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Autumn 2018

People Power and Legal Challenges on Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines Seize Temporary Victory

by Christina Wulf

An extraordinary series of legal rulings and agency orders have created major roadblocks in the paths of the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) and Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). Special use permits issued by three federal agencies--United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (on behalf of the Park Service)--have one of these pipelines in their tracks and the other is moving forward pending more legal challenges.

The two planned pipelines are massive projects, both using 42" pipe to carry highly explosive natural gas from the Marcellus Shale region to locations along the east coast that will undoubtedly include natural gas export terminals. If completed, the ACP would run 600 miles through West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. The Mountain Valley pipeline would traverse 300 miles of Virginia and West Virginia. In the path of the pipelines, with their 125 foot right of way, lie the Monongahela and George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, the Appalachian Trail, Blue Ridge Parkway, steep mountain slopes, caves and underground streams, endangered species' habitat, and thousands of waterways and wetlands. Miles and miles of the 125 foot swath would also cut across the fields, farms, and forests of private landowners whose land is being taken by eminent domain.

These extraordinarily destructive projects have roused the anger of citizens across all three states who are determined to stop the pipelines. The response, since 2014 when the ACP was proposed, has been incredibly creative, diverse, and sustained with an inspiring level of cooperation between communities and organizations.

The effort has included nearly constant acts of resistance. It is difficult to pin down the number of organizations fighting the pipelines. Local groups formed in communities all along the proposed routes. Umbrella groups formed to help facilitate communication among them, and more established environmental groups provided expertise and resources without squashing local energy.

Citizens have created watchdog groups to provide compliance monitoring at construction sites with aerial monitoring support provided by the Pipeline Air Force.

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Left: sediment prepares to pour across Blue Ridge Parkway in one of 250 water quality violations on Mountain Valley Pipeline.

Photo courtesy of Wild Virginia

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Triumph in Tennessee!

Timber Sale in Tumbling Creek Thwarted by Threat of Legal Action

by Davis Mounger and Sheryl Carpenter

The culmination of several years of our work to protect Tumbling Creek from the Dinkey timber sale has been victorious, with the sale withdrawn this past summer. This sale was first announced in early 2014, and since then, there has been a lot of field work, research, meetings, and legal work. But what made the difference was the long term monitoring of the environmental effects of previous timber sales. We did a lot of hiking, photographing, surveying, and videoing, and the results showed that there is a pattern of declining forest health in these sales. It is this evidence that the courts would have found compelling if the agency had not pulled the plug on this case. Stopping the Tumbling Creek/Dinkey sale is important, but it has launched a whole other body of work that will be important to bringing long-term change to the Cherokee, as we work with the Forest Service to create sideboards that will help prevent similar damage in future projects.



The Dinkey Sale area is located in Polk County near the Georgia border and would have had significant logging along upper Tumbling Creek, including:

- 230 acres of clearcuts, shelterwood cuts, and seedtree cuts with burns and herbicides
- 356 acres of midstory thinning with burning and herbicides, including merchantable trees
- 444 acres of cut-and-leave midstory thinning

An old logging road was to be reactivated across Tumbling Creek at one point, where a deposit of Anakeesta Shale is located. Anakeesta Shale is known to cause acid rock damage where roads have been cut in the past.

We began our opposition to the Dinkey sale when it first was proposed in early 2014, with four years of field work, legal comments, meetings, and publicity to get the public aware of the sale. As it became apparent that Tumbling Creek stood to face the same kinds of impacts to the land that happened only a few miles away at the Hogback Sale, our research into past projects that had heavy logging on Junaluska soils took us all over the Hiwassee/Ocoee district and through information gathered under the Freedom of Information Act to understand the ecological and economic impacts on the land. We found a pattern of failed "shortleaf restoration" that has resulted in numerous logging sites with erosion and a lack of success in recruiting shortleaf pine and oaks.

We were initially hopeful that we might be able to get the most dangerous sites removed from the proposal, but the hearing of our objection was denied by the forest supervisor, under a spurious use of a clause in National Forest regulations, called the "set aside", claiming that we had failed to make a coherent argument of our concerns over the last four years. The agency decided to let the project proceed unchanged.

A coalition of groups, including Tennessee Heartwood, the Southern Environmental Law Center, the Sierra Club, and Heartwood, filed suit in early 2018. With a strong case that opposed the sale on ecological and economic grounds, as well as important objections on the rights to public participation on National Forest decisions, we were confident of success. Apparently, so was the Forest Service, who decided to withdraw the sale in June.

We are happy that the long years of work paid off and that, for now at least, Tumbling Creek has been spared. Thanks to attorneys Shelby Ward and Sam Evans of the Southern Environmental Law Center for helping bring this case to victory.

Prison-on-Demand in Pennsylvania!

Grandmother Jailed Up to Six Months for Protecting Her Own Land

by Camp White Pine

Ellen Sue Gerhart, 63, has been a key leader in the multi-year campaign against Energy Transfer Partners' Mariner East 2 natural gas liquids pipeline, which is being built through her property.



[Huntingdon, PA] On Friday, August 3, Huntingdon County Judge George Zanic sentenced 63-year-old grandmother, retired teacher, and landowner, Ellen Sue Gerhart to two to six months in jail and a \$2,000 fine for indirect criminal contempt of court.

Judge Zanic's decision was based on accusations from lawyers for Texas-based oil and gas giant Energy Transfer Partners (ETP), the developer of the pipeline project through Gerhart's land. The company alleged that Gerhart had baited a bear onto the pipeline easement on her wooded 27-acre property.

Elise Gerhart, daughter of Ellen, said, "If you build a pipeline through the woods, you should expect to see bears and other wildlife. Judge Zanic gave this \$50 billion company the power of eminent domain over my family's property and our governor gave them the permits. My mom's protest on her own property is not the injustice here."



In an interview prior to her arrest, Ellen Gerhart said, "We've had no choice but to take a stand and defend what our government officials are unwilling to protect. Our right to peacefully object to an unjust and dangerous pipeline should be protected over the profit margin of these foreign corporations."

Rich Raiders, attorney for the Gerhart family, said "The eminent domain condemnation case filed by Sunoco against the Gerharts remains ongoing. The Gerharts have also appealed Sunoco's environmental permits granted by the Department of Environmental Protection concerning the wetlands issued to Sunoco on this project. The trial before the Environmental Hearing Board is scheduled for August 29.

Raiders continued, "There are still charges of harassment and unlawful taking alleged against Mrs. Gerhart pending. Mrs. Gerhart believes that these charges are a distraction

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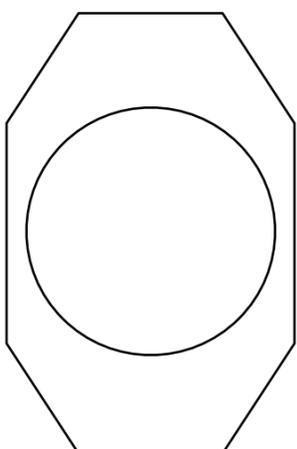
Heartwood is welcoming new candidates for our Coordinating Council. Nominations can be sent to info@heartwood.org

Heartwood is a possum-friendly organization. When in the forest, always be aware of the possibility of a moose bite.

In the event of a moose bite, seeking immediate medical attention is most strenuously recommended. Be prepared to describe the moose, the time of the moose bite, the arresting officer's name, and any other kind of information about the moose bite, or relevant details related to the alleged moose bite, et cetera.

There is no known cure for moose bite.

Oöps that should read "tick bite" those responsible have been sacked.



you can find instructions on how to write Ellen while she is held in prison online at campwhitepine.org photo by lookout

Gerhart from page 1

from Sunoco's ongoing litany of permit suspensions, failed horizontal directional drilling, and various project delays. We believe that the company did not present evidence to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Mrs. Gerhart's protests were criminal. Mrs. Gerhart disagrees with Judge Zanic's decision today and is reviewing her options and will pursue her rights to the fullest extent."

Ellen Gerhart is an outspoken advocate, not only to protect her own land, but also to protect the hundreds of waterways impacted across Pennsylvania by ETP's Mariner East 2 pipeline project. The Gerharts have never given ETP permission to build through their family land.

Since construction began, ETP has reported an astounding 111 spills and has been issued over 65 violations by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. On May 23, ETP spilled 4,000 gallons of drilling fluid on the Gerhart property, threatening the family's well water.

Ellen and her family's ongoing opposition to the project has led to significant intimidation and harassment on the part of ETP, their private security contractor TigerSwan, and local authorities. The Gerharts are involved in numerous cases against state agencies and ETP overuse of eminent domain, deficient environmental permits, and violations of federal civil rights laws.

Support Camp White Pine

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https://www.etsy.com/shop/StopSunocoPA

Learn more about supporting our activists allies behind bars, instructions on writing letters to incarcerated friends, and other information at https://earthfirstjournal.org/



Letter from the Coordinating Council:

Heartwood will not be holding a Reunion event this Fall. This decision to skip the 23rd Reunion was made shortly after the May Forest Council, when we realized that as our core council gets smaller each year, our capacity was likewise limited. Instead of a big public event, the Core Council will be spending time this fall on introspective self-evaluation, long overdue strategic planning in these rapidly evolving times, and re-invigorating ourselves around the new Stand4Forests national policy with new campaigns and new ways to serve our membership.

Heartwood is now 28 years old, that's "Saturn Returns" in the popular astrological sense, a time of big changes and an opportunity for renewal. As the threats to our forests have changed, Heartwood through the creative vision of our many Member Groups has adapted to meet each of these challenges with vigor, resilience and good humour.

We invite each of our Member Groups to suggest nominees to represent your bioregion, and join the Council to help carry those basic functions of any organization: design the Budget, help with Personnel decisions, contribute to the Campaigns we wage in a very intimate and direct way.

Our next opportunity to hold formal elections in accordance with our Bylaws will be at the 29th Annual Forest Council in May of next year. We have many empty seats to fill! Send us the names of your Nominees by the end of February, so that we can list them in the Spring issue of this publication, and be ready to vote on it at our next Forest Council gathering, May Memorial day weekend.

You'll find more information about our Board and how it is structured, on pages six and seven, where ordinarily there would be information about the Reunion.

For the Forests,

Heartwood Core Council



Throwback: Heartwood rallies and leaflets in four-part harmony at the New River Gorge, WV on Memorial Day Monday to close out the annual Forest Council, circa 1995. photo by Andy Mahler



Dear friends of Lloyd Clayton:

In late March, Lloyd had a major stroke while visiting Zipolite, Mexico. His recovery has been nothing short of miraculous, although he has had some major medical bumps along the way. The Doc has been in and out of rehab and hospitals since March but we hope to have him home, at his brother's house, within the next few weeks. There is nothing that gives him more pleasure than to hear the voices and see the faces of those he loves and cherishes. While his abilities are limited, his brother, Jack, will facilitate a phone call. Jack can be reached at 205-914-0322. **Lloyd's phone number is 205-837-5598.** If you would like to write to Lloyd, letters can be sent addressed to **Lloyd Clayton, 135 Memory Court, Birmingham, AL, 35213.** He is unable to use the computer or check his email, facebook or phone messages. However, any of his friends wanting to visit from out of town will be warmly accommodated.

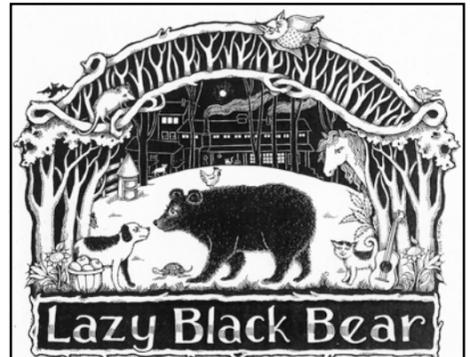
Lloyd has spent his life, energy and fortune defending our earth's natural places and it's inhabitants. He is the most generous man I have even known. Thousands have benefitted from his kindness, generosity, and simply his love and adoration for living things. Lloyd never had children; we are his family. Your calls, visits and cards give him so much happiness.

With love,
Betsy Ogle



Have You Seen Me?

whether or not you Believe, the fact remains that there is a real need for Sasquatch Habitat, places where the forest is healthy enough and vast enough to support even the notion of such creatures! Protect it, and they will thrive. The imagination and soul need places to roam, and the very notion of Wilderness needs a place to lose itself..



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 contact our editor at **info@heartwood.org**



Public Input Key to Prevent Future Fracking Leases in Wayne National Forest

by Becca Pollard, Keep Wayne Wild

The Bureau of Land Management has leased more than 2,000 acres of the Marietta Unit of Wayne National Forest in Southeast Ohio to gas and oil companies for unconventional hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. On September 20th, the agency will hold another online auction on Texas-based EnergyNet.com.



The Wayne National Forest is currently revising its Land Management Plan, which could determine whether such activities will be allowed in the future. This is the first time the Wayne has undergone this process since the inception of the 2012 Planning Rule, which requires significantly more public input than past revisions did. This is a glimmer of hope for concerned local residents and outdoors enthusiasts who visit the area and are concerned about the truck traffic, pollution, and water loss associated with fracking in the area.

Of the Wayne's three units, the Marietta Unit is the farthest from a large population center and is less developed than the others. It's the only unit that has no ATV trails. Lamping Homestead, a recreation area with seven primitive campsites situated around a small lake, lies in one of the darkest areas in the state, making it an excellent stargazing spot. Unlike the Athens and Ironton Units, the Marietta Unit's waterways are not contaminated with mine drainage. All of these qualities make it a desirable, if little known, hiking, camping, kayaking, hunting, and wildlife viewing area.

Those who wish to have a say in the matter are encouraged to submit comments to the Wayne National Forest by email at WaynePlanRevision@fs.fed.us or by mail to 13700 US Hwy 33, Nelsonville, OH 45764. According to Wayne National Forest staff, commenters should cite peer reviewed sources, if possible, but personal observations from people familiar with the area are encouraged, as well.

In addition to doing public outreach around the region, Keep Wayne Wild is partnering with Ohio State University's Graduate Evolution and Ecology Students Group (GEES) to conduct bioblitzes in the Marietta Unit. At these research events, volunteers survey the area, identify as many species as possible, and submit photos or written descriptions to the Keep Wayne Wild 2018 Bioblitz project on INaturalist.com. Anyone who attends the public events or just visits the area on their own can submit observations either through the free mobile app or the website to help document the wildlife that calls the forest home.



"The Marietta Unit of the Wayne National Forest is one of Ohio's hidden gems of biological diversity," said GEES member Naava Honer, who helped plan the first bioblitz held in April of this year.

"The BioBlitz was a mix of excitement and effectiveness—a gathering of Ohio folks who care about the future of our public lands," said Ohio Sierra Club Forest Committee representative Miles Van Blarcum, who volunteered at the spring bioblitz. "Keep Wayne Wild is using important citizen science events like the bioblitz to demand that ecology has a say in Ohio's public land policy. The Sierra Club Ohio Forests & Public Lands Committee is proud to participate in these important events, as well as to support and stand alongside Keep Wayne Wild in the fight for the future of Ohio's limited public lands."

"There's something very therapeutic about being in nature and being amongst people who enjoy looking at the beauty nature provides," said Val Middleton, a founding member of Keep Wayne Wild, who volunteered at both the spring and summer bioblitzes. "As a veteran and Keep Wayne Wild member, I love the mission that brings people together to forever encapsulate what the Wayne possesses."

Data from the bioblitzes will be shared with the Wayne National Forest to help make the case for preserving wildlife habitat.

Keep Wayne Wild's third bioblitz is slated for October and volunteers are needed to assist with planning the event, helping out at the welcome table, and joining in the fun of surveying. People who are interested in getting involved can email keepwaynewild@gmail.com for more information.

ATV Trails Proposed in Zaleski State Forest

OHIO – The comment period closed in August, on a proposal for 52 new miles of ATV trail (sometimes called APV, all-purpose vehicle, or OHV off-highway vehicle). These new trails would criss-cross existing hiking and horse trails, and would devastate the solitude and remote character of one of the largest public forests in the Ohio system.

Pressure to build these trails is partly due to the expansion of resource extraction in Perry State Forest.

Keep in touch with Keep Wayne Wild! as this issue develops. More information can be found online at: <https://say.no.to.ohioapvtrails.org/>

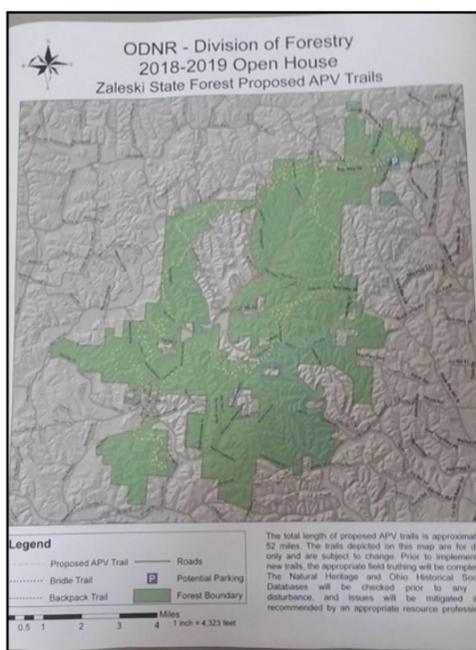


photo by John Arthur Knouse

Southwestern Indiana Citizens Fight Massive Coal-to-Diesel Refinery

by Rock Emmert

If Indiana Governor Holcomb does not intervene, a new \$2.5 billion dollar experimental coal-to-diesel refinery may be built on 512 newly-annexed acres of farmland within the town limits of pastoral Dale, Indiana—population 1,532—in northern Spencer County, where out-of-town developers are pitting neighbors against neighbors in another attempt at a get-rich-quick-scheme at the expense of local citizens' health and quality of life. The process began with two years of secret meetings with state officials, the developers, the company president, the Dale Town Council, and the landowners—before the plan was reluctantly revealed to the public earlier this year, and only after Dale citizens demanded answers. The public's response has been largely a growing outcry of disapproval and dismay.

Promising an economic boon to the citizens where unemployment is already among the lowest in the nation (Spencer Co. is 2.6%), proponents—led by Holcomb, a few politicians, a local economic developer responsible for other local toxic developments and failed proposals, coal miners, and boilermakers—downplay citizens' environmental and health concerns. The first-of-its-kind refinery in the western hemisphere, the Riverview Energy facility, led by President Greg Merle, member of a six-generation coal baron family from Switzerland, would be located one mile from an elementary school and nursing home—and in the heart of a beautiful and vibrant tourism area: five miles from the Lincoln Boyhood Memorial, Lincoln State Park and Amphitheatre, Holiday World (a historical, thriving family-owned theme park), five to seven miles from historic monasteries in St. Meinrad

Enough with the Hype! Petrochemical Hub No Good for the Future of Appalachia

by Dustin White (OVEC) and Diane Sipe (MOB)



The Appalachian Regional Commission identifies Appalachia as a region that follows the spine of the Appalachian Mountains from southern New York to northern Mississippi, and includes all of West Virginia and parts of 12 other states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. When oil and gas companies started fracking the Marcellus and other shale formations in the region, we were told it was for our nation's energy. That the gas produced would be used to replace coal in power plants. However, what we know now is that they had a different end game that has been in the works for over 8 years now.



That end game is a massive petrochemical complex that will run down the Ohio River from Pennsylvania to Kentucky.

As Appalachians — we are alarmed by the proposed petrochemical industry build-out targeting our region. And while the industry has been hyping the build-out in local media, in Washington D.C. and in state capitals, they are careful never to raise the specter of the tremendous health and environmental impacts.

The proponents of this project are calling it a "Game Changer" for our region, but we see it more as a Game Over for our economy and health.

This massive petrochemical complex would involve over more than 400 miles of streams and rivers within the Ohio River basin and intrude on more than 50 counties in the three states. The build-out would pose a threat to those living in the immediate area, exposing them to numerous health and safety risks, including air and water pollution. It will also impact people in other states downstream. The majority of the petrochemical refining and storage would take place along the Ohio River, and would present a risk to aquatic ecosystems and the millions of people who depend on the river and its tributaries for drinking water.

The project, also known as the Appalachian Storage and Trading Hub, is being spear headed by the Appalachian Development Group (ADG), owned by Mid-Atlantic Technology, Research and Innovation Center (MATRIC) and the West Virginia University Innovation Corp. One of the principals of ADG is a WVU professor named Brian Anderson who is using his scholarly position at the university to give legitimacy to studies in favor of the project. The group was recently invited to apply for the 2nd part of a 2 part lone from the Department of Energy for \$1.9 billion. That's your tax payer money being tapped for this massive petrochemical hub.

Also, ADG is one of the primary groups to enter into the now infamous \$87.3 billion dollar Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China. The MOU was facilitated between the Trump administration and WV politicians for China to invest in oil, gas, and petrochemical projects in the region. The MOU was signed in Beijing in November of 2017 and has yet to be released to the public, even after several Freedom of Information Act requests. Many folks may be wondering how the current trade disputes between the U.S. and China are impacting this MOU. That has yet to be seen. However, keep in mind that an MOU is never an official agreement so the \$87.3 billion was never promised and, while it may slow plans for the hub, it will not stop it as there are other outlets for funding this project.

The petrochemical complex would include pipelines, underground storage facilities, cracker plants, massive petrochemical refineries, waste sites and more infrastructures that would zig-zag our region. It would facilitate an extreme increase of fracking, meaning more frack pads, and compressor stations. The complex would develop the liquid byproducts, such as ethane, butane, mentanol, etc., from shale fracking to refine petrochemicals and manufacture plastics. Essentially the two beasts feed each other until there is nothing left but a busted economy and sick people.

They have already begun construction and planning on several integral parts of the infrastructure. First there is the Shell ethane cracker plant in Monaca, PA, which is currently under construction. A

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and Ferdinand, and 10 miles from the western edge of the Hoosier National Forest and the Ferdinand State Forest.

It should be noted that this technology was used by Adolf Hitler in Nazi Germany when he and the Third Reich were desperate for diesel fuel. Today, only two similar facilities exist—one in Russia and one in China. All previous attempts to build such facilities in the US have failed, including one recently in Indiana's Vermillion County, on the infamous former Newport chemical waste site. Now Merle and Holcomb want to put the same refinery in the middle of a rural tourism region.

The process would involve accessing the alleged 17 billion tons of coal still buried in Indiana, subsequently increasing the disturbance of the land via coal mining. The short and long-term effects of such heavy mining on the landscape and forests, like the mountaintop removal mentality in Appalachia, are difficult to fathom. The first step would be to transport 100 railcars of coal to the refinery daily, to pulverize it into dust, turn it into a toxic slurry, inject it with an unknown catalyst, and heat or "crack" it at 800 degrees under 3,000 psi. This process would create hazardous end products including the deadly poisonous gas hydrogen sulfide, which would be converted in stages to molten sulfur, a process that emits a distinctive rotten egg smell. Also, large volumes of natural gas would be needed to create hydrogen, another essential ingredient in the process. The primary end product would be large volumes of diesel fuel and naphtha, a flammable liquid hydrocarbon mixture and an agent used in the creation of plastics. The feasibility and overall costs of the processes involved leave much room



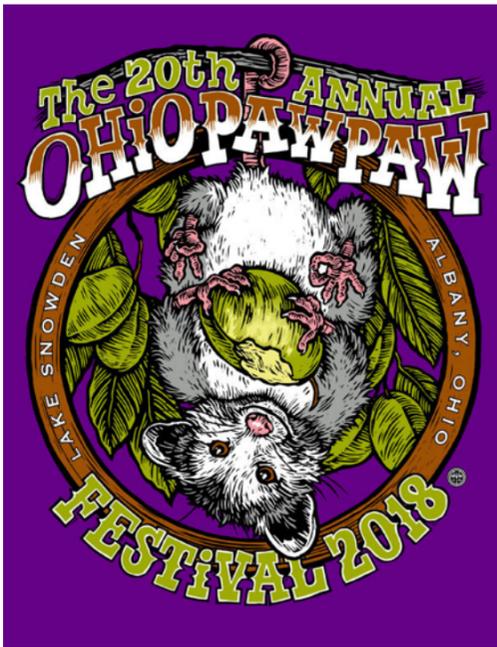
for doubt about the financial feasibility of the plant.

According to the permit application, the plant would be allowed to emit the following annually: 184 tons of nitrogen oxide, 255 tons of carbon monoxide, 139 tons of particulate matter, 2.2 million tons of carbon dioxide, and 32 tons of other hazardous particles. The plant would have four flares that would burn gasses like sulfur and

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celebrating firefly diversity in the Allegheny National Forest, featuring the rare and unique Synchronous Firefly at the peak of their display! Look for details about next summer's 7th Annual PA Firefly Festival online at www.pafireflyfestival.org/



<https://ohiopawpawfest.com>

APPALACHIAN PUBLIC INTEREST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CONFERENCE

A P I E L 8



October 12-14, 2018 Knoxville, TN
<https://www.apiel.org/>



photo by matt peters



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Coal2Diesel in IN continued from page 3

the hazardous benzene. The entire refinery would consist of an enormous system of highly pressurized pipes and tanks—in a region well-known seismic zone that geologists state is overdue for a large earthquake. Leaks in the facility is another concern, especially for parents of children who would attend the local elementary school, not to mention the tens of thousands of children who attend Holiday World daily in the summer months (over one million guests per summer).

Concerned citizens feel that a small group of developers and politicians sentencing a region to a toxic, rotten egg smell, depending on which way the wind blows, is wrong. They believe having no say in a decision made behind closed doors by a small group of people, adversely affecting health, tourism, and overall quality of life for generations to come, is unAmerican. The small, historic, and vibrant town of Ferdinand perhaps has more to lose than other area communities, as it is located just a few miles directly downwind from the prevailing winds.

Local executive director of Lincolnland Economic Development Corp. Tom Utter, who says he is "very aggressively" pursuing this facility for Dale, allegedly hopes to add at least two more such facilities to the immediate area, essentially turning his back on the tourism sector and the quality of life of the people who live here. Concerned citizens' pleas for cleaner, different forms of development are being ignored and, based on his own public comments, believe that personal greed may be driving Utter's motives. "I have no concerns about the economics of this project or the financing," Utter said in a March 18, 2018, Indy Star article. "I just am doing the very best I can to make a home for the project, and whatever reason caused them not to go somewhere else is

just my good fortune."

According to the EPA's toxic release inventory, Spencer County already ranks 23rd in the nation (out of 3,142) in toxic emissions, primarily from superpolluter American Electric Power coal-fired plant and AK Steel, the Ohio River's #1 polluter. If built, this facility will bump the county toward the very top in emissions. A geographically low-lying area already overburdened with disproportionate levels of air pollution and the most polluted body of water for the past seven years (the Ohio River), portions of Southwestern Indiana already suffer from unexplained, uninvestigated cancer clusters, high rates of infant mortality and special education double the national average, high asthma rates, and high volumes of cardiovascular diseases. The state agencies under Holcomb are silent to the public and medical doctors' pleas for help. Dismayed mothers speaking out in nearby Franklin, IN, are experiencing unconscionable IDEM reactions in their life-and-death struggle for answers regarding unusually high clusters of rare childhood cancers near a superfund cleanup site.

To add to the citizens' mistrust of IDEM, six of the seven pollutants currently tracked by IDEM are not even monitored in Spencer County, and the Air Dispersion Modeling Report in KBR's application lists 12 hazardous air pollutants: methanol, hexane, formaldehyde, toluene, benzene, nickel, ammonia, H₂S, xylenes, phenol, o-cresol, and m-, p-cresols. Furthermore, the American Lung Association states that over 36% of Americans live in areas with unhealthy levels of ozone. IDEM has no ozone detectors in Spencer County. In September of 2016 in a nationally published article, USA Today, the Center for Public Integrity, and the Weather Channel noted that Southwestern Indiana is

known as the "sacrifice zone". See www.superpolluters.com.

Local citizens, many of whom have never publicly taken environmental stands, are in for the fight of their lives. Southwestern Indiana Citizens for Quality of Life has formed with the support of nearby environmental/health advocates. Hundreds of bright yellow NOC2D (No Coal-to-Diesel in Dale) signs dot the lawns of homeowners, farmers, and small business owners in the community, surrounding towns, and countryside. Many letters to the editor have been written and published, with more on the way. They have held educational community forums and have been getting publicity in regional and state media. Two local medical doctors and a renowned, retired chemical engineer who worked for over 30 years in the oil and gas industries, have become instrumental and eloquent vocal opponents, as have dozens of others in the region.

A streetside, peaceful protest in June in nearby Santa Claus, Indiana, challenged visiting Governor Holcomb (in town for an economic development luncheon) to protect public health by opposing Riverview's plans—the same week citizens discovered a published photograph of Merle standing prominently front-and-center beside Holcomb amid a large group at the American embassy in Switzerland. Citizens fear a deal has already been cut, especially given the governor's defensive reaction when a concerned local citizen and father of a toddler, out of concern for his family's health, asked the governor about the photograph. "We're not going to do anything to jeopardize our health," Holcomb said publicly at the luncheon. Holcomb and Merle won't have to live anywhere near the

refinery's fallout. Merle lives in Connecticut, 740 miles away.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management, whose officials are appointed by the governor and who routinely issue pollution permits in a state that already ranks at the bottom in air quality and public health, will approve the facility in the coming weeks. At that time IDEM will announce a public meeting, but at the time of this writing, citizens have reason to doubt that IDEM will allow public comments in a public hearing—an action if carried out will be perceived by the public as an attempt to squelch the growing opposition's voice. IDEM has also apparently, with pressure from the technology patent-holder KBR (Kellogg Brown and Root, formerly a subsidiary of Halliburton) in Texas, agreed to call the facility a hybrid—to sound more environmentally friendly—vs a refinery, which is what Merle and IDEM had called the same technology just a few years ago.

From the time IDEM approves the air permit, Merle needs to come up with the \$2.5 billion within 1.5 years or the permit will need to be applied for again. While he says the funds will come from private investors, on more than one occasion he has publicly stated that public funds might be needed or sought. Local citizens are concerned that pro-coal and Holcomb predecessor VP Mike Pence and President Trump might find a way to authorize and divert public funds to this ill-conceived refinery to appease the coal industry in the region, further setting Indiana behind other parts of the US and world in committing to renewable, healthier forms of energy that will provide good, clean jobs for those in the fossil fuel industry. The jobs created in solar energy

continued on next page



KENTUCKY HEARTWOOD

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Daniel Boone Logging Increases under Two New Proposals

Huge timber sale planned for Redbird District

In March, the Forest Service proposed 3,200 acres of intensive logging on the steep and rugged slopes of the Redbird District in Clay and Leslie counties. The "South Redbird Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project" threatens critical habitat for the Kentucky arrow darter (*Etheostoma spilotum*), which was listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in 2016. The darter is found only in clean waters of the upper Kentucky River, and has disappeared from 44% of its range since 1990. Nearly 900 acres of proposed logging is in the watershed of Elisha Creek, which is also home to the federally-endangered Snuffbox mussel (*Epioblasma triquetra*). The snuffbox was protected under the Endangered Species Act in 2012 on account of a 62% rangewide decline. Unlike the mainstem of the Redbird River, which is too polluted by mining runoff, oil and gas development, and sewage for these species to live, the clean tributaries in the project area provide the habitat needed for these species' survival.

Of the 32,300 acres of national forest land in the South Redbird project area, 27% has been harvested since 1980 and only 15% is over 100 years old. This is a stark contrast to the centuries-old forest at Lilley Cornett Woods, just 25 miles to the east. And yet the Forest Service is proposing to log 23% of all forest over 100 years old in the project area. Several areas ranging from 200 to 350 contiguous acres have been proposed for logging. Combined with previous cuts, some sections of forest, up to 800 acres, will hardly have any trees over 30 years old left standing.

The South Redbird project follows a series of public meetings that the Forest Service refers to as "collaborations." While Kentucky Heartwood is listed as a "collaborator" in the scoping letter, our good-faith input throughout the process was largely ignored. In fact, the project reflects few of the concerns raised by participants – other than those of state and federal agencies pushing for more clearcuts and "regeneration" harvests for ruffed grouse habitat. While the forest has been characterized by some as "too old," the fact is that less than half the forest is over 70 years old.

In 2008, the Forest Service approved 1,200 acres of logging immediately north of the South Redbird project area as part of the Group One Redbird River Project. The Group One project included a Forest Plan amendment that established a 12,000 acre "Ruffed Grouse Emphasis Area" to be maintained under 60 year timber rotations in cooperation with the Kentucky Division of Fish and Wildlife Management. Kentucky Heartwood successfully appealed that project twice before it was approved after a third revision. Our challenges to the project helped reduce the total acreage approved for logging and protect some of the older forests in the project area. Kentucky Heartwood suggested early in the South Redbird process that the Forest Service consider meeting forage needs for grouse and other disturbance-dependent species by incorporating a limited number of small to medium-sized group selection harvests within a matrix of thinning oriented toward old-growth structural development. This type of silviculture is

Dale Coal-to-Diesel from page 4

sector alone today far outweigh employment opportunities in the coal industry and are typically healthier for the workers.

In the meantime, concerned citizens will continue to engage in a multi-faceted effort to educate the public and ultimately stop the proposal. Through their vigorous research on legal recourse, speaking engagements at local civic clubs, public forums and pressure on local candidates and elected officials, door-to-door conversations, distribution of additional lawn signs, letters to the editor, creating a float for a local parade, a benefit concert, and many private conversations, they are committed to a long and drawn out battle to protect their communities. For references, more information, and updates, visit www.noc2d.com and follow Southwestern Indiana Citizens for Quality of Life on Facebook.

more consistent with natural disturbance regimes in the Redbird area, but this would mean less timber getting cut, making it not worthy of serious consideration by the agency.

Despite its rugged beauty and rich diversity, the Redbird District is being treated like a throw-away district by the U.S. Forest Service. There are no hiking trails and no campgrounds – issues that were raised repeatedly during public meetings by members of the public and U.S. Forest Service staff. The only recreational infrastructure is the extensive Redbird Crest ATV trail, which the Forest Service proposes to reroute with 12 new miles of ATV trail construction. National forest lands in the Redbird District are an island in a landscape of vast strip mines and clearcuts. The forest here needs to be protected and nurtured, and we think that the Forest Service can do better.



both sides along this remote section of the Redbird Crest Trail are included in proposals for heavy shelterwood logging as part of the South Redbird Project. photo by Jim Scheff

Pine Creek Forest Faces Massive Management Manipulation

Just weeks after proposing 3,200 acres of logging in the South Redbird project, the Forest Service announced plans for more than 4,000 acres of timber harvesting in the London District in Laurel, Pulaski, and Rockcastle Counties. The Pine Creek Forest Restoration Project is a complex vegetation management project centered on the lower Rockcastle River, from near I-75 to the confluence with the Cumberland River. The area includes a wide diversity of forests and rare species, the Rockcastle wild river corridor, and some of the most popular hiking and camping areas in the Daniel Boone National Forest. While the Forest Service has proposed some beneficial management activities that we generally support, they've also included an alarming amount of intensive timber harvesting.

The proposal includes up to 3,300 acres of logging to create early seral habitat (young forest conditions) through even-aged shelterwood harvests, leaving just 7 to 20 trees per acre. Some of the logging would be along the Sheltoewe Trace National Recreation Trail. The project also include over 2,000 acres of non-commercial midstory thinning, which would mostly remove the red maples that are dominating many forest midstories. A wide range of interacting factors, including fire suppression, loss of American chestnut, and historical drought patterns, among others, have set the stage for a possible shift away from a prevalence of oaks and toward more red maple. Miststory thinning, especially in concert with prescribed fire, could be beneficial in helping to restore open oak forest structures and lending toward better recruitment of oaks over the long term. However, the Forest Service is planning to harvest most areas proposed for midstory thinning after 10 years – something that we are taking great issue with.

Early seral habitat is important for a wide range of declining species. However, this type of habitat can be created and maintained through the restoration of fire-adapted uplands, management of degraded former clearcuts, and an acceptance of the role of natural disturbances in our forests. Logging on private land is also continually creating early seral habitat. Unlike natural disturbance, logging typically requires a large amount of ground disturbance to process and haul logs out of the forest. Large log landings, ranging from about ¼ to 1 acre in size, are cleared in the forest and compacted for logging equipment and trucks. The Greenwood project, with about 2,500 acres approved for logging, required 139 log landings. "Temporary roads" are bulldozed from landings through the forest, cutting across slopes and acting as vectors for invasive plant species, while remaining trees can suffer damage from felling and hauling.

The Forest Service is also proposing to create or restore fire-adapted open forest and forest-grassland communities in the Pine Creek project area. Historical and botanical evidence suggest that these community types were important, and even extensive, in some parts of the project area. They plan to accomplish this through 730 acres of

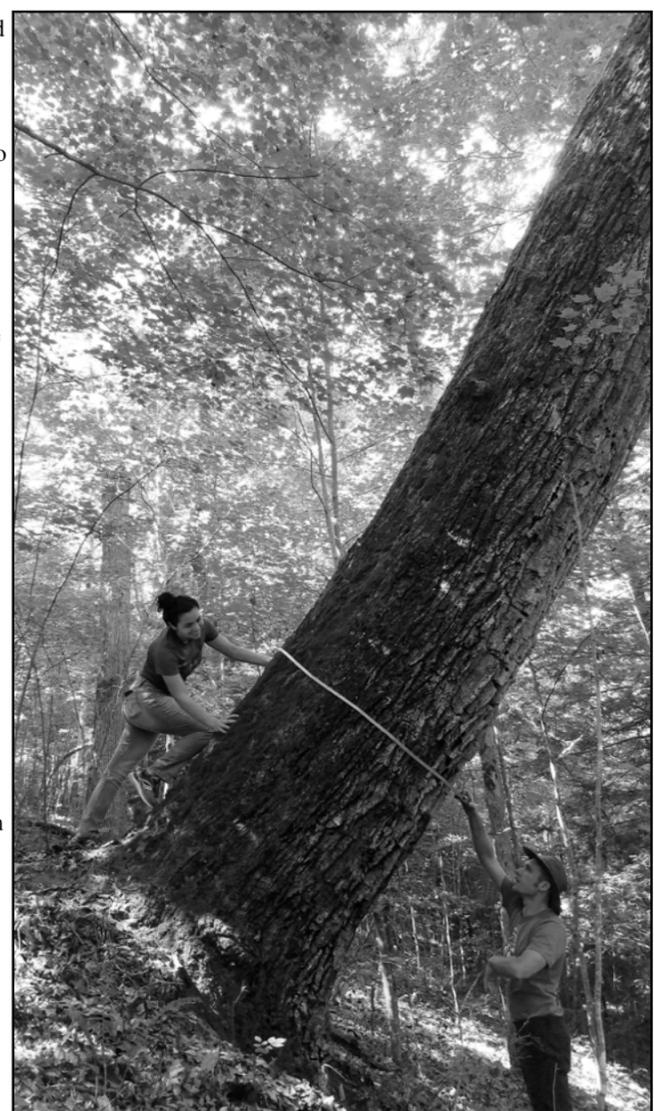
commercial logging that would leave 5 to 40 trees per acre, along with another 160 acres of non-commercial felling. The project would add 2,400 acres of prescribed fire to the 9,300 acres of the project area already under fire management. Implemented in the right locations with the right long-term management (particularly short fire return intervals), these natural communities can help support a variety of rare and declining plant and animal species, including the charismatic wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*) and bobwhite quail. Most of the woodland and wooded grassland management is proposed for the southwestern section of the project area in Pulaski County. The area is generally appropriate for this type of management, and follows detailed discussions and field trips that included the Kentucky Heartwood, the Forest Service, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, and The Nature Conservancy. Kentucky Heartwood does prefer that the Forest Service rely on natural disturbance, non-commercial felling, and prescribed fire to manage for these community types. We will need more time to examine the specific stands proposed for logging for woodland restoration in order to assess whether or not the sites chosen for logging are reasonable.

The Forest Service has proposed to restore shortleaf pine on 1,500 acres on the Pulaski county side utilizing methods that are much more progressive and ecologically appropriate than what was approved last year in the Greenwood project. Shortleaf pine was decimated by the southern pine beetle between 1999 and 2001. The proposed action in the Pine Creek project would rely on noncommercial methods and planting of trees in groups and interspersed with existing vegetation, better mimicking natural patterns.

In addition to areas with good potential for the restoration of open, fire-adapted forest communities, the Pine Creek project area includes some of the most extensive older second-growth forest found in the Daniel Boone. Large areas are approaching secondary old-growth status, with genuine old-growth in a few locations, and should be managed for the development of large, contiguous tracts of future old-growth forests. The project area already includes 830 acres of Designated Old-Growth management, though that area includes only a small amount of genuinely old forest. This is in addition to approximately 11,000 acres of riparian and cliffline

corridors that are largely excluded from logging. But these represent narrow, linear features and not large blocks of forest. The Forest Service has proposed adding 500 acres of Designated Old-Growth in two areas, near Rock Creek and Angel Hollow. Both areas are good candidates, and should be designated for an old-growth emphasis in the Forest Plan. However, the additions are largely narrow zones in lower landscape positions that support hemlock-mixed mesophytic forests, and do not include appreciable upland forests. Kentucky Heartwood has urged the Forest Service to designate two larger areas totaling several thousand acres for old-growth management in Laurel county. In addition to the suitability of the landscape, such designations would provide for more balance given the Forest Service's emphasis on the Pulaski county side on open fire-adapted communities as well as young forest and game management in the Redbird River WMA.

Stay current on these stories and other news and events. Sign up for our email list and follow our blog on our web site, kyheartwood.org



volunteers measure a Chestnut Oak (*Quercus montana*) in the Pine Creek proposed harvest area. photo by Jim Scheff

Join the Heartwood Coordinating Council!

Heartwood is welcoming new members to our Extended and Core Council! We seek to expand representation of our entire Region in all ways: geographically, demographically, and bioregionally. There are a variety of ways to become part of the Heartwood Network, starting with the benefits of becoming a Member Group!

It is from this body of Member Groups that we are asking for candidates to our steering board or Coordinating Council. Although we serve many of the functions of a typical Board of Directors, we are different in that we represent the Places that we defend and love as a Council.

We welcome any enthusiastic forest supporter or Place Defender! In particular we are seeking folks with certain skills or knowledge to contribute, such as accounting, budgets and numbers, computer/web design, law, biological or ecological sciences, electoral politics, international commerce/trade, film/video experience, or other skills and perspectives to contribute to the Heartwood community. In particular we reach out to the forest communities in the Deep South, from the Arkansas forests where the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker rumours

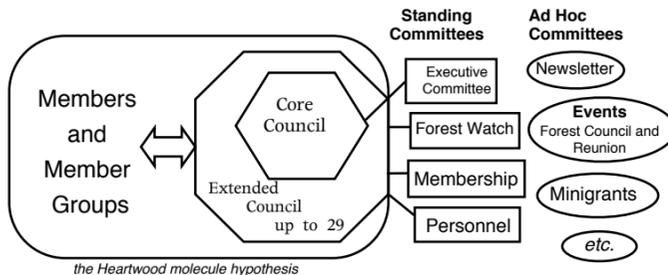
still fly, to the Gulf Coast forests where pipeline blockaders fight the same companies that ravage the forests of the Great Plains, the Atlantic coast and the Northeast.

Being on the Heartwood Coordinating Council is a rewarding commitment, great fun at times, and your time commitment would be minimal. The Heartwood Council conducts one conference call each month, average about an hour in length, and asks each member of Council to be active on at least one Standing Committee and one Ad-Hoc Committee. Travel requirements are likewise minimal, and the expense can be reimbursed. We have three opportunities throughout the year to meet face-to-face: our two annual Events, the fall Reunion and the spring Council, and one other small meeting, scheduled as needed. Our by-laws provide for up to 29 seats on our Core Council alone, and no limit to our Extended Council. A large and active Council means Heartwood is able to meet the challenges of the day with full strength and capacity.

Send us your nominations today!



photo by Al Ferguson



Donate your savings on Reunion travel, registration, and Auction, directly to the

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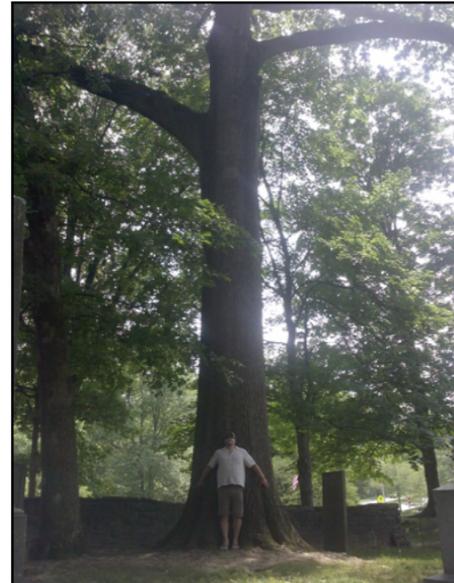
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Regional Membership, Regional Representation, Regional Protection and Restoration

The Heartwood Region includes the eastern Heartland Hardwood forests, from the Ozark Mountains to the Appalachians, the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast. Our member groups and allies extend far beyond the region indicated on this map. As the threats to our forests expand, so too must our networks and alliances expand to meet these new challenges.

Join the Heartwood network as a new or renewing Member or Member Group!

Heartwood is able to address a wide range of issues through the dedication and vision of our Member Groups. Our relationship with forests goes far beyond the boundaries of any timber sale. Heartwood recognizes the connections between our food production and distribution systems, our settlement patterns, our urbanized lifestyles based on consumption and isolation have shaped our relationship with the land itself, the hills and forests and rivers and wildlife. Our relationships with one another are likewise most resilient and dynamic when they are based on the same ecological sensibilities of diversity, stability and reliability, trust and fierceness and loving support as we struggle towards our common Victory, however that might be defined. Heartwood strives to reflect this commitment through the range of groups and initiatives we fund with our Minigrants program, through our outreach efforts and the alliances we make, and through our Safer Spaces policies. We urge our readers to become members of their local Member Groups, and we urge our Member Groups to renew their dues this year! We hope you will consider your donation in light of the savings passed on to you by virtue of cancelling the Reunion, with no travel expenses, Auction bidding, cosponsorships, or registration fees.



Heartwood Offers Fiscal Agent Services to Member Groups

Kris Lasher, Heartwood Treasurer

The Heartwood Financial Committee has established an improved set of guidelines for offering fiscal sponsorship services to our member groups. The new measures were adopted by consensus during our July meeting, to be effective immediately. Our 501c3 status allows us to act as a fiscal agent for groups seeking grant funding but not capable of meeting a grant's fiscal requirement. Whether your organization or group is currently a paying member of Heartwood or not, we can support you in your local efforts to protect the environment. To inquire about the process, simply email Heartwood at info@heartwood.org. Tell us about your funding proposal, and the grantmaking entity. Upon consideration, a written agreement will be created that meets the needs of all parties. Heartwood charges a small fee for payment processing and accounting overview. Heartwood member groups and organizations pay a 1% fee for fiscal agent services while non-member organizations pay a 5% fee. This provides both incentive and benefit for new members to join. Your campaign successes will benefit us all and we are delighted to support your work in this new way.

Look for announcements about the 29th Annual Forest Council in the Spring issue of *Heartbeat!*
Save the date: Memorial Day holiday weekend, May 24-26, 2019



"Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to the body, the body active and alive, and I promise you this much; I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, over those desk-bound men and women with their hearts in a safe deposit box, and their eyes hypnotized by desk calculators. I promise you this; You will outlive the bastards."



Photo Essay: the 28th Annual Heartwood Forest Council, "Edge Effects"

Camp Crestfield, Butler County PA

May 26-28, 2018

photos by Rock Emmert



Heartwood Host Organizations
Co-Sponsors and Major Donors



right: Karen Coulter from the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project (OR), gives the keynote address for the weekend.
Left: an Eft, our Amphibious Auctioneer! Corina Lang speaks from the heart.

below: *Social Justice Disco!* rocks the night away Saturday night.
L-R: Christiane Dolores, Geña Música, Phat Man Dee, Liz Berlin, Katie Berlin.
Pittsburgh trio Chai Baba kept the music going late into the night!



left: the #NotWhite Art Collective exhibit gallery sparks lively conversation among the lads.
below: afternoon workshop on low-carbon living, with "Tiny House" troubador Bill Baker.



The Auction is a traditional Sunday night activity at every Heartwood Gathering. The Heartwood Auction provides attendees with a built-in organizing tool for their home communities, in the soliciting of Donations from local businesses or artists, a way to reach out and build networks in your community. It also offers a fun way to get to know one another, through the many hand-crafted items or home-canned goods from our gardens and kitchens. The event is often accompanied by a seed swap or plant sale, and as the items are sold off the Talent Show gets going around the campfire.

The Auction is as much a way of building community as it is a means to put the "fun" into fundraising!

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Five Years on a Pile of Rocks: Defending Against an Americus Quarry

by Nate Hofmann (Americus Area Community Coalition Vice President)

I'd like you to consider any aspect of your life which has consumed over five years. Chances are you're considering something major – your education, your career, your marriage, your mortgage, your children. These are common human experiences to which we can all relate; we expect these milestone events to absorb our efforts and energies.

I never expected to spend over five years on a pile of rocks.

Over five years ago on a lazy summer day, a neighbor of mine brought a letter door-to-door which was intended to notify adjacent property owners that a Tennessee-based mining company, the Rogers Group, intended to dig a hole across the street from our homes – a chasm deep enough to swallow three Statues of Liberty stacked upon each other.

My wife and I knew nothing about stone quarry operations, but regardless, we felt a sense of foreboding (as did all our neighbors). The people who call this area home began to hold meetings and plan a course of action. I was honored by being nominated to the board of directors at one of the early meetings. I attended while my wife stayed home to watch our two toddler boys.

After a passable amount of research, it became apparent that the odds were not in favor of our newly formed team: the Americus Area Community Coalition. No one beats big business. Rogers Group has defeated remonstrance groups all over Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, and everywhere in between.

It also became apparent that the stakes were high. This quarry was going to harm the 150 households within a mile of it.

When I explain the quarry to people, I know I usually only have



a couple of minutes before their attention begins to wander. So I've streamlined my discussion over the years to three talking points. The absolute truth we've discovered is that stone quarries harm those who live near them in three aspects: dollars, health, and safety. Here's what we found.

In a monetary sense, quarries gouge out the heart of your single biggest investment: your home. Property values plummet when a quarry moves next-door. Many of us who live here can't afford to lose a quarter to a third of our home's value. Quarries also drain the local aquifer, requiring many people to live without water for extended periods of time and drill new wells – at their own expense.

With regard to health, quarries bring increased levels of radon and particulate matter to the neighborhood – two things you don't want near your children. Radon and particulate matter can cause everything from hypertension to cancer to death.

Quarries can even kill you. Yes, their own employees die working there, but that's not the discussion point. After a quarry is exhausted in 75-100 years, it becomes an unmonitored, unprotected 420 foot-deep lake of freezing cold water. Young people who play there die. ATV riders and hikers die there as well. Expended quarries become

hazardous temptations that take a toll on those who live near them.

Of course, beyond the big three issues are the annoyances: noise, dust, truck traffic, shattered windshields, blasting, light sources, 24-hour a day operations in summer, and the hits keep on coming.

Then began the learning curve. Navigating the subtle nuances of remonstrance takes a toll. Here's a year of our lives summarized in a list: recruit a board of directors, write bylaws and articles of incorporation, establish 501 (c) 3 status, form a membership base, retain two law firms (one for state environmental law and one for local remonstrance) hold fundraisers to pay for those law firms, hire an expert geologist and a hydrologist, create a website, make T-shirts and publications, and this above all else, talk to ANYONE who will listen.

Whom do you call for help first? We believed the IDNR would offer a quick solution. It did not. It turns out that floodplain regulation in Indiana falls squarely into the laps of your local board of zoning appeals.

That summer of 2013, representatives from the IDNR came down to hear what we had to say. Between you and me, I



before and after: prime farmland buried under a glacier of gravel.

photos by Nate Hoffman

figured that would be the end of it. It wasn't. There was nothing they could do. The management of floodplains is a matter for local government.

Thankfully, our county commissioners (Tom Murtaugh, Dave Byers, John Knochel, and later, Tracy Brown) understood the devastation a quarry causes to local neighborhoods. Two years later, they penned an ordinance in to help stop this industrial mining operation. Many of us believed this to be the end of our struggle. Unfortunately, attorneys for Rogers Group were able to overturn it.

Years later, the final showdown finally occurred. We came, we saw, and we got the vote. Our coalition went before the Area Board of Zoning Appeals – the final authority in local floodplain management. ABZA sided with us. We had exhausted all avenues. Again, many of us figured that would be the end of the story.

Again, it wasn't.

The state legislature became the next front. If your pockets are deep enough, you can find senators or representatives to champion bills to circumnavigate local government. HB 1189 was pitched in multiple forms this summer, and all of our hard work was almost for naught.

This used to keep me up at night – that a government official could negate five years of our struggle with the stroke of a pen. Of course, that only happens with "good men do nothing," right? Thanks to Ron Alting, Barb Knochel, and Tom Murtaugh for keeping an eye on that and fighting it at every turn.

Since this conflict began, my wife and I had a third child – a daughter. Our two sons are at Hershey Elementary now. The fight goes on. Time passes and we receive no real dénouement.

I know we should be angry, but we're not. We gained from the experience – all of us in the area did. We gained friends, community, and camaraderie. I've met people I never would have known if not for this struggle. I've seen AACC members come and go, and I've become tight friends with many of them. Children have been born as we fought, and we've buried members along the way. Together, we managed to stop a multi-million dollar corporation from hurting everyone who lives here – all so they can rip tons of limestone from under our feet.

So, ask me if I'm happy I've spent over five years of my life on a pile of rocks.

I'll say yes. I'm proud of what we've done here, and I'd do it all over again.

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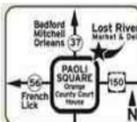
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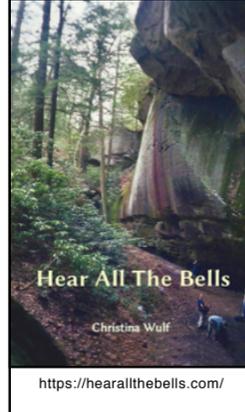
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The Forestry Title of the Federal Farm Bill

Marianne Holland, Wilderness Protection Campaign Coordinator, Hoosier Environmental Council

When it comes to the Forestry Title of the Federal Farm Bill in final negotiations in Congress, it's a tale of two bills. The House and Senate versions bear little resemblance to one another. Let's get the bad news out of the way first by starting with that of the House.

The House Farm Bill puts logging interests above all else, including wildlife preservation. It contains numerous categorical exclusions (CEs) that weaken environmental review and public involvement in national forest management decisions, exempting these decisions from requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Salvage logging, clear cutting, and road building projects up to 6,000 acres would have no environmental or public input. These new categorical exclusions would exempt virtually every management project on the Hoosier National Forest from NEPA review or public participation.

The House bill would also scrap the fire funding

compromise language of the 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act, doubling the size – from 3,000 acres to 6,000 acres --of the hazardous fuels and insect and disease-related categorical exclusions that were part of the fire funding compromise. It would also weaken the interagency consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by authorizing a "self-consultation" process, exempting the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management from consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding forest management activities that could adversely affect endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. The House Farm Bill would also eliminate the protection of many Roadless Areas, including the beloved Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

In welcome contrast to the House Farm Bill, the Forestry Title of the Senate bill is clearly a product of bi-partisanship. The Senate bill contains none of the controversial forest management provisions of the House bill and omits any self-consultation authority or other attempts to weaken safeguards for threatened and endangered species. The Roadless Area Conservation rule is preserved.

The Senate version of the Forestry Title even improves on some programs, increasing funding by \$40 million for the Forest Service's

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) and establishing a \$20 million federal grant program to promote efforts to reduce hazardous fuels across federal and non-federal lands. It also creates a Water Source Protection Program for watershed restoration partnership with water users like utilities and funds it annually at \$10 million. The Senate Forestry Title even designates 25,000 acres of new public wilderness in Tennessee and Virginia.

The Farm Bill is now in conference committee where final negotiations between the two versions will be worked out. It's a key time for Hoosiers to contact their members of Congress (particularly Senator Joe Donnelly who is both our state's senior senator and a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee) to let them know we support the Senate's bipartisan forestry title focused on conservation and collaboration, not on reckless environmental rollbacks intended to promote logging in our national forests. Encourage them to reject a final Farm Bill Forestry title that eliminates environmental review of national forest management projects, cuts public participation, or attacks conservation and species protections, such as the Roadless Rule, Endangered Species Act, or National Environmental Policy Act.



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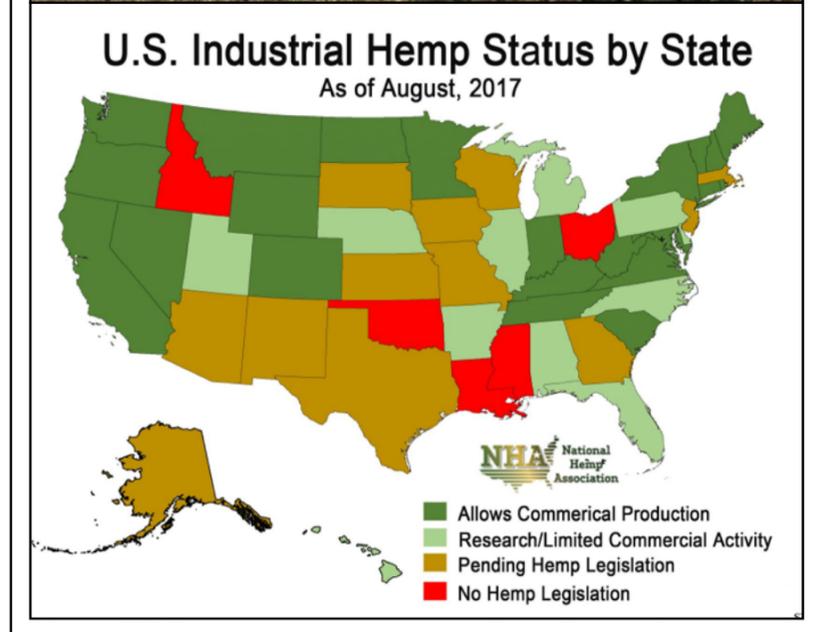
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BCS Grillo



What else is in the Farm bill?

The Farm Bill is one of the largest pieces of federal legislation at around \$500 Billion, and it covers a range of topics beyond forestry: food assistance, farm to school connections, farm preservation, land conservation, crop insurance, commodity subsidies, research, and a host of other programs. The two versions passed by the House and Senate have a number of important differences between them. Here are some lows, and highs, from the two versions currently headed to conference.

House Version

- Increases subsidy payments and loopholes for corporate farms at the expense of smaller, family farms.
- Decreases general conservation funding by \$1 billion over 5 years and cuts working lands conservation programs by \$5 billion over 10 years.
- Weakens environmental protections covered under the Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts/
- Hurts families receiving food aid through SNAP, and the local farmers who accept food aid and provide healthy food to needy families, by increasing difficulty of receiving benefits. These changes could threaten the roughly \$20 million annually that this program places into local Ag economies.
- Guts the successful Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program, the Value-Added Producer Grants Program, and the Organic Cost Share Program.
- Cuts or fails to authorize funding for New and Beginning Farmer Programs, which ensure that young, emerging farmers have the access to financing and business literacy to compete in today's ag industry.
- Underfunds science, research, and outreach programs that ensure the success of farming in an uncertain future.

Senate Version

- Keeps most food access programs (SNAP) as they are while maintaining funding necessary for keeping healthy food, much of it supplied by our nation's local farmers, on the tables of needy Americans.
- Maintains environmental protections that encourage sustainable and resilient farming practices and the survival of endangered species.
- Creates permanent funding streams and healthy funding levels for organic research, new and socially disadvantages farmer training programs, cost-share and value added producer grants, and local food promotion programs.
- Upholds conservation funding and programming that assists farmers with making energy efficient improvements and installing sustainable best management practices.

Further Reading

- www.sustainableagriculture.net/category/farmbill
- www.thefoodtrust.org/food-access/publications
- www.youngfarmers.org/tae/farm-bill
- www.cfrac.org/research/resource-library/farm-bill-

Urban Ag Team Finds Focus In Fiber Arts

PITTSBURGH– The Hazelwood Urban Ag Team is growing more than just tomatoes and greenbeans! This year, the neighborhood organization planted two beds at the local Community Garden with Sunn Hemp, *Crotalaria juncea*, as more than just a cover crop. The plant is grown in subtropical India for its fiber, and its soil-building properties have made it a popular summer rotation cover in more temperate regions. With the emergence of an organized Fiber Arts collective in the city, the opportunity to provide a raw material to support these arts initiatives offers a new direction of growth for the garden as well as for the Urban Ag Team.

"One of the main challenges that urban gardeners have to deal with is contaminated soils," said Ag Team Chair Matt Peters. "With fiber and dye crops, that doesn't matter, in fact these crops are ideally suited for that type of site by virtue of the fact that they aren't eaten, and many even help cleanse and restore the soil."

The Hazelwood Urban Ag Team will continue to explore opportunities for soil bioremediation through crop rotation.

Find the group on facebook, or visit online at:

<http://www.hazelwoodinitiative.org/page14.html>



photo by matt peters



Appalachian Storage Hub from page 3

Korean company known as PPT is also working to build another ethane cracker plant in Belmont County, OH, and just recently purchased more land for the facility, making it larger than originally planned. While ethane cracker plants are the most commonly known, there is also a methanol cracker plant under construction in Institute, WV, with another planned in Belle, WV. Both are within miles of Charleston.

There is also what they are calling a "6-pack" of 36 inch pipelines connecting a lot of this infrastructure zig-zagging the Ohio River from Pennsylvania down to Kentucky. Other pipeline as part of the infrastructure, like the Falcon Pipeline, is also currently under construction.

Additionally, there is the Mountaineer Storage Facility in Monroe County, OH, is to possibly be the first of the underground storage facilities where they will be storing the unrefined volatile liquids in unlined underground geological formations. In the case of the Mountaineer facility, they will be storing in a salt cavern that will run under the Ohio River into Tyler County, WV. This is of concern because a similar salt cavern being used for similar storage in Bayou Corne, Louisiana, collapsed creating a massive 34 acre sinkhole. The safety of other formations they have identified is also questionable. The majority of the underground storage has been proposed for West Virginia – some up to 500 acres large. They are also examining the potential for stacked storage, meaning having multiple liquids stored one on top of the other underground. What's the worst that could happen? Currently, the Mountaineer facility is being held-up due to regulatory issues.

We have already seen several disasters in the region recently from similar infrastructure. There was the Ames Plant fire in Parkersburg, WV, where plastic pellets like those that will be produced as part of the petrochemical hub were stored. The fire burned for over a week. In 2014, a petrochemical known as methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM) spilled into the water for 300,000 residents in 9 counties in West Virginia. What followed was known as the WV Water Crisis that would leave people without the use of their water for anything but flushing a toilet for nearly a month. Add in all the additional frack well explosions and pipeline leaks and explosions that have happened in all 3 states. It is still unclear who would regulate a petrochemical complex of this size, and factor in an existing history of failure of enforcement of state regulatory agencies in the region, it seems only a matter of time before something catastrophic happens.

The petrochemical industry has launched an intensive lobbying activity and PR campaign, skewing the democratic process in its favor at the expense of ordinary citizens. Many of those pushing this project have obvious conflicts of interest. Politicians in D.C. in both House and Senate, on both sides of the aisle, have put their name on legislation supporting this petrochemical hub. The majority of that support has been from the West Virginia delegation, including Senator Joe Manchin who received a \$10,000 campaign contribution from the American Chemical Council after introducing the Appalachian Storage Hub Study Act of 2017, the first in support of the hub. In June, the WV Secretary of Commerce Woody Thrasher resigned amidst conflict of interest allegations pertaining to the signing of the MOU with China, of which he attended. While in office, Thrasher owned 70% of the

Thrasher Group which is a contracting firm set to profit from increased fracking and petrochemical construction.

However, growing coalition of individuals and groups in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio are coming together to oppose this project, for a long list of reasons. We envision a region with a sustainable economy where workers, communities, and public health are not jeopardized. We reject a corporate business plan that puts profits over people. We no longer want to depend on a boom-and-bust mono-economy that hinders sustainable economic development. Our region has a long history of extreme economic woes left in the wake of fossil-fuel-driven industries. Many areas identified for this proposed infrastructure are already low-income and struggling to recover from other extractive industries. Others are brownfield rust-belt areas given false hope of a revitalized manufacturing economy. The reality is that family sustaining, long-term jobs will not materialize. Opportunistic companies behind the proposed petrochemical complex are using our economic hardship in the region to exploit our people and resources. Predatory behavior makes the issue not only one of environmental justice, but economic justice as well.

Our struggle in Appalachia also connects to the global community. The proposed petrochemical build-out threatens our planet with increased climate pollution; the plastics manufactured would further degrade the oceans, and deepen the suffering in parts of the world already dealing with plastic pollution. For example in the Philippines, plastic waste is literally choking the livelihood of fishing villages. We must take responsibility as a country and acknowledge our mass consumerism is harming our neighbors worldwide.

There must be opposition to fracking and the petrochemical complex, and we must pledge our solidarity to similar areas of existing petrochemical build-up like those in Texas and the infamous "Cancer Alley" in Louisiana. We are all truly in this together, and we must unite for a better world free from fossil-fuel-driven boom and bust economies and environmental catastrophe.

We can stand in coalition, working together for a better region and world where citizens have a say in their own lives and economy, and don't have to sacrifice their communities for profit. We must all recognize our own use of the materials that would be created at these refineries, and how they impact all our lives, from raw material extraction, to manufacturing, to the pollution that results from the end products.

Studies have shown that solar and wind energy create many more jobs than fossil fuel industries, and those are safer jobs that don't put our neighbors and future generations at risk. Our representatives from West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio should be working to facilitate the transition to modern and clean energy, a transition that could provide many thousands of jobs without sacrificing everything that makes the Ohio Valley region a good place to live and work.

If you would like more information on the proposed Appalachian Petrochemical Complex, you can visit www.ohvec.org/NoASH. You can also donate to or join any of the many grassroots organizations in the region who are working to stop this nightmare.

Dustin White is project coordinator with the Huntington, WV.-based Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition. Diane Sipe is an organizer with Marcellus Outreach Butler, based in Butler County, PA. Both organizations are members of the Appalachian Gas Working Group.



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#NoPetroPA
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to stay current on the Beaver County Cracker Plant and Falcon Pipeline campaigns. Blogs, Action Alerts and More online at:

<https://nopetropa.com/>

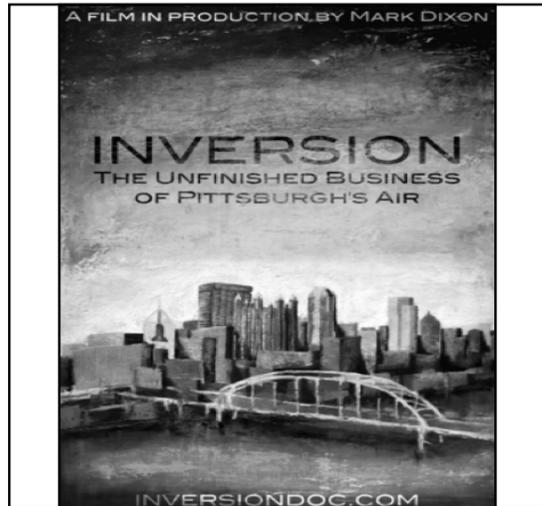
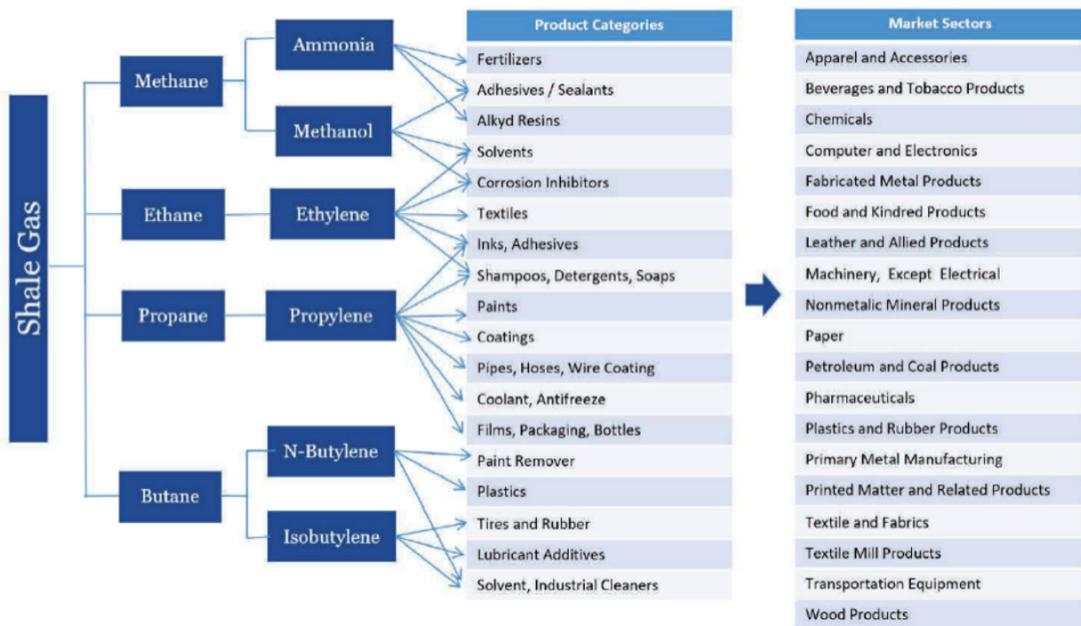


photo by Becca Pollard



The impacts of the construction of Shell's "cracker" plant in Beaver, PA are already being felt. The "tariff turmoil" caused by unstable federal foreign policy decisions, in particular the assault on steel prices, may have put construction of the facility on temporary hold. If completed, the entire upper Ohio River Valley region is at risk of becoming the nation's new "Cancer Alley" and center of the world's wasteful plastics industry.



Virginia Victories from page 1

The fight to stop the pipeline includes many diverse and strategic efforts. Numerous lawsuits by landowners challenged eminent domain. Crucial efforts were waged against smaller components of the project like Nelson County citizens' successful effort to prevent Dominion from accessing the community's water source in order to drill through the Blue Ridge Mountains. Other efforts included community challenges to zoning changes and permits for staging pipeline equipment, community legal challenges to cultural, historical, water, and environmental impacts, and the exposure of Environmental Justice violations that target Buckingham County's rural African American Union Hill Baptist Church communities.

At least nine people have occupied tree sits to block access roads or logging sites for the MVP. Two more are currently in place.

And alongside all of this, for four years and counting, citizens have organized rallies and protests, educational events and prayer circles, at the construction sites, at the state capitol in Richmond, and their own in communities all along the proposed routes. Citizen surveillance initiatives are in place on both pipelines, with over a hundred volunteers trained in specifics of monitoring, documenting violations and filing formal complaints. For weeks sediment has been pouring into waterways during the heavy summer rains which continue as of this writing. Over 250 violations of erosion and sediment control standards have been reported to the State Department of Environmental Quality who lacks the staff and the desire to act on them. At least two treesits are in place and have stopped construction in two specific places in the Jefferson National Forest.

On August 6th, in a huge blow to the future of Atlantic Coast Pipeline, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals vacated both the ACP's United States Fish and Wildlife Endangered Species incidental take permit and the Park Service's permit to cross the Blue Ridge Parkway at Reeds Gap on the Nelson/Augusta County border. The FERC order to stop all pipeline construction followed on August 10th. It is questionable whether construction may be allowed to continue on ACP. If it should, then active citizens and legal teams are poised to shut it down for good.

September 28 is a date for legal arguments in Richmond on further challenges to both pipelines. Favorable rulings could mean the demise of both pipelines. Other legal challenges are waiting in the wings and many chapters are yet to be written before this book is closed. A clear legal trail that stretches back 3 years branches forward, combined with on the ground confrontations continue to choke the life from these predatory projects. Opposition to the MVP and ACP will not go away until these pipeline projects have been put to bed for good.



A Wolf in Climate Champion Clothing

By Michael Badges-Canning, Marcellus Outreach, Butler, PA

There are climate deniers in politics. Some are unapologetic in their denial. Others, often Democrats, are a special breed.

I live in the shale fields of Pennsylvania where the 2016 presidential election is playing out again. In our race for governor, we have the incumbent Tom Wolf running against Scott Wagner, who, ever so timidly, embraces President Trump.

Wagner has shown himself to be a climate denier; he acknowledges that the climate does seem to be warming, but he cites the Earth getting closer to the sun. He also has an interesting theory about the human contribution to planetary warming: "We have more people. You know, humans have warm bodies. So is heat coming off?"

He lacks a basic understanding of science and is not curious enough to supplement his infantile conjecture with some research. He's dangerous because he is comfortable in his ignorance.

Governor Tom Wolf fancies himself a climate champion. He has stated that "climate science is settled." He excoriated President Trump's rollbacks on environmental protections and suggested that the President was setting up "a false choice between the environment and jobs." He sounds reasonable until you dig deeper. You don't have to go far, because in the very same statement cited above, he goes on to say, "We can reduce Pennsylvania's carbon emissions — while creating new, good-paying jobs — by promoting a cleaner energy mix including wind, nuclear, solar, energy efficiency, natural gas and clean coal." He's dangerous because political expediency trumps science (pardon the pun).

I don't have the inclination to go into the "wind, nuclear, solar, energy efficiency" part of his equation. Although each might have a positive impact on climate, the devil is in the details. I don't even want to talk about "clean coal," which, when we're talking

about the climate, is analogous to the tooth fairy, Santa Claus, the Easter bunny, and unicorns.

I want to explore Wolf's embrace of unnatural gas. Early in his term (2015), Pennsylvanians Against Fracking arranged for Governor Wolf to meet with two eminent scientists, Dr. Yuri Gorbi and Dr. Bob Howarth. Howarth did groundbreaking research on methane migration and has an international reputation for his work on climate.

According to Howarth, Wolf asked what it would take to safely develop gas. Howarth says he told Wolf, "So far, shale gas has not been developed in an acceptably safe manner anywhere . . . In the end, shale gas makes no sense as a bridge fuel, since even with aggressive reduction of methane emissions, its greenhouse gas footprint will likely remain too large."

Wolf's scathing remarks about Trump came almost a year after his meeting with Gorbi and Howarth. During his watch, Wolf's DEP (Don't Expect Protection) has issued an unnatural gas well permit every hour and fifteen minutes. He has been a major cheerleader for the ethane cracker plant in Beaver County (ethane is a byproduct of unnatural gas and a precursor to plastic manufacture). He has allowed the Mariner East II (which will transport unnatural gas liquids for export) to progress without adequate permitting, with pending court cases, and with many, many violations, spills, and contaminations. He has ignored a damning investigation by Public Herald on DEP's criminal negligence. The case against fracking infrastructure is only stronger than it was immediately after his meeting with Gorbi and Howarth.

And yet, he persists!

Governor Wolf knows the science, acknowledges that it's settled, but governs like the science is unsettled and really doesn't matter.

Recently, Scott Wagner had a town hall. A young woman, 18-year-old Rose, asked Wagner about his silly climate position and the \$200,000 he has received from fossil fuel interests. Wagner sneered, "Rose, you know what? I appreciate you being here. And you're 18 years old. And, you know, you're a little young and naive." He followed that dismissal up by asking the audience, "Are we here to elect a Governor or are we here to elect a scientist?"

The Wolf campaign seized on that "gaff" and roasted Wagner for disrespecting voters. It was an amazing display of disrespect of both Rose and residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

But what should we make of the other candidate, Governor Wolf, who acknowledges the science but ignores it. Isn't that also disrespectful? Isn't it disrespectful of eminent scientists with international reputations? Isn't it too disrespectful of the voters of Pennsylvania? Isn't it calling the voters of Pennsylvania "naive" for thinking that their Governor would act like science matters because he's acknowledged that it's settled?

Apparently not. Immediately, the Wolf campaign came out with an advertisement that said, "Help make sure Pennsylvania re-elects Tom Wolf, a governor who believes in science and will protect the environment."

Climate deniers come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Some come out and say they don't believe the science and revel in their ignorance and some, like Governor Wolf, are wolves in Climate Champion clothing. The unfortunate thing is, you probably have just such an animal in your state.

There's room for your story here

...and we can always add more pages!

Tell us about what's happening in your neck of the woods! We welcome contributions from activists throughout the eastern heartland hardwood forest region. Send us a short campaign update, or a long essay, recipes or poetry, artwork, photos, whatever tells your Story to the Heartwood community! We publish twice a year, and distribute to 18 states in the east (and scattered locations nationwide).

Look for information about deadlines and other details on our web site

<https://heartwood.org/heartbeat/>



Honoring the life and legacy of Emma Lucy Braun, Professor of Botany, Pioneer of Science, President of the Ecological Society of America, Lady of the Mother Forest and Shieldmaiden to the Order of the Mixed Mesophytic. April 19, 1889 - March 5, 1971



PITTSBURGH — Pitt Students drop a banner from the Smithfield Street Bridge spanning the Monongahela River, June 1, 2018. Photos by Mark Dixon, Blue.Lens.com



TOGETHER

Wearily we trudge

Against a rising tide

Our burden already too heavy

Each step a struggle

Discord, an enemy

Waits, hiding, ready to strike

To weaken us at every turn

To slow our progress

All of our strengths

And weaknesses

Must be woven together

An unbreakable chain mail

Only then, can our burden

Not crush us

Together

corina lang



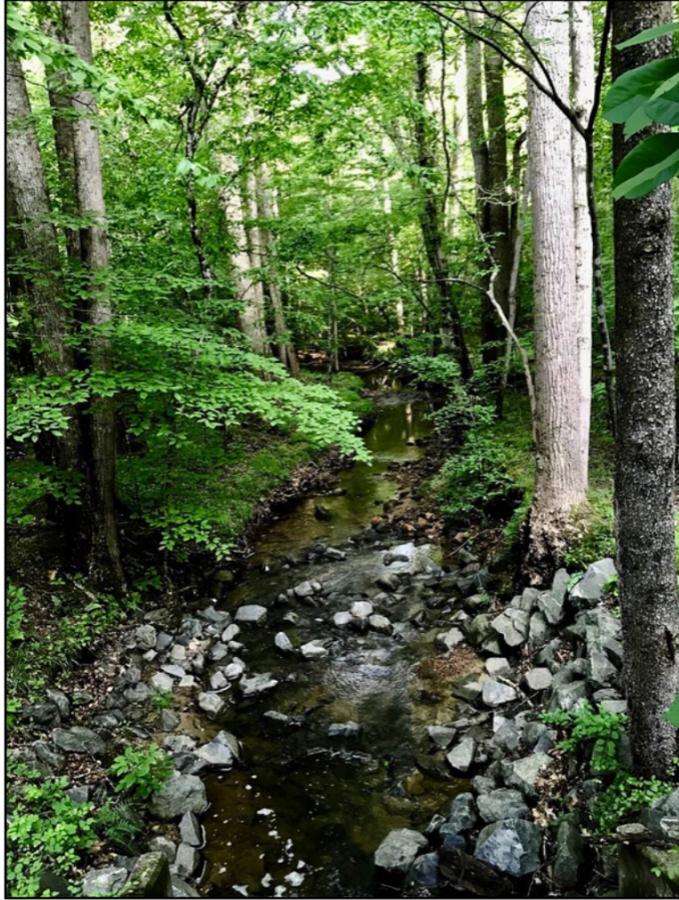
<https://www.nobayoubridge.global/>

Building a Movement for Forests, Climate, and Justice



by Danna Smith, Dogwood Alliance

On a hot and humid weekend of June, Dogwood Alliance called together an inspiring summit of 30 independent, diverse, and committed leaders from all over the country for a groundbreaking purpose: to elevate the role of forest protection in the national movement for climate action and justice, and collaborate on a national platform to Stand4Forests. In just a day and a half, the group accomplished so much, and our hearts were full at the end of the weekend.



From the majestic redwoods of the West to the mystic cypresses of the South, forests are our lifeline. Whether they're providing us with clean air and water, protecting us from storms, or giving us a place to retreat and restore, forests make for healthy and resilient communities.

And there's more: Forests aren't just the place where all the unique critters, towering trees, plants, and creatures smaller than the eye can see are thriving. In the magic of the forest, we find solutions to climate change, the greatest threat we face. Forests remove large quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in trees and soils.

If we're to avoid a climate disaster, we need to dramatically scale up forest protection. With the highest rates of logging in the world and a system that puts profit over people and land, the US is doing exactly the opposite – and putting our climate, communities, and forests in grave danger.

“The US is the world's leading wood products producer and the leading source of greenhouse gases from logging,” noted John Talberth, President and Senior Economist at the Center for Sustainable Economy, who joined us at the Virginia meeting from Oregon. He added,

“Big Timber's toxic plantations are serious public health and safety threats as climate change unfolds, because they are more susceptible to fires, floods, insects, disease, and water shortages than natural forests.”

In the beginning of the year, Dogwood Alliance reached out to this group of leaders to bring them in on the ground floor of catalyzing a national movement on forests, climate, and justice.

This inspiring group represented people from all over the country, who offered their diverse perspectives, background, spirit, and wisdom to the conversation. Frontline communities and grassroots organizations, big and small non-profits, universities and institutes — we were all over the map.

Folks traveled from near and far to be a part of the summit. We gathered to work and break bread together in a large mess hall. Over two days, we strengthened relationships while learning from one another and putting pen to paper on our work to come.

While we may differ in our regions, priorities, and tactics, we are united by a common goal. We seek a world where standing forests are valued more than logged. These organizations, scientists, and movement leaders are working together to grow a national movement that lifts up forest protection as a solution for the crises our earth, communities, and economy face.

Dr. Dominick DellaSala, President and Chief Scientist of the Geos Institute, who traveled from the West coast to join our group of forest protectors, said, “The time is now for infusing the forest movement with biodiversity, climate security, and social justice in order to keep carbon in the forests instead of logging and releasing it into the atmosphere.”

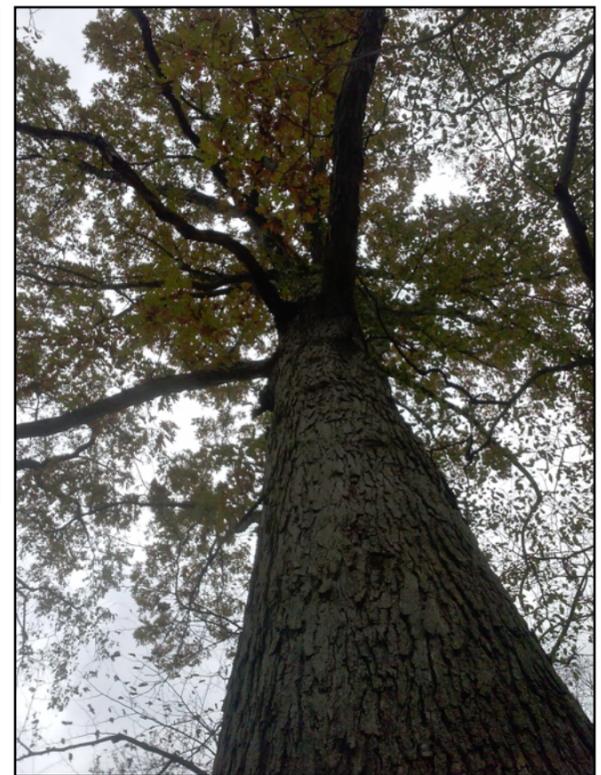
As we chatted over meals prepared by Seeds of Peace, a collective dedicated to feeding, training, and in all ways supporting the practitioners of radical political change, we got the sense that big change was happening. Ten years from now many of us will look back at this weekend as a shining moment in the effort to protect forests, climate, and communities.

But we don't call it moment work; we call it movement work. This is a movement, and it's the work that comes next that will drive the forces of change to keep more forests standing and to tackle the climate crisis and the injustices we are facing.

On the work ahead, B. J. McManama, a West Virginia-based Campaign Organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network, shared, “We came away from this gathering of grassroots leaders encouraged and motivated to find the unique solutions that are based on our location and our people's needs, and that will ensure a peaceful, prosperous, and equity-based future for our next Seven Generations.”

M. C. Egbert, the Policy Assistant and Social Media Coordinator with the John Muir Project, said, “I was so inspired by everyone at the meeting, and it inspired me to bring it back to my own organization and start building our own grassroots team!”

Now, we're calling on more organizations, elected officials, scientists, faith leaders, and other movement leaders to endorse the Stand4Forests platform. This platform's goal is to elevate the call to protect US forests and continue to expand a national movement centered around forests, climate, and justice. By endorsing the platform, signers are uniting in solidarity with countless others who also view healthy forests in the US as an imperative investment in our collective future.



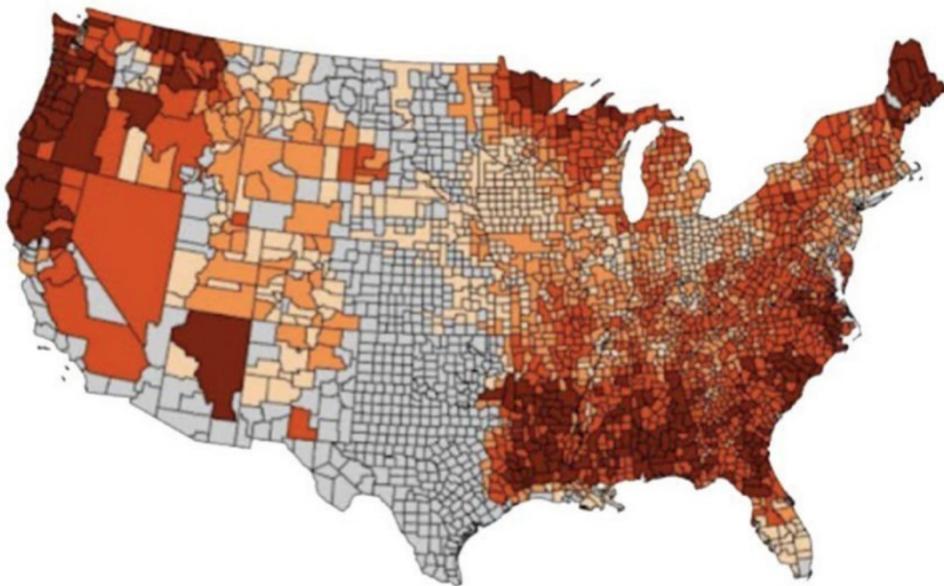
Sign your organization on to the Stand4Forests national platform!

Read it in full and add your name online at:

<https://stand4forests.org/>

EMISSIONS FROM US FORESTS

Carbon Loss (2006-2010) Tg C yr⁻¹



Logging

