



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****SEPTEMBER 26, 1990****CONTACT: STEVE SPINA****PHONE: (202) 225-3452****RAHALL WATER PROJECTS CLEAR THE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The House of Representatives today passed the "Water Resources Development Act", a bill which authorizes the implementation of four proposals sponsored by U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV).

Included in the bill is funding for Krouts Creek, the Hatfield Bottom Project, more stringent requirements for removal of trash at Bluestone Lake, and a provision that protects recreational use at Army Corps lakes in southern West Virginia.

According to Rahall, The Water Resources Development Act includes an authorization for flood control in Krouts Creek, which flows in the vicinity of Huntington, West Virginia.

"This is a project of dire importance in my district," said Rahall. "Krouts Creek flows through a densely developed residential area of west Huntington where about 200 families live in that 100-year floodplain. In addition, there are five businesses and three public buildings, not to mention churches and schools located within the creeks flood path. The authorization includes deepening and widening of the channel and culvert replacement there."

Earlier this year, Rahall obtained \$75,000 for Krouts Creek. The money will be used by the Corps of Engineers to negotiate a cost-share agreement with the city of Huntington, and to complete its report on Krouts Creek.

Also included in the bill is a floodproofing provision for Hatfield Bottom. Since the collapse of the Big Bend Cutoff project, Hatfield Bottom had been excluded from floodproofing. The "Water Resources Development Act" includes Hatfield Bottom into the Matewan project so that the entire town of Matewan can be floodproofed.

Another Rahall provision of the bill would require the Secretary of the Army to take such measures as are technologically feasible to minimize the release of drift and debris into waters downstream from the Bluestone Lake project. Moreover, the minimization of drift and debris release would be included as an authorized project purpose of the Bluestone Lake project.

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"We did not go to the trouble and expense of establishing the New River Gorge National River only to have park visitors and river users assaulted by large amounts of trash floating down the river, accumulating on the river banks and hanging from tree limbs," said Rahall.

The final Rahall sponsored provision included in the bill relates to certain Corps projects in southern West Virginia. This provision would maintain the status quo at the seven southern West Virginia projects by prohibiting the implementation of any plan that would emphasize timber cutting over recreation.

Recently, the Corps of Engineers has sought to emphasize timber harvesting over recreation at the seven southern West Virginia projects. The project lands, however, are under lease to the State of West Virginia and are managed as public hunting and fishing areas. Rahall believes the recreational uses of the land should be preserved.

The seven projects mentioned include: Summersville, R.D. Bailey, Beech Fork, Bluestone, East Lynn, Sutton, and Stonewall Jackson.