THE

Highlands

Voice

Vol. 6, No. 1
JANUARY 1974

# An Open Letter To Governor Moore

December 10, 1973

Governor Arch A. Moore, Jr.
Office of the Governor
State House
Charleston, W. Va. 25305

Dear Governor Moore:

Our one and only meeting, brief though it was, left me with the distinct impression that you are a man of reason and dedication to your beliefs.

It is upon that basis that I presume to write this letter.

I would like to assure you that I am not a "frantic environmentalist".

I am, however, an accredited and deeply concerned specialist in the combined field of natural resources and consistent environmental hazards.

My educational background began with Johns Hopkins University and ended with special credits from the University of Virginia in environmental effects.

I have been a regular staff writer with Hearst Newspapers for the past 18 years and have devoted most of that time to my special subject.

With apologies for the preamble, I will get on with the reason for this letter.

The subject is Shavers Fork and the mineral rights controversy of which I have been aware for at least the past five years.

I do not credit myself as qualified to make a value judgement either for or against, as Governor, or for the citizens of West Virginia.

On the contrary, I merely wish to present what I consider to be a few pertinent and factual factors in the hope that you may find them useful in your up-coming decision-making efforts regarding Shavers Fork.

First, the value of mineral deposits to the people of West Virginia. In the last 10 years Shavers Fork is finite, calculable and, as I understand it, largely confined to coal reserves.

(Cont. on p. 6)

# Moore Calls For Coal Commission

In his State of the State message delivered to the joint session of the West Virginia legislature on January 10, Governor Arch A. Moore called for the creation of a new commission to develop coal resources in West Virginia, in view of the energy short-down in the United States.

Moore's commission would be called the Governor's Commission on Energy, Economy and Environment. He envisages its make-up composed of several departmental heads within West Virginia state government whose responsibilities are presently related to the commission's goal of solving various national energy problems by using coal.

In his comments before the legislature, Moore noted that he considered the present energy situation a "second golden opportunity" for coal. He warned, however, that the costs of policy must be taken into account to protect the environment, and that coal must be developed in a way compatible with the environmental health of West Virginia.

Among the duties delineated by Moore which would be of concern to the commission were: (1) identification of all sources of demand for energy and allocation of available reserves; (2) determination of the actual amount of coal reserves.

(Cont. on p. 6)

# FPC Hearings Postponed

The Federal Power Commission has once again postponed the hearings on the Davis Power Project in Canaan Valley until March 18, 1974. This action, taken January 9, 1974, was in accordance with a request from the FPC's own staff that additional time was needed in which to carefully evaluate comments made by intervenors to the staff's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The FPC, Conservancy and other intervenors raised such points as the lack of regional plan.
President's Comments
By David Elkin

It has been one year since I assumed the position of president of the Conservancy. At that time about all I knew about the organization was an impression of the Conservancy and what it could do to make West Virginia a better place to live. I saw the Conservancy, despite its rather modest resources, as a successful group that were and are still needed. Its diversification and its interest in the broad range of environmental issues, and their inter-relationships seemed to be its major asset. A better organized and more aggressive effort to stimulate the public awareness of the issue would help create a more active and informed public. We have accomplished a great deal during this period, but we still have a long way to go.

From The Editor
By Ben Howes

With this issue The Highlands Voice becomes a monthly newspaper. The decision to go to a monthly has been made in order to better serve all the people who are involved in public issues. There are full participation, including disagreement, but resolves issues in such a democratic way; We have been able to build a very successful group.

The Highlands Voice is, Vol. VI, No. 1. Faced with the energy crisis the Conservancy's active citizen, each month, indeed its life, are threatened. Things are happening quickly, initiated by panic, miscommunication and misinformation. We hope the Voice can now serve as an effective vehicle to fight ignorance and help to solve the problems.

The rapidity and seriousness of almost daily events which affect the Conservancy and the Voice's force. What will happen to the Voice's force? To the protection of the highlands successfully?

In addition to reporting the occurrence of actions taken by the Conservancy and the Voice's force, we hope the monthly issue will enable more people to be aware of what is happening. We hope the Voice's force will continue to grow.

The Davis Power Project continues to wait for a final decision. It is a big issue that will soon be decided. The Conservancy has prepared legal documents, including extensive data on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and continues to prepare documents for presentation at the hearings.

The Conservancy's position has been to support the proposal. The Conservancy has many interested groups involved in this project, which will provide good jobs for the workers of the area. The Conservancy will continue to fight for the best solution.

The Voice's force is growing and will continue to do so. The Voice is the only vehicle for change in this area. The Voice's force is the only voice for the people. It is the only way to keep the people informed. The Voice is the only way to keep the people informed.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with The Voice's force and the Conservancy to make West Virginia a better place to live. I am looking forward to continuing to work with The Voice's force and the Conservancy to make West Virginia a better place to live.
Dear Sir:

As I look at the energy and environmental situation, this is the time for conservationists to rise and shine. Those who support the need for conservation of waste on which our industrial society was built need the 1973 Conservation Act, a mandate for the present fuel shortage. The real responsibility, in fact, has been being projected into the nebular stage. And anyone who knows anything about the energy business sensed the development program was not being geared to make a deal, that was being mounted to make people believe in shandicrly.

Those who urged that our energy resources be used wisely were voices crying in the wilderness. How some of the same promoters of waste are urging conservation practices, but at the same time using the opportunity to discredit those who saw the danger signals first.

Nor can the conservation movement be blamed for the more realistic speed limits which have been enacted into law for our public roads. Those who are to blame are the agency directors who made higher speed limits legal in the first place.

The solution to the economy of waste - not only of fuel, but of tires, roads surfaces, machines, wildlife, air, homemakers, wills should be perturbed by the trucking industry's efforts to increase fuel consumption. Considering gear ratios, roads surfaces, and usage we find there is no way in which a truck traveling 70 miles per hour will use less fuel per trip than one traveling 55 miles per hour; in fact, there is a good chance it will use as much as 10% more at the higher speed.

Instead of being beaten, the conservationist is in an excellent position to say, "I told you so," but there is no time for the either/or mentality. The environmental movement must set its own house in order. It would be too easy to find there has been too much self-serving, too much parachuting, too much lack of understanding of ideas and interests. The search for organizational structure, the fragmentation of efforts, and more and more people conflicting objectives of special interest groups within the movement have made some of our defenses vulnerable to defeat from the outside.

In my view environmentalism needs to be more rational, broader based, and more able to create a real positive motion that anything that has to do with enjoying the outdoors is good and improves the environment.

The graphs on the page are a graphic need for a well ordered educational program and the means more now than ever, there must be decentralization in the time, effort, and money to help the children as they arise.

Charles Morrison
1117 Moler Ave.
Hagerstown, Md.

Hardy
(cont. from p. 2)
reason for non-acceptance.

The voice can always use black and white photographs. Many people who read the Voice actually only look at the pictures and read their captions. If a picture may well be worth a good article.

We can use original cartoons. We will consider poems. In fact, we will consider anything!

Since President Nixon has suggested that everyone stay home in order to drive up the price of gasoline, we suggest that while you are sitting around watching the price of gasoline click upward, you write something for the Voice.

The Voice has always been a place for the one distracted, absent - minded school teacher would sleep more soundly.

Last year the state of Oregon passed a "bottle bill." The innovative measure outlawed the use of all plastic, glass, aluminum, and beer, and made payment mandatory for returned bottles.

Blasted by car and bottle manufacturers as irresponsible and uneconomical, the bill has found out to be amazingly successful in Oregon. According to government studies, bottles of all sizes and colors comprised only 19.4 percent of the litter in Oregon in 1973, whereas the same study in the "bottle bill" states it would have comprised over 34 percent. Of 19.4 percent of the Oregon's roadside litter in October 1973, 14.9 percent was comprised of glass, and cans comprised only 19.4 percent of the litter. No more recent studies are available for the Oregon state, but we can say one has to really search for a discarded bottle in Oregon. According to the Oregon State Coordinator for Natural Resources, Oregon has thrown away containers out there's someone right behind them, picking them up quickly.

According to Charlotte Gazette editorial (Dec. 19, 1973) officials from every state except Alaska have approached Oregon for information on the "bottle bills" success. Oregon is one of the states which have approached Oregon for more information. Has our state government got out to be amazingly successful in prohibiting throw-away containers? I proclaim they have.

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Postulated on the very headwaters of Shavers Fork River has caused considerable controversy. Once the dam is finished, this earth dam will hold about 10 million cubic yards of water and the very headwaters of the river it will not affect. Then it will return the water which entered the stream below the Snowshoe Spillway, adding to the normal flow of the river and connecting lake to the Spillway. Surely then there is to be some benefit to the river, but the long pull will be far less effective and timely than the impoundment of any of the Spillway, etc. that has been going on downstream for some years.

Conservation planning and construction is being done with great concern for prevention of damage to wildlife. I wish you

Point Pleasant, WV

Burrall
(cont. from p. 2)
Legislature this session will be the Natural Streams Preservation Act which will ensure that a certain number of West Virginia's finest rivers and streams be permanently maintained in a free flowing condition. It will prohibit dam construction on any river that is identified with the ill-fated scenic rivers act which provided for condemning privately owned dams and impoundments on Virginian rivers. It will be your duty in the near future not to vote against the Senate Delegates and Senators in your district and sign this letter in full of your interest in it. Make sure that these people, most of whom have been good, are not betrayed. Do not confuse the Natural Streams Preservation Act with any other bills. It does not condemn land or regulate the use of private ownership in any way except to forbid dam construction.

Do your rivers a favor and get "A" off to a good start this fall. Write your representatives today. See you on the river.
Widerness

(continuation from page 3)

which began some time ago. The Forest Service continues to insist that the 1964 Act's definition of qualifying wilderness be adhered to for the purpose of wilderness restoration. Congress has never bought the idea that the two parties are designated by or pursuant to the 1964 Act contained substantial evidence of Man's prior activity. As revised by the Interior Committee to be non-controversial as possible the new legislation states that "restored" lands fit the definition of wilderness if they are designated in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Forest Service's view.

The Forest Service wants a Congressionally sanctioned "restored lands" definition for the several east coast states where there has been a decision to make a commitment to the service of the land. It is to provide the Service with a powerful weapon to fight wilderness proponents in the West where big battles are now brewing. The Service will surely argue, if its eastern wilderness definition is passed, that Congress enacted a looser definition for the East, Congress implicitly declared that all stricter definition prevails in the West.

There has been no action yet by the House Interior Committee on the bill. The Senators have put the bill aside for the time being but it is still alive. As of this writing, the committee has not finished its work but the bill was presented to the Senate Interior Committee on June 3rd. It is now one of their top priorities. The committee has scheduled four hearings to discuss the bill. The first hearing was held on June 3rd and the second hearing is scheduled for June 16th.

APCC shops from coal to oil. According to West Virginia's representative, the passage of the bill will allow the state to continue to produce coal but the program for pollution abatement must be redesigned to fit the properties of coal. It is also stated that the bill is a compromise between the three main parties involved in the debate.

The APCC has not made any public statement on the bill yet. However, the House Interior Committee is expected to act soon on the bill. The Senate Interior Committee is expected to hold hearings on the bill. If the bill is passed by both houses, it will be sent to the President for his signature. If the President signs the bill, it will become law.

All Conservancy members can see the bill that Senator W. C. T. Carter, the chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, introduced on May 15th. The bill calls for the establish of a special committee to study the returns from the forest industry in the West and to recommend a program for the conservation and development of the forest resources. The committee is expected to hold hearings on the bill and to report its findings to the Senate.

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Monroe County is gaining population. The new people are coming from the cities and suburbs, university campuses and corporate industries "back to the land." Monroe County farmers and agriculture for as long as it has been a county. Monrroe's rural people had wanted to change their lifestyle and seeks a new place to live. Most had neither the money nor opportunity to buy a large farm and operate it with the profit motive. Many have been tenants on some of Monroe's bluegrass grazing farms (where there are tenants) or bought acres of tillable land for intensive organic gardening and farming. Preferably some kind of house, water available, either a creek running through the property or, if further back up the water shed, a fast running branch, and trees; beautiful forest land— a steep hillside growing up in maple, sycamore, oak, walnut, poplar, pine.

It is difficult to tell exactly how many new people have followed an alternative way of life in the county. I have talked with the local estate broker in Union, Monroe's county seat, and the land salesmen. They have handled the transfer of roughly a hundred land transactions in the past year. The county has sold at least forty-eight acres each to out of state buyers. The past year the land is being sought by developers and speculators as well as the home-seeking people. A recreational complex in the eastern edge of the county comprising forty-eight hundred acres is in the planning stage and those plans call for the lots to be sold to real estate developers for second home sites. The land boom came to Monroe County just as it has come to other isolated sections of the country. Up until three years ago the real estate business had a buyer's market here. Since the influx of new buyers it has become a seller's market. The supply of readily saleable, that is speculative properties, has gradually dwindled, the prices have risen on all types of land and today if a buyer of land finds the place he wants at what he can afford to pay he had better buy it rather than go back home and decide -- because it will probably be sold by the time he comes back to look at it again.

When all the activity of getting settled in to the rural way of life has subsided, what effect will the new people have on the life of rural W. Va. and Monroe County? One fact that must live with the people already here. For the most part, the natives were friendly and took a typically Appalachian attitude toward the new-comers: laconic, bemused and tolerant. The ideas and needs of the new people about material goods -- the more one does for oneself, the less money one needs to spend -- dovetail neatly with the natives' respect for thrift. "Use it up, wear it out, make it do" has been a necessity rather than a preference. Natives, Monroe Countians in order to survive as farmers.


The new people have seen the opposite in their past experiences. Perhaps for the first time in many years, they have food produced and consumed on the same piece of ground. They learned how gobs are grown from pig to pen. Learned how to dress a chicken for cooking -- to care for animals, build fences and fight fires (keep a fire from going out!) fix a second hand pickup truck, and how to work at country auction and bid on used tools, furniture, machinery, livestock. All of it was new to them. But they also -- how to milk a cow, pipe water from a natural spring, build fences out of dynamic materials but the actual doing was usually a different and more exciting matter. One of the new residents saw a need for exchanging the acquired skills of the older residents of Monroe County with the eager-to-learn new people. He made an initial grant of eighty-five hundred dollars to pay people over age fifty-five three dollars and a half an hour to show students their particular skills. The name of the land -- the new Monroe Heritage School. It has teachers signed up in about fifteen different fields. On the edge of picking to quilting to working with draft horses.

Looking at Land

Country Auction

Another new resident saw the need for a series of newspaper articles about life in the county and with other media-minded people both natives and new comers, are now publishing MONROE LIFE about once every three months through the weekly newspaper, THE MONROE WATERMAN?

What effect will these gentle, articulate and idealistic people have on local politics and land use practices? When anything is said about the plans for expanding the major highway through the county, Rt. 219, from two lanes to four, they immediately come to attention and propose ways of stopping plans for construction, saying that this is the sort of thing that blighted the area they moved away from and they don't want to see it happen in Monroe County. Another local issue to be decided by an election late in November is the continuation of an excess levy on property taxes for county school teachers pay, free text books and other school personnel salaries. A medical doctor and his wife who moved to Monroe from Cleveland, Ohio and bought a farm, solicited for a bond issue to save the education of the children in the rural area. For too long Monroe has seen her children rent by the county for better job opportunities in the city. Today many building children of affluence are moving to Monroe County with the message that the good life is to be lived in the county.

There are many years ahead of them to find ways of earning enough to live on, however. Some of the new people are able to find work that requires skills they learned before moving to the county. Carpenter, social workers, farmers from other areas to move to rural West Virginia, one photographer have found jobs. Most of the new people are trying to make the alternative to their past jobs; they want to be able to grow their own food, have livestock and have something to sell. Part-time jobs are available particularly during planting and harvesting seasons on the larger farms in the county. Many native Monroe Countians work in industry in neighboring Virginia counties and in Monroe and Greenbrier county businesses. The new people say this kind of work would not allow them the kind of freedom they came here to enjoy. So they are satisfied with fewer material goods in products to have the richer more meaningful existence of tilling the land, growing their own food, raising their own livestock in a rural area and taking pleasure in visiting their neighbors, both new people and natives.

By Karen Mitchell

Where Do We Go? (cont. from p. 8)

should have trees in excess of eight feet in diameter. A twelve inch tree will provide approximately twelve board feet of lumber, whereas the product of a single Douglas Fir, at the end of 100 years, would be measured in thousands of board feet.

The sad truth is that clearcutting is one of the least costly forms of management known; that the Forest Service can show a lower per unit cost per unit of return than is possible under any other form of management. Since the Forest Service is a part of the sprawling U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and the USDA is production-minded, the Forest Service also tends to production-minded to the exclusion of any other goals. Clearcutting management, in the Monongahela National Forest, appears to be exactly the same as that for which the 19th Century timber barons were blamed - "Cut out and get out!"

A seeding in the Douglas Fir country has little competition; it is one of the first species in the primary serral stage to take root and there are only half-a-dozen dominant species in the area, anyway. On the other hand, in the eastern hardwood forests, there are numerous species of trees with different growth rates and in newly cut-over areas. And the desirable species are prevented from taking over for several years by species that are more competitive.

It would be sheer folly to overlook the possibilities again for clearcutting in the eastern hardwood forests because some foresters believe in an even-aged management tool, the Northwest. It would be just as sensible to help people to understand what clearcutting, based on experiences in the eastern hardwood forests.

Clearly, management programs are the key in each area and should be geared to prevailing local conditions including the growth patterns of the trees.
energy. Thirdly, only during the past six months has it become evident that the sup-
sumption of energy could be radically altered by the people of the West. It is for this reason that the Davis project will be necessary.

In addition, this project has become the subject of increasing attention nationally. This project will become one of the first to come before the newly formed environmental safeguards. In a court case last year, the Pyrenees project was found to be in violation of environmental impact statements prepared by the applicants in license proceedings, and are re-
quired to research and publish their own independent statement. This court decision was the beginning of a delay in the processing of the hearings on Davis, but the same time will be used for the study of similar impacts in power projects. In addition, the re-

gional press and some national press will be focused on the Davis case as a real con-
frontation between environmentalists and the FPC. And the press and some national press will be focused on the Davis case as a real confronta-
tion between environmentalists and the FPC.

In addition to the Conservancy, other environmental groups who have the ability to include the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund, the Izaak Walton League, the Carmel Valley Association, and the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund. CEQ has a group who wished to express their opinion regarding this proposed project as well. Mr. Kenneth Plum, Secretary, FPC, 825 N. Capitol St. NW Washington, D.C. 20002

Both groups will be heard by the FPC and will be heard by a new regional panel that will be established.

Moore Calls

Moore outline to the attentive listeners at the Federal Highway Administration's public highway planning in West Virginia. He explained that the purpose of the controver-
sial Scenic Highway project is to develop a legislative area that had been determined to be

Conservancy Meets

Moore's only mention of environment-
mental impacts in his legislative area was endorsement of a legislative committee proposal to establish a state agency that would be a protection agency. Moore said, "...I can support our interest's approach to the creation of a state environmental protection agency and urge expedient consideration of that committee's proposal.

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The Board of Directors Meeting on Sunday morning, January 27, produced a wide variety of resolutions on environmental problems now besetting the Highland region.

Charles Carlson, Conservancy representative to the West Virginia Scenic Trails Conference in Charleston, has been needed in Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Webster and Wayne Counties. He is assisting private owners in these counties to acquire right-of-way permits for private trails. Volunteers should advise Nick Losee, 1020 Grosscup Ave., Dunbar W 25064, or Charlie Carlson, Box 131, Charleston, WV.

On December 20 the Senate Interior Committee unanimously approved S. 316, the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act. The bill contains a few improvements to the already excellent draft of wilderness areas. The bill was adopted by the committee's Public Lands Subcommittee.

As reported to the Senate floor S. 316 designates several new "inventeen" wilderness areas, areas which become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System immediately upon passage. Two of these, Upper Buffalo in Arkansas and Otter Creek in West Virginia, had been classified in "study areas" in the August 1st Subcommittee draft of S. 316. This subcommittee has been a Subcommittee choice for "invariant" wilderness status. As its predecessor, the 1944 Wilderness Act, S. 316 provides that certain other areas that have been classified in the past are classified in this bill for their potential as Wilderness Areas. Included in this list is the Canaan Valley in West Virginia.

The Forest Service is to review the study areas individually and make recommendations to Congress on their suitability as Wilderness Areas. These recommendations are to be made over a ten-year span, with at least one-third of the areas required to be reviewed and recommended in the first three years. Unlike the 1944 Wilderness Act, S. 316 includes the provision that the committee is "virtually certain" that such areas could be designated as Wilderness Areas by the Forest Service to conduct an "active inventory" of its own. The committee has made the study areas.

During the ten-year study area review period, and while Congress is weighing Forest Service recommendations, each study area is to be managed in the same manner as a Wilderness Area was managed under the 1944, i.e., no motor vehicles, road building, or timbering. But with the exceptions and additional protections discussed below.

"This is to insure that, while studies are proceeding or while Congress is weighing the recommendations of the President, i.e., the Forest Service, on the suitability of the study areas, no activities will occur in the areas in question which could destroy the wilderness values the areas might have and, thus, render moot Congressional consideration of the very studies it has mandated." (See S. Rep. No. 93-661)

Congress, not the Forest Service, makes the decision whether a study area should revert to ordinary classification or be designated as a Wilderness Area.

Under S. 316 the following special provisions are made for study areas and wilderness areas east of the 100th meridian, except Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area. These provisions are for several previously designated wilderness areas: L

Roads in Study Areas: In some of the study areas there are roads currently open to public motorized use. Under S. 316 the Secretary of Agriculture may keep these roads open as a necessity for such continued public use.

This compromise provision seems desirable, so does the Forest Service's power sparingly. The Secretary still may not establish motor roads in wilderness areas. This provision has open up roads presently closed to the public.

No Mining in Either Type of Area: S. 316 prohibits mining and the testing of mining rights on each of the wilderness areas and study areas established by it, except for the rights now exist. Most of these rights involve coal, and will have to be purchased by the federal government someday in order to preserve the wilderness character of the areas involved. The mining prohibition will apply to any wilderness or study area subsequently created. It was noted that no paved roads will be built in to the proposed study areas and walkways will serve to keep visitors from damaging the sensitive plant growths in study areas.

No Grazing on Wilderness Areas: All commercial livestock grazing on existing public grazing lands, private holdings, public lands managed by the federal government, and on the wilderness areas designated by S. 316, must cease if the act is enacted.

No Commercial Grazing or Rangeland Management on Wilderness Areas: S. 316 is assigned to limited condemnation and complete condemnation against conversion of the wilderness areas into commercial rangelands for grazing and range management.

For Gol's Sake

An inter-mail committee of the West Virginia legislature has recommended to the Joint Committee on Government and Forest Resources take on the task of reciting abandonment.

The committee's bill called for a legislative appropriation of $500,000 to be matched with $1.5 million from Appalachian Regional Commission to finance the project.

Despite the worthiness of reciting abandonment, this provision of the bill does not fulfill the intent of S. 316. This provision is for the purpose of removing coal from wilderness areas and study areas. Here, the committee's bill does not fulfill the intent of S. 316. This provision is for the purpose of removing coal from wilderness areas and study areas.

Another worker was asked where the coal was going. "Out West," reprinted the worker. "We'll sell the coal, without saying for gobs..." said the worker. This provision does not fulfill the intent of S. 316. This provision is for the purpose of removing coal from wilderness areas and study areas.

Legislators Support Moore's Coal Plans

Reaction among West Virginia's legislators to Governor Moore's proposed Commission on Energy Economy and Environment was generally favorable. State Senator William Brotherton (D-Kanawha) commended the governor for planning a conference with the governors of sixteen other coal producing states.

House minority leader George Seiber (R-Kanawha) called the proposal innovative. State Republican Party Chairman Thomas Potter (R-Kan.) echoed Seiber's comments, added that he needed more details on the commission's formation and development.

Delegate Phyllis Rutledge (D-Kan.) was disappointed that the commission was designed to look for a severance tax on coal. She noted that Moore could not provide any additional state income, but must share the burden of state revenues, but that he failed to specify precisely how the coal industry would contribute their fair share. She also noted that no governor, let alone the president, can approach the severance tax on coal, but that she had a bill prepared for the House. She was quite sure that would call for a severance tax.

Although most legislators voted support for Moore's projected coal commission and coal management, most withheld endorsement of the plan until more facts become available.

The Voice Page 7

Wilderness Nears Decision in Senate

On December 20 the Senate Interior Committee unanimously approved S. 316, the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act. The bill contains a few improvements to the already excellent draft of wilderness areas. The bill was adopted by the committee's Public Lands Subcommittee as reported to the Senate floor S. 316 designates several new "inventeen" wilderness areas, areas which become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System immediately upon passage. Two of these, Upper Buffalo in Arkansas and Otter Creek in West Virginia, had been classified in "study areas" in the August 1st Subcommittee draft of S. 316. This subcommittee has been a Subcommittee choice for "invariant" wilderness status. Like its predecessor, the 1944 Wilderness Act, S. 316 provides that certain other areas that have been classified in the past are classified in this bill for their potential as Wilderness Areas. Included in this list is the Canaan Valley in West Virginia.

The Forest Service is to review the study areas individually and make recommendations to Congress on their suitability as Wilderness Areas. These recommendations are to be made over a ten-year span, with at least one-third of the areas required to be reviewed and recommended in the first three years. Unlike the 1944 Wilderness Act, S. 316 includes the provision that the committee is "virtually certain" that such areas could be designated as Wilderness Areas by the Forest Service to conduct an "active inventory" of its own. The committee has made the study areas.

During the ten-year study area review period, and while Congress is weighing Forest Service recommendations, each study area is to be managed in the same manner as a Wilderness Area was managed under the 1944, i.e., no motor vehicles, road building, or timbering. But with the exceptions and additional protections discussed below.

"This is to insure that, while studies are proceeding or while Congress is weighing the recommendations of the President, i.e., the Forest Service, on the suitability of the study areas, no activities will occur in the areas in question which could destroy the wilderness values the areas might have and, thus, render moot Congressional consideration of the very studies it has mandated." (See S. Rep. No. 93-661)

Congress, not the Forest Service, makes the decision whether a study area should revert to ordinary classification or be designated as a Wilderness Area.

Under S. 316 the following special provisions are made for study areas and wilderness areas east of the 100th meridian, except Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area. These provisions are for several previously designated wilderness areas:

Roads in Study Areas: In some of the study areas there are roads currently open to public motorized use. Under S. 316 the Secretary of Agriculture may keep these roads open as a necessity for such continued public use.

This compromise provision seems desirable, so does the Forest Service's power sparingly. The Secretary still may not establish motor roads in wilderness areas. This provision has open up roads presently closed to the public.

No Mining in Either Type of Area: S. 316 prohibits mining and the testing of mining rights on each of the wilderness areas and study areas established by it, except for the rights now exist. Most of these rights involve coal, and will have to be purchased by the federal government someday in order to preserve the wilderness character of the areas involved. The mining prohibition will apply to any wilderness or study area subsequently created. It was noted that no paved roads will be built in to the proposed study areas and walkways will serve to keep visitors from damaging the sensitive plant growths in study areas.

No Grazing on Wilderness Areas: All commercial livestock grazing on existing public grazing lands, private holdings, public lands managed by the federal government, and on the wilderness areas designated by S. 316, must cease if the act is enacted.

No Commercial Grazing or Rangeland Management on Wilderness Areas: S. 316 is assigned to limited condemnation and complete condemnation against conversion of the wilderness areas into commercial rangelands for grazing and range management.

For Gol's Sake

An inter-mail committee of the West Virginia legislature has recommended to the Joint Committee on Government and Forest Resources take on the task of reciting abandonment. The committee's bill called for a legislative appropriation of $500,000 to be matched with $1.5 million from Appalachian Regional Commission to finance the project.

Despite the worthiness of reciting abandonment, this provision of the bill does not fulfill the intent of S. 316. This provision is for the purpose of removing coal from wilderness areas and study areas. Here, the committee's bill does not fulfill the intent of S. 316. This provision is for the purpose of removing coal from wilderness areas and study areas.

Another worker was asked where the coal was going. "Out West," reprinted the worker. "We'll sell the coal, without saying for gobs..." said the worker. This provision does not fulfill the intent of S. 316. This provision is for the purpose of removing coal from wilderness areas and study areas.

Legislators Support Moore's Coal Plans

Reaction among West Virginia's legislators to Governor Moore's proposed Commission on Energy Economy and Environment was generally favorable. Senate President William Brotherton (D-Kanawha) commended the governor for planning a conference with the governors of sixteen other coal producing states.

House minority leader George Seiber (R-Kanawha) called the proposal innovative. State Republican Party Chairman Thomas Potter (R-Kan.) echoed Seiber's comments, added that he needed more details on the commission's formation and development.

Delegate Phyllis Rutledge (D-Kan.) was disappointed that the commission was designed to look for a severance tax on coal. She noted that Moore could not provide any additional state income, but must share the burden of state revenues, but that he failed to specify precisely how the coal industry would contribute their fair share. She also noted that no governor, let alone the president, can approach the severance tax on coal, but that she had a bill prepared for the House. She was quite sure that would call for a severance tax.

Although most legislators voted support for Moore's projected coal commission and coal management, most withheld endorsement of the plan until more facts become available.
Converting Next Month: 

Office and Moss' 
By Gordon T. Hamrick

Bat Facts' 
By Charles E. Mohr

Conservancy Meets 

(cont. from p. 1)

McBee outlined to the attentive listeners the Federal Highway Administration's road to highway planning in West Virginia. He explained that the purpose of the controversial Appalachian Scenic Highway after it reaches entrances to National Parks, the need to provide a continuous scenic route to the public, and the need to make sure that such projects are justified during a period of shortages of energy. Thirdly, only during the past six months has it been realized that some of the States have made a decision to preserve Scenic Highways. The public's interest in the three-fold value of such projects has been realized by the public.

The project has become the subject of increasing attention nationally. This project will be among the first to receive federal approval. The project is based on the idea that if a potential route is worthy of consideration, then it should be preserved for future generations. The project is expected to be completed in 1973.

By the time this article is published, the project will have been completed, and the route will be open to the public.
Wilderness Needs Motion in Senate

On December 20 the Senate Interior Committee unanimously approved S. 316, the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act. The bill contains a few improvements to the present draft of S. 316 approved last August by the Committee's Public Lands subcommittee.

As reported to the Senate floor S. 316 designates additional wilderness areas, areas which become part of the National Forest System immediately upon enactment. Two of these, Upper Buffalo in Arkansas and Kanawha River Valley in West Virginia, have been classified as "study areas" in the August 1st Subcommittee draft which was deleted when the full Committee deleted all mention of Laurel Fork in Virginia which had been included in this list in the Cranberry Back Country in West Virginia.

The Forest Service is to review the study areas individually and make recommendations to Congress on their suitability as Wilderness Areas. These recommendations are to be made over a ten-year span, with at least one-third of the areas required to be reviewed and recommended upon in the first five years and one-third of the designated areas in the next three years.

Additionally, the bill empowers the Forest Service to study and make recommendations regarding other potential Wilderness Areas east of the 100th meridian. The Interior Committee is "virtually certain" that such areas exist. The Forest Service is to conduct an "active inventory" of its domain.

During the ten-year study area review period and until Congress may currently open to public motorized use. Under S. 316 the Secretary of Agriculture may keep these roads closed unless Congress declares it necessary for such continued public usage.

Wilderness Needs Motion in Senate

The Board of Directors Meeting on Sunday morning, January 27, produced a wide variety of resolutions on environmental problems now besetting the highland states. Chairman Charles Carlsson, Conservancy representative to the West Virginia Scenic Trails Conference, announced that the goals already needed in Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Webster and Randolph Counties to approach Federal standards in these counties to acquire rights-of-way positions.

Volunteers should urge Nick Lonzano, 113 East 11th, Charles City, W. Va. 25444, Charlie Carlson, Box 131, Charleston, W. Va. 25321, of their willingness to help. Nick and Charlie will forward further details.

The Board voted to form a Land Use Planning Committee. President Dave Ellington will appoint a chair for the committee at a later date.

Ellington announced that the Davis Power Project hearings will begin late this month. The hearings will be held in the courthouse in Valley City. The hearings are scheduled for March. The Board also passed a motion from Nick Tegmund, establishing the Conservancy position on strip mining as favoring the strictest possible federal legislation to regulate. A copy of the resolution is on file.

Max Smith reported that the Nature Conservation Committee has heard from the office of Senator Parks Chief, Kermit McKeeber, that plans for development in Beartown State Park must meet with the approval of the state's register of deeds. It was noted that no paved roads will be built into the area and that the walkways will serve to keep visitors from damaging the sensitive plant-growth in Beartown.

This compromise provision seems desirable, although the Senate for the past year has not been able to pass legislation. The bill contains a few improvements to the present draft of S. 316 approved last August by the Committee's Public Lands subcommittee.

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Wilderness Needs Motion in Senate

An Interim committee of the West Virginia State Senate was recommended to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance that the Department of Natural Resources take on the task of reclaiming abandoned coal lands in the state. The committee's bill called for a legislative appropriation of $500,000 to be matched with $1.5 million from Appalachian Regional Commission to finance the project.

Despite the worthiness of reclaiming gob piles, eyewitness reports from Kanawha County indicate that gob piles are rapidly dwindling anyway. On two different occasions at two different large Kanawha County mines workers were seen setting fire to the gob and causing coal to be lost from impurities. The coal was being loaded into trucks as usual. Thus, additional proposals for developing gob piles may not be so far-fetched after all.

Legislators Support Moore's Coal Plans

Reaction among West Virginia's legislators to Governor Moore's proposed Commission on Energy, Economy and Environment was generally favorable. Senate President William Brotherton (D-Kanawha) commended the legislation to his colleagues as a "good step." House minority leader George Seiber (D-Kanawha) echoed Seiber's compliment, but added that he needed more details on the commission's formation and operations.

Delegate Phyllis Rutledge (D-Kanawha) was disappointed that the legislation did not provide for a severance tax on coal. She noted that Moore's original proposal to include a severance tax on coal would have included the cost of severance tax on coal. She noted that Moore's original proposal to include a severance tax on coal would have included the cost of severance tax on coal. She noted that Moore's original proposal to include a severance tax on coal would have included the cost of severance tax on coal. She noted that Moore's original proposal to include a severance tax on coal would have included the cost of severance tax on coal.
Silvered Timbers

Del. C. E. Lohr, a member of the West Virginia Legislature's Forest Management Review Commission, has charged clearcutting as the culprit in recent heavy flooding. Lohr (D-Mercer) visited many residents of the uplands and blamed timbering and talked to them about the causes of the floods. Each said that most people they talked to felt that heavy timbering in the Greenbrier District upstream from White Sulphur Springs demanded to know on what Lohr's conclusions were based.

Where Do We Go From Here?

By Gordon T. Hammick

U.S. District Judge Robert E. Maxwell recently ruled that clearcutting is not an acceptable land management practice in the Monongahela National Forest, that clearcutting violates the spirit and intent of the Organic Act of 1897. The Forest Service, of course, immediately announced that it would appeal the ruling; that it -- the Forest Service -- feels that it cannot properly manage the National Forests in the northwest without clearcutting. Judge Maxwell, in understanding it, applied only to the Monongahela National Forest. If the ruling can be applied to all national forest lands; however, it appears probably that clearcutting will be taken into consideration before applying a blanket condemnation to all forests.

Clearcutting is not a recent innovation; it was first practiced on the farms near the forests and became a major industry. However, under the new black log, a close look was taken at clearcutting practices on federal land. Many practices on federal land and modifications were developed. The work can be done directly to the tree farm system, first established by the purchasers and followed by others, and to the concept of sustained yield. The emphasis is no more than a new growth has rephrased.

It is patently ridiculous to compare clearcutting in the eastern hardwood forest with clearcutting in the rain forests of the Northwest in the same breath to compare apples and oranges. The annual rate of growth in the eastern hardwood forest is measured in tens of thousands, the annual rate of growth for trees in the rain forests of the West is in excess of one inch.

For many years the Forest Service presented a plan of management for the Monongahela National Forest that would cut more than 9,000 acres would be cleared as the culprit in recent heavy flooding. (b) The current plan calls to be on a 100 year cycle; interestingly enough, the Forest Service has a 100 year cycle. It is the Sheldon Cooperative Sustained-yield Unit which manages the land near the Monongahela National Forest wherecutting would have been practiced under Forest Service direction.

The Conservancy initiated an outreach program last summer to acquaint people with issues and problems facing us, and to encourage more people to come to the annual meeting. We have had one trip this far, to Germany Valley in Pendleton County. Only one person showed up, but it's a start. Presently there are four 300 and 300 of out-of-state journals and out-of-state newspapers. The second largest group of out-of-state newspapers, the Courier-Journal of western Kentucky. Within West Virginia Conservancy has over 50 members, while Charleston runs a cross section of total memberships.

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