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#### CORPS CLOSURE PLANS DEFY RAHALL-PASSED LAW

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to fully or partially close several West Virginia recreation areas is in apparent violation of federal law, according to U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), the author of the legislation.

"My legislation, passed last year, authorizes the Corps to enhance recreational opportunities at Corps-run projects," Rahall said. "Their plan to shut some of these down is a clear violation of federal law. The intent of this law is to build up recreational areas, not shut them down."

The Corps has announced a plan to fully or partially close segments of Beech Fork Lake, Bluestone Lake, East Lynn Lake, R.D. Bailey Lake, Summersville Lake, and Sutton Lake. At some of these sites, state and local governments would be given the opportunity to assume management. "However, in these tight fiscal times, I think it would be very difficult for the state or any local governments to assume this costly management burden," Rahall noted.

"When I introduced this legislation during the 100th Congress, I did so to spur growth and expansion in an area which I feel holds great potential in a diversified economy," Rahall said. "The natural beauty and grandeur of our state could be the sleeper factor in our economic recovery, yet the Corps fails to recognize this, even after I spelled it out to them in a federal law."

"The type of recreation that I believe could be enhanced at many of these federal dams ranges from river access points for fisherman to the construction of camping and lodging facilities to better boating opportunities," Rahall said. "The Corps' plan would greatly damage this initiative, an initiative which I undertook as part of my overall economic diversification plan for southern West Virginia. Recreation and tourism is a largely untapped resource and I intend to fully realize the vast potential of the Mountain State."

The Corps plan was part of President Reagan's budget recommendation sent to Congress yesterday. "One must keep in mind that it is the Congress that will produce this nation's budget and you can be sure that I will see to it that Congress has the final say on this matter," Rahall said.

**DRAFT**

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