

ASPI 1994 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 1995 PLANS

ASPI accountability is more than dollars; it involves what we promised, what we achieved and what we plan to do next year. Though we are not perfect, we did double the work anticipated in the Forest Project and increased the Resource Assessment Service (RAS) to a lesser degree. Also note that last year's Waste Project is treated under Garden/Farm Project (garden waste) and Safe & Affordable Housing (domestic waste).

1. Demonstration Center: During the year, improvements at our Center included the following -- construction of three compost toilets on portions of the nature trail and at the dome building, artificial wetlands for the solar house and cordwood building, concrete floor for the pavilion, waste recycling center on the grounds, staining and water proofing a number of buildings and decking, improvement and reopening of the nature trail, after obtaining liability coverage, reorganizing the telecommunications room, and additional library annex shelving.

Because it is the "Year of Wildlife" we focused on a number of promised activities -- installed bird feeders, identified and labeled a majority of the eighty-three species of trees found on or on property adjacent to our Center, identified about thirty wildflowers near nature walks, and developed materials the first draft of the ASPI nature guide. Funds for expanding the trail system were not forthcoming, but descriptive footage and film of the Rockcastle Valley were developed for distribution by the Area Development District and ASPI. An overall Rockcastle Valley environmental development plan has begun to emerge.

In 1995 the "Year of Water" will find waste water projects holding a key place, along with possible small impoundment ponds for irrigate and other water needs.

2. Forest Project: During the year, ASPI received a grant to coordinate its various forest projects at both the local and regional level. At the local level, we developed an eco-tour videotape; completed an environmental study of the damage by off-road vehicles at the Cromer Ridge/909 site and a second on lifecycle analysis of ORV use; completed, published and distributed a 61-page report of ORV materials compiled by Julie Blackburn and edited by Mary Davis; generated widespread publicity on logging and ORV use damage at or near the Wildcat Battleground, wrote a factsheet on the chip mills, and continued to work with the Cumberland Valley ADD to get the Black & White Site reclaimed and the Rockcastle declared a federally protected river.

On the regional level ASPI serves as the Kentucky coordinating unit of a six-state citizen monitoring project to determine the health of the Mixed Mesophytic Forest. It has established thirty sites through work by Paul Kalisz, Wade Davidson and Jason McGaughey. ASPI offers support facilities for the work of a twenty-member coalition -- Kentucky ForestWatch -- to develop a citizen's alternative plan for the Daniel Boone National Forest, as well as a green platform for Ky gubernatorial candidates.

During 1995 ASPI aims to expand local issues already mentioned through Jerry Waddle and intern Dan Bond, and help develop further videotapes of the threats to the forest in the Rockcastle Valley. Mary Davis is helping publicize the eco-tours and complete the ORV report. ASPI plans to continue the Forestwatch coalition work and conduct a citizens' conference on public/private forestland policy, at Eastern Kentucky University (Richmond, KY) on March 31 - April 1, 1995.

3. Garden/Farm/Waste Project: During the first part of 1994 Stacey Hubbs, our ASPI intern, worked at the Kentucky Organic Growers (KOG) office in Lexington. ASPI helped with taping and publication of five of six training workshops for farmers, composted horse manure, grew kohlrabi for the cooperative market, began an herbal research garden (it takes a bundle of time). In keeping with our ASPI forestry expertise we deferred to others the tobacco question but publicized economist Mike Greene's excellent study on the tobacco future.

In 1995 we plan to continue our herb work with those types that grow best in the valley, extend our work to include growing mushrooms, label all garden and herbal areas, install an irrigation system, and expand our no-till gardening areas. Work will begin with Paul Kalisz to research the feasibility of using dry composted materials for growing produce for human consumption.