When a pastor takes a strong stand

by Tom Burger

reprinted with permission from The West Virginia United Methodist

For some it's an environmental question. For others it's an economics debate, but for the Rev. Jeff Allen, pastor of the Keystone-Northfork Charge, a proposed McDowell County landfill is a justice issue.

Rev. Allen presides over a group of citizens opposing the development near Welch of what would be one of the nation's largest landfills.

The McDowell County Commission approved a proposal by Capels Resources, Inc., to establish the commercial dump on a 6,000 acre site two miles from Welch near Davy. Plans estimate that as much as 10,000 tons of trash a day — much of it from out of state — would be hauled to the site by train.

Capels promised 367 new jobs and $6 million a year in new revenue for the depressed county if the project goes through.

Citizens opposed to the waste facility got busy and formed TEARSWV, Team Effort Against Raining Southern West Virginia.

The group soon got the attention of W.Va. Governor Gaston Caperton, who put a hold on the project.

In spite of Capels guarantees, TEARSWV fears the landfill will attract toxic waste and contaminate groundwater in the area. Rev. Allen, TEARSWV president, said the Philadelphia-based Berwind Corporation, parent company of Capels, has a bad environmental reputation — an opinion Capels refutes.

The young pastor, who studied biology as an undergraduate college student, said his concerns about the dump are more than ecological.

He said the project is “another attempt to abuse the people. They import trash and export money.”

Rev. Allen said the landfill proposal represents the same kind of oppressive colonialism that has gone on for 100 years in the area.

“The church needs to address these issues of oppression wherever they exist,” he said.

The debate is over who will control the county’s land resources, he said. “Who decides the future,” he said, “the voters or the companies.”

Rev. Allen wondered about why larger states want to send their garbage here.

He insisted that big states must make room for their own garbage and stop taking advantage of small states like West Virginia.

Conference focuses on volunteer role in water-quality monitoring

Leaders from grassroots water monitoring groups across the country will meet with federal and state government officials March 29 to April 2, 1992 to develop partnerships and share information during the Third National Citizens’ Volunteer Water Monitoring Conference.

Co-sponsored by the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and America’s Clean Water Foundation, the conference will be at the Annapolis Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Maryland.

LaJana Wilcher, EPA’s assistant administrator for water, and Virginia Tippie, President’s Council on Environmental Quality, are among the invited speakers.

Attendees will participate in more than 25 panel discussions, field trips and workshops given by local volunteer monitoring coordinators and representatives from EPA, the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey and Tennessee Valley Authority.

“Thousands of volunteer groups currently collect and analyze data about America’s rivers and streams, which they then share with state officials who manage these waterways,” explained Karen Firehock, IWLA national director of Save Our Streams.

“This conference will use real success stories to show how to further develop partnerships among schools, government, environmental organizations and businesses, and to set the future direction of volunteer monitoring nationwide.”

“The EPA’s co-sponsorship of this conference reflects our strong commitment to volunteer involvement in water monitoring and protection. We want to help volunteers work cooperatively with state and local governments, schools and the private sector,” said Dave Davis, deputy director of EPA’s Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds.

Registration for the conference is $35 and includes three buffet lunches and a registration packet. Transportation discounts are available. In addition, 10 full-travel scholarships will be awarded to people who demonstrate financial need and who are active in volunteer monitoring issues.

To receive a complete agenda and registration form, contact Firehock or Loren Kellogg at the IWLA, 1401 Wilson Blvd., Level B; Arlington, Va. 22209; (703)528-1818.

Established in 1922, the Izaak Walton League of America is a national conservation organization whose 53,000 members enjoy and protect our soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife.

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Alert

Deadline for comments on proposed changes in Wetlands Delineation Manual has been extended to Dec. 14. See pages 4,5 & 10 for discussion of new criteria.
The Fine Art of Giving Thanks

As the first snow of the season begins to melt here in the hills of Upshur County, Thanksgiving is only two short weeks away.

Turkey day has always been a special time for me. Preceding the craziness that has become associated with Christmas, this season is more like birthdays and anniversaries that evoke quieter moments of reflection and giving thanks for good things in life.

But something has happened over the years and giving thanks often comes more grudgingly now than in the past. Perhaps it’s a factor of age; perhaps it’s just that I grow more cynical as time goes by; perhaps it’s not just me but the world that has grown less gracious.

As I sit putting these thoughts into our computer, the bright winter white lights a cloudy day. After the long dry spell this past month that allowed fires to damage some 300,000 acres of forestland here in W.V., I want to give thanks for the snow that began as rain on Sunday. BUT, the sound of trees breaking under the weight of the ice severely diminished any cause to celebrate.

In matters of concern to the Conservancy my thanks-giving is equally equivocal.

As we inch closer to establishing a wildlife refuge in Canaan Valley, we want to give thanks that the local residents and governing bodies are coming to realize that a refuge will benefit the area, and that the power company is claiming its license is "intransitable" in its court request for the return of past annual fees. BUT, there is still a pall of doubt and question about continued destruction by all-terrain vehicles and potential development especially on power company land in the northern end of the valley.

After years of effort by the WVHC Rivers Committee we want to give thanks for the WV Rivers Coalition and its superb effort to gain wild & scenic status and protection for 13 river segments in the Mon Forest. BUT, an unexpected wall of opposition has developed in the unlikely halls of the WV Department of Natural Resources and has unfortunately caused deploring splits within the environmental-conservation community.

After an encouraging meeting last year we want to give thanks for the apparent openness and willingness of the Department of Highways to meet and discuss Corridor H alternatives as studies progress. BUT, we know that the DOH is now refusing to release or discuss any studies before next year when the entire Draft EIS is announced.

After the loss of over half of the wetland resources in the country we want to give thanks for our environmental president's strong "no net loss of wetlands" stance. BUT, we know that white house approved changes in the 1989 Delineation Manual will redefine wetlands so that the great loss will occur long before any protection measures can be discussed. If these changes are approved we can anticipate that nearly 50% of wetlands in W.Va. (i.e. in Canaan, the Meadow and Greenbrier Rivers, etc.) will no longer be defined as wetlands.

After a failed attempt to pass volatile legislation last spring off-road vehicle associations agreed to work together with members of the environmental community to establish acceptable controls and trail systems, and we want to give thanks for the spirit of cooperation and the apparent agreements to prevent use of ORV’s on public lands. BUT we know that the association has turned it’s attention to making inroads specifically on public lands in the Mon Forest by making the case for ORV use individual opportunities across the forest.

We want to give thanks for the new Clean Air Act. BUT we know that the move has also diffused and diverted attention away from the ever ailing Surface Mine Regulatory Program of W.Va.

We would like to give thanks for the new Solid Waste Bill and for all those people from across the state who unanimously gave their time to tell our legislators that the people WANT to deal with the waste that we create. BUT we know that municipal waste accounts for only 1.5% of waste generated in the United States, while 6 percent is hazardous waste, 33.5 percent is waste from utilities and energy extraction industries and 59 percent is other non-hazardous industrial waste, and we know that representatives of industry continue to argue against regulation of that more massive part of the waste stream.

I usually think of myself as an optimistical realist, but somehow this thanksgiving season finds an edge of cynicism rising to the top and the art of giving thanks has become a real challenge.

The Highlands Voice is printed monthly by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, P.O. Box 306, Charleston, WV 25333. Articles, letters to the editor and other information for publication should be sent to the editor, 36 Meade St., Buckhannon, WV 26201.
The Continuing Saga of OSM and the W.Va. Mining Program

or,

What did House Bill 217 do?
or,

The Creation of the W.Va. Division of Environmental Protection

by Cindy Rank

In answer to the question “How can we improve the Division of Energy (DOE) and get OSM off of our backs?” the legislature passed House Bill 217 during the special session that took place the first three days in October.

In nutshell, H.B. 217 abolished OSM, authorized the executive branch (subject to legislative oversight) to reorganize all state environmental regulatory programs currently under the authority of the super secretary for commerce, labor and environmental resources (including those from the DOE) into the new DEP (Division of Environmental Protection). H.B. 217 also established a limited fund for the ongoing costs of the new DEP.

The bill also transfers the current DOE Division of Health, Safety and Training to a newly created stand alone Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training.

With H.B. 217 the legislature declared that “it is the policy of the state of West Virginia, in cooperation with other governmental agencies, public and private organizations, and the citizens of this state, to use all practicable means and measures to prevent or eliminate harm to the environment and biosphere, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.”

A fourteen member reorganization advisory board is created to discuss all aspects of the division’s reorganization. Four members will have significant experience in regulated industry, four in the advocacy of environmental protection, two in the teaching of public administration, two will be from the House of Delegates and two from the Senate.

David Cullough, W.V. Director of Consuelina from 1977 to 1983, has been appointed Director of the new DEP. Steve Weber, former OSM official, has been appointed Director of the new Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training.

from the editor...

Is anybody out there having fun?

In some ways, this is just my periodic, pitiful plea for staff — stories, opinions, drawings, photos, poems, letters, whatever — from all of you "900s folks whose names pass through my fingers as I label the Voice before trekking off to the post office.

I'm assuming, of course, that the doozie or so we met at board meetings, all exist — but then I think of the pile of "Iought to write" notes and letters sitting on my kitchen table (occasionally moved closer to the computer). It's a task that tends to get buried beneath the "I have to do as soon as I get a minute" pile that is swamped by the "I don't have time but I gotta" stuff — and I feel eternally grateful for those who keep writing, and review, myself, to turn over a new leaf and write on it and actually get it in the mail.

And I read other newsletters that include fantastic editorial pleas for something to edit, so I know I am not alone.

But, some of those newsletters remind me that there are folks enjoying some of the things we are trying to save. And I wonder about the Conservancy. Is there anybody out there having fun?

I'm not — more than anything else, that's a function of my chaotic work situation where, on a theoretical five-person news and sports staff we've been short-handed most of the last 18 months, and since September we've lost four people and replaced two (and one of the replacements was also one of the departures).

Right now, fun is a good night's sleep without the kinds of dreams that make me know I'm trying to deal with something just a little too big in a dinky, colder U.S., where I was confined with other politically wayward types in a work camp set on a huge garbage dump in Southern West Virginia (psychomancy gratefully accepted).

I look around at other Conservancy folks I know, trying to balance jobs with legislative sessions, special sessions, interim committees, etc., trying to work in tough conditions on various environmental issues (without the easier dollar-sign touchstone of our opponents), to weigh a variety of interests in determining that the most and the best values of earth and people for the long and short terms. It is good work, but I see a lot more than fun.

I'd like to know that somebody is having fun — flowing down a river, climbing a mountain, watching birds through the early morning mists, or noticing the daily delights of the passing seasons. It would remind me that it's possible, and if nothing else, vicious fun must be better than no fun at all.

So, all you nature souls who live a more balanced life, we (17) need you to share your joys, experiences, or gentle chiding not to let the beauty of life pass us by. Is there anybody out there?

(Articles, etc. on pressing issues, also welcome.)

A few spirit-lifting reminders have wandered my way recently and I highly recommend them to you. Reviewed elsewhere are "We Are Not for Sale," a tape of original, locally produced music by some of our friends and neighbors, and marvelous little book which introduces many West Virginia's Bed and Breakfasts.

Pastor

from page 1

community and to call it to be reflectiv
e the kingdom of God."

Although he has received some threat, the pastor said his congrega
tion has been supportive.

"Most of them are against the dump," he said, "but some are not.

He said a few pastors are happy that he has taken a stand, but "most pastors steer clear of the issue." "Pastors occupy an emotional place in people's lives," Rev. Allen said, because they relate to people in times of crises and during moments of joy. That relationship can be tainted, he said, when the pastor lines up on a particular side of a controversial issue. Rev. Allen is sensitive to the con

flict between the pastoral and pro
gnostic roles he plays as a church pas
tor. And it's not always comfortable for him.

"In one sense," he said, "pastors are married to the church. Other concerns are like mistressesuring you away from your duties. There is tension."

He said it felt important to help create a community model based on mutual care and concern rather than a system governed by power.

Whatever the outcome of the land
dissolution, Rev. Allen said he felt jus
tified in getting involved.

"Most issues have a moral base to them," he concluded.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be more sceptical of government handouts

Dear Editor,

I was dismayed to see that you chose to print a U.S. Department of Agriculture press release as you re
ered, rather than checking to find out first. I refer to the article "West Virginia's Farmers Look for a Good" in the August/September Voice. This article is the typical government PR flackery in promotion of itself.

The story praised West Virginia for being a leader in no-till corn farming. No-till farming is a practice that proponents claim is a conservation measure. Farmers plant crops without first plowing. Rather, they plant in last year's stubble.

The purpose of this practice is to save topsoil that would otherwise wash away because of its exposure to the weather after plowing. There is no doubt that no-till planting does save topsoil. However, you failed to mention that farmers using no-till planting usually preceded the planting with heavy applications of herbicides, to kill the weeds and other vegetation that would be plowed under. No-till then makes use of conventional plowing.

How can we praise this method of agriculture as "conservation tillage," or "the ultimate in residue protection?"

As the expression goes, when we look at one thing we find that it is connected to everything else. We must look beyond the USDA hype to see that we trade one damaging practice for another. Where is the gain? As a respected voice in the environmental community the Voice has an obliga
tion to do more than perpetrate government platitudes.

Yours truly,

Jim Scour
d

Thanks for the efforts

Dear W.Va. Highlands Conserv

On behalf of the citizens of the state of West Virginia, we would like
to express our deep appreciation for your efforts to protect W.Va. High
lands Conservancy to assist W.Va. citizens in our effort to stop the abuse of our beautiful state by the mega
dump garbage barons.

The friend of the court brief co
ponsored by the W.V. Highlands Conservancy and 21 other environ
mentally concerned organizations was presented to the W.V. State Supreme Court on September 11, 1991 in an effort to apply the new solid waste laws to the LGI Chamber facility in Berkeley County. These new laws will allow tonnage restrictions as well as permitting approval.

In conclusion we would like to thank the membership of the W.V., Highlands Conservancy who brought your opposition to this privately owned mega dump. A lot is at risk for the entire state. Thanks to you the fight is alive to clean up West Vir

Thank you,

Eastern Panhandle Citizens Against Out of State Waste, Inc.P.O. Box 994

Hedgesville, W.Va. 25427

(See Page 10, for related story)
Hamrick criticizes wetlands manual changes

(Excerpted from a letter from W.Va. DNR Director Ed Hamrick to Gregory Peck, Chief, Wetlands and Aquatic Resources Regulatory Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, commenting on the proposed revisions to the 1989 "Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands.")

Introduction
The 1991 Manual as proposed has as its purpose, "improve the 1989 Manual's accuracy for identifying and delineating wetlands" by tightening and refining the three criteria (presence of wetland plants, wetland soils, and inundation/saturation) presently used to identify and delineate wetlands. The proposal, as described in the footnote, is not intended to reduce jurisdiction, but to maintain and improve wetland delineation methods and to make the process more user friendly and understandable by the public.

Specific Issue Comments
pages 40447-40448

ISSUE 1 - Flexibility to use the manual any time of the year; that the manual not exclude obvious, long recognized wetland types; and comments on alternatives to specify seasonally difficult to identify wetlands.

The proposed rule states that "it is essential that the revised Manual allow an accurate determination to be made at any time of the year." The rule requires that all three wetland identifiers be independently proven. This criterion makes it difficult and often impossible, to identify wetlands when plants are either not present or are not identifiable to species during certain times of the year. It is a lesser problem to shrubs, and more so, to riparian wetlands where woody plants retain unique characters throughout the year.

In palustrine emergent wetlands in West Virginia that are dominated by graminoids and composites, there is a limited period between May and October when plants are present and can be identified. From November into May it is very difficult to identify graminoids and composites to species because fruits are not present and vegetation is not definitive.

We suggest that if wetland soils and hydrology are present, then the wetland vegetation criterion should be ignored. This approach is similar to that used in the 1989 Manual. If wetlands cannot be determined between November and May, then the basis for the 1991 revision (i.e., capability for wetland determination within observing year-round) is not met.

Since the majority of wetlands in West Virginia are palustrine emergent types, a similar approach is justified in the ability to identify obvious, historic wetland types will result.

ISSUE 2 - The validity and usefulness of secondary field indicators of wetland hydrology; and whether or not water stained leaves, trunks, or stems should be primary or secondary indicators.

Indicators of soil saturation and inundation are valuable tools as demonstrated by their use in the past. These indicators, both primary and secondary, have refined and expanded wetland determination/delineation. The WVDNR believes there is little need to categorize indicators into primary and secondary types. This segregation only serves to further confuse an already difficult assessment process. Our evaluation shows that all indicators, both primary and secondary, are indicative of some amount of inundation/saturation attributable to a high water table and/or poorly drained soils.

WVDNR request that the primary and secondary designation of all indicators listed in the 1991 manual be removed and that all be considered independently "indicative" of wetland hydrology.

ISSUE 3 - Wetlands which are exceptions to the 3 required criteria as a result of their inability to meet the hydrophytic vegetation criterion.

The new criteria may exclude from designation wetlands currently regarded as important because of their unique geologic or vegetative character. To avoid these exclusions, specific habitats are exempted from the new criteria and still considered wetlands. The need to arbitrarily designate ecosystems falling outside the criteria as wetlands makes it obvious that the determination/delineation methods are inadequate and suggests that a method should be developed which could be more universally applied.

ISSUE 4 - Granting re-evaluation of the 1989 Manual delineations.

The WVDNR believes the 1989 Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Wetlands is a valid, scientifically sound document which, when appropriately applied, results in accurate delineations/eliminations. The WVDNR requests that no site reevaluations be considered for West Virginia.

ISSUE 5 - FAC Neutral test and six variations of the FAC Neutral Test.

ISSUE 6 - The validity of determining hydrology by documenting from at least three years of hydrologic record collected during years of normal rainfall. The criterion is then expanded to require that the three annual observation periods have precipitation within at least 30 percent of monthly norms.

The requirement for three years of hydrologic monitoring data combined with the demonstrated difficulty of obtaining precipitation information and "long-term" hydrologic records makes conclusive documentation of the hydrologic criterion completely unworkable for state/federal regulatory agencies.

ISSUE 7 - The manual's basic approach of delineating every site individually. Could it be streamlined? Is it desirable to identify easily recognized wetlands? If so how should it be done? Should easily recognized wetland be exempted from the process, and what processes should be followed to decide which would be exempt?

Many of West Virginia's wetlands are recognizable from their wetland vegetation communities, associated soils and hydrology. These areas are discernable to the naked eye by the average person. WVDNR supports a program to eliminate these obvious wetlands from the determination process.

WVDNR believes a regionalized approach to identify habitats for exemption from the process is preferable to a nationwide approach because of regional differences in wetland abundance, uniqueness and importance. Technical assistance from both private and governmental sources in identifying these wetland communities for exemption is recommended.

ISSUE 8: Growing season intervals.

WVDNR has reviewed the proposed growing season definition (viz. the period 3 weeks prior to the average date of the last killing frost in the spring to 3 weeks following the average date of the last killing frost in the fall) and finds it difficult to apply.

The definition eliminates any consideration of the effects of microclimates. Frost occurrences as late as June are not uncommon in West Virginia; however, plant growth begins prior to mid-May.

Based on consultations with soil scientists, WVDNR supports a growing season definition based on soil temperature. These scientists conclude that soil temperature actually begins when the top 4 to 6 inches of soil reaches a tempera-

See Hamrick, page 5
by Roger Harrison

The American Discovery Trail (ADT), a joint project of BACKPACKER magazine and the American Hiking Society, will be the nation's first coast-to-coast hiking trail and yes, West Virginia trails will be a major link in the system. ADT will provide a way to discover America, passing through wilderness areas, small towns, and even some cities. On its way from San Francisco to Washington D.C. and beyond, the ADT will follow historic routes such as the Pony Express Trail; traverse great mountain ranges like the Sierra Nevada and Rockies; wander across the Great Plains; work through the Appalachians and natural areas of the East.

The trail is designed to offer something to every kind of user, from the seasoned trekker prepared for wilderness travel to the casual dayhiker walking close to home. Many parts of the trail will be multiple-use, appropriate for non-motorized users such as bicyclists and equestrians.

A three-member scouting team has completed a twelve month voyage along the trail, working with local activists along the way in order to link the trail’s 5,500 miles from California to Delaware, crossing West Virginia and eleven other states.

Originally, the ADT was to include only twelve miles of West Virginia trails, passing briefly through the state’s northern panhandle. However, a group of West Virginia citizens, led by Lou Schrader of the West Virginia Lung Association, campaigned to re-route the ADT through the heart of West Virginia, highlighting some of the most breathtaking scenery in the eastern United States.

The ADT is now mapped out to travel over 300 miles in West Virginia which makes up roughly 6% of the national trail, an impressive jump from the original West Virginia proposed route of just twelve miles. The American Discovery Trail will enter West Virginia at Parkersburg, and travel east on the North Bend Rail Trail to Clarksburg. From Clarksburg, the trail will pass through Valley Falls, Tygart Lake, Blackwater Falls, and Canaan Valley Resort State Parks. The route will then move east across Blackbird Knob and on to the eastern panhandle where it will exit West Virginia near Green Spring, W.V., just east of Cumberland, MD.

The ADT scouting team came through the mountain state in early July and I had the good fortune of journeying along part of the Blackbird Knob Trail with them. The pace of the team was slowed, however, due to an unforeseen obstacle...BLUEBERRIES.

Nonetheless, after a lengthy indulgence, the team expedited their trek across the Allegheny Front in what Eric Seaborg, scouting team leader, described as “some of the ADT’s most rugged and breathtaking scenery.” The results of the scouting team’s biking/hiking trip will be published later in a book for anyone wishing to travel the trail. The book will mention historical attractions, scenic over looks, campites, accommodations, groceries, major roadways, etc. along the 5,500 mile route.

A great deal of thanks is owed to Lou Schrader and the members of the West Virginia ADT steering committee for their work in mapping the course through West Virginia as well as the hospitality showed to the scouting team during their stay in West Virginia.

Senator seeks support for coast-to-coast hiking trail

Dear Friends:

Because of your involvement in our national trails system, I thought you might be interested in legislation I have introduced to study the establishment of the American Discovery Trail.

The American Discovery Trail would be the Nation’s first coast-to-coast hiking trail encompassing 12 states and some 5,500 trail miles. People all across this country would be able to hike, bike or walk along such historic trails as the Pony Express route which played an important part in America’s history.

As you may know, last year a three-person team began a scouting expedition to determine a feasible route for the coast-to-coast hiking trail. The trail begins at Point Reyes National Seashore near San Francisco, proceeds eastward through Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, and Maryland, ending at the Atlantic Ocean in Delaware. By linking over 17 existing trails, the ADT will form a national network of trails encompassing 27 states and over 30,000 trail miles.

Once the bill is enacted, the Department of Interior will conduct the study to determine National Scenic Trail designation for the American Discovery Trail. Currently, the Appalachian Trail, the Continental Divide and the Pacific Crest Trail have been given this designation in order to provide the public with outdoor recreation, “and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural or cultural qualities” of areas crossed by the trails.

The American Discovery Trail will give the American people greater access to some of our country’s most beautiful scenic vistas. My hope is this will foster increased appreciation of and responsibility for public lands, as well as heightened awareness of our scenic and cultural heritage.

Your input and support concerning S. 1537, which would authorize a study of the American Discovery Trail, would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Hank Brown

U.S. Senator, Colorado

Hamrick

from page 4

15 and 21 days, respectively; and d) disagreement over whether the sites were actually wetlands relative to the 1991 guidelines.

If professional scientists working in regulatory fields cannot fully comprehend and apply the requirements of the revised Manual with a high level of certainty, it is unlikely that the public will be supportive or that private consultants could use the 1991 Manual to correctly identify wetlands any better.

Further, technical experts that participated in the field-review are not normally available to complete wetland reviews. It is doubtful whether sufficient numbers of individuals with this level of expertise and experience could be found in either the private sector or the Federal agencies charged with making determination/delineation.

As was discussed in more detail in the response to Issues 1 through 8, the required hydrologic data is not easily obtainable. Additionally, the proposed Manual shifts the burden of proof from the developer or applicant to the regulatory agency. If the regulator is required to determine hydrologic parameters by monitoring conducted over three years, determinations will be significantly delayed, as will Section 404 permit reviews and issuance. If the lack of long-term historical hydrologic data precludes a wetland determination, significant wetland acreage in West Virginia will be affected.

The 1991 manual has deviated from an appropriate basis in science. The manual must maintain a scientific and technical methodology for determining wetlands. The policy for permitting development should be separated from the methodology for identifying and delineating wetland. It is inappropriate to utilize the manual to legalize or otherwise mandate wetland science.

Of the 18 well known and obvious wetland sites examined, 4 or 22 percent would no longer be classified as wetlands using the 1991 Manual methodology. As noted, if hydrology must be verified with methods other than the use of indicators, none of the areas would be wetlands.

It is recognized that were this manual in use today, significant effort on the part of the regulatory agencies to ascertain hydrology would be attempted on these sites. This indicates that this attempt to clarify and tighten the process could not be done by an unwieldy hydrological assessment criterion. The hydrological criteria requiring lengthy vegetation evaluation processes will also slow the regulatory process.

West Virginia, a state with few wetlands, will lose the ability to protect many acres of obvious wetlands under the proposed revision. Transitional wetlands will be most severely impacted, with expected loss of protection on 50 percent of the total acreage in this category. West Virginia cannot afford these losses.

Definitely, some changes to refine the 1989 manual could be implemented to strengthen the determination/delineation process. However, based on this evaluation of the 1991 manual, the current proposed modifications fail significantly short of the intended purpose and will require considerable, additional refinement.

It is suggested that, instead of attempting to change the criteria and wetland science of the 1989 manual, that consideration be given to promulagating regulatory guidelines to address problematic situations. This would be much more practical and scientifically acceptable means of resolving many of the farming and development issues which seem to have fostered the generation of this revision.

General Comments

The revised Manual will require a team composed of a soil scientist, a wetland hydrologist and a wildlife biologist to conduct either a wetland delineation or identification. In West Virginia, field testing involved the State Soil Scientist and assistant State Soil Scientist and biologists.

Teams spent in excess of two hours conducting a point intercept vegetation survey on a 200 foot transect. Hydrology and hydric soils were investigated by other team members while vegetative sampling was conducted.

Current delineations were further delayed by continual discussions among evaluation team wetland scientists regarding a) how vegetation sampling should be conducted to best represent the area; b) whether soils should be examined at more than one location at each site; c) whether presence of primary indicators of hydrology were acceptable if or they also needed corroborative ecological information related to the disturbance, duration of rainfall and/or actual evidence of inundation and saturation of

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Avoiding "Tumult on the Mountains"
Planning for the future of West Virginia's forest-based industries

Roy Clarkson's classic book *Tumult on the Mountains!* illustrates with shocking photographs the clearcutting of the virgin forests which covered West Virginia at the turn of the century. The resulting fires and unbridled water runoff produced massive soil losses due to burning and erosion, destruction of stream quality, and severe flooding. Effects still evident in many areas.

Today, it is difficult to believe this tragedy actually took place. The forests have regenerated, the wildfires are gone, and the reclamation is complete. West Virginia water quality to some of the purest in the nation. After over a half century of regrowth, our forests are reaching maturation and once again are becoming a major influence in the economic development of the state.

The questions to consider now are whether we have learned any lessons from the past. The decisions made now will determine the future of the forest-based segment of our economy. Are we ready for this growth? Are the necessary regulations, training, and enforcement programs in place to prevent the environmental damage and overcutting that plagued our past? Are integrated, long-term plans developed to properly manage forest resources?

Today, we argue NO to these questions. But with proper planning and wise management of our natural resources, West Virginia has the opportunity to develop a sustainable forest resources-based economy well into the 21st century. To do this, we must learn from previous mistakes before a resource with such great potential value is irretrievably lost.

**The Timber Industry: The Environmental Perspective**

Public concern and outcry over exploitation of timber by the logging industry is increasing not only in West Virginia, but around the nation and world. With a few examples, it is not hard to understand why:

1. **The clearcutting and mass spraying that happened in West Virginia at the turn of the century is now occurring in the remaining virgin forests of the Pacific Northwest and in tropical rainforests. All of the hands of the timber industry.**

2. **Poor and unregulated timber operations are evident in numerous parts of West Virginia, contributing to the number one pollutant of surface waters, siltation.**

3. **The negative attitudes taken by many members of the industry in West Virginia and across the country towards wilderness preservation and public participation in forest use decisions are creating a backlash that will certainly impact the industry if this attitude continues.**

Despite these valid concerns, environmentalists could become supporters of expanded forest-based industries in West Virginia if certain conditions are met:

1. **Unlike coal, our valuable hardwood timber is a RENEWABLE natural resource. When managed for sustained yields with respect to all multiple uses of the resource (not just timber), it can be a constant source of income far into the future. This requires long-term, integrated multiple-use planning.**

2. **With use of Best Management Practices (BMP), LITTLE POLLUTION is caused by timber harvesting. A definite plus in view of the major impacts the chemical, coal and natural gas industries have on West Virginia's environment. Timber products industries that do generate polluting byproducts must be regulated accordingly. Other forest-based industries, primarily involving outdoor recreation, not only produce little to no pollution, but also depend heavily upon protection of the state's pristine natural resources.**

**The Economic Impacts of West Virginia's Forests**

West Virginia's forest-based economy has grown to over a billion dollar industry and has become a positive influence in the state economy. Strong potential exists for attracting secondary wood products industries such as furniture and hardwood finishing manufacturers. These would result in a multiplier or "value-added" effect in wood products production which primary logging and shipping activity do not provide.

**West Virginia's Voluntary Timber Regulation Program**

A major controversy during the 1991 legislative session dealt with legislation requiring mandatory registration for logging operations and compliance with BMP's. Governor Caperton, in his State of the State speech, referred to the lack of timbering registration and suggested legislation be developed. While several timber-related bills were introduced, none was passed and signed into law. Presently, there are no specific laws dealing with...
Avoiding "Tumult" — continued from page 6

Avoiding Sedimentation Problems

Sedimentation

Sediment is the primary source of sediment in our waterways is from wildfires. While fires do contribute significantly to soil erosion problems, the problem is that wildfires contribute to siltation. "Sediment control programs can significantly improve the quality of our waterways," the DOF said. "They can improve the quality of our waterways, but they do not prevent erosion.

To avoid sedimentation, the DOF recommends the following:

1. Regulations must be developed regarding timber harvesting in West Virginia. Right now, we could go out and rent a skidder and clearcut a mountain. No one is going to question our actions. Regulations will help prevent sedimentation problems from occurring.

2. A systematic approach to timber harvesting is needed. This includes pre-harvesting site selection, harvest planning, and post-harvest site rehabilitation.

3. The public must be educated about the importance of sediment control programs. This includes schools, communities, and businesses.

The Highlands Voice, October/November 1991 — Page 7

Environmental Problems Associated with Timbering

Major environmental problems posed by timbering operations include soil erosion and sedimentation, loss of wildlife habitat, and air pollution. Sedimentation is the primary source of sediment in our waterways. While fires do contribute significantly to soil erosion problems, they do not prevent erosion. Sediment control programs can significantly improve the quality of our waterways, but they do not prevent erosion. To avoid sedimentation, the DOF recommends the following:

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3. The public must be educated about the importance of sediment control programs. This includes schools, communities, and businesses.

The Highlands Voice, October/November 1991 — Page 7
**Comments sought on Rivers study**

The Forest Service is requesting help from the public as the first step of a study to determine the suitability of twelve rivers on the Monongahela National Forest for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, according to Forest Supervisor Jim Page.

The purpose of the study is to determine whether any or all of these streams should be recommended for addition to the National System. This determination will be based on identification and analysis of potential benefits or adverse effects on management of both National Forest and private lands and resources, other agency programs, and local and regional interests.

"At this time, we are asking the public to help identify the issues, concerns, and opportunities which should be addressed in considering these rivers for possible designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers," Page said. "This is the time for folks to tell us why they think any or all of these rivers, or portions of them, should or should not be managed under the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, or how they feel river designation might affect them or the associated resources.

Identified issues, concerns and opportunities will be used to develop alternatives for consideration and provide a basis for evaluating potential effects of proposed alternatives. The present plan is to complete the study with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) some time in 1993.

Interested groups and individuals will have opportunities to review and comment on alternatives being considered as the study progresses to be certain that all identified issues are recognized and analyzed.

To learn more about this study or about Wild and Scenic Rivers is invited to write or call Harry Mahoney, Monongahela National Forest, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241; (304) 636-1800.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 established the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to maintain selected rivers that have "outstandingly remarkable values" in a free-flowing condition, and to provide special protection for water quality and identified river-related values.

Each designated river is classified as "Wild," "Scenic," or "Recreational," depending on existing development and management objectives within a specified river area.

The act prohibits federal assistance or permits for construction of dams or other major water resource projects on or directly affecting a designated river or adversely affecting identified river values. It also directs management consistent with the protection of the designated river area.

A river management plan is required for each designated river to provide protection or enhancement of the identified values consistent with the specified management objectives. A draft River Management Plan is generally prepared after designation with the participation of interested groups and individuals, other agencies, local governments, and affected landowners.

The designated areas frequently include private lands. "The participation and cooperation of private landowners is essential to fully carry out the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act," Page said.

The Forest Service would seek the cooperation of landowners in preparing and carrying out the river management plans. The objective would generally be to allow private owners to continue present uses of their property, but to encourage them to protect or enhance the identified values.

Landowners are often concerned that the Federal Government will take their lands through condemnation or tell them how to use their property. "Use of private lands within the river areas could only be regulated by purchase of lands or partial interests, or by appropriate local government regulations," Page said. "Although the Act does permit condemnation of land or partial interests such as scenic easements, this authority is seldom used by the Forest Service on Wild and Scenic Rivers and then only as a last resort in areas considered critical for protection or management of river values."

The following river segments are to be included in the Monongahela study:
- Shavers Fork — Snowshoe dam to US 33, 50.6 miles, WV 338 to Jobs Run at Porterwood 21.9 miles.
- Dry Fork — Laurel Fork to Blackwater, 13.7 miles.
- Blackwater — State Park bridge to Hickory Lick, 8.7 miles.
- Glady — Dry Fork waterfalls near Glady to Dry Fork, 31.6 miles.
- N.Fork Dry Fork — Headwaters to Dry Fork, 38.2 miles.
- Otter Creek — Wilderness boundary to Dry Fork, 11.0 miles.
- River at Jackson to wilderness exit, 8.7 miles.
- S.Branch Potomac — Sackett Bridge to Forest boundary, 22.5 miles.
- S.Fork S.Branch — High Ridge Run to Hopeville, 7.2 miles.
- Scott — S. Fork to New River, 17.5 miles.
- Williams — National Forest land to Spice Run, 25.5 miles.
- North Fork Cherry — Head to private land near Richmond, 15.6 miles.

**More sport and environmental groups join Rivers Coalition**

by Roger Harrison, Executive Director
West Virginia Rivers Coalition

Momentum continues to build for the federal protection of 13 streams within the Monongahela National Forest, as five additional West Virginia conservation organizations recently joined the West Virginia Rivers Coalition.

The additional members include the West Virginia Citizen Action Group, the West Virginia Council of the National Audubon Society, Save Our Mountains, Mountain Stream Monitors, and the Pine Cabin Run Ecological Laboratory.

Now comprised of 28 state, regional, and national conservation and recreation organizations, the West Virginia Rivers Coalition is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the long-term protection and enhancement of West Virginia's streams. The Coalition also advocates reforestation of degraded trout streams to fulfill ecological health. At present, the Coalition's focus is to build support for the National Wild & Scenic Rivers designation for 13 streams within the Monongahela National Forest.

In late July, the United States Forest Service found twelve mountain rivers within the Monongahela National Forest eligible for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. Passed in 1968, the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act provides protection to the most outstanding free-flowing rivers in the United States.

Norm Steensma, Environmental Coordinator for the West Virginia Citizen Action Group, believes that "the beautiful part of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition is that grass-roots groups fighting their own battles involving116
carriers and out-of-state garbages, have come to appreciate the intrinsic value of protecting one of West Virginia's greatest assets — our rivers."

With ten years of water quality experience, Mountain Streams Monitors has long been active in water quality analysis on West Virginia rivers. Tom Rood, legal advisor for the Morgantown-based group, enunciates the need for long-term planning and management direction to protect West Virginia streams.

"We believe rivers are West Virginia's #1 long-term resource and therefore we should not miss this very important opportunity for private organizations to pull together and work with government agencies to protect these streams for the benefit of future generations," Rood said.

The West Virginia Council of the National Audubon Society also expressed a strong commitment to river conservation.

"With more than 50 percent of the American bird population nesting near waterways, the permanent protection of these outstanding rivers is essential to maintaining high-quality habitat for not only our resident bird population, but also for migratory species," said Suzanne Oliff, President of the West Virginia Audubon Council.

In related news, the West Virginia Environmental Council recently decided to fully support Federal legislation to protect the 13 rivers under study by the U.S. Forest Service.

As the study enters into the suitability phase, the second step in studying a river for Wild & Scenic designation, the overwhelming majority of West Virginia environmental and conservation organizations support the federal protection for the 13 Monongahela National Forest streams.

**Rivers comments due Nov. 30**

Comments in support of Wild & Scenic designation for the 12 rivers are due by November 30, 1991 and should be sent to:

Mr. James Page, Forest Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest
200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, W.V. 26241

If you want to make specific comments on your favorite river segment, please do. If you need clarification or additional information over what has already appeared here and/or in previous issues of the Voice, please call Roger Harrison at the W.V. Rivers Coalition office in Buckhannon, W.V. (472-4025).

(T-shirts may be purchased for $12 each by calling Roger at the above number or by sending your request to him at the following address: W.V. Rivers Coalition, P.O. Box 606, Buckhannon WV 26201...Shirts have the Coalition logo on the front and a map of the target rivers on the back...on grey or white background.)
The Special Session was underway in West Virginia and the question was how and when to present the needed waste legislation. The governor wanted a mega-dump in McDowell County to be a source of funding and to keep waste out of their landfills. The governor, with the support of the Senate, was pushing for a 30,000-ton cap on yard waste per month.

The governor argued that the needed legislation was urgent and necessary. The failure of the Senate to act on the governor's proposed legislation was a major setback. The governor was frustrated and felt that the legislature was not doing its job.

The governor announced the special session was over and the legislature had failed to act on the needed legislation. The governor expressed disappointment and said that the legislature had let the people of West Virginia down.

The special session was not productive and the governor was disappointed. The legislature had failed to act on the needed legislation and the governor was angry.

The governor was clear in his message that the legislature had failed to act on the needed legislation and that the people of West Virginia were not being served.

The governor called for a special session to address the pressing issues facing the state. The governor was clear in his message that the legislature had failed to act on the needed legislation and that the people of West Virginia were not being served.

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A petition filed with the state Supreme Court on Wednesday by 22 environmental and sporting groups supports a state agency's position in the struggle over operation of an East Passyunk Dam.

The Division of Natural Resources contends local decision makers should determine the size and site of L.C.S Services Inc.'s landfill in Berkeley County. The agency also said the company needs to obtain additional permits before operating the Hedgelyville facility.

The company, however, has been successful in court in resisting attempts by state agencies and local bodies to gain greater control over it.

The state Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case Sept. 11, Clerk Ancell Ramey said.

Avoiding Tumult from page 7

Therefore, when the timber industry accuses environmentalists of "locking all the forests up," we look at the numbers and show this is simply not the case. Rather, the state should be seeking additional permanent wildland protection while the resources are still available so that we can meet future demand.

Conclusions

Recall earlier that we mentioned the important decisions facing us as we approach the next century. These decisions must be based on a sustainable future for a forest-based industry, including providing multiple use benefits to non-timber related interests. Planning must take on a long-term perspective rather than a short-term profit-at-all-cost attitude. Leaving some areas "inmanaged" to provide semi-primtive recreational opportunities adds healthy diversity to West Virginia's outdoor recreation economy. Wise resource management is critical to the economic and environmental health of the state. The time for those decisions is now.

Reminder

Comments are due within the month on rivers study in the Mon Forest and the new Wetland Deinformation Manual. Send Rivers comments to: Mr. James Page, Forest Supervisor Monongahela National Forest 200 Sycamore St. Elkins, WV 26241

Send Wetlands comments to: Gregory P.K. Chief Wetlands and Aquatic Resources Biological Branch Mail Code A-104F U.S. EPA 401 M Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20460

22 groups join fight against landfill

Petition filed in support of state agency

A petition filed with the state Supreme Court on Wednesday by 22 environmental and sporting groups supports a state agency's position in the struggle over operation of an East Passyunk Dam.

The Division of Natural Resources contends local decision makers should determine the size and site of L.C.S Services Inc.'s landfill in Berkeley County. The agency also said the company needs to obtain additional permits before operating the Hedgelyville facility.

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Avoiding Tumult

From page 7

term biological diversity of naturally-

regenerating forests.

As previously mentioned, demand for remote, forest-based recreational activities is increasing as the resources available in the East decrease. West Virginia's 900,000-acre Monongahela National Forest was established in 1908 in an effort to restore and protect the headwaters of the state's major rivers and assure public ownership of some of the most wild and scenic country east of the Mississippi River. The MNF covers approximately 6 percent of the state in a state that is 80 percent forested. Of this 6 percent, only 9 percent is federally-designated wilderness (about half the national average for National Forest land). This represents 0.5 percent of West Virginia's land base.

By including semiprimitive areas of the MNF (14 percent of the 900,000 acres) that are protected from development in the current forest management plan, total designated wilderness in West Virginia represents only 1.1 percent of the state's land base.

Briefs such as the one filed by the 22 groups are to help enlighten the court in reaching a decision.

Morgantown attorney Tom Rodd and Charleston attorney Larry Harless filed the brief. Rodd said the groups, excluding the West Virginia Citizen Action Group, account for about 5,000 people.

Among the other groups were the Eastern Panhandle Citizens Against Out-of-State Waste and the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

"From the earliest days of this debate, these citizens were told and they relied on, numerous governmental promises that local community stewardship and protection of community values would, by law, be key factors in siting and tonnage decisions," the petition said.

Wetlands debate reflects misunderstanding

Reprinted from the Oct. 31 Charleston Gazette

Editor's Gazette:

The current wetlands debate reflects widespread public concern and misunderstanding about the function and protection of wetlands. Under the Clean Water Act, property owners must apply for a permit to fill wetlands. Although this is an attempt to protect wetlands' ecological functions and values, many people question the need for such permits and are unaware that wetlands filter pollutants out of the water before they reach lakes and rivers; absorb floodwater; recharge groundwater; and support a diversity of wildlife and plant life, including many endangered and threatened species.

Moreover, contrary to critics' claims, thousands of minor activities are exempt from regulation. In fact, in most states, projects requiring less than an acre of fill in "isolated" or "headwater" wetlands are automatically approved for a nationwide general permit. The same is true for minor road crossings, installation of utility lines and a variety of other activities.

In particular, there is a lot of misinformation on the impact of wetlands permits on agriculture. Most farming activities are exempt from wetlands regulation, including glowing, cultivating and harvesting. Agricultural drainage is largely unregulated.

Wetlands Still Under Siege

by Kathy Gregg

reprinted from the Mountain State Sierran

This summer I had an opportunity to be one of two West Virginia Sierrans to testify at Congressional hearings on the status of wetlands.

Accompaniment Bob Wise (D-WV) and John Cox (D-IL) held a series of hearings: I testified in Weston, and Mary Wimmer in Charleston. The Sierra Club urges Congress to ensure protection and preservation of the nation's wetlands, a very important but steadily declining resource.

A controversy has arisen in recent months as it has become clear that the Bush administration is not living up to the Bush campaign pledge to "stop no loss of wetlands." Of the seven wetland areas lying along the WV DOH preferred routing for Corridor H between Buckhannon and Elkins, four will be filled and mitigated with replacement wetlands. The three largest, however, cannot be filled according to a recent permit denial by Army Corps of Engineers.

These wetlands consist of emergent, scrub-shrub, forested, and open water wetlands. The Little Laurel Fork Shrub Swamp and the wetlands on Laurel Fork of Sand Run are headwater wetlands, three important values: 1) slowing the flow of water during storms to moderate flooding; 2) maintaining water quality downstream by collecting excess nutrients, sediment, and toxic chemicals (i.e. pesticides); and 3) habitat for a diverse array of plants and animals not found in West Virginia's more typical ecosystems. Both of these wetlands buffer upland activities—for instance a dump and logging operation—and the water downstream.

According the the WV DOH, the Laurel Run Beaver Dam Complex probably reduces in-stream sediment and may contribute to the viability of the brook trout population. West Virginia has less than one percent of its area in wetlands; and should the first two of these three wetlands be filled for Corridor H, as much as 17 percent of Upshur County's wetlands resources would be destroyed.

There is a move to change the definition of wetlands in the "Federal Manual for Identifying and Delimiting Jurisdictional Wetlands" (written by professionals from four agencies and used successfully by field personnel).

This is an attempt to reduce the number of wetlands under jurisdiction. Making changes such as the inundation requirement or requiring a "splesh area" will probably remove from protection many, many acres of seasonally flooded land and bottomland forest wetlands, especially important for maintaining clean water.

Wetland science is in its infancy, and we have limited information about how wetlands function. We have less information about how to restore damaged wetlands and even less about creating new wetlands. Eastern coastal wetlands are better understood and seem amenable to restoration and creation; inland wetlands are virtually unstudied, and efforts to create them have usually failed.

Current mitigation policy for jurisdictional wetlands is first to avoid wetlands damage, second to restore, and only as last to resort to destroy and attempt creation of replacement wetlands.

There is presently much pressure to change this around, to favor creation over avoiding or mitigating damage. This seems a bit like sending folks off to Saturn before developing the technology to bring them back.

What can you do? The US EPA is taking public comments til Dec. 15. Call the EPA hotline (1-800-832-7682) and ask for the proposed revisions, the side-by-side comparison and the background piece.


Send a copy to President Bush and urge him to keep his campaign promise. Present the attempt to carry out a political agenda by changing the scientific definition of wetlands. For more information, call Kathy Gregg (304-2812).

The federal government recently loosened the regulations on wet farm fields by allowing non-farm-related activities. Among the few activities requiring a wetland permit are clearing forested wetlands for agriculture and developing farm fields that pond with water annually.

A further misconception about wetlands is that "wetter is better." Some wetlands experience periodic or permanent flooding or inundation. Others are characterized by prolonged periods of soil saturation; in summer they often appear dry. Whether flooded, inundated or saturated, all wetlands provide valuable ecological functions.

Another part of the current debate focuses on the proposed revised Federal Wetlands Manual, used to determine what is and what is not a wetland. Federal wetlands scientists throughout the country are conducting field tests and providing comments on the new manual.

We welcome opportunities to discuss the wetland program and answer questions about how best to protect these valuable resources.

John R. Pomponio Environmental Services Division U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III, Philadelphia.
Visitors from New Jersey
Poetry by Craig Sims

The First Visitor

I am not a native
But I love this place.
I am an aging hippie
Who came to West Virginia from New Jersey
In the "Back to the Land" movement
Of the early seventies,
To build shelter,
Grow corn,
Build homes,
Wait for Armageddon.

Armageddon never came,
Only Reagan and Bush and Desert Storm.
More than fifteen years have passed,
And now I sit at a computer terminal most days.

But I also come here
To this rock
And I will tell you my feelings
At such a time
How it is to be here.

Carefully stepping,
Testing the wobble of each rock,
I make my way to the giant one
They call the overlook
At Dolly Sods.

The view before me is ancient.
Timelapse.
Soft molded mountains
With surface textured
By a forest of hardwood.
These are not the sharp, angular jutting
Of the Rockies or Sierra.

These are Mountains
To a human scale.

I watch and think.

The wisdom of many winters
Resides here.

People plow the fields
In narrow mountain hollows
And cleared ridge tops.
Picking up the earth in their hands
And smelling its fragrance
Before continuing.
They pick apples,
Can peaches and peaches,
And know that they have time.

Life is gentle here.
People will stop and talk to you.
Tell you how to mend a barbed wire fence,
Help you do it.
Teach you a fiddle tune
They learned from their father.
Their ancestors,
Buried here in family plots,
Built split rail fences,
And chestnut hewn log cabins,
Made star patterned quilts
And buried their dead
With coins in their eyes,
They fiddled for square dances
And clogged their way
Past heartbreak.

From this view
I can see no humans.
Only the rolling knobs
With the gentle folds and hollows
Hiding and sheltering
The folks who live in harmony here, unseen.

The waves of Appalachian hills
Disappear gradually
Into the distant haze
For which these mountains are known.

I know the detail of what is here.
Rhododendron thicket and mountain laurel.
Tar paper stacks with tin roofs.
Acid orange creeks stocked with refrigerators
And coal.

I know this.
Beauty and blithesliving
Side by side.

Lost in the distant haze
Where folks dance their way
Through lost dreams
AndPicrt ing heart.
Past all pain.
Rhythm on a wooden floor,
Smiling as they move.

To the fiddle and the banjo.

Easing into the comfortable welcome
Of this land and people,
Standing on this rock.
Above the sweetness and melancholy,
I sense the harmony
And feel the peace that is here
In this ancient mountain place.
I share this with a hawk before me
Listening to hang meadows
On soft mountain breezes.

We are not for sale now is!

If music suggests what's in people's souls,
"We Are Not for Sale," will lay to rest any
notion that West Virginia environmentalists are a bunch of moonshiners.

The collection shares a love of land and people,
but the modes of expression are varied
— country, bluegrass, rock and rap (yes, a rare brand of West Virginia rap).
The selections are melancholy, nostalgic, fierce, funny, protesting and plaintive by turns.

This is outstanding, outrageous, dynamite
tape designed to blow blowers off this corner of the planet.

Some of West Virginia's finest musicians
have written and recorded this album of envi-

ronmental songs which is being produced by
West Virginia Environmental Council. Musi-
cians include Waved Mulligan, David Morris,
Larry Groce, Kate Long, Ron Sewell, Mike Morningstar, Steve Hines, Mountain Thyme,
and, if my ears are to be trusted, Morgantown
attorneys Mary Pat Peck and Tom Robb.

Tapes are selling for $10 each, plus 25c
postage and handling. Proceeds support your favorite environmental organizations.

To order one or more tapes (they make
great gifts for Christmas, Hanukkah or any other festivity) send check or money order to
Mary Pat Peck, 36 Meade St., Buckhannons,
WV 26281.

The Second Visitor

I am standing on a rock.
Looking over the hills of West Virginia.
I nearly tripped on a rock
Getting to this vista.
They really should have a walkway.
These people don't know much.
They showed me that yesterday.

I am a businessman.
Recently I arranged with a coal operator
To haul coal from West Virginia
And New Jersey garbage back.
The logic of it is simple.
Trucks full in both directions.
Efficient, beautiful really.

As I look from this rock
It might as well be Bangladesh
Or some other third world country

(Note: On October 17, 1991, the West Virginia
State Legislature voted in legislation which would
give us one of the most stringent landfill laws in the country.)

West Virginia Inns visited

For folks who want to travel around West
Virginia, Mary Rodd Furber has written an
West Virginia Inns.

The 80+ page guide provides a personal
glimpse of bed and breakfasts, country inns,
wilderness lodges and historic hotels in every
region of the state.

Recently Furber describes the impetus for
the book.

"A few years ago, I spent a weekend at the
Cirque Inn in Berkeley Springs, in an antique-
filled, $35 room. Although I had traveled throughout West Virginia, this was my first stay
in a country inn. Needless to say, I was hooked.

"Of course, I had read about B&Bs in country inns in travel magazines. But those articles left
the impression that most inns were elaborately
upscale and prohibitively expensive.

"Visiting the Country Inn, and other inns de-
scribed in this book, changed that impression.

"I now know that most of West Virginia's
B&Bs, inns, lodges and historic hotels are
unpretentious places with affordable prices to
match. They appeal to travelers interested in
West Virginia's rugged mountains and rural
lifestyles. They preserve and build on the state's
native strengths and maintain a valuable tradi-
tion of gracious hospitality."

In addition to information on each inn,
Furber provides an overall summary of the
region in which it is set, an idea of some of the
local attractions and information on who
to contact for more specifics.

There is lodging for every taste and budget
- from the posh, $200+ Greenbrier Hotel, to
dormitory-style lodging for $2 per couple in
the Alpine Penthouse above the Hotel Restau-
rant at Helvetia; from an old boarding house in
Davis to a Victorian home in Berkeley Springs.

If you want to get away, but don't want to go
far, if you dream of a vacation, but think you
can't afford it; this handy (6" x 4 1/2"), little book
will introduce you to wonderful hide-aways
around the state -- some at very affordable
prices.

"From simple riverfront cottages and stone
manor houses to rustic wilderness lodges and
grand hotels -- it's all here and the choice is
yours. In gracious lodging, owned by real people
rather than unknown corporations and facili-
ties managers, you'll discover the best of West Virginina."

To order individual copies, send $6.95, plus
$1.50 shipping to The Complete Guide to West
Virginia Inns, South Wind Publishing, P.O.
Box 901, Morgantown, WV 26505.


Wanted

Person, or persons, with environ-
mental outlook, but who are more in-
terested in planning parties than perus-
ing piles of permits.

Duties would involve planning two
weekend events each year (Spring and Fall
Reviews) and dragging others away from reading regulations, so they can
recreate and rejuvenate their souls.

Indomitable spirit and sense of fun,
a necessity. Organizational skills in party planning, helpful.

Compensation is seeing furrowed
brows uncreasce, and the twinkle return
to tired eyes.

Interested?
Contact Cindy Rank, Rt. 1, Box 227,
Rock Cave, WV 26234, or call (304) 924-5802.
Plan now for Happy (and environmentally correct) Holidays

"We Are Not for Sale"

An album of environmental songs by some of the West Virginia’s finest musicians is available just in time for the holidays. An eclectic combination of original music features Mike Morningstar, Larry Groce, Ron Sowell, Kate Long, Stewed Mulligan, Mountain Thyme, David Morris, Jim Martin, Colleen Anderson, Barney and the Bedrockers (Steve Himes), and Tom Rodd. (See review on page 11.) Tapes are available for $10, plus $1.25 shipping and handling (total, 11.25 per tape). To order, send check or money order to Mary Pat Peck, 36 Meade St., Buckhannon, WV 26201.

Proceeds support the environmental work of the WVHC.

The fifth edition is 320 pages and includes:

- classic West Virginia hiking areas like the Allegheny Trail, Otter Creek, Spruce Knob, Blue Bend, Dolly Sods and more;
- detailed descriptions of 164 hiking trails covering 780 miles;
- 60 maps;
- 39 black and white scenic photos;
- hiking and safety tips;
- conservation concerns.

To order your copy of the Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide send $9.95 to:
The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
P.O. Box 306
Charleston, WV 25321

Handling. West Virginia residents $1.60 sales tax. ($11.45, or $12.05 in W.Va.)

Available and can be purchased for $25, plus $2.50 shipping and handling. To order, send check or money order and the name of the print you want to:
Donna Borders, 402 Fifth Ave., Huntington, WV 25701.

Special Holiday Offer

New memberships, at any level, received before Dec. 31, 1991 will receive as a bonus, a copy of Mary Rodd Furbee’s new "Complete Guide to West Virginia Country Inns." This handy little guide is a perfect introduction to unique lodgings along West Virginia’s byways. (See review, page 11)

Join the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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