
**OUTLINE OF RAHALL INITIATIVES
TOURISM AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENT**

I. Rahall legislation to authorize and direct the National Park Service to conduct a survey of sites in southern West Virginia with significant and outstanding cultural and historic values.

A. The results of this study will be submitted to the Congress within one-year.

B. The study, in conjunction with the work being conducted by Coalways, will serve as the springboard for future initiatives.

1. Rahall proposal to designate a Coal Heritage Trail linking various sites together.

2. Rahall proposal to develop the "Colonial Williamsburg" of company coal towns.

C. As part of the "Coal Heritage" scheme, localities should be investigating the feasibility of listing sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

1. Matewan is currently engaged in such an effort having already established a local historic landmark commission. Assistance is being given by the W.Va. Department of Culture and History.

2. Bramwell, for example, has already been listed.

II. Natural, scenic and recreational resources are also the subject of Rahall initiatives. Rahall was instrumental in the establishment of the New River Gorge National River as a unit of the National Park System and is currently working on the Gauley River National Recreation Area and Meadow and Bluestone Wild and Scenic Rivers.

A. Further developments within the region's State parks and forests as well as Army Corps of Engineers recreational lakes (such as lodges) should compliment the development of federal park units and coal heritage sites.

B. Other rivers and areas within southern West Virginia should be examined for feasibility of adding to the national wild and scenic rivers system or as units of the National Park System. Designations must not only qualify, but have local support.

III. Funding for assistance, feasibility studies and development can be pursued from the National Park Service, Department of Culture and History and the Governor's Office of Economic and Community Development.

A. National Park Service has technical assistance programs for state and local governments.

B. Department of Culture and History receives federal historic preservation funds and also makes recommendations to the National Park Service on sites for listing with the National Register.

C. Governor's Office on Economic and Community Development receives federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants for state park and recreation related projects.

For further information contact U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall at
343 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.
(202) 225-3452
