

**PARKS, RECREATION AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Annual Report to the Joint Committee on  
Government and Finance  
2006 - 2007**

**January 9, 2007**

In 2006 the Subcommittee continued its oversight role of the West Virginia state park system and was also actively involved in other wildlife resources and outdoor recreation issues of importance to the State. An additional area of focus for the Subcommittee in 2006 included the disposition of interim study resolution HCR 99.

### **House Concurrent Resolution 99**

HCR 99 requested the study of the development of Coalwood Way and related sites in the Big Creek District of McDowell County as historical, cultural and recreational facilities. The Subcommittee held interim meetings on HCR 99, and additionally traveled to Coalwood to meet with area citizens and government officials. In furtherance of HCR 99, the Subcommittee recommended passage of legislation authorizing the National Coal Heritage Area Authority to assist in the development of Coalwood and related area sites. This proposed legislation is included in the appendix.

### **State Parks**

Our state park system is comprised of 34 state parks, recreational facilities on nine state forests and four wildlife management areas, the Greenbrier River Trail and the North Bend Rail Trail. Parks issues of interest in 2006 include:

#### **Operational Self-sufficiency of the State Park System**

Despite the remote location of some state park areas and the very low revenue production of some day-use, historical, wildlife, and forest areas, the West Virginia State Park system has traditionally been and continues to be one of the most operationally self-sufficient state park systems in the nation. Our state park system routinely ranks in the top ten of all state park systems in fiscal self-sufficiency, and of those state park systems which do not charge entrance fees, West Virginia consistently ranks at or near the very top nationally. In Fiscal Year 2006 our state park system attained an operational self-sufficiency figure of 58 percent. While this is a drop from 61 percent in FY05, the decrease can be largely attributed to increased park system operating expenses from higher utility and gasoline costs, and as well as increased salary and benefit costs of parks staff. Also, the high cost of gasoline generally had a negative impact on tourist travel during FY06.

	EY06	EY05
Attendance	6,725,183	7,294,862
Lodge Occupancy	55.39%	56%
Cabin Occupancy	57.71%	56.82%
Camping Occupancy	26.63%	26.02%
Operating Revenue	19,601,933	19,539,009
Operating Expenditures	33,582,175	32,212,498
Operational Self-sufficiency	58%	61%

*Individual breakdown for state parks and forests:*

<i>State Parks</i>	<i>Operational Self-Sufficiency</i>
Audra	40%
Babcock	53%
Beartown	-
Beech Fork	90%
Berkeley Springs	75%
Blackwater Falls	92%
Blennerhassett	30%
Bluestone	83%
Cacapon	88%
Camp Creek	42%
Canaan	99%
Carnifex	4%
Cass Scenic	66%
Cathedral	0%

Cedar Creek	46%
Chief Logan	29%
Chief Logan Lodge and Conference Ctr.	-
Droop Mountain	1%
Greenbrier River Trail	0%
Hawks Nest	60%
Hawks Nest Golf Course	19%
Holly River	59%
Little Beaver	12%
Lost River	65%
Moncove	27%
North Bend	69%
North Bend Trail	0%
Pinnacle Rock	1%
Pipestem	78%
Pricketts Fort	0%
Stonewall Jackson	0%
Tomlinson Run	42%
Tu-Endie-Wei	0%
Twin Falls	53%
Tygart Lake	75%
Valley Falls	9%
Watoga	69%
Watters Smith	15%

*State Forests*

Cabwaylingo	22%
Coopers Rock	41%
Greenbrier	71%
Kanawha	18%
Kumbrabow	35%
Panther	12%
Seneca	49%

*Wildlife Management Areas*

Berwind Lake	4%
Big Ditch Lake	-
Bluestone WMA	20%
Laurel Lake	4%
Pleasants Creek	-
Plum Orchard	15%
Teter Creek	-

## **Significant Park System Projects in 2006**

### *Major Project Construction Initiated or Continued*

Carnifex Ferry - ADA restroom construction  
Little Beaver - campground

### *Major Projects Completed*

Audra – picnic shelter  
Beech Fork – main sewer plant replacement  
Blackwater Falls – miscellaneous road paving  
Camp Creek – water reservoir replacement  
Chief Logan Lodge  
Chief Logan - museum roof replacement  
Hawks Nest – miscellaneous paving  
Lost River – CCC shelter rebuild  
Lost River – sewer system extension  
Moncove Lake – dam rehabilitation and refilling  
North Bend – opened new “vo-tech” cabin  
Pipestem – replaced lodge boiler system  
Pipestem – lodge paving lot improvements

### *Major Projects Pending (either under design or nearing construction bidding)*

Berkeley Springs - bathhouse renovation  
Tomlinson Run - stream bank flood repair  
Watoga - cabin sub-flooring repair  
Berwind Lake - pool renovation  
Blackwater Falls - lodge sewer plant replacement  
Bluestone - new pool bathhouse and small indoor recreation facility for cabin area  
Cacapon - wobble clay shooting range  
Cass - clubhouse renovation  
Coopers Rock - power line clearing  
Panther - replace superintendent's residence lost in last flood  
Pipestem and Twin Falls - stabilize recreational buildings at both areas  
Tygart Lake - lodge parking lot retaining wall stabilization  
Twin Falls - lodge expansion  
Chief Logan - recreation center

## **State Parks Visited by the Subcommittee in 2006**

In furtherance of its traditional oversight role, the Subcommittee has made a substantial commitment to visit state park sites, as well as other sites managed by the Division of Natural Resources. This year the Subcommittee conducted on-site visitations to Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park, Chief Logan State Park, Kanawha State Forest, North Bend Resort State Park, North Bend Rail Trail and Twin Falls Resort State Park. Summaries of these visitation sites are located in the appendix of this report.

## **Wildlife Resources**

In the 2006 interim year, the Subcommittee also continued its oversight role of outdoor recreation activities managed by the Wildlife Resources Section. Wildlife Resources issues of interest in 2006 include:

### **Chronic Wasting Disease in the State's Deer Herd**

In September 2005, the first case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was confirmed in West Virginia. A male deer, collected as part of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources' ongoing and routine CWD surveillance effort, was found to have the CWD agent. The deer was picked up as a road kill in the Slanesville area of Hampshire County. As part of the DNR's ongoing CWD surveillance effort during the 2006 deer season, samples were collected from 1,355 hunter-harvested deer brought to game checking stations in Hampshire County. One additional CWD sample was discovered in a buck harvested within close proximity to the 9 positive cases previously detected in Hampshire County. CWD has now been detected in a total of 10 deer in Hampshire County since September 2005. This includes one road-killed deer, four deer collected by the DNR in 2005, four deer collected by the DNR in 2006 and one hunter-harvested deer during the 2006 deer season. The DNR is encouraged that the CWD surveillance data indicates the disease appears to be confined to a relatively small geographical area located near Slanesville, West Virginia.

### **Summary of the 2006 Big Game Harvest Figures**

#### *2006 Bucks-only Firearm Season*

The 2-week, bucks-only firearm season traditionally opens on the Monday of Thanksgiving week. Hunters harvested 66,103 bucks during the 2006 season, which is up 16% from the 56,901 bucks taken in 2005. The increase in this year's buck harvest is primarily related

to the carryover of deer from the relatively light harvest that took place in 2005 and an overall increase in deer populations within those counties targeted for herd expansion as identified in the DNR's *White-tailed Deer Operational Plan*.

This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year in a row that concurrent antlerless deer hunting has been permitted during portions of the buck season in selected counties. For the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row, concurrent antlerless deer hunting took place during the entire 2-week buck season. Where adequate harvests of antlerless deer are occurring, Wildlife Biologists continue to report significant positive benefits associated with this regulation strategy, including a reduction in buck hunting pressure and an increase in antlerless deer hunting pressure.

While there has been significant progress in balancing the state's deer population with available habitat, a number of counties still support deer populations that are well above management objectives and beyond the capacity of the habitat to support in a sustainable fashion. Where this is the case, liberal antlerless deer harvest regulations will continue to be used in selected counties to reduce overall deer populations to desired levels. Where deer populations are below or approaching management objectives, more conservative antlerless deer harvest regulations will be recommended for the 2007 season.

#### *2006 Antlerless Deer Season*

Antlerless deer hunting opportunities were provided in a total of 37 counties, or portions thereof, during the 2006 season. Twenty-one (21) counties, or portions thereof, had a 22-day split antlerless deer season with a bag limit of 3 deer that included 2-weeks of concurrent antlerless deer hunting during the buck season on private land only, 6 days during the traditional antlerless deer season on public and private land, and 4 days in late December for antlerless deer hunting on private land only. Sixteen (16) counties or portions thereof, had a more conservative antlerless deer season of 18 days and reduced bag limit of 1 deer.

A total of 37,841 antlerless deer were harvested during the 2006 season. This figure is 20% below the 2005 harvest which was somewhat expected, as there was a more conservative antlerless season in place this past fall. Harvesting female deer during the antlerless deer season is the most important and effective tool used by wildlife managers, landowners and hunters to control deer numbers and bring deer populations in line with their carrying capacity. As this management strategy is accomplished, antler size, body weight and overall physical condition of the deer herd will improve. The DNR will continue to recommend appropriate antlerless deer harvest regulations for the 2007 season. Where deer populations exceed management objectives, liberal antlerless harvest regulations will be implemented to achieve management objectives. Where these populations are below management objectives, more conservative seasons will be put in place.



### *2006 Muzzleloader Deer Season*

The 2006 muzzleloader deer harvest of 7,593 was 16% below the 2005 harvest. Again, this decline in muzzleloader harvest was somewhat expected, as fewer counties were open to antlerless deer season and thereby fewer counties were open to either-sex muzzleloader hunting.

### *2006 Archery Deer Season*

The 2006 archery deer harvest of 24,752 was 13% above the 2005 harvest.

### *2006 Bear Seasons*

The total bear harvest during the combined 2006 bear season was 1,643, and this figure is very similar to the 1,634 total bear harvest reported in 2005. A total of 513 bears were taken during the archery season and 1,130 during the various gun seasons.

### *2006 Wild Turkey Seasons*

Spring turkey hunters harvested a total of 11,869 birds during the 2006 spring gobbler season. These numbers are 8% above the 2005 harvest of 10,957. Fall turkey hunters harvested 1,137 birds during the fall 2006 season. This figure is very similar to the number of birds harvested during the fall 2005 season.

# APPENDIX

# **SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

## **Blennerhassett Island**

### **Historical State Park**

#### **Background Information**

Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park is a day-use park with two distinct locations- the museum and the island itself. Blennerhassett Museum, located at Second and Juliana Streets in downtown Parkersburg, offers three floors of intriguing archeological and historical exhibits as well as a gift shop. A twelve minute video, which tells the story of Harman and Margaret Blennerhassett and the history of the island, is also available to visitors. The museum is open year round.

Blennerhassett Island, located two miles west of Parkersburg in the Ohio River, is a five hundred acre island accessible via sternwheeler from Point Park, two blocks from the Blennerhassett Museum. The island is open to the public from May through October and features guided interpretive tours of the reconstructed Blennerhassett Mansion. Presently the Mansion is appointed with authentic 18<sup>th</sup> century furnishings including many pieces once owned by the Blennerhassett family. In addition to the Mansion, the island offers narrated horse-drawn wagon rides, bicycle rentals, picnic facilities and hiking trails. A gift shop and snack stand are available to serve the public as well.

The park has three river vessels and also maintains a boat landing/dock area on the Little Kanawha River near the confluence with the Ohio River.

#### **Master Plan**

A master plan for park development was completed by the firm of Scruggs and Hammond, Inc. of Lexington, Kentucky in 1993. In March 2002, the Blennerhassett Historical Foundation, Inc. commissioned the Environmental Design Group (EDG) to update the master plan. The newly updated version of the plan was presented to the foundation and park staff on August 21, 2002. The plan is divided into three phases with a grand total cost ranging from \$1,800,862 to \$2,050,862. The plans take into consideration the potential for growth in attendance and still preserve the unique historical nature of the site. The upper end of the island will continue to exclude modern intrusions and preserve the image of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century estate created by the Blennerhassett family.

## **Resource Management Issues**

The island deer population, which was at one time far in excess of the capacity of the island to carry, has been reduced by two special hunts held in November 2001 and October/November 2002. The most recent deer count revealed 81 deer living on the island. We anticipate that we will have another special hunt on the island in the fall of 2007. In 1990, an Appalachian Regional Commission grant was received for the development of a park master plan and a bank stabilization project designed primarily to protect the upper end of the island. It was decided to contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers to prepare plans and execute the riprapping project. After several years of delays for new plans to be drawn up, the project was completed in September 1994. Flooding in the winter of 1996 damaged the riprapping and the Corps of Engineers completed repairs in October 1997. The construction of the Route 50 bridge over the Ohio River at the island is underway; four piers have been constructed on the island.

## **Business Management Issues and Trends**

### **Concession Operations**

Two concessionaires operate at Blennerhassett: Hardly Able Carriage operates narrated horse-drawn wagon tours of the island with three large wagons and eight horses and Gabbert's Food Service who operate the snack bar on the island and can provide box lunches for large school or tour groups.

### **Ferry Service**

A contractor currently provides ferry service to the island for park visitors at a flat annual fee. However, the cost is high compared to ticket revenues. The best solution is likely for the park to procure its own boat. This will require employment of a certified captain and also bring with it berthing and maintenance costs.

## **Current/Recent Projects and Improvements**

- Museum interior painting
- Storage/lighting project in Museum
- Snack stand renovations
- Residence renovation
- Gift shop interior renovations
- Mansion, restroom, Rotary shelter, snack stand and superintendent's cabin re-roofed

## **Major Needs**

### **Capital Improvements**

- Master plan Phase I
- Little Kanawha dock replacement
- Island riprap Phase II

### **Equipment**

- Museum phone system
- Pontoon boat
- Two ton dump truck
- Hand tools

### **Major Repairs and Alterations**

- Mansion dependencies HVAC
- Mansion painting
- Concession stand expansion
- Rest room renovation
- Building (barn) for horse concessionaire
- Boat docks
- Mansion shutters
- Mansion windowpanes

## **Personnel**

Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park is staffed with eight full time employees covering the administrative, maintenance and historical operations of the park. Part-time/Seasonal/Summer staff includes maintenance workers, tour guides, ticket clerks and bicycle rental staff. More than any other park in the system, Blennerhassett relies extensively on the use of volunteers. Well over one hundred volunteers offer their time to give Mansion tours, work the gift shops and provide other services to visitors.

In 1993 the American Association of Museums performed a Museum Assessment Program review of Blennerhassett and recommended the hiring of a full time curator or collections manager. The Museum has over 100,000 items in the collection that are in desperate need of restoration, cataloging and display. June 1, 2006 the museum hired a part time employee to enter all artifacts that the park owns into a master computer base.

## **Superintendent's Comments**

For the past seven years, our primary concerns for the park have been volunteers, security, maintenance and increasing attendance. Our top two priorities are safety and security for all visitors, volunteers and staff. As the superintendent living on the Island itself my number one rule is visibility to guests. The park has also installed extensive security systems including the video surveillance system in the Museum.

Blennerhassett Island Historical Park is unique in many respects, not least of which is the extensive use of volunteers. The total number of volunteer hours given to the park exceeded 18,000 hours last year, continuing a trend that has seen several years of such totals. In addition to operational volunteers, the park foundation is very active in fund-raising and other efforts to benefit the park. The original foundation was formed in 1983 and is currently made up of a 30 member Board of Directors with several subcommittees covering all aspects of the island operations. The Friends of Blennerhassett are the most important and active standing committee of the foundation. Established in 1984, the Friends began as auxiliary tour guides for the newly completed kitchen of the Mansion. The number of volunteers exceeds 150, total hours exceeds 18,000 annually and equals nearly \$95,000 in donated labor based on minimum wage.

## Statistical Trends

Blennerhassett Island State Park	FY 2005*	FY 2004	FY 2003
Attendance	31,457	40,344	43,293
Operating Revenues	114,989	103,133	95,826
Operating Expenditures	481,130	451,158	455,128
Surplus/(Subsidy)	(366,142)	(348,025)	(359,302)
Self Sufficiency	24%	23%	21%

\*Last available full year. FY 06 final numbers are not yet available.

## Three Year Revenue Comparison Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park

Revenue	FY 2005*	FY 2004	FY 2003
Bicycle Rental	1,426	3,599	3,683
Concessions/Soft Drinks/Souvs	2,579	4,626	3,849
Entrance Fees	101,393	74,765	73,551
Facility Use Rental	407	445	737
Gifts/Bequests			
Guiding Fees	708	14,882	14,339
Miscellaneous Collections	3,360	(1,314)	(6,869)
Miscellaneous Concessions	267	-	-
Picnic Shelter Fees	660	440	478
Guiding Stables	4,168	5,679	5,794
Vending Machines	21	11	265
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>114,989</b>	<b>103,133</b>	<b>95,826</b>

\*Last available full year. FY 06 final numbers are not yet available.



## Three Year Expense Comparison Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park

Expense	FY 2005*	FY 2004	FY 2003
Total Personal Services	243,636	259,971	261,767
Total Employee Benefits	89,641	94,491	92,243
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>			
Office/Postal/Freight	3,612	3,416	3,102
Printing/Binding	59	99	4,262
Utilities	39,990	38,998	41,136
Telephone	3,202	3,462	3,352
Contract/Professional	18,436	9,107	6,237
Travel	1,719	995	403
Vehicle Rental	13,285	824	463
Machine Rentals	1,844	2,681	5,043
Association Dues	820	895	-
Printing/Household	3,697	6,161	2,796
Advertising	2,384	2,136	1,544
Vehicle Maintenance Expense	8,822	5,223	7,089
Research/Education/Medical	-	(70)	-
Maintenance Contracts	4,221	4,359	4,209
Hospitality	3,058	48	1,649
Farm Expense	-	175	-
Miscellaneous	1,986	445	1,608
Credit Card Processing Fees	845	1,385	687
Miscellaneous Equipment	9,214	2,452	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT EXPENSE</b>	<b>117,195</b>	<b>82,791</b>	<b>83,581</b>
<b>REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS</b>			

Office Equipment	127	828	437
Building/House/Communication	9,069	11,015	9,559
Building Repairs/Alterations	5,523	3,114	2,663
Vehicle Repairs	4,932	-	-
Ground Improvements	3,933	4,341	1,691
Farm/Construction Equip	(2)	3,994	412
Other Repairs/Alterations	7,078	7,823	623
<b>TOTAL REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS</b>	<b>30,659</b>	<b>31,115</b>	<b>15,383</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>			
Office/Communication Equip.	-	463	882
Livestock/Farm/Construction	-	7,199	(276)
Other Equipment	-	(24,872)	1,543
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(17,120)</b>	<b>2,151</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>481,130</b>	<b>451,158</b>	<b>455,128</b>

\*Last available full year. FY 06 final numbers are not yet available.

# **SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

## **North Bend State Park**

### **Background Information**

The land encompassing North Bend State Park was once owned by the Douglas family, Scottish immigrants who came to America in 1818. After briefly living in Pennsylvania and Wheeling, West Virginia, they settled in along the North Fork of the Hughes River. The house that now serves as the superintendent's residence is thought to have been built by a descendant of this original group around 1886. During the 1860's the oil and gas industry flourished and over the next 40 years, more than 50 wells were drilled on land that is now park property. Around 1915, the Harrisville Southern, a standard gauge railroad was built through the area. More than two miles of this track ran through the park land. The grade is now used as hiking and fishing access along with a unique handicap trail called the "Extra Mile Trail." Much of the development of this trail was accomplished with donated materials and labor. Park development began in the early 1950's when the legislature appropriated funds to purchase the land and by 1954, over 1,400 acres were purchased. At that time, a master plan was developed and work began on roads, trails and picnic areas. The Douglas home was also renovated at this time. In the early 60's, the swimming pool and Jughandle Campground were completed along with the fishing ponds behind the swimming pool which were originally constructed as a water supply for the pool. The lodge complex was opened in 1966, with the miniature golf course and tennis courts added soon after. In the 1970's, demand led to the construction of an additional campground of 25 sites and the eight modern rental cabins. A ninth cabin, which was constructed off site as a modular unit by a local high school vo-tech center, opened in the summer of 2006. Although successful, the overall cost and difficulty in transport of the unit to the park makes it unlikely that this approach can be repeated.

### **Special Issue**

The Hughes River Watershed project will not be completed as originally envisioned. The dam and emergency spillway were completed in 2002, but the extensive recreation facilities planned for the project are delayed due to unforeseen expenses and lack of funds. At four different locations the following facilities are complete: two boat ramps, two canoe launch areas, three accessible fishing piers and one small picnic shelter. Access roads and parking lots are also complete. In September 2006 construction will begin on a campground and waste water treatment system, both have been downsized from the original plans to maximize use of the remaining available funds.

Plans for the three major recreation areas have been adjusted pending additional funding. The Jughandle area will be used for day-use recreation, primarily fishing, picnicking and trail access. The Maple Recreation area has been leased to the Ritchie County Commission who plan to develop a day-use park with picnic shelters, ball fields, fishing and a boat ramp. The Cokeley Recreation area will get a smaller campground and waste water treatment plant as well as other infrastructure that will allow future expansion.

## Business Management Issues and Trends

So far the summer of 2006 has been a strong one.

<b>April</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Lodge	361	329	+ 9%
Cabins	177	135	+ 30%
Camping	301	146	+105%
Revenue	\$84,342.45	\$64,328.02	+ 30%

<b>May</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Lodge	436	388	+ 12%
Cabins	154	142	+ 8%
Camping	652	611	+ 7%
Revenue	\$100,428.84	\$86,534.48	+ 16%

<b>June</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Lodge	437	417	+ 5%
Cabins	173	158	- 9%
Camping	927	1006	- 8%
Revenue	\$106,106.29	\$105,041.90	+1%

<b>July</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Lodge	577	573	+ 1%
Cabins	220	230	- 4%
Camping	1086	1096	- 1%
Revenue	\$135,632.74	\$121,982.89	+10%

## Current/Recent Projects and Improvements

Room renovations including carpet, mattresses, bedspreads and drapes  
Deck roof  
New ADA cabin  
Lake Trail  
Tennis court renovations  
Miniature golf renovations  
Road paving

## **Major Needs**

### **Capital Improvements**

Campground bathhouse  
Cokeley Recreation Area development

### **Equipment**

Fire alarm system  
Riding mower  
One-ton truck  
Pickup truck  
Jeep  
Conference room equipment  
Kitchen equipment

### **Major Repairs and Alterations**

Replace water line from pool to cabins  
Refinish lodge furniture  
Upgrade fire alarm and suppression systems in lodge and cabins  
Replace roofs on all picnic shelters and bathhouses  
Refinish cabin exteriors

## **Personnel**

There are currently 16 full time employees at North Bend State Park for all operations including administrative staff, housekeeping, maintenance, front desk operations, special events and the Rail Trail staff. The full time staff is supplemented in the summer with 37 seasonal and summer employees including campground attendants, lifeguards, maintenance workers, recreation attendants, housekeepers and desk clerks.

## Three Year Revenue Comparison North Bend State Park

Revenue	FY 2005*	FY 2004	FY 2003
Arts and Crafts	-	-	(18)
Bicycle Rental	565	2,551	1,919
Cabin Rentals	177,121	158,573	160,001
Campsite Rentals	86,377	79,947	79,180
Car Rental	968	782	261
Facility Use Rental	1,655	384	828
Firewood Sales	8,534	7,024	7,447
Games	23	62	98
Gas/Oil Lease/Royalties	-	64	234
Gift Shop Sales	76,637	72,027	64,444
Gifts and Bequests	-	500	(7)
Lodge Rooms	297,183	284,114	274,969
Magazine Sales	-	30	135
Miniature Golf	2,823	2,116	1,436
Miscellaneous Collections	46,556	(27,632)	(56,903)
Miscellaneous Concessions	32	(1,700)	(1,195)
Picnic Shelter Fees	5,511	6,098	5,957
Restaurants	281,170	290,326	278,544
Riding Stables	202	372	188
Snack/Comm/Souv	6,149	5,625	5,824
Swimming Fees	12,049	13,421	14,599
Tennis	9	101	10
Vending Machines	1,468	1,355	774
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>1,005,031</b>	<b>896,159</b>	<b>838,724</b>

\*Last available full year. FY 06 final numbers are not yet available.

## Three Year Expense Comparison North Bend State Park

Expense	FY 2005*	FY 2004	FY 2003
Total Personal Services	594,461	625,967	615,514
Total Employee Benefits	201,870	205,386	184,637
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>			
Office/Postal/Freight	12,057	12,145	13,381
Printing/Binding	1,525	1,932	2,497
Utilities	112,432	116,003	121,647
Telephone	23,186	14,388	13,556
Contract/Professional	13,438	13,998	15,188
Travel	2,419	1,682	2,014
Machine Rentals	6,469	5,917	5,564
Association Dues	650	650	100
Laundry/Cleaning/Household	71,701	75,901	65,363
Advertising	3,069	2,179	5,015
Vehicle Maintenance Expense	14,132	9,438	11,019
Research/Education/Medical	201	547	(1,001)
Maintenance Contracts	3,966	4,178	5,362
Merchandise for Resale	178,291	170,835	177,163
Farm Expense	-	147	297
Miscellaneous	4,086	4,426	4,106
Credit Card Processing Fees	9,649	10,881	8,799
Training	640	981	688
Miscellaneous Equipment	2,796	-	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT EXPENSE</b>	<b>460,707</b>	<b>446,221</b>	<b>450,757</b>

<b>REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS</b>			
Office Equipment	1,000	738	649
Building/House/Comm	6,690	3,001	7,569
Building Repairs/Alterations	14,827	10,000	21,870
Vehicle Repairs	3,610	131	3,748
Ground Improvements	4,098	2,746	3,112
Farm/Construction Equip	3,198	5,339	2,450
Other Repairs/Alterations	12,852	6,223	7,077
<b>TOTAL REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS</b>	<b>46,274</b>	<b>28,178</b>	<b>46,474</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>			
Office/Communication Equip.	-	593	324
Household Equip/Furnishing	-	1,807	2,600
Livestock/Farm/Construction	5,950	1,795	-
Other Equipment	-	7,916	5,209
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>5,950</b>	<b>12,111</b>	<b>8,133</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,309,262</b>	<b>1,317,868</b>	<b>1,305,515</b>

\*Last available full year. FY 06 final numbers are not yet available.



# **SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

## **Chief Logan State Park**

### **Background Information**

Named after Logan, Chief of the Cayuga Tribe, also known as the Mingo Tribe, the land that now comprises Chief Logan State Park was originally purchased by a civic group, the Logan Civic League, and later sold to the West Virginia Conservation Commission. The Chief Logan Recreation Area opened in 1961 and became a state park in 1969. The land was originally part of a coal company camp and required some clean up and removal of old company houses and mining equipment as well as environmental restoration. Early development included creek channelization, hiking trails, picnic areas and the swimming pool, opened in 1964.

By 1976 there were two picnic shelters, two rest rooms and a restaurant. Community funds paid for the installation of a new picnic area and playground in 1981. Attendance had grown significantly, making the 3,300 acre Chief Logan State Park the second most visited park in the system by 1984. This demand led to the addition of two picnic shelters, rest rooms, a recreation area with game courts and miniature golf, fitness trail, and a new amphitheater. Other amenities include the riding stables, a 25-site campground and a wildlife exhibit featuring native animals of West Virginia. A small trout pond was added recently by DEP as part of a violation mitigation arrangement.

A new conference center/restaurant facility on land along Corridor G was added to the park in 2002 and a new 75 room lodge adjoining the conference center was opened on July 28, 2006. A recreation center is in the planning stages.

### **Business Management Issues and Trends**

#### **Concession Operations**

The conference center and restaurant, pool snack bar, amphitheater and stables at Chief Logan are all currently operated by concessionaires. They have operated satisfactorily, providing the service and hospitality that guests have come to expect at the park.

Concurrent with the opening of the 75-room lodge which will be state operated, the restaurant and conference center will also be converted to state operation.

The Hatfield-McCoy ATV trail system continues to be a major attraction in the region and

has led to increased use of the campground. It is expected that the lodge will be utilized by trail riders as well.

### **Current/Recent Projects and Improvements**

- Lodge opening
- Amphitheater seating renovations
- Campground electrical upgrades
- Additional campsite
- ADA improvements to the pool

### **Major Needs**

#### **Capital Improvements**

- Campground expansion
- Shelter rest room

#### **Equipment**

- Vehicles
- Miscellaneous grounds maintenance equipment

#### **Major Repairs and Alterations**

- Office renovations
- Rest room renovations
- Trail upgrades
- Resurface game courts
- Bathhouse renovations

### **Personnel**

Chief Logan presently has six full time employee slots covering administrative and maintenance functions. The Wildlife Exhibit has two employees who work ten months out of the year and the campground attendant works six months during the summer season. There are usually about 14 summer employees for the pool, game courts, maintenance crew and weekend staff. The park also participates in the CWEP program when workers are available.

Up to eight additional full-time slots and numerous hourly staff are to be employed at the new lodge and state operated restaurant/conference center when the complex gears up to full operation.

## Superintendent's Comments

Chief Logan continues to be one of the most heavily used parks in the West Virginia State Parks system. Each month thousands of visitors come to the park for family reunions, class reunions, church picnics, weddings or just day recreation. Campground occupancy continues to grow with the increase of recreational opportunities in the area. As the facilities and services at Chief Logan continue to grow and expand, the staff will always strive to preserve the area's natural beauty while providing safe and enjoyable recreation for all visitors. Chief Logan is rich in wildlife and especially abundant in whitetail deer. The park also features a very rare wildflower, the Guyandotte Beauty, which is a featured attraction in the spring wildflower hikes.

The staff is proud and excited about the new additions to the park, the Convention Center, Restaurant and Lodge. These facilities will be under the supervision of a General Manager who will report directly to the Charleston based Lodge/Resort Park Administrator. My staff and I will provide any necessary support services to the complex.

## Statistical Trends

<b>Chief Logan State Park</b>	<b>FY 2005</b>	<b>FY 2004</b>	<b>FY 2003</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	571,033	365,977*	553,324
<b>Campsite Occupancy</b>	33.45%	31.58%	30.25%
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	151,840	141,359	129,555
<b>Operating Expenditures</b>	521,990	497,705	544,693
<b>Surplus/(Subsidy)</b>	(370,150)	(356,345)	(415,138)



\*Lower numbers due to a problem with traffic counter readings.

## Three Year Revenue Comparison Chief Logan State Park

Revenue	EY 2005*	EY 2004	EY 2003
Campsite Rentals	41,977	36,198	31,726
Coin Machine Concession	-	217	138
Comm /Snacks/Souvenir	652	905	981
Entrance Fees	7,830	5,863	7,175
Facility Use Rental	-	400	-
Firewood Sales	1,211	563	212
Miniature Golf	1,557	1,312	1,794
Miscellaneous Collections	534	(100)	753
Picnic Shelter Fees	20,966	20,318	20,913
Restaurant Concession	37,326	36,876	29,597
Riding Stables	85	703	3,125
Swimming Fees	39,257	37,926	32,953
Vending Machines	444	178	189
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>151,840</b>	<b>141,359</b>	<b>129,555</b>

\*Last available full year. FY 06 final numbers are not yet available.

## Three Year Expense Comparison Chief Logan State Park

Expense	EY 2005*	EY 2004	EY 2003
Total Personal Services	244,960	225,628	241,992
Total Employee Benefits	68,976	69,918	78,378
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>			
Office/Postal/Freight	933	768	1,524
Printing/Binding	44	-	-
Rental Expense	-	1,000	-
Utilities	124,434	117,604	132,134
Telephone	5,913	6,050	6,045
Contract/Professional	3,930	2,255	1,691
Travel	2,588	2,617	2,725
Vehicle Rentals	-	733	-
Machine Rentals	362	73	298
Clothing/Household	26,590	17,382	19,347
Advertising	67	67	410
Vehicle Maintenance Expense	8,795	8,590	8,351
Research/Education/Medical	-	-	178
Maintenance Contracts	490	546	866
Merchandise for Resale	315	-	100
Hospitality	-	96	137

Miscellaneous	6,747	5,992	11,471
Training	3,282	1,213	264
Miscellaneous Equipment Purchases	1,220	7,667	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT EXPENSE</b>	<b>185,708</b>	<b>172,652</b>	<b>185,540</b>
<b>REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS</b>			
Office Equipment	-	-	575
Building/House/Communications	13,963	16,360	7,906
Building Repairs/Alterations	3,145	4,074	2,784
Vehicle Repairs	462	-	683
Ground Improvements	1,622	(459)	999
Farm/Const Equip	837	1,459	1,990
Other Repairs/Alterations	2,317	1,706	5,700
<b>TOTAL REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS</b>	<b>22,345</b>	<b>23,139</b>	<b>20,636</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>			
Office/Communications Equip	-	60	2,995
Household Equipment/Furnishing	-	-	3,016
Livestock/Farm/Construction	-	6,308	5,213
Other Equipment	-	-	6,923
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,367</b>	<b>18,146</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>521,990</b>	<b>497,705</b>	<b>544,693</b>

\*Last available full year. FY 06 final numbers are not yet available.

# **SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

## **Kanawha State Forest**

### **Background Information**

Kanawha State Forest is located seven miles south of downtown Charleston. The area was originally owned in the 1800s by Anheuser-Busch and their subsidiary, the Black Band Iron and Coal Company which mined and timbered the area in the late 1800s. A small town named Chilton sprang up in the area as a result of the business opportunities, and at one point there were over 130 homes, three schools, three churches, two stores and a post office in the area that is now the state forest. A narrow gauge railroad was built in 1892 along Davis Creek to the Kanawha River and was used to haul coal and timber from the area. In 1907 the mines closed and the railroad was abandoned, leading most of the residents of Chilton to leave to find work elsewhere. After World War I, the railroad was repaired and operated long enough to salvage all remaining mining equipment and rails for scrap. Only a handful of families remained in the area when the forest was officially established on April 6, 1938, as Civilian Conservation Camp (CCC) Kanawha. The CCC removed all abandoned homes and began construction of the forest buildings, dam and pond. At 9,300 acres, the forest represents more than ten percent of the total forest land owned and operated by the state.

The forest is a day-use area frequented by residents of the Kanawha Valley and the surrounding areas as well as out-of-state visitors. The area includes over 26 miles of trails, more than 12 miles of mountain bike trails, a swimming pool, commissary, playgrounds, nine picnic shelters, mini shelters, group camp, 46-site campground, a shooting range and Ellison Pond which is stocked with a variety of game fish. Kanawha State Forest offers approximately 9,000 acres of public hunting grounds during the various seasons.

### **Historical Resources**

In 1994, areas of the forest were granted certification on the National Register of Historic Places. The structures included on the listing are the dam, four original CCC-constructed picnic shelters, the superintendent's residence and the powder house. The residence and shelters were constructed of chestnut logs harvested on the forest and salvaged in part from trees killed by the chestnut blight. All structures also have native sandstone foundations and chimneys. The powder house, located in the maintenance area of the forest, was also built from native sandstone and was originally used to store the black powder and dynamite.

## **Resource Management Issues**

The forest is solely managed by the WV State Parks and Recreation Section. Unlike other state forests, harvesting of timber is prohibited by state code. Natural gas and oil extraction is permitted on the area and there are currently 39 operating gas wells located throughout the forest with the mineral rights held or leased by four different companies. During the last year Equitable Resources, one of the four mineral rights holders, has been very active at Kanawha State Forest. The company has drilled several new wells and reworked four existing wells in an effort to make them more productive. This activity has affected some recreational corridors and impacted some natural areas on the Forest property. This impact has, in turn, raised public concern and brought some controversy to the issue of natural gas extraction in Kanawha State Forest. It has recently been related that Equitable Resources has aborted future plans to drill additional wells and plans to cap four wells in the Forest that have trace production of Hydrogen Sulfide gas which is dangerous if inhaled.

All of the forest lies within the Kanawha River watershed and most of the land is also within the smaller Davis Creek Watershed. The Davis Creek Watershed Resource Restoration Project was implemented in 1995 with cooperation of the WV Division of Forestry, WV Parks and Recreation and the Kanawha State Forest Foundation. Other assistance was provided by the holders of the mineral rights. Improvements included installing gabion dams, restoring and repairing gas/oil well access roads, regulation of manure disposal at the stables and dredging Ellison Pond.

The forest trail system is very heavily used by the residents of the Charleston metropolitan area and is also well known for the annual Black Bear Mountain Bike Race and Rattlesnake Ultra Run, which draw around 400 participants combined each year. Due to the extensive demand on the trail system, new trails are being planned and constructed with volunteer labor so that older more worn trails will have their use load reduced. Annual maintenance and clearing of storm damage is performed by the forest maintenance staff.

## **Business Management Issues**

Declining use, high overhead and the looming need for major renovation dictate that the continued operation of the swimming pool should be examined. It may well be best to consider closure and demolition of the facility or conversion of the site to some other use. For example, the pool could be filled in and a large picnic shelter constructed on site with a portion of the bathhouse being left for public rest rooms.



## **Current/Recent Projects and Improvements**

- Construction of three miles of Middle Ridge Trail using volunteer labor
- Repaving of parking lot serving pool and shelters 8 and 9
- Paving of main road to southern boundary and portion of shooting range road
- New residence for assistant superintendent
- Renovation of fireplace at shelter #5
- Wildlife Resources renovation of shooting range
- Renovation to interior of pool house and commissary

Grant money has been designated for two future projects including a new rest room facility in the Dunlap Hollow picnic area and construction of approximately two additional miles of Middle Ridge Trail.

## **Flood Repairs**

After major flooding that occurred in November 2003, extensive repairs were needed to the forest infrastructure including new footbridges for campsite #21, Davis Creek Trail, the Pines Picnic Area, and the ADA compliant Salamander Trail. New vehicular bridges had to be built for the Shrewsbury Group Camp and the pool parking lot. Grading and resurfacing of virtually all gravel roads and parking lots near Davis Creek was necessary and a silt/gravel bar in Ellison Pond had to be dredged. The silt catch pond #5 on Davis Creek had to be rebuilt as well.

## **Major Needs**

### **Capital Improvements**

- Administrative office/multipurpose building
- Campground registration building
- Dunlop Hollow picnic shelter
- Dunlop Hollow bridges/road
- Municipal water service extension to shelters 3-7 and to assistant superintendent residence
- Sewage treatment plant for pool area

Paved exercise trail along Davis Creek

### **Equipment**

- Log splitter
- Front end loader or 4WD tractor
- 3/4 ton 4WD pickup
- Pool ice machine
- Bear-proof trash receptacles
- Playground equipment
- Trail maintenance equipment
- Grounds maintenance equipment

### **Major Repairs and Alterations**

- Replace electric and water lines in campground
- Renovate/replace swimming pool and deck
- Lifeguard stands
- Building re-roofing and guttering
- Rest room renovation
- Residence and pool bathhouse exterior renovations

### **Personnel**

The forest operates with five full time employees consisting of the superintendent, assistant superintendent, maintenance supervisor and two maintenance workers. There are three seasonal positions including two laborers and an office clerk. The summer positions included pool manager, lifeguards, and campground attendants. Due to budget cuts, we have eliminated two summer maintenance laborer positions and reduced the hours of all seasonal and summer employees except for the office clerk position.

### **Superintendent's Comments**

Kanawha State Forest primarily serves the residents of Charleston and the surrounding metro area, providing outdoor recreation and the serenity of nature for the urban and suburban population seeking escape. Annual attendance typically is well over 200,000, placing the forest consistently in the top ten most attended areas in the park system. Because of the extensive trail system and substantial natural acreage, the forest has become a destination for trail enthusiasts including mountain bikers, hikers and horseback riders. The picnic shelters are generally booked solid throughout the summer months for gatherings, reunions and even weddings and as a source of revenue is second only to camping. Campground occupancy is rarely high and is hindered by narrow road access which makes it difficult for large RVs and trailers.

Kanawha State Forest is supported by a non-profit friends group called the Kanawha State Forest Foundation. The Foundation was established in 1989 and is the largest private financial supporter of the forest. There is a strong membership that has donated money and time to complete many projects to better the forest. The foundation received a grant and will fund the building of the Dunlap Hollow rest room. The Foundation has also funded the purchase of new grills for our picnic shelters and has donated funds to the Forest budget earmarked for trail building and repair. The members organize several fund raising events each year including the Osbra Eye Spring Wildflower Walks and the Margaret Dennison Memorial Fall Walks. The current foundation president is Chuck Jones and the organization meets quarterly. Other groups that contribute to the forest include Black Bear Incorporated, host of the annual Black Bear Mountain Bike Race, the Kanawha Trail Club and the Mountain State Wheelers.

## Statistical Trends

Kanawha State Forest	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2004
Attendance	211,725	246,642	225,023
Campsite Occupancy	20.14%	21.86%	14.22%
Operating Revenue	61,870	56,458	59,282
Operating Expenditures	336,512	345,986	328,371
Surplus/(Subsidy)	(274,642)	(289,528)	(269,089)
Self Sufficiency	18%	16%	18%

## Three Year Revenue Comparison Kanawha State Forest

Revenue	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2004
Campsite Rentals	31,645	29,131	30,208
Coin Laundry	65	98	235
Coin Machine Concession	0	0	8
Firewood Sales	2,990	2,787	2,874
Gift Shop Sales	74	0	82
Group Camps	2,714	2,352	2,678
Miscellaneous Collections	305	159	168
Picnic Shelter Fees	13,831	13,516	12,643
Snack/Comm/Souvenir	3,424	3,367	3,379
Swimming Fees	6,821	5,038	7,008
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>61,870</b>	<b>56,458</b>	<b>59,282</b>

## Three Year Expense Comparison Kanawha State Forest

Expenses	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2004
Total Personal Services	162,402	161,031	154,015
Total Employee Benefits	75,047	68,779	69,894
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>			
Office/Postal/Freight	1,343	1,437	1,495
Printing/Binding		689	666
Utilities	46,983	42,307	36,560
Telephone	3,701	3,872	4,010
Contract/Professional	6,775	4,373	4,108
Travel	495	403	1,030
Vehicle Rental			
Machine Rentals	3,540	2,908	2,942
Clothing/Household	7,372	6,464	
Advertising			
Vehicle Maintenance Expense	11,733	11,403	9,448
Research/Education/Medical		379	
Maintenance Contracts	369	370	371
Merchandise for Resale	4,802	7,546	4,712
Hospitality	96	99	116
Miscellaneous	2,365	3,788	1,595
Training		5	1,352
Miscellaneous Equipment	2,265	1,398	2,524
<b>TOTAL CURRENT EXPENSE</b>	<b>91,903</b>	<b>87,440</b>	<b>81,556</b>
<b>REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS</b>			

Office Equipment			
Building/Household/Comm	154	124	554
Building Repairs/Alterations	3,735	9,105	8,303
Vehicle Repairs	724	355	3,010
Ground Improvements	969	1,109	3,627
Farm/Construction Equipment	1,759	1,692	1,618
Other Repairs/Alterations	(181)	9,252	5,634
<b>TOTAL REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS</b>	<b>7,160</b>	<b>21,636</b>	<b>22,746</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>			
Office/Comm Equipment			160
Livestock/Farm/Construction		7,099	
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT</b>		<b>7,099</b>	
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>336,512</b>	<b>345,986</b>	<b>328,371</b>

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

Senate Bill No.

(By Senator ...)

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Introduced; referred to the Committee  
.]

\_\_\_\_\_  
10 A BILL to amend and reenact §29-27-3 and §29-27-5 of the Code of  
11 West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing the  
12 National Coal Heritage Area Authority to assist in the  
13 historical, cultural, recreational and economic development of  
14 Coalwood and related sites in the Big Creek District of  
15 McDowell County; and adding the Commissioner of the Division  
16 of Highways as a nonvoting member of the authority board.

17 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

18 That §29-27-3 and §29-27-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931,  
19 as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

20 §29-27-3. Creation; appointment of board; terms; expenses;  
21 executive director.

22 (a) There is hereby created the "national coal heritage area  
23 authority" which is a public corporation and a government  
24 instrumentality existing for the purposes of providing direction to

1 and assistance with state and federal historic preservation,  
2 economic development, and tourism projects in the national coal  
3 heritage area and aiding in the development and implementation of  
4 integrated cultural, historical, and land resource management  
5 policies and programs in order to retain, enhance, and interpret  
6 the significant values of the lands, waters and structures in the  
7 national coal heritage area.

8 (b) The authority board shall be comprised of seventeen  
9 members. The following six persons shall be non-voting members and  
10 shall serve by virtue of their offices and may be represented at  
11 meetings of the board by designees: The secretary of the  
12 department of education and the arts, the commissioner of the  
13 bureau of the environment, the commissioner of the division of  
14 highways, the commissioner of the division of tourism, the  
15 commissioner of the division of culture and history, the director  
16 of the division of natural resources and the executive director of  
17 the West Virginia development office. The remaining eleven members  
18 shall be appointed for terms of four years by the governor with the  
19 advice and consent of the Senate. Of the eleven members appointed  
20 by the governor, one member must reside in Boone County; one member  
21 must reside in Cabell County; one member must reside in Fayette  
22 County; one member must reside in Logan County; one member must  
23 reside in McDowell County; one member must reside in Mercer County;  
24 one member must reside in Mingo County; one member must reside in



1 Raleigh County; one member must reside in Summers County; one  
2 member must reside in Wayne County; one member must reside in  
3 Wyoming County; and the appointees must be representative of the  
4 tourism industry, the coal industry, the united mine workers of  
5 America, economic development activity, historic preservation  
6 activity and higher education.

7 (c) Of the eleven members first appointed to the board, two  
8 shall be appointed for a term ending the thirtieth day of June, two  
9 thousand three, and three members for terms ending one, two and  
10 three years thereafter as the governor shall designate at the time  
11 of the appointments. Thereafter, the terms of office shall be four  
12 years. No appointed member may serve more than two consecutive full  
13 terms. A member shall continue to serve until his or her successor  
14 has been appointed and qualified.

15 (d) If an appointed member is unable to complete a term, the  
16 governor shall appoint a person to complete the unexpired term.  
17 Each vacancy occurring on the board must be filled within sixty  
18 days after the vacancy is created.

19 (e) Any appointed member of the board shall immediately and  
20 automatically forfeit his or her membership on the board if he or  
21 she becomes a nonresident of the county from which he or she was  
22 appointed.

23 (f) Each member of the board shall serve without compensation,  
24 but shall receive expense reimbursement for all reasonable and

1 necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of the  
2 duties of the office, in the same amount paid to members of the  
3 Legislature for their interim duties as recommended by the citizens  
4 legislative compensation commission and authorized by law:  
5 *Provided*, That no member shall be reimbursed for expenses paid by  
6 a third party.

7 (g) The board shall appoint an executive director to act as  
8 its chief executive officer, to serve at the will and pleasure of  
9 the board. The board, acting through its executive director, may  
10 employ any other personnel considered necessary and may appoint  
11 staff for the authority and retain such temporary consultants or  
12 technicians as may be required for any special study or survey  
13 consistent with the provisions of this article. The executive  
14 director shall carry out plans to implement the provisions of this  
15 article and to exercise those powers. The executive director shall  
16 prepare annually a budget to be submitted to the board for its  
17 review and approval.

18 **9-27-5. Powers of authority.**

19 The authority, as a public corporation and governmental  
20 instrumentality exercising public powers of the state, may exercise  
21 all powers necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of  
22 this article, including, but not limited to, the power:

23 (1) To assist in the development and implementation of  
24 integrated cultural, historical and land resource management

1 policies and programs in the national coal heritage area;

2 (2) To advise the executive director of the national coal  
3 heritage authority in retaining, enhancing and interpreting the  
4 significant values of the lands, waters and structures of the area;

5 (3) To enter into partnerships with various preservation  
6 groups, landmark commissions, certified local governments, county  
7 commissions and other entities to undertake the preservation,  
8 restoration, maintenance, operation, development, interpretation  
9 and promotion of lands and structures that possess unique and  
10 significant historic, architectural and cultural value associated  
11 with the coal mining heritage of the national coal heritage area;

12 (4) To make, amend, repeal and adopt bylaws for the management  
13 and regulation of its affairs;

14 (5) To appoint officers, agents and employees, and to contract  
15 for and engage the services of consultants;

16 (6) To execute contracts necessary or convenient for carrying  
17 on its business, including contracts with any other governmental  
18 agency of this state or of the federal government or with any  
19 person, individual, partnership or corporation to effect any or all  
20 of the purposes of this article;

21 (7) Without in any way limiting any other subdivision of this  
22 section, to accept grants and loans from and enter into contracts  
23 and other transactions with any federal agency;

24 (8) To maintain an office at such places within the state as

1 it may designate;

2 (9) To accept gifts or grants of property, funds, money,  
3 materials, labor, supplies or services from the federal government  
4 or from any governmental unit or any person, firm or corporation;

5 (10) To construct, reconstruct, improve, maintain, repair,  
6 operate and manage certain facilities in the national coal heritage  
7 area as may be determined by the authority;

8 (11) To enter into contract with landowners and other persons  
9 holding an interest in the land being used for its recreational  
10 facilities to hold those landowners and other persons harmless with  
11 respect to any claim in tort growing out of the use of the land for  
12 public recreation or growing out of the public activities operated  
13 or managed by the authority from any claim except a claim for  
14 damages proximately caused by the willful or malicious conduct of  
15 the landowner or other person or any of his or her agents or  
16 employees;

17 (12) To assess and collect a reasonable fee from those persons  
18 who use the designated facilities which are part of the national  
19 coal heritage area, and to retain and utilize that revenue for any  
20 purposes consistent with this article; and

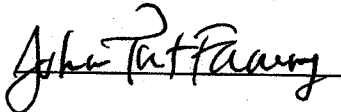
21 (13) To assist in the historical, cultural, recreational and  
22 economic development of Coalwood and related sites in the Big Creek  
23 District of McDowell County. The authority shall appoint a ten  
24 member advisory committee to study and make recommendations to the

1 authority regarding development projects. The advisory committee  
2 shall be comprised of not less than three citizen members from  
3 McDowell County, not less than three state and local government  
4 members from McDowell County, a representative from the state  
5 Historic Preservation Office, a representative from the Division of  
6 Tourism and other members the authority may appoint for particular  
7 expertise; and  
8       ~~(13)~~ (14) To propose rules for legislative approval in  
9 accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-  
10 nine-a of this code, as are necessary to effectuate the provisions  
11 of this article.

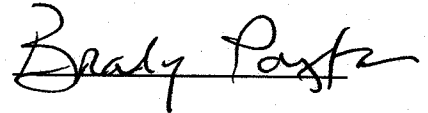
NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize the National Coal Heritage Area Authority to assist in the historical, cultural, recreational and development of Coalwood and related sites in the Big Creek District of McDowell County.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.

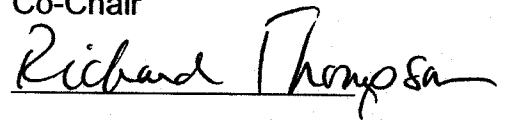
Respectfully submitted,



John Pat Fanning  
Chair  
State Senate



Brady Paxton  
Co-Chair



Richard Thompson  
Co-chair  
House of Delegates