old-growth forest, but it is threatened by oil and gas drilling and timber harvesting around and even within its borders. The Forest Service reported in 1997 that

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Howard Zahniser's Legacy

by Kirk Johnson

Working to preserve in perpetuity is a great inspiration... We are not fighting progress. We are making it.

--Howard Zahniser, Wilderness Conference, 1961

Western Pennsylvania has produced some of the greatest environmental thinkers of the 20th Century. Author Edward Abbey who wrote successful and inspirational books such as *The Monkey Wrench Gang* and *Desert Solitaire* grew up in Home, north of Indiana, PA. Rachel Carson, author of the landmark *Silent Spring* was born in Springdale, near Pittsburgh.

The Allegheny National Forest (Allegheny) region has our own claim to fame. Hometown hero Howard Zahniser, Executive Director of The Wilderness Society from 1945 to 1964 and the author of the federal Wilderness Act of 1964, grew up in Tionesta on the southwest border of the Allegheny, and fell in love with the local landscape early in life.

Howard Zahniser was born in Franklin and his family moved often when he was a child, finally settling for good in Tionesta in a house on Bridge Street which still stands today. Zahniser's first paying job as a teen was putting away the handset classified advertising type for the *Forest Press* newspaper in town. As his son Ed tells it years later, this is where Zahniser first learned the admonition to "mind your p's and q's!". It was Tionesta that Zahniser considered home, even after he moved to Washington, D.C. in 1930. He was so attached to the area in fact that he could not bring himself to sell the family home here even after his mother died in the mid 1950s. His wife Alice finally sold it in 1964 shortly after his death.

Zahniser was buried in the Tionesta Riverside Cemetery within a stone's throw of the Allegheny River that he loved so much. (One of Zahniser's regrets was that his efforts to see the Wilderness Act passed kept him from doing more to fight the Kinzua Dam, which flooded one third of the Allegheny Reservation of the Seneca Native Americans in the early 1960s.) Alice had a rough hewn stone chosen from the nearby woods for a headstone. In June of 1937 Mr. and Mrs. Zahniser took a trip down the Allegheny River in their canoe the *Alisonward*, during which Zahniser kept a journal of their experience. In the second to last entry of this journal, kindly provided to

the author by the Zahniser family, Zahniser observed his surroundings as they approached Tionesta:

It was a clear blue June day. The sky was especially beautiful, with cumulus, cirrus, and stratus clouds all day. As we went under a bridge at West Hickory, we saw two eagles flying high over the "narrows." The canoeing from Hickory on had the added interest of the faint recollection of familiar things. We were much interested in fish jumping and in the green herons, standing on an anchored boat. A duck flew up from the river as we neared Tubbs Run's mouth and circled high in the air in ascending spirals and up Tubbs Run Valley... As we came near Tionesta we followed small currents close to the left bank, despite the shallow water, as we hoped to land at the cemetery.

It provokes the imagination to think that as Mr. and Mrs. Zahniser canoed past Courson, Baker, Crull's Islands and others that June that these would some fifty years hence be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System as part of the Allegheny Islands Wilderness as a result of the profound vision of Zahniser himself.

The Wilderness Act Zahniser authored, widely considered to be the most poetic yet precise legislation ever enacted, provided mechanisms for setting aside significant areas of federal land in perpetuity for primitive recreation, hunting, and fishing opportunities as well as biodiversity protection. Wilderness, according to the Wilderness Act, is a tract of land "...where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain".

Following through on Zahniser's vision, the amount of wilderness designated has grown from 9 million acres in 1964 with the passage of the Wilderness Act to over 105 million acres today, and is still growing. There are now 643 Wilderness Areas in 44 states. Wilderness Areas are important because they act as the only land in the United States where natural successional processes are the primary influence upon the land and where endangered, threatened

and sensitive species find undisturbed refuge.

However, the eastern United States is generally lacking with regard to wilderness designation. According to the Wilderness Society handbook:

Less than 5 percent [of land in the National Wilderness Preservation System] lies east of the 100th meridian, and almost half of that is in just two areas - Everglades National Park in Florida and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Minnesota. In eleven eastern states from Maine to Maryland, where nearly one-quarter of the nation's population resides, there are less than 205,000 acres of wilderness.

In Pennsylvania, less than 2% of 513,000 acres of national forest land (the Allegheny is the only federal land in this state that can accommodate wilderness) is designated wilderness at Hickory Creek and Allegheny Islands. Proportionally speaking, this is low even compared to other eastern states. According to the Forest Service, Minnesota has 29% of its national forest land designated wilderness, Vermont has 16%, New Hampshire has 15%, and Illinois has 10% of its national forest land designated wilderness. Even Missouri, at 4.4%, has more than twice as much of their Forest Service land designated wilderness as Pennsylvania does. It is clear that Pennsylvania, and therefore the Allegheny, has room for improvement in this regard.



Howard Zahniser atop Crane Mountain, Adirondacks, NY

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-----Howard Zahniser Legacy, continued from previous page-----

Howard Zahniser died in his sleep at his home in Hyattsville, Maryland on May 5, 1964 just two days after testifying at the seventeenth and final congressional hearing on his Wilderness bill and just a few short months before it was signed into law by President Johnson in the White House Rose Garden. Alice, his widow, stood by the President's side as the Wilderness Act became law that day. The Wilderness bill, which Zahniser had originally written in 1956, went through dozens of revisions and hearings in the U.S. House and Senate and Zahniser was an active participant throughout that time personally and actively guiding the important legislation through the labyrinth of pitfalls and dead ends of Congress. He was a tireless advocate to the end. The bill had passed the Senate at the time of Zahniser's death, and it later passed the House by a margin of 373-to-1.

Howard Zahniser deserves a greater tribute than just the Hickory Creek and Allegheny River Islands Wilderness in his home national forest. While these are wonderful natural tracts, they total just around 9,000 acres. Doug Scott, co-author of the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act of 1975, once wrote of Zahniser that "His monument is not a mountain peak or river or park bearing his name: no, wherever wilderness exists today, by whatever name -- there is Zahniser's memorial." By all accounts, the entire National Wilderness Preservation System is Zahniser's proper memorial. However, significant additions of wilderness on the Allegheny would be a fitting tribute not only to Howard Zahniser, but would also be of great recreational and economic benefit to generations to come, and would provide needed undisturbed habitat for the varied flora and fauna of the Allegheny Plateau.

Wilderness on the Allegheny,
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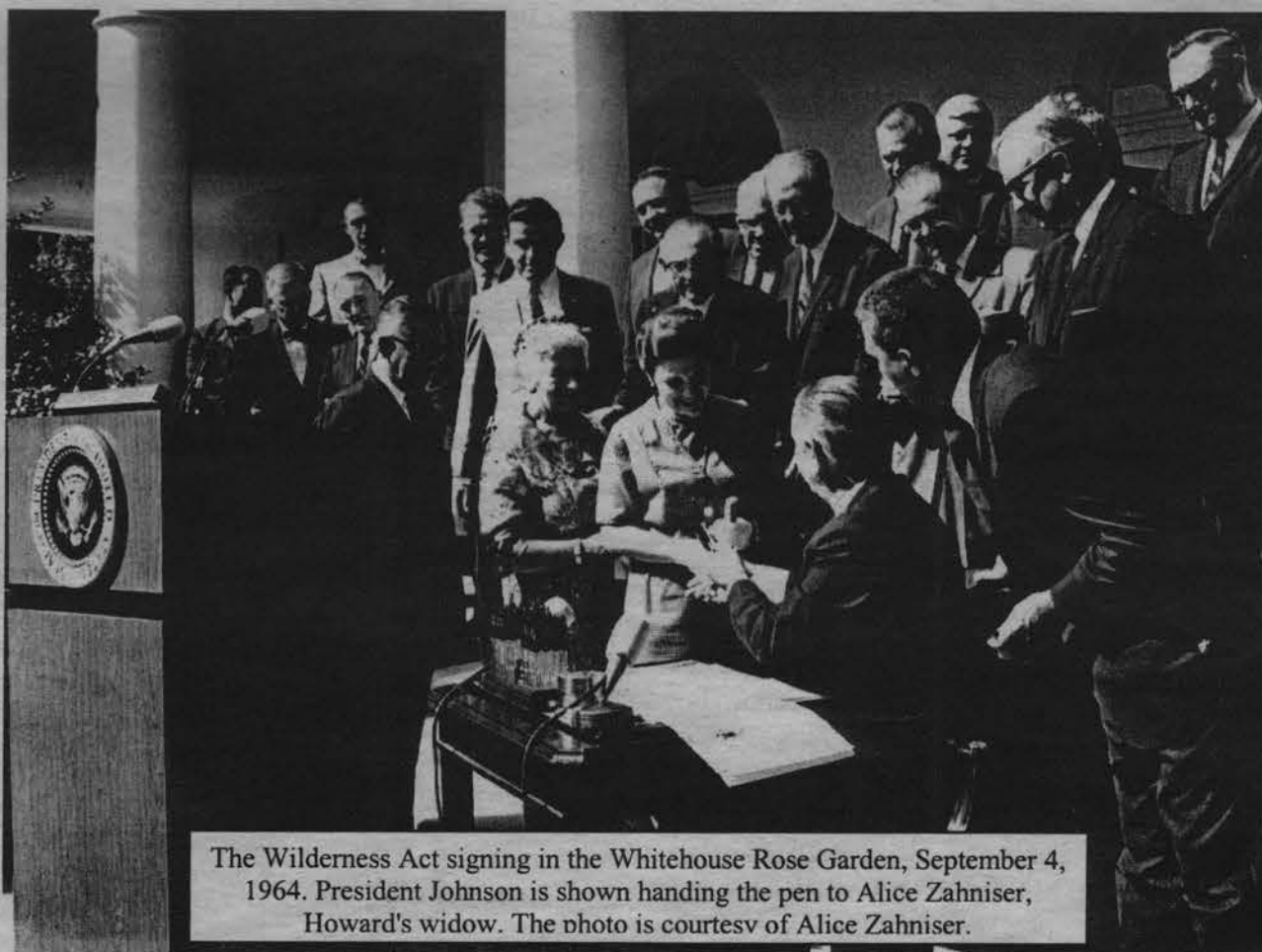
- **Minister Valley Roadless Area.** This RARE II roadless area stands at 1,417 acres. This is a popular recreation spot that would do well with greater measures of protection. For wilderness designation, several thousand acres of contiguous land adjacent to the established Minister roadless area would need to be included to the west, northwest, and north. This Minister Valley Wilderness Area would approach 6,000 acres in size.
- **Clarion River Roadless Area.** This area stands at 3,777 acres of roadless land with the potential to expand it beyond 5,000 acres. As its name implies, it lies along the picturesque Clarion River, this segment of which was designated as a National Wild and Scenic River in 1996.

Hypothetically, if all these areas were to be designated wilderness, the Allegheny would be approaching 50,000 acres of wilderness, or nearly 10% of the area of the national forest. While still far below the national average for Forest Service land, this figure is more in line with other eastern national forests.

You can help the efforts to gain additional wilderness on the Allegheny by getting involved in the Forest Plan revision process early on. We recently received word from the Forest Service that they will begin the revision process in the fall of this year. They will be holding public meetings and giving field trips during the summer to gather public input, so you should actively



Kirk Johnson is the Forest Watch Coordinator for the Allegheny Defense Project. He has a strong interest in the permanent reestablishment of wilderness attributes in the Allegheny National Forest and throughout the eastern United States.



The Wilderness Act signing in the Whitehouse Rose Garden, September 4, 1964. President Johnson is shown handing the pen to Alice Zahniser, Howard's widow. The photo is courtesy of Alice Zahniser.

look for opportunities to get involved! Let the Forest Service know early and often that the Allegheny needs a significant amount of new wilderness!

Also, if you are familiar with the Allegheny National Forest and have a favorite spot or area here not listed above that you think would make a good addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System, please contact us at Friends of Allegheny Wilderness and let us know your thoughts!

For additional information about this campaign, please contact the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness at (814) 223-4996, P.O. Box 245, Clarion, PA, 16214, or alleghenyfriends@hotmail.com.

To contact the Forest Service to get involved with the Forest Plan revision process, write to Forest Supervisor Kevin Elliot, Allegheny National Forest, P.O. Box 847, Warren, PA, or call (814) 723-5150.



To take protection of wild West Virginia to the next level— Use a wildlands network conservation plan and land trust- held conservation easements to protect the entire landscape

By Rupert Cutler

Former Executive Director, Western Virginia Land Trust, Roanoke

Progress in the 20th Century toward protection of extensive West Virginia forest stands not wiped out by logging and fire in the 19th Century came slowly but surely. Large, but isolated, tracts of woodlands and associated waters were set aside for long-term public purposes beginning with the passage by the U.S. Congress of the Weeks Law in 1911:

The Allegheny Defense Project

How to get involved in Allegheny National Forest Issues

The Allegheny Defense Project (ADP) is a bioregional organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of forest communities and diversification of the economies of the Allegheny Plateau Bioregion. We are a grassroots-based, nonprofit organization based in northwestern Pennsylvania. The organization began when citizens came together in early 1994 in response to the intensive logging occurring on the Allegheny National Forest. Seeing the need for a citizen voice to counter the U.S. Forest Service's strong bias for commercial production of the shade-intolerant black cherry tree through widespread clearcutting, the ADP began working to halt the most egregious timber sales taking place on the Allegheny.

Today the ADP has over 20 active Coordinators in many of the major cities throughout the region. We are one of a nationwide coalition of similar organizations who support the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act, national legislation which would end all commercial logging on federal public lands. ADP is currently fighting the East Side timber sale, which would cut more than 8,600 acres, and the Duck/Sheriff timber sale, which would cut over 3,500 acres of our public Allegheny National Forest. The East Side logging project is the largest timber sale in the eastern United States.

ADP has continued to grow to embrace a more bioregional approach to forest protection through our two main programs—Forest Watch and Education and Outreach. Today, while our focus remains on the Allegheny National Forest timber sale program, we have begun an exciting new campaign to designate additional federal Wilderness on the Allegheny — the home of Wilderness Act author Howard Zahniser! We have also begun to work on issues related to oil and gas drilling on the national forest, and logging on Pennsylvania's extensive state forest system. Over the past several years, we have been working hard to ensure that threatened and endangered species in the national forest are given the protection they so badly need.

Allegheny Defense Project

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Clarion, PA 16214

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www.alleghenydefense.org

"The ink had scarcely dried after President Taft signed the Weeks Law on March 1, 1911, before examinations got under way on three [national forest] purchase units in West Virginia; namely, the Potomac, Shenandoah, and Monongahela. The first two were to become that portion of the George Washington [National Forest] that is in West Virginia. Boundaries were established, options taken, and the first purchases completed in 1914. Within ten years over 200,000 acres had been acquired."

Acquisitions continued. Today the Monongahela National Forest alone contains some 909,409 acres. If you include that portion of the George Washington National Forest that lies in West Virginia, we have about a million acres of West Virginia forestland semi-protected by national forest status. Another layer of protection, beyond that provided by inclusion in a "multiple-use" national forest, was given to almost nine percent of the Monongahela Forest by authority of the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act of 1975. As a result of President Ford's signing this Act on January 3, 1975, and subsequent actions under the authority of the Wilderness Act of 1964, we now have the 35,864-acre Cranberry Wilderness, the 20,000-acre Otter Creek Wilderness, the 10,215-acre Dolly Sods Wilderness, Laurel Fork North (6,055 acres), Laurel Fork South (5,997 acres) and 2,721 acres of the Mountain Lake Wildernesses in the West Virginia portion of the Jefferson National Forest safely tucked away within the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The rules for national forest planning, that translate the statutory language of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 into field guidelines, require national forest plans including that for the Monongahela to provide for the protection of biological diversity. And when the results of the Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) were published in 1980, the RARE II inventory included a quarter of a million acres of then-unclassified "roadless" lands within the Monongahela Forest potentially suitable for wilderness classification. (The RARE II allocation recommendations for this terrain were: Wilderness, 68,000 acres; Further Planning, 7,720 acres; and Nonwilderness, 175,732 acres.)ⁱⁱ I wouldn't be surprised if some of these RARE II-inventoried lands in West Virginia remain unlogged, unclassified, and suitable for wilderness consideration. There is no minimum size for a wilderness area.

All of these positive developments have set the stage for improved protection of West Virginia's backcountry and wildlife habitat in the 21st Century. I will suggest what some of those next steps could be below. Their thrust will be to close the gaps between the isolated tracts of publicly owned, protected habitat. The idea is to form a long chain, from one end of the region to the other, of "core" blocks of public forest linked by means of newly dedicated wildlands not necessarily in public ownership. The result will be an enlarged wildlands network with ecosystem integrity, capable of (1) sustaining the region's black bear population, its keystone predators, and other wide-ranging native species and (2) providing an expanded protected physical setting for wilderness-based human recreational, educational, and spiritual experiences.

To recapitulate: If you include some Pendleton County, WV pieces of the George Washington National Forest (mainly in Virginia), we have about a million acres of West Virginia forestland semi-protected by national forest status. About 80,000 acres of that land is well protected by its statutory wilderness system status. Is that enough to assure long-term survival of black bear, bobcat, and the apparently returning mountain lion in West Virginia's backcountry? I doubt if anyone knows for sure. Their habitat base can be expanded. This would help assure their survival. Their presence is required to round out a naturally balanced native fauna in the region, just as the re-introduced gray wolf is re-establishing a healthy faunal balance in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

Let's assume that West Virginia conservationists will continue to encourage their Congressional delegation to enlarge existing wildernesses and add new ones from the RARE II inventory and elsewhere within the Monongahela National Forest and to designate a national park and additional national wildlife refuges as opportunities arise. Is there more that conservationists can do on these keystone species' behalf? Actions that do not require fee-simple government purchase of private land? The answer is yes.

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--WV Wildlands, from previous page--

The recommended salutary actions could come in two stages:

- The first stage would involve preparation of a "Wildland Network Conservation Plan" for the West Virginia Highlands, done in collaboration with the The Wildlands Project, now in the process of developing a Wildlands Network Design for the Chesapeake Bay watershed.ⁱ A Wildland Network Conservation Plan may be viewed as an "architect's sketch" that provides perspective and context to the ongoing land conservation efforts of many organizations and individuals and presents a bold but achievable vision for protecting the extraordinary natural legacy of, in this instance, the West Virginia Highlands.ⁱⁱ Such a network design/conservation plan would include: (a) *Core Areas*—designated or proposed public wilderness and wilderness-like areas and private land managed for natural values such as Nature Conservancy reserves; (b) *Landscape Linkages*—including wildlife movement linkages and riparian corridors; and (c) *Compatible Use Areas*—including public lands with low road density and private lands that are managed for biodiversity protection (including lands under conservation easement).ⁱⁱⁱ



The second stage would involve widespread use of a legal tool called the conservation easement, usually held by a private entity called a land trust. Some conservation easements are donated in return for income and estate tax reductions; others are paid for when the landowner is not able to benefit by such tax reductions. The land stays in private ownership and on the local tax rolls. Occupancy by the owner and his/her family, farming, and tree harvest under a forest stewardship plan are allowed on lands under conservation easement, but residential and commercial development is prohibited.^{iv} Much of the land sure to be identified in a West Virginia Highlands Wildland Network Conservation Plan inventory, as "gaps" in the potentially unbroken chain of protected habitats, will be privately owned. President George W. Bush has expressed support for full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, based on offshore federal oil royalties and used for conservation land purchases, but competing demands on this fund are huge. Exchanges of federal land for private land may look good on paper but often run into a hornet's nest of opposition. It is my guess that there is little political "stomach", and insufficient public funding available, to greatly expand government land holdings in West Virginia.

In conclusion, I recommend that the agenda of wildland conservationists in West Virginia be expanded to include the identification of potential linkages and compatible use areas connecting "core" wilderness and wilderness-like areas in the West Virginia Highlands, to form a Wildlands Network Design, and to enhance their relationships with land trusts and other potential conservation easement-holders, encouraging them to give priority attention to obtaining easements within this Wildlands Network boundary.

Also worth attempting would be an effort to encourage the state forestry agency to use its Forest Legacy conservation easement funds to acquire easements on "working forests" within the Wildlands Network boundary. Such easements would then achieve multiple benefits including slowing forest fragmentation and re-establishing wildlife habitat linkages in the West Virginia Highlands.



environmental policy and planning at Michigan State University and the University of Virginia

Dr. Cutler was the Assistant Secretary for Conservation, Research, and Education, U.S. Department of Agriculture, in the Carter Administration and served as President of Defenders of Wildlife from 1987 to 1990. He has taught



ⁱ Ralph R. Widner, Editor, *Forests and Forestry in the American States: A Reference Anthology*. Compiled by the National Association of State Foresters, 1968. See page 319 in chapter 48, "West Virginia: If Trees Could Cuss." See also: M. A. Mattoon, "Appalachian Comeback," in *Trees: Yearbook of Agriculture 1949*, page 304 et seq.

ⁱⁱ RARE II Final Environmental Impact Statement, USDA Forest Service, FS-325, January 1979, page N-1.

The Wildlands Project's Southeast Coordinator is David Z. Bynum, 1126 John Jones Road, Bahama, NC 27503-8837, (919) 477-1928, dzb@duke.edu. The organization's national headquarters address is 1955 W. Grant Road, Suite 145, Tucson, AZ 85745, (520) 884-0875, wildlands@twp.org, www.twp.org. See the magazine *Wild Earth*, PO Box 455, Richmond, VT 05477, (802) 434-4077. (Volume 10, Number 1, Spring 2000 is a special issue on The Wildland Project.)

ⁱⁱⁱ From "Diverse, Beautiful and Wild: Sky Islands Network, insert at page 16, *Wild Earth*, Spring 2000.

^{iv} From "The Wildlands Project Approach to Wildlands Network Design" in *Wildlands Network Design Workshop for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* by David Z. Bynum, 12/1/2000.

^v Information on conservation easements and contacting local land trusts may be obtained from The Land Trust Alliance, 1319 F St., NW, Washington, DC 20004, (202) 638-4725.

^{vi} Western Virginia Land Trust, Michael G. Van Ness, Executive Director, PO Box 18102, Roanoke, VA 24014-0797, (540) 985-0000, wvlt@msn.com. The consultant was Larry Wallace, The Wallace Group, PO Box 21787, Roanoke, VA 24018, (540) 929-4419, twinfrogs@msn.com.

Conserving a Crown Jewel: The Blackwater Canyon Story

By Pam Chaddon

Formed more than 250 million years ago from sedimentary rock of ancient seas, the Allegheny Mountains rise west of the Blue Ridge along the central Appalachian Mountain range. Affectionately referred to as the Highlands, the region is a sanctuary of wind-swept mountains, deep gorges, glorious waterfalls, lost rivers, rich valleys and wetlands, and alluring caves. After the continental glaciers of the Ice Age retreated northward, islands of boreal forests were stranded in the high mountains along the Allegheny Front. These northern species quickly adapted to the rugged terrain and harsh elements of the Highlands. A unique and wondrous landscape was formed, luring entrepreneur and homesteader alike.

Reporting on the region in 1852, writer Philip Pendleton Kennedy eloquently stated that "nowhere in all this fair land of ours has a scene more beautifully grand broken on the eye of poet or painter."

A land of unsurpassed Appalachian wilderness, the Highlands has weathered a dichotomous relationship with man since Kennedy wrote his poetic prose. This is the story of the Blackwater Canyon; a story of wonder, veneration, struggle, resilience, and triumph in the last century for one of Appalachia's most significant natural landmarks.

The steepest terrain of the Highlands remained undocumented by European Americans until 1851, when author and illustrator David Hunter Strother, who used the pen name Porte Crayon, set out to explore the uncharted wilderness. Accounts of his adventures were detailed in the prestigious national publication Harper's Monthly. Crayon depicted mountainous vistas of immense spruce and hardwood stands, thick laurels and rhododendrons, and, most distinctly, an untamed canyon carved by a wild, raging river. Crayon had found the land of Canaan and the majestic Blackwater Canyon.

He described a perilous adventure down the steep canyon slopes to reach the great river. Deep within the gorge, he recorded more than 250 brook trout caught by his party in one day. A mysterious wilderness that inspired awe, the Blackwater soon received national recognition. Yet, in the following decades, Canaan and the canyon lands faced unremitting assaults that

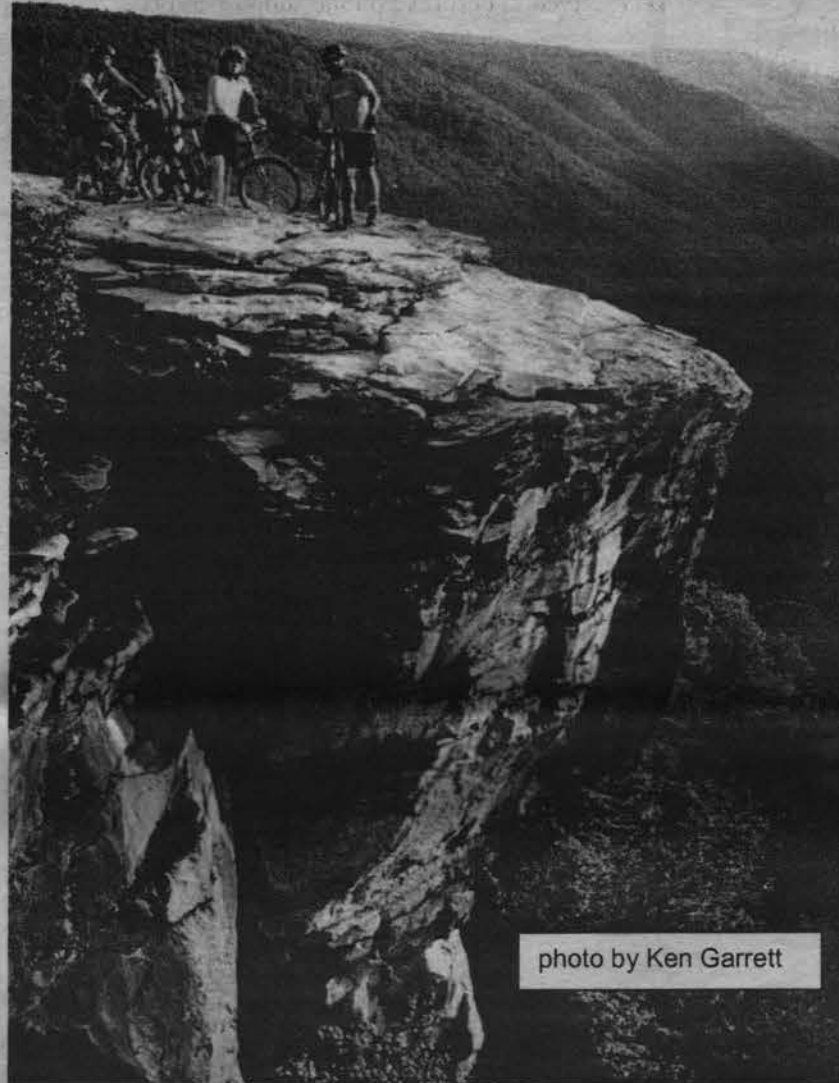


photo by Ken Garrett

challenged the integrity of the region's natural heritage.

Railroad companies were expanding into western Maryland at the same time Crayon was preparing his explorations to West Virginia. By 1880, tracks reached beyond Maryland and into the Mountain State, introducing logging and mining to the region. Within two decades, industry was prospering, but at the expense of the rich natural resources. As Canaan and the Blackwater Canyon were clear-cut, the landscape was converted into a tinderbox. By 1910, fires swept over the wasteland, often burning continuously from spring until the first snows. Residents of dwindling lumber towns feared for their lives. Only deep trenches filled with water from the Blackwater River spared the towns of Davis and Thomas. When the fires subsided, thin mineral soil and bare rock were all that remained. Uncontrollable soil erosion and flooding further degraded and depopulated

the region. The dense and diverse forest, which had taken hundreds of centuries to evolve and had covered valleys and ridges, had been transformed into a desert.

The 1920s brought new optimism to the region, as national trends linked environmental protection to prosperity. Civilian Conservation Corps members replanted much of the Canaan region and the U.S. Forest Service purchased thousands of burned acres to establish Monongahela National Forest. Owned at the time by West Virginia Power and Transmission (later called Allegheny Power Systems) and slated for an elaborate electric generation project, the south side of the canyon was excluded from this large-scale preservation effort. Yet, tightly nestled within the newly established public lands, it, too, began to heal, as healthy second growth forests regenerated.

From 1937 to 1953, various leases and donations to the state from the utility company resulted in a momentous addition to the West Virginia State Park system. Blackwater Falls State Park was placed into public ownership, including 934 acres at the head of the canyon and the renowned 62-foot falls. Damming plans for the river never materialized and visitors were given full access to the entire canyon for recreational opportunities. The canyon again enjoyed worldwide fame, drawing thousands of tourists annually. As the years passed, few realized that the lower canyon was not permanently protected for future generations.

The dramatic canyon and its wild river derive their names from the reddish brown color of the river's water. This distinctive characteristic, notes author and naturalist J. Lawrence Smith in Blackwater Country, is caused by a combination of tannic acids from the evergreens growing along its course and iron oxide from the Mauch Chunk shales that underlie much of the valley. Deep in the forests of the Highlands, the river's headwaters meander east through the swampy mountain bogs of Canaan Valley. For nearly 20 miles, the Blackwater slithers along a level water gap, draining the highest mountain valley east of the Mississippi.

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Then, turning west, gathering tributaries swell its banks as it accelerates toward the breathtaking Falls of the Blackwater. In a leap of faith, the river plummets into a maze of boulders, raging for its final 10 miles through the majestic Blackwater Canyon. For more than a millennium, the river has patterned this 1,000-foot-deep gorge.

Coursing onward, the river drops nearly 1,200 feet through the canyon as it rages towards the wide, peaceful banks of the Cheat River. High on the upper ridges, vast rock outcroppings, which have become the quintessential portraits of the region, provide breathtaking views of the watershed. The canyon's magnificence has drawn both artists seeking inspiration in the rich textures of fall and hikers seeking solitude under the stars.

In addition, with eight miles of continuous rapid, the Blackwater River offers one of the most superb whitewater courses in the East for kayakers. Hunters and fishermen also have long enjoyed the abundant fish and wildlife of the canyon. Its unusual and sensitive ecosystem, which includes rare and endangered species, continues to fascinate biologists and botanists. The old railroad right-of-way is now a rigorous mountain biking and cross-country ski trail.

In 1970, the first hope in nearly two decades for public ownership of the remaining canyon lands surfaced when the National Park Service recommended it for National Natural Landmark status. More than two decades later, in 1995, the U.S. Forest Service recommended it for Wild and Scenic River status. From 1995 to 1997, The Conservation Fund negotiated aggressively with the power company for public ownership of the canyon by the U.S. Forest Service. However, on February 18, 1997, Allegheny Power Systems sold the 3,000-acre mountain sanctuary to a private developer, who subsequently resold the canyon to Allegheny Wood Products, an international exporter of Appalachian hardwoods.

At first, Allegheny Wood Products began timbering the lower reaches of the canyon and staking several development sites. When citizens expressed concern for the ecological, historical, and recreational losses that timbering in the canyon would bring about, Allegheny Wood Products began working with government agencies that are concerned about the natural integrity of the area. Recently, the state purchased the famous Lindy Point overlook as an addition to Blackwater Falls State Park, providing public access to the most scenic overlook along the canyon rim. Allegheny Wood Products also has given the state first right of refusal for purchase of additional

acreage in the canyon, which will likely be acquired in the near future.

Efforts are now under way by concerned citizens and conservation organizations to preserve the Blackwater Canyon as a National Park. Congress has appropriated funds for a National Park study of the canyon, but authorizing legislation for the study has not yet been approved. The "Blackwater Canyon Campaign" has received widespread public support and is also conducting scientific studies of the area, including documentation of federally threatened and endangered species that live in the canyon.

The Blackwater Canyon has seen man come and go, but the spirit of the land remains constant. In the face of adversity, the canyon has responded with resilience and renewed grandeur, proving that it is truly, as Kennedy had heard told, "as perfect a wilderness as our continent contained."

Blackwater is a land that nurtures and humbles all that find refuge in its embrace. In 1853, Kennedy elaborated, "The wilderness was rich everywhere with hues of all dyes and the banks of the river gleamed for miles with the flowers of the rhododendron. A scene of more enchantment it would be difficult to imagine." The wilderness of Kennedy's prose will again be realized when the natural heritage of the Blackwater Canyon is fully preserved, leaving a priceless legacy for generations to come.



Pam Chaddon is a full-time mother, freelance writer, and musician living in Westminster, Maryland. A member of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, she has been active in the campaign to preserve the Blackwater Canyon. This article originally appeared in *Wild Wonderful West Virginia Magazine*, see it online at www.wonderfulwv.com.



The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy would like to acknowledge special thanks to our friends at the West Virginia Rivers Coalition and the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition.

The West Virginia Rivers Coalition (WVRC) is a statewide non-profit organization seeking the conservation and restoration of West Virginia's exceptional rivers and streams. Founded in 1989, WVRC now has 2,300 members and is the voice for river protection in West Virginia. For the past two years WVRC has focused its efforts on implementing and enforcing the Clean Water Act (CWA) in West Virginia. In 2001 results from this work are being realized as the state is adopting an anti-degradation implementation policy, a CWA provision intended to keep our clean rivers and streams clean. For more info please visit the WVRC website at www.wvrivers.org. The Highlands Conservancy is proud to be a founding Rivers Coalition member.

-----photo below-----

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition Demonstrates against Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining at the State Capitol with a "Funeral for the Mountains."

OVEC has also organized numerous other actions and protests, as well as planning meetings where concerned folks come together to discuss upcoming strategies. OVEC regularly takes people on field trips and flyovers to see mountain mass first hand. The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is proud to cooperate and form partnerships on important issues with the fine folks at OVEC. If you'd like to get involved in citizen action to fight mountaintop removal / valley fill strip mining in West Virginia, please contact OVEC (Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition) at 304-522-0246, by e mail at ohvec@ezwv.com, or by mail at PO Box 6753 Huntington WV 25771



Celebrating West Virginia's Wilderness

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's

35th Annual Spring Review

April 27-29, 2001 Timberline Lodge in Canaan Valley

Featuring!

Friday Evening reception

4 pm ?? Join us for an evening of socializing, slide shows, poster presentations and more. Timberline Lodge is a comfortable lodge in the "middle of it all" in Canaan Valley. There will be a cash bar and snacks available. Bring slides or photos of your latest adventures to share with friends.

Saturday

7:30 - 8:45 am Continental Breakfast served in Timberline Lodge
 9:00 am Field Trips depart from Timberline Lodge
 1:00 pm Blackwater Canyon tour departs Timberline Lodge
 4:00 pm Evening reception with snacks and a cash bar
 6:30 pm A special Whitegrass Cafe Buffet style dinner will be served
 7:30 pm program begins

Issue updates we'll learn the latest happenings on Blackwater Canyon, Mountain top removal mining, the 2001 State Legislature, Timber regulations, Dolly Sods North, and more.

Why Wilderness Jeremy Sheaffer from the Wilderness Society and Brian O'Donnell from the Wilderness Support Center will have some comments on Wilderness Campaigns and Wilderness designation in the eastern United States

Special Guest Speaker Ed Zahniser

Ed Zahniser is the youngest child of Howard Zahniser, the chief architect of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Ed lives in Shepherdstown, W. Va. with his wife Christine Duewel and their son Eric Duewel-Zahniser. Another son, Justin Duewel-Zahniser attends West Virginia University. Ed has worked with the publications group of the National Park Service since 1977 in Harpers Ferry, W. Va. He edited *Where Wilderness Preservation Began: Adirondack Writings of Howard Zahniser* (North Country Books, 1992) and is the author of three books of poems, *The Ultimate Double Play* (1974), *The Way to Heron Mountain* (1984) and *A Calendar of Worship* (1994). He was the contributing editor of and a contributing author to the *North American Book of Trees* (1995) published by the tradition of Readers Digest Books. He is also the author and/or editor of several official National Park Handbooks.

Ed will talk about his life as a Wilderness crusader. He will comment on the history of the Wilderness Act, and the Wilderness preservation movement in general.

Sunday

7:30 - 8:45 am Continental Breakfast
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Board of Directors meeting
 9:00 am Otter Creek field trip

Meals All meals will be prepared by our friends at Whitegrass Cafe.

Lodging

Bunkhouse Timberline has a bunkhouse we have procured with beds complete with linens and towels for \$10/person.

North Woods Condos adjacent to the Timberline Lodge can be rented by contacting Timberline Realty at 304-866-4777

Canaan Valley Resort has rooms available call 1-800 CALL WVA

Village Inn Motel in Canaan Valley 304-866-4166

Best Western in Davis 304-259-5245

Questions call dave at 304-284-9548



Celebrating West Virginia's Wilderness

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's 35th annual Spring Review

April 27-29, 2001 Timberline Lodge in Canaan Valley

Adventures

All trips depart the Timberline Lodge
in Canaan Valley at 9am

Explore Dolly Sods Join us on a scenic day long hike through the "High Sods," the area to the north of Dolly Sods Wilderness. You will experience vast open areas of heath, spruce forests and high elevation sphagnum bogs with spectacular vistas and scenery.

This is the area recently acquired by the Forest Service. Trails are yet un-named. This area is the focus of a current Wilderness campaign. (see article in this issue) This hike will be lead by Peter Shoenfeld, and will cover some very rugged terrain, but will not do a lot of climbing.

Bike Blackwater Begin at Olson Lookout Tower and bike the Canyon Rim checking out the rocky points and overlooks of the Blackwater Canyon, then ride the rail-trail through the canyon to Hendrix. Lead by Barnes Nugent, this will be a good ride for beginners and experienced alike.

Canoe Blackwater River or another nearby stream, depending on water levels. Bring your own boat, or we'll have some to rent at reasonable rates. Be sure to let us know ahead of time if you need a canoe.

Tour Canaan Valley National Wildlife

Refuge Take a morning car tour of the Nations 500th Wildlife Refuge. See the results so far of the Highlands Conservancy's 30 years of protection efforts for this special place. Some short hikes at different spots.

Tour Blackwater Canyon Leaving Timberline Lodge at 1pm, this car tour of Blackwater Canyon will take in all the popular spots. See Blackwater Falls, Lindy Point, Pendleton Point and the overlook at the State Park Lodge. Some short hikes involved.

Sunday Hike Otter Creek Wilderness Visit the spectacular Otter Creek Wilderness. Meet at the Timberline Lodge at 9am Sunday morning and join us for a short Wilderness trip. We'll be out of the woods by 2pm. This hike will take place concurrently with the Highlands Conservancy's Board meeting.

Spring Review 2001 Registration Form

Please send us your registration no later than April 21, thanks

	Cost/person		#people	Total
Registration Fee	\$10.00	X	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Breakfast	\$4.00	X	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Bag Lunches	\$6.00	X	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Dinner	\$15.00	X	_____	\$ _____
Sunday Breakfast	\$4.00	X	_____	\$ _____
Sunday Lunch	\$6.00	X	_____	\$ _____
Bunkhouse	\$10.00/night	X	_____	\$ _____
			Total	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Field Trips

- # ___ Hiking Dolly Sods
___ Tour Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge
___ Canoe the Blackwater River
___ Bike Blackwater Rim and Canyon
___ Tour Blackwater Canyon
___ Sunday Hike Otter Creek Wilderness

Send Registration forms
and payment to:
WVHC
PO Box 306
Charleston, WV 25321

