River Bill Finds Wildwater Rough Going

Private boaters and others who use the New and Gauley Rivers have expressed their concerns with sections of The West Virginia National Interests River Conservation Act of 1987, introduced January 29 by Nick Joe Rahall (D-W.Va.). Kim Casto, member of the West Virginia Wild Sports Association, says, "Parts of Rahall's Bill seems to have been written for the purpose of promoting the interests of commercial rafting outfitters on the New and Gauley Rivers."

In general the Bill provides for the protection of sections of the Gauley, Bluestone, and Meadow Rivers by bringing them under the administration of the National Park Service (NPS) and making them one management unit within the New River Gorge National River (NRGNR). It also authorizes minor boundary revisions in the NRGNR and permits cooperative actions among the NPS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources to manage those new areas.

According to Casto, there are three sections of the Bill that private boaters would like to see changed. These sections call for the development of Cunard by the NPS to provide for commercial and noncommercial access to the New River; the use of motors for the towing of commercial whitewater rafts in the section of the New River above Cunard when the volume of flow is less than 3000 cubic feet per second; and the allotment of five positions to commercial white-water rafting on a 17-member Advisory Committee for the Gauley River National Recreation Area.

The WV Wild Sports Association is concerned that if Cunard is developed as an access point to The New River without restrictions limiting the use by commercial rafting companies, private boaters, fishermen, local residents and other recreationalists who regularly use that avenue to The New River may be squeezed off the river when the larger commercial groups are present.

Cunard, the narrow, winding, three-acre strip of land off the New River may be used, the bill says, for "commercial activities" of private boaters only or of commercial and recreational boaters.

Other evidence of the Bill's promoting commercial rafting interests, Casto says, is in Section 206, which creates a 17-member Advisory Committee for the Gauley River National Recreation Area. All of the organizations, citizen groups and government agencies listed are allowed one or two members only to serve on the committee. Commercial whitewater rafting interests, however, are given five positions.

Cunard points out that the original purpose of Congressman Rahall's Bill, to establish an integrated network of federally protected rivers in southern West Virginia, is commendable. But, he says, "In its present form the Bill is sure to encourage strong opposition by local citizens and fishermen as well as private boaters."

Local fishermen and environmental groups, including the Highlands Conservancy, have also questioned the section of the Bill which would allow the WV Department of Natural Resources to spray pesticides in the NRGNR. They cite studies prepared for the NPS that show black flies are an important component of the New River ecosystem and that the pesticide spraying program could reduce the sport fishing production.

This section of the Bill also exempts the spraying program from the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, which requires federal agencies to investigate the environmental consequences of their actions. This section of the Bill appears destined to be challenged by national environmental groups that do not want to see the NEPA tampered with.

Buckhannon-Tygart River Coalition Formed To Focus On Mining

by Richard diPietro

PURPOSE, GOAL and MEMBERSHIP

The purpose of the Buckhannon-Tygart River Coalition is to inform the public about the economic value of a healthy Buckhannon-Tygart River system and about the dangers to that system of mining the Kittanning coal seams. Our goal is to educate the public and public officials so that they will act to protect the river system from further degradation.

The coalition, composed of several groups and individuals who have expressed concern about the threatening environmental and economic conditions of the New River, may be of mutual interest to you. We plan to form a full-time staff to be based in the Buckhannon-Tygart River Valley and will work closely with the state, federal and local government agencies to develop strategies for action.

Some of the goals of the coalition are:

- To inform the public and the media about the economic value of the Buckhannon-Tygart River system.
- To inform the public about the dangers to the Buckhannon-Tygart River system from mining.
- To work with the state, federal and local government agencies to develop strategies for action.
- To form a full-time staff to be based in the Buckhannon-Tygart River Valley.

THREATENING MINING PROPOSAL

Enox Coal, Inc., has proposed an additional 500 acres of mining (called Job 11) in highly sensitive tributaries of the Buckhannon River near Teasdale in Upshur County. According to WV DNR Fisheries biologists, the tributaries support native brook trout reproduction. Every other stream in the area mined by Enox, DLM or other companies has had its ability to support native brook trout reproduction destroyed.

In May 1986, Commissioner of DOE Ken Fauber, through his Regional Energy Administrator, met with regard to the Job 11 proposal that "An assessment of probable cumulative impact of all anticipated mining in the area on the hydrologic balance has been made." By February 1987, this state's final assessment was still not available for public review.

The Buckhannon-Tygart River Coalition submitted comments on the proposal during the public comment period which ended February 28. The statements in the following sections are quoted from documents in the permit file.

STATEMENTS BY ENOX COAL, INC., ABOUT JOB 11 (September 1985):

During most phases of the operation, the acid-preventive mining techniques and the drainage control facilities will adequately control runoff and provide an effluent quality, which will meet the limitations imposed by the regulatory agency. Previous experience in the watershed, however, indicates that

the runoff from the disturbed area (specifically, from coal mining during exposure) may require chemical treatment in order to assure compliance.

... The use of this treatment... is a temporary measure which is expected to be discontinued after reclamation of the disturbed area has been accomplished. No residual acidine runoff is expected in the post-reclamation phase of the operation.

... This treatment will be handled by a specialized and well-trained staff to insure that high effluent quality is achieved.

The drainage handling system designed for the mine site will accomplish very effective control of runoff and mine drainage during all operation phases.


![Mountain View - Canaan Valley and WV Coal](image)

- **Canaan Valley — An Acquired Taste**
  - by Skip Johnson

  (Reprinted, with permission, from *The Charleston Gazette*, February 21, 1987.)

  A co-worker at the office said he and a friend went to Canaan Valley in their college days to see what all the fuss was about. They didn’t see anything.

  Former Gazette photographer Leo Chabot and I canoed the Blackwater through upper Canaan with Frank Peluche of the Department of Natural Resources. We saw lots of grasshoppers, deer and birds in profusion.

  Canaan Valley is an acquired taste. Forget the wetlands stuff and soak up the isolation and desolation. Bouquets appreciate the unique plants and such, but I like the isolation and I don’t want to see 7,000 acres of it covered by water for a power project.

  As I’ve said before, the preferred alternative is a federal wildlife refuge. This would require that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchase the land from Allegheny Power System, or trade land. Or a private environmental organization such as The Nature Conservancy could buy it and sell it to the federal government.

  I’m told purchase by an environmental group is in fairly good possibility, assuming APS is willing to sell, and I’m guessing it would be willing if the price was right.

  What price Canaan? Figures have been bouncin around from the low millions to $30 million to $50 million. A 1978 figure is $250 million to 284,000 acres. But land values change.

  Local opposition to the refuge is based partly on income that would accrue from the power project. But the refuge would generate income, too. Tucker County would receive five-fourths of 1 percent of the assessed land value each year in lieu of taxes assessed. According to the 1978 figure, this would frequently exceed $1 million a year.

  The usual range of recreational uses are made of federal wildlife refuges—hunting, fishing, hiking, bird-watching, trapping, etc. Hunting is excellent in upper Canaan for deer, grouse, woodcock and waterfowl.

  Public access would probably not be greatly improved upon. The primary management goal would be to maintain the integrity of the area, which is to say denature.

  A refuge would be attractive for nature forays by individuals and groups, and there is brown trout fishing in the Blackwater and largemouth bass fishing in the beaver ponds.

  But everything is speculation. APS still owns it, and it would cost the state millions to acquire it. It would be 12,000 acres of bluish外地 land.

  I suspect, however, a refuge, although still a longshot, is becoming less so all the time.
W. E. "NED" CHILTON, III

West Virginia conservationists have lost one of their strongest supporters in W.E. "Ned" Chilton, III, Publisher of The Charleston Gazette, who at age 65 passed away unexpectedly on February 7th.

As the only daily newspaper with statewide news coverage, The Gazette has had a focus on environmental issues since the state's inception. The Gazette has been one of West Virginia's most influential institutions for several decades. The Gazette is also among the nation's dwindling number of independent daily newspapers which remain free of chain ownership and the timidity that often results.

As President and Publisher, Chilton used this autonomy to rammage the Gazette with his policy of "sustained outrage" for the indiscretions of government officials and other potentates who guide the fortunes of West Virginia. Civil rights, ethics in government, environmental quality, probate reform, exposing public corruption and conserving the state's wild lands and scenic rivers were all championed by Ned Chilton.

Unlike most contemporary publishers who are essentially businessmen, Chilton wrote many of the paper's editorials and regularly dispatched the news staff to investigate various issues. His office was not in the executive suite, but in the newsroom. He was a hands-on publisher and his forceful personality shaped the Gazette's mission as the state's voice for clean air, clean water and competent government.

Under Chilton, the Gazette was often credited with shaping the agenda in the West Virginia Legislature. Chilton's editorials alone could not compel the passage of legislation, but they often determined the focus and tenor of Legislative debate.

Ned Chilton inherited his social status, significant wealth and control of the Gazette as the scion of one of the state's leading families. But for three decades, he schooled comfortable acceptance in West Virginia's political and business circles to make the Gazette the state's most influential instrument for reform. Chilton's often vociferous attacks earned him many opponents among the coal industry, elected officials and the state's legislative political machines whose grip over the electoral system in West Virginia was diminished by his efforts.

He had few sacred cows and was quite willing to risk the Gazette to criticize his friends, including Senator Jay Rockefeller whose political career he helped launch. Chilton had a reputation for being very demanding of his news staff. He maintained a longtime editorial tirade against Governor Arch Moore, the legal profession and others he earnestly believed had not properly discharged about the Davis project, elected officials and the state's legislative political machines whose grip over the electoral system in West Virginia was diminished by his efforts.

His campaign against public corruption and election fraud motivated the U.S. Department of Justice, and later the state's prosecutors, to conduct a series of investigations which over two decades have slowly reformed West Virginia's political life. No small accomplishment in a state where anyone over thirty can easily recall the shame when a state's attorney general, the state treasurer, the highways commissioner, the banking commissioner and many lesser state officials were being sent to jail.

Chilton was not a Conservancy member and, to my knowledge, never attended a Conservancy meeting. But he has been among our most consistent and influential supporters.

During the past twelve years, I cannot recall an occasion when the Gazette failed to support the state's conservationalists in a major environmental issue. Chilton's editorials repeatedly cited the work of the Conservancy and other conservation organizations in such diverse issues as preservation of the Kanawha Valley, the Cranberry Wilderness bill, effective reclamation of surface mining and protection of the state's scenic rivers. In 1985, the Gazette paid an editorial tribute to The Highlands Voice.

The Gazette was almost always the first, and sometimes the only, daily newspaper to support West Virginia conservationists in difficult issues. Among its final acts, Chilton made a generous contribution to the Conservancy Endowment Fund in the name of The Charleston Gazette.

Chilton is gone. The newspaper he shaped and in whose staff remains as one of the most respected journalistic institutions in the country. The Gazette continues to be the home of Skip Johnson, best outdoor/environmental writer and columnist. Skip Johnson was often Chilton's guiding influence in environmental issues and his weekly columns have been a voice of meaningful change in a state, where such issues can easily become acrimony and polemic.

Most Conservancy members reside outside the Gazette's primary circulation area and may not have been acquainted with Ned Chilton. He was a personal friend and I have little doubt that the support and concern of Ned Chilton, the Gazette editorial board and Skip Johnson have often been a decisive factor in the successes of the Conservancy and the state's conservationists.

Chilton held a unique role in the state's public life and his contributions to conservation, and many other fields, are a legacy to West Virginia and a challenge to his successors.

He was a contributor to West Virginia Conservation Group, The Nature Conservancy and perhaps to other environmental organizations.

He was not a fan of the Army Corps of Engineers, and try as I did to convince him the Corps had changed for the better in the past decade, I don't think he believed that a leopard ever changes its spots.

He wasn't a hunter or a fisherman. His only outdoor pursuits, to my knowledge, were the aforementioned rafting, plus scuba diving off the Bahamas, where he owned a home. He did some excellent underwater photography there.

Although he didn't hunt, he wasn't anti-handgun. He wanted hunting news in the Gazette. He wasn't even anti-gun, although many people thought so, considering the barrage of anti-handgun editorials he wrote. He had no quarrel with rifles and shotguns, and not even handguns if stringently controlled.

I suspect it was Ned's style of writing about handgun control, not so much what he said, that induced so many indignant letters to the editor. One writer - Lee Morris of Belle - was so prolific that I once felt moved to interview him and run his picture. If Ned cared, he didn't say anything.

Suffice to say, however, that the National Rifle Association was the most unfavorable organization to have ever flashed across the horizon in Ned's time.

Ned attended Yale and had an affinity for that part of the world. I've lost track of the number of people I've interviewed or books I've reviewed that had to do with the Adirondacks and such.

He enjoyed reading articles about nature.

He would pass along such articles to me, and I to him. On the weekend he died, there was a great story in Sports Illustrated by Bill Gilbert about a trip to Northwest Territories, and I clipped it to give to Ned. But it was too late.

by Skip Johnson

by Larry George
Rock Climbing

Rock climbing. What is your impression of this sport and the men and women who participate? If you are of the majority, you probably think of it as a foolish, dangerous sport practiced only by daredevils. The stock response from most, after learning I climb rocks for enjoyment is, "you're crazy." It only amuses me. I don't take it personally because without the proper training, conditioning and equipment it would be crazy to climb. But this is true of almost any sport. So why do people react so strongly about climbing? It is our sport practiced only by daredevils. The stock response from most, after learning this is "crazy."

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A climber reaches his destination on a rock outcropping in the New River Gorge. Photo by Bruce Burgin

The sport of rock climbing has its own loose set of rules and a route difficulty grading system to judge how good the climber is climbing. The term "rock climbing" encompasses several climbing styles: aid climbing, free climbing and bouldering. To give you a feel for what rock climbing is all about and explain some of the equipment and techniques used I'll take you on a typical climbing trip in the New River Gorge.

In the last few years the New River Gorge at Fayetteville, West Virginia, has become one of the hottest new climbing areas in the United States. An almost continuous band of sandstone cliffs line the rim of the gorge for seven miles or more. The cliffs range from 50 to 200 feet high and contain hundreds of vertical cracks and face climbs.

It's an early spring morning as Nick (a long time friend and climbing partner) and I head north from Beckley toward the New River Gorge. Our spirits are high in anticipation of a hard day of climbing. The previous week, as they all are, has been spent working out getting our bodies and minds in shape. Serious rock climbing at the upper difficulty grades requires a devotion, bordering on obsession, to training. As we drive over the big bridge I can see a heavy mist still lying in the gorge. I hope we can find a climb in the sun.

I turn right off Route 19 and head toward Edmond and Beauty Mountain. Beauty Mountain is an area about four miles up from the New River Gorge Bridge with very high cliffs and breathtaking views of the river. Half the adventure of a New River climbing trip is negotiating the one lane roads that lead to the different climbing areas.

Shortly I pull the old VW bus into the parking area. We're not the first ones here. I see several out of state cars and a group of climbers getting their gear ready. The back of my van looks as though a climbing store exploded. Ropes and gear are everywhere along with our rock climbing cooler of beer for afterwards. We get out and strike up a conversation with the climbers. As usual they are from out of state and on their first New River climb. For the moment there is a feeling of pride to be known as "one of the locals" in the gorge. There aren't that many of us. We perform our duties as "locals" and help the visiting climbers feel welcome by giving them a much appreciated map locating some good climbs and access trails. Now to get out gear ready.

Climbing equipment today is much different from that of 30 years ago. The original hemp ropes have been replaced with strong, pliable sheath-covered ropes made of nylon. Hobnail boots have given way to special light-fitting, soft rubber-soled climbing shoes. New pitts are almost never hammered into the rock. They have been replaced with artificial cheesecloth or chocks. These are uniquely shaped devices, usually made of aluminum, some mechan- ical, that fit the various size cracks and irregularities found on a rock face. Each chock is connected to a loop of webbing, rope or wire for attaching a carabiner or snap link.

The climber generally carries this equipment hanging from a webbing gear sling worn like a bandoleer. It's usually referred to collectively as "the rack." Once our racks are organized, ropes, sit harnesses, shoes, water and lunches stored in our packs, we're ready to hit the trail.

Our gear jangles and clanks with each step. We decide to stop at the cobble field and do a little bouldering to loosen up. Bouldering is rock climbing usually without ropes on small difficult climbs near the ground. Boulder ing allows a climber to perfect his techniques before attempting a rope climb. We set a "top rope" on the harder problems for safety.

After about an hour our arms, fingers and heels are pumped enough so we move on. We work our way along the canyon rim trail until we reach the summit of Beauty Mountain, which has some of the finest climbs on the New River Gorge. From here we can see over a foot of rock to the right and our view is obscured by a great deal of tree-covered rock. It's hard to imagine the view that's ahead.

We almost fall into the boulder field and do a little bouldering to loosen up. Bouldering allows a climber to perfect his techniques before attempting a rope climb. We stop at the base of Beauty Mountain. Beauty Mountain is a group of small cliffs that lead to the upper difficulty grades. Serious rock climbing at the upper difficulty grades requires a devotion, bordering on obsession, to training. As we drive over the big bridge I can see a heavy mist still lying in the gorge. I hope we can find a climb in the sun. The back of my van looks as though a climbing store exploded. Ropes and gear are everywhere along with our rock climbing cooler of beer for afterwards. We get out and strike up a conversation with the climbers. As usual they are from out of state and on their first New River climb. For the moment there is a feeling of pride to be known as "one of the locals" in the gorge. There aren't that many of us. We perform our duties as "locals" and help the visiting climbers feel welcome by giving them a much appreciated map locating some good climbs and access trails. Now to get out gear ready.

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he New River Gorge

Burgin

climbs. Climbs the average climber only dreams about.

Today they were attempting to climb a very thin overhanging finger crack. They were using a controversial climbing method called “sieging.” This means each of the four climbers takes a turn climbing and placing protection until he falls. He then lowers to the ground allowing the next climber to try until they eventually reach the top. This method is sometimes used when no one climber has the strength and endurance to complete the climb alone. Most of the time it isn’t the actual climbing that causes the lead climber to “burn” (get tired). It’s stopping to place protection every five or ten feet. Hanging by one hand while searching through a gear rack for a chock that will fit can be very exhausting, especially if the climb is vertical to overhanging with little or nothing for the feet. We watch for awhile then move on along to find a climb of our own.

Once in a while we may leave home with a particular climb in mind, but usually we just pick one that interests us along the trail. Some days we feel strong and look for strenuous climbs. Other days we feel more laid back and want to do something easy. Today we feel strong.

We pass many nice climbs we had done before, but today we want a “virgin” (a climb that has never been done before). A first ascent.

Almost simultaneously we see what looks to be just what the doctor ordered. It is a dihedral (an inside corner where two walls meet) with a perfect fist size crack leading 100 feet to a 5 foot roof. Above the roof are several “jugs” (large hand holds) and twenty more feet to the top. Perfect!

By the thick growth of briers at the bottom and no signs of chalk under the roof we feel this might be a first ascent. Chalk is what some climbers use to dry sweaty hands and improve grip. It is carried in a small pouch suspended from the si harness or a waist belt. Chalk has a bad side effect of leaving white hand prints in areas not easily reached by rain.

Nick and I both want to lead this climb so we flip a coin. I win. After cutting away the briers from the base of the climb, I begin selecting the equipment I’ll need. Studying the climb I visualize where to place protection, what sizes and possible rest spots. I can only gather so much from viewing a climb from the bottom. What looks to be great hand holds usually turn out to be rounded and sloping. One thing I do notice while looking up the climb is that it’s overhang. This means it leans back more than vertical.

Nick unsnaps the rope and sets up the belay (protection system). He does it by making a loop of webbing slings around a sturdy tree and connecting a locking carabiner. He picks up the end of the rope I’ll be tied to and makes a loop about 10 feet back. This loop passes through a small metal belay plate and is clipped into the carabiner. The metal belay plate is a locking device that will prevent the rope from passing through if wedged against the carabiner as in a fall.

I sometimes feel like a bull fighter as I don my special climbing shoes, sit harness and gear rack. Today, I’ll need to climb. I will be using one-inch cotton gym tape on my hands to protect them from the rock. In a jam crack I will have to hold on by sticking my hand inside the crack and making a fist. The friction of the rock against the back of my hands will hold me in place. After tying the rope to my sit harness, I’m ready to climb.

The crack is still cool inside as I struggle up the first few feet. I find a good spot for the piece of protection, clip my rope through the carabiner, then move on before I burn out. The crack is super. My hands and feet work together moving me higher and higher. I reach a resting spot about halfway to the roof where I can stem out with both feet, lean into the crack and drop both arms. Without this resting spot I couldn’t have made it to the roof. Slowly the strength returns to my forearms and I move on. Twenty minutes later and very tired I reach the bottom of the roof. Thank God there is a good resting spot here and “bomber” (very secure) protection.

I take a webbing sling from around my neck and begin cleaning out the community of large quarter size spiders that reside under the roof. I don’t like spiders.

My next trick will be to figure a way over this roof. It’s not a big roof, only five feet out to the lip, but a roof just the same. I see what appears to be a good spot for protection near the lip, but I will have to rest before trying to place it. I’ve gotten myself into somewhat of a spot. If I fall while trying to pull the roof, I can’t be lowered to the ground. The rope is only 150 feet long and I am 100 feet out. Nick yells from below, “Dare to be great!” I counter with some vulgarity then lean out to inspect the lip. There is a perfect stopper placement just where I need it. I select the piece, then while holding on at the back of the roof with my left hand, I stretch to my limit to insert the metal wedge into the crack. Bomber! I pull up the rope from my harness and clip into the carabiner dangling from the stopper. I go back under the roof to rest. What is above the roof? Will there be hand holds? Do I have the strength to pull it off? Fear almost overwhelmed me for a moment of retreating.

I tell Nick I’m scared and to watch me. He already knew. My hands are sweating and my mouth is dry as cotton. My mind is racing. All my senses are keen to the danger at hand. “Moving,” I call, leaving the security under the roof. Talking to myself, I chalk my wet hands and reach for the lip. I know from experience I will only have one chance at this. If I hesitate, my strength will go and I’ll fall. “Dare to be great,” I stretch out to the lip again. The fingers of my right hand fold over a perfect hand hold. I let go of the crack with my left hand. My feet are on imaginary holds under the roof.

As soon as my left hand joins my right, my feet slip loose. I’m hanging a full arm’s length from the lip with my feet dangling. No turning back. I pull up until the lip of the roof hins my chest. My eyes are searching for another hand hold. It’s there. I grab for it with my right hand then my left. Pull up. Getting tired—move. I pull my right leg up as high as I can to get a toe hold on the lip. Got it. I find a finger crack for my left hand and pull over the lip. Wow! What a pump! My right leg has a bad case of sewing machine (uncontrollable shaking due to adrenaline). I place another piece of protection, clip in, then relax a bit. A few more moves and I’m safe on top. “Off belay,” I yell down to Nick.

I quickly set up Nick’s belay. He cruises up the crack removing my protection to the roof. After a short rest I see his taped hands coming around the lip, then his face. Boom, Boom, he’s up. He always makes it look so easy.

We pull up our packs with the haul rope Nick carried and head through the woods to the van and a cold beer.
WV Breeding Bird Atlas Project Needs Volunteers

The West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project is entering the fourth year of its scheduled five-year plan to inventory and plot the distribution of the breeding birds of the state. The project is being sponsored by the Breeds Bird Club, headquartered in Wheeling, with support from the Nongame Wildlife Fund of the WV Department of Natural Resources. A. R. Buckelew, Jr., Bethany, and George A. Hall, Morgantown, are the project coordinators. Some states, Vermont and Massachusetts for example, have already completed atlas projects and have published data on bird distribution, including the status of rare and endangered species, and unusual habitats. This data can be used in environmental impact statements and in helping states make decisions on land use. This is the real "work" of the atlasing process.

The gathering of the information is more akin to fun. It involves hiking and getting to know birds and their nesting habitats and behaviors. It is sharpening observation skills. It is watching a cedar waxwing take a berry from the bill of another and then return it, and then give it and return it, and again for minutes at a time. It is watching an ovenbird flutter and flop and drag itself away to distract an intruder from its nest site. It is watching a killdeer slip from view in the grass just six feet away.

After three nesting seasons, more than 50% of the 500 or so areas to be covered have been started, but in order to complete the project on time, more volunteers are needed to do the field work. One need not necessarily be an expert in ornithology or identification of birds, but an observer should be able to identify the common birds of the state, be familiar with their songs, and be capable of carefully identifying unfamiliar species by taking field notes and using field guides. Each volunteer is assigned a specific area to cover. These areas were determined by developing a grid system based on the 7.5 minute topographic maps that cover the state. Each of the 508 maps that comprise West Virginia was divided into six equal blocks, and the southeastern block on each map was selected as the survey area. Each block contains about 10 square miles and will, depending upon the habitat and the observer's ability, take 20 or more hours of field work to cover adequately.

Most of the atlasing work is done in June and early July when the birds are on nesting territory and are still singing. A number of species nested earlier however. Great horned owls, for example, begin booming out their mating calls in late December and January, and barred owls start soon after that. Many species of woodpeckers also nest in March or April, and killdeer will have fledged young by the end of April or early May in southern West Virginia.

To join the fun and contribute to the work, contact A. R. Buckelew, Atlas Project, Biology Department, Bethany College, Bethany, WV 26023 (Phone: 304-829-7641).

Acid Rain Research

The sample collection effort for the April survey will be organized by representatives of the Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited, who will serve as local field coordinators. Each coordinator has responsibility for coordinating the efforts of volunteer sample collection teams in one or more of the 31 western Virginia counties to be sampled.

"This (the sample collection) is a tremendous undertaking to be conducted on a volunteer basis. The help and support of all conservation-minded groups and individuals is requested," said Chuck Hudson, Vice President - Resources for the Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited.

Individuals or groups who wish to volunteer their services should contact their local chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Department of Environmental Sciences at UVA, or their local fisheries biologist with the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, or their local District office of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

"We particularly need volunteers to help us with some of the southwestern counties such as Wythe, Grayson, and Smyth," Hudson said.

Reasons to join WVHC

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a private, non-profit environmental organization started in 1967. Its objectives are "to promote, encourage, and work for the conservation - including both preservation and wise use - and appreciation of the scenic, historic, open space, wilderness, and outdoor recreation resources of an area of West Virginia, and especially the Highlands Region..." Members include people and organizations diverse in their personal interests and professions but united by a common interest. Most WVHC members are West Virginians but many live outside the state.

WVHC Membership Categories (Circle One)

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Name: __________________________ Phone: __________________________
Address: __________________________

City/State/Zip: __________________________
Blank checks payable to: West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Mail to: Suite 201, 1206 Virginia St., Charleston, WV 25301

Membership Benefits

- 1-year subscription to The Highlands Voice
- Special meetings with workshops and speakers
- representation through WVHC's efforts to monitor legislative activity.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible. Please keep this record for your records.

Date __________________________ Amount __________________________
Check number __________________________
Focus on Mining (continued from page 1)

... Due to the environmental sensitivity of the area containing the Enoxy Coal, Inc., Upshur project, planning and actual surface mining practices have, from the onset, used "state-of-the-art" techniques in preventing acidic surface mine drainage. In a comparison of these operations with those using past practices, the positive effects of special overburden handling and segregation, and lime admixing, have been demonstrated by improved drainage quality. However, complete postponing acid production has not yet been demonstrated in every case. Research in the field of acid production has been accelerated greatly by Enoxy Coal, Inc., and by members of the Acid Mine Drainage Technical Advisory Committee. As a result, the majority of knowledge relating to surface mine drainage quality prediction, and prevention of acidic discharges, has expanded significantly.

Research activities (see graphs) conducted by Enoxy Coal personnel at the Upshur operation have confirmed that the use of apatite (phosphate) rock, as an additive to acidic spoils, is effective in eliminating acidic drainage. This technique will be applied to the Job No. 11 site. The conditions of the research tests are much more severe and negatively biased than those which will be present in a mine backup. The success of apatite rock addition in preventing acidic drainages under these extreme test conditions can only indicate that this technique has every reason to succeed in actual practice.

... Further refinement is planned, but research to date indicates that an overall aditive rate of approximately three milligrams of apatite rock per gram of acidic overburden should be adequate.

CONTRASTED WITH STATEMENTS BY DOE (September 1985):

The materials handling plan for this application states that Apatite Rock will be used as an acid preventative measure. . . However, the applicant has not submitted any proof that this technique has reduced acid production on Area 10 of the Upshur Complex, where this technique has been used. . . As is evident by the attached effluent violations, Enoxy Coal has not been able to mine coal in this area and meet any environmental standards.

... The mining associated with Kittanning coal seams of this area has, in the past, produced water quality problems. The effectiveness of the apatite admixture with the overburden, while appearing promising, still has not been proven effective on a field scale. Its effectiveness on the adjacent Job 10 (Permit S-91-83) is not documented in detail. This application therefore, proposes an experimental practice on a very large scale. It is very likely that approval of this application will add to an existing water treatment problem on adjacent permits. I recommend that this application be referred to the Acid Mine Drainage Task Force to ascertain the acid producing potential.

The overriding question on a decision on this application is the bleak history of bad water quality due to mining in this area. Each area brings along with it a new water problem. In some instances, the water cannot be treated to meet all effluent standards. The choice being to violate one or two and be able to meet another. . . West Virginia Code 22A-3-18(e) empowers the Commissioner to delete lands where acid water pollution cannot feasibly be prevented.

AND BY US EPA (December, 1985):

It has been determined by the Wildlife Resources Division that acid mine drainage has eliminated the native brook trout population in the main stem of Tenmile Creek. They further contend that mining in the Right Fork watershed would eliminate additional trout and add an additional burden to the already stressed Buckhannon River. Even if mine drainage from the Enoxy Coal No. 11 site were adequately treated during the active mining period, there is justifiable doubt about the ability of reclamation methods to prevent long term acid seepage. It is demonstrated by the experience at the nearby DLM mine that conventional reclamation methods have not been successful in this area due to the acidic nature of the overburden. Although Enoxy's 1982 reclamation experiments with apatite rock show considerable promise, there has been no demonstration of success under actual field conditions. There has not been enough time elapsed to determine the effectiveness of apatite rock in reclamation of their adjacent No. 10 site. . . The reclamation bond required by the Department of Energy for Enoxy Coal would not be adequate for long term treatment of acid seeps if they were to develop after completion of reclamation.

Proof of success of Enoxy Coal's apatite rock reclamation technique for preventing acid mine drainage shall be documented at its adjacent No. 10 site, or the reclamation of the Bond No. 11 site shall be increased to an amount large enough to provide for perpetual treatment of acid mine drainage which may develop if reclamation is unsuccessful.

CONCLUSION

Fourteen months after EPA's requirement of documented success on Job 10 there is no data in the Job 11 application file on untreated drainage quality on Job 10. The Buckhannon-Typart River Coalition contends that neither special handling nor apatite admixture has been proven effective on any site reducing the acid drainage which otherwise would have been produced. The required Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessment has not been produced by the Commissioner, EPA, which now has authority to issue one of the required permits for Job 11, should complete a full Environmental Impact Statement detailing the performance of bond No. 11 site on other sites and assessing the larger impact downstream. For further information please write: Buckhannon-Typart River Coalition Box 852 Buckhannon, West Virginia 26201

REFERENCE FOR GRAPHS:

Focus on Canaan Valley

The 1987 WVHC Spring Review will be held April 24-26 at Camp Pioneer near Elkins.

The following outings will be offered to those interested. Check for more detailed information Friday night, April 24, or contact the trip leader.

**Bird Walk** - Gary Worthington will lead bird walks around Camp Pioneer before breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Novices welcome. Bring binoculars. Meet at the dining room at 6:30 a.m.

**Canaan Introduction** - Linda Elkinton has designed a series of short drives and hikes both in the Valley and on Cabin Mountain to acquaint reviewers with Canaan. Linda Elkinton (304) 574-0540.

**Canoe Trip -** Ann Gentry will lead a canoe trip on Blackwater or Cheat depending on water conditions. Bring your own canoe and other river gear. Ann Gentry (304) 986-1109.

**Caving Trip** - Jim VanGundy will lead a caving trip in the Lanecy area suitable for novices but not children. Bring old clothes, sturdy boots, and flashlights. Hard hats and lanterns provided.

**Spring Hike** - Sam Norris will lead an easy to moderate hike in the Canaan area. Walk will concentrate on spring wildflowers.

**Finding Camp Pioneer**

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy's Spring Review will be at Camp Pioneer near Elkins. To get to Camp Pioneer, take 219 & 250 south of Elkins to Beverly, 8 miles. Then turn left onto Files Creek Road at the old Bank building. Go 1 1/2 miles and take the first right turn to Camp Pioneer. Watch for signs off Files Creek Road.

**Other Accommodations**

Many motels and campgrounds are available in the Elkins area. Stuart's Park, Forest Service campground, east of Elkins on old U.S. 33, is approximately 20 minutes from Beverly.

East of Elkins on U.S. 33 are two inns which many members use: the Alpine Inn (636-1470) at Alpaca and the Cheat River Inn (636-6265) between Stuart Park and Bowden.

**MEALS**

All meals $15.25 X __________ = ______
(Saturday breakfast through Sunday lunch)

Individual meals:

- Saturday: $3.00 X __________ = ______
- Lunch: $3.00 X __________ = ______
- Dinner: $4.25 X __________ = ______
- Sunday: $3.00 X __________ = ______

_ Lodging Total __________________________

(Hot showers, no hook-ups)

**NATURE SKOOL/CHILD CARE**

Nature Skool __________

$2/hr.

**FIELD TRIP PREFERENCE**

- Canaan Introduction
- Caving Trip
- Canoe Trip
- Spring Hike
- Bird Walk (Does not conflict with other outings.)