



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 11, 1990

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RAHALL SEEKS NATIONAL PARK FUNDS FOR WEST VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Funding for West Virginia's National Park units are at the top of the list of natural resource priorities being advanced by U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) for the fiscal year 1991 Interior Appropriation bill.

In testimony before a House Appropriations Committee panel yesterday, Rahall requested \$6,450,000 for the New River Gorge National River and the Gauley River National Recreation Area. The amount is necessary for land acquisition projects, park planning and management activities. Of special concern to Rahall is obtaining the necessary funding for the proposed Glade Creek Visitor Facility to be constructed on I-64 near the Glade Creek Bridge in Raleigh County. The project was authorized by the West Virginia Rivers Bill sponsored by Rahall during the last Congress.

"West Virginia is blessed with areas that represent significant and outstanding historic, cultural, wildlife, scenic and recreational values. These developing park units stand as a testament not only to our commitment to preserving the outstanding natural resource heritage of southern West Virginia, but to the benefits that can accrue to our regional economy through conservation measures," Rahall said.

Rahall also requested \$100,000 for the implementation of the Action Plan developed under the Matewan - National Park Service Revitalization Strategy Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). "Matewan is an essential cog in my Southern West Virginia Coal Heritage Initiative and this Action Plan will offer us the ability to pursue a number of economic development initiatives with assistance from the National Park Service," Rahall said.

In the area of historic preservation, Rahall asked for continued support for the expansion of the Bramwell Historic District in Mercer County. In addition, Rahall asked for \$2.5 million for the construction of a new federal fish hatchery in McDowell County, West Virginia, pursuant to authorizing legislation being considered by the House.

The Appropriations Committee is preparing to formulate the fiscal year 1991 Interior Appropriation bill for the fiscal year which begins October 1, 1990.

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