

## **Abandoned Corridor Assessment Completed Winter 1995 -- WVRTC Newsletter**

Over one hundred sixty abandoned rail corridors statewide were identified for the WV Abandoned Rail Corridor Assessment. The project consultant team (WVRTC, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Land Ethics, and West Virginia University), under a contract with the state, identified abandoned railroad rights-of-way for potential conversion to public uses. The final report and an executive summary were published last October.

Phase I of the study focused on developing a comprehensive inventory of all rail corridor abandonments recorded between 1962 and 1993.

Phase II assessed the inventoried corridors, completed an in-depth analysis of their merits for development as recreation corridors or other public uses, and developed a prioritized list of 29 corridors which were selected for in-depth analysis. Original ownership information for the selected corridors, and legal analysis of WV Railroad Law as it relates to abandoned corridors is included in the report.

Phase III assessed public support for converting the selected 29 corridors to public uses. Summaries of public comments, received from public meetings conducted throughout the state, are provided in the final report.

The report also includes a Map Inventory showing 130 corridor locations, a Statewide Index Map, and 31 Quadrangle maps.

To obtain a copy of the report, write to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 1400 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, or call them at 202/797-5400. The report costs \$75.00 for RTC members and \$100.00 for non-members.

An Executive Summary of the 29 priority corridors is available for \$25.00 for RTC members, or \$29.00 for non-members. Limited copies are still available by contacting Greg Cook, WV Division of Tourism, at 304/558-2200.