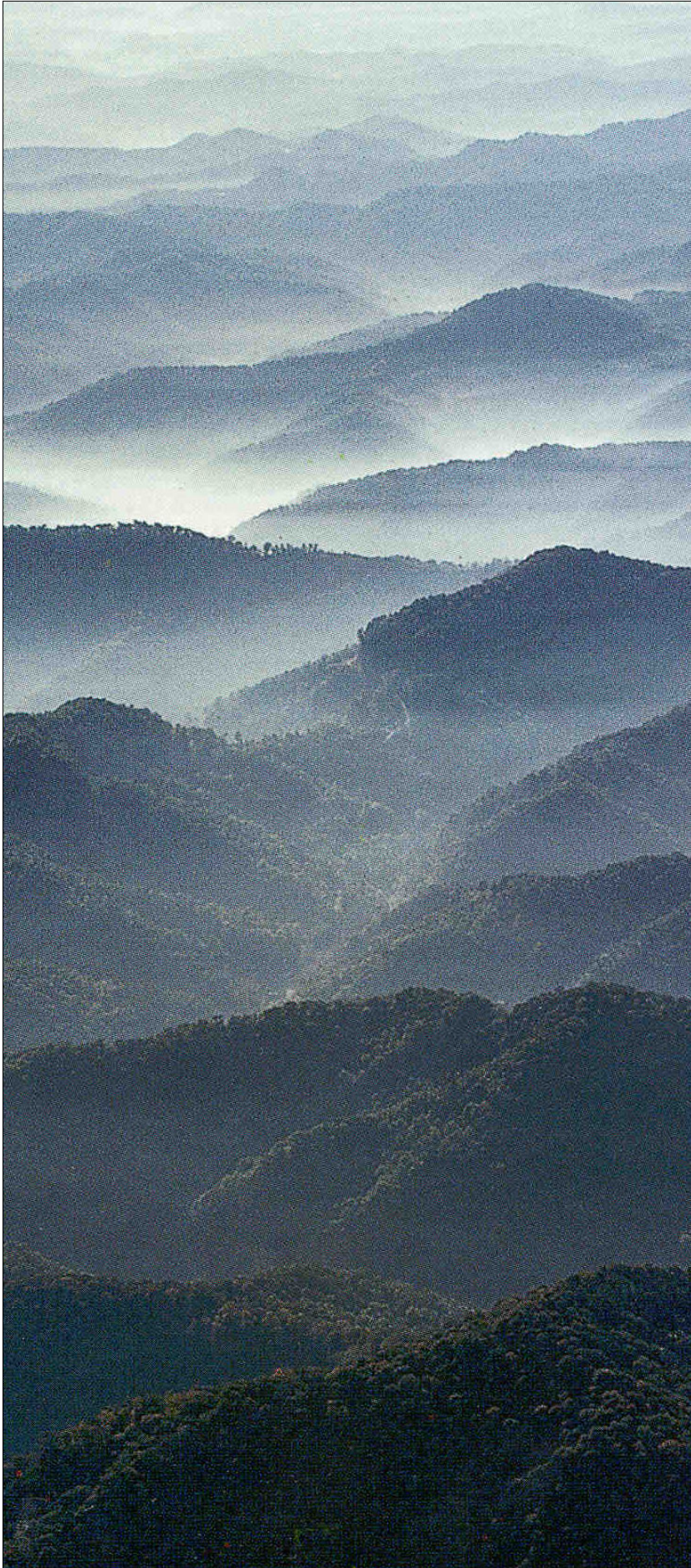


**CHAPTER V.
Irreversible and
Irretrievable
Commitment of
Resources**



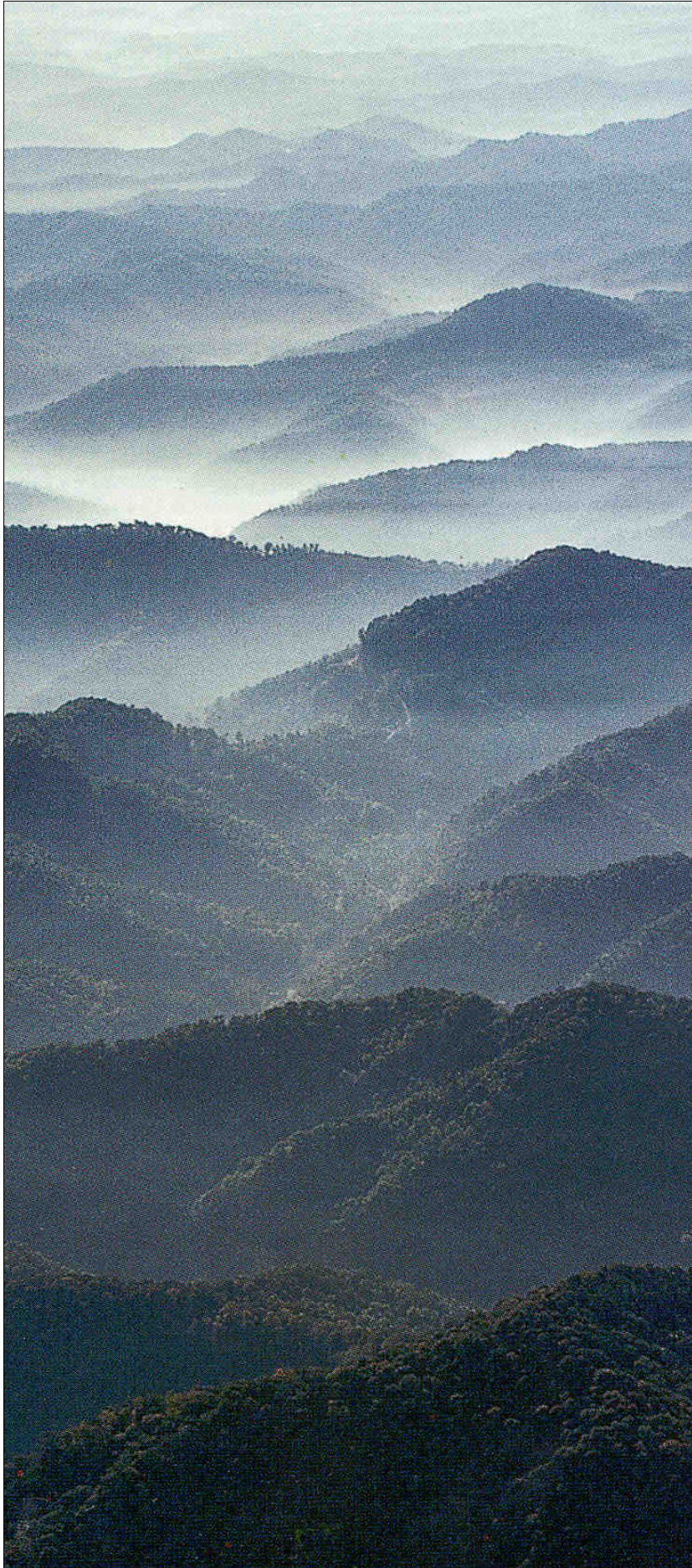
Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

5.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Implementation of the NCHA Strategic Management Plan would require the commitment of capital, energy, material and labor to preserve historic resources, develop programs, and provide financial and technical assistance to the communities/local agencies for tourism-related projects and public outreach to schools. Use of these resources would not have a significant adverse effect upon their continued availability.

Alternative D, the No-Action alternative, would result in an adverse irretrievable commitment of resources since the historic structures in the area are less likely to be preserved under this alternative. Alternative C, the Preferred Alternative, would require the largest commitment of capital, energy, labor and material due to its broader scope. It would also provide the most protection against an irretrievable loss of coal industry-related projects by providing the centralized NCHA organization with a leadership role in the preservation and protection of coal-related resources in the 11-county area, thus focusing preservation efforts where they are needed in a systematic way.

The other two action alternatives, Alternatives A and B, would also require a commitment of capital, energy, labor and material, but to a lesser degree. Both alternatives would also provide some protection against an irretrievable loss of coal industry-related projects, with Alternative A providing more protection than Alternative B. Alternative B would provide less protection since the initiative for preservation would rest with individual communities rather than with a centralized organization.



CHAPTER VI.
**Relationship Between
the Local Short-Term
Use of the Environment
and the Maintenance
and Enhancement of
Long-Term Productivity**

Relationship Between the Local Short-Term Use of the Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

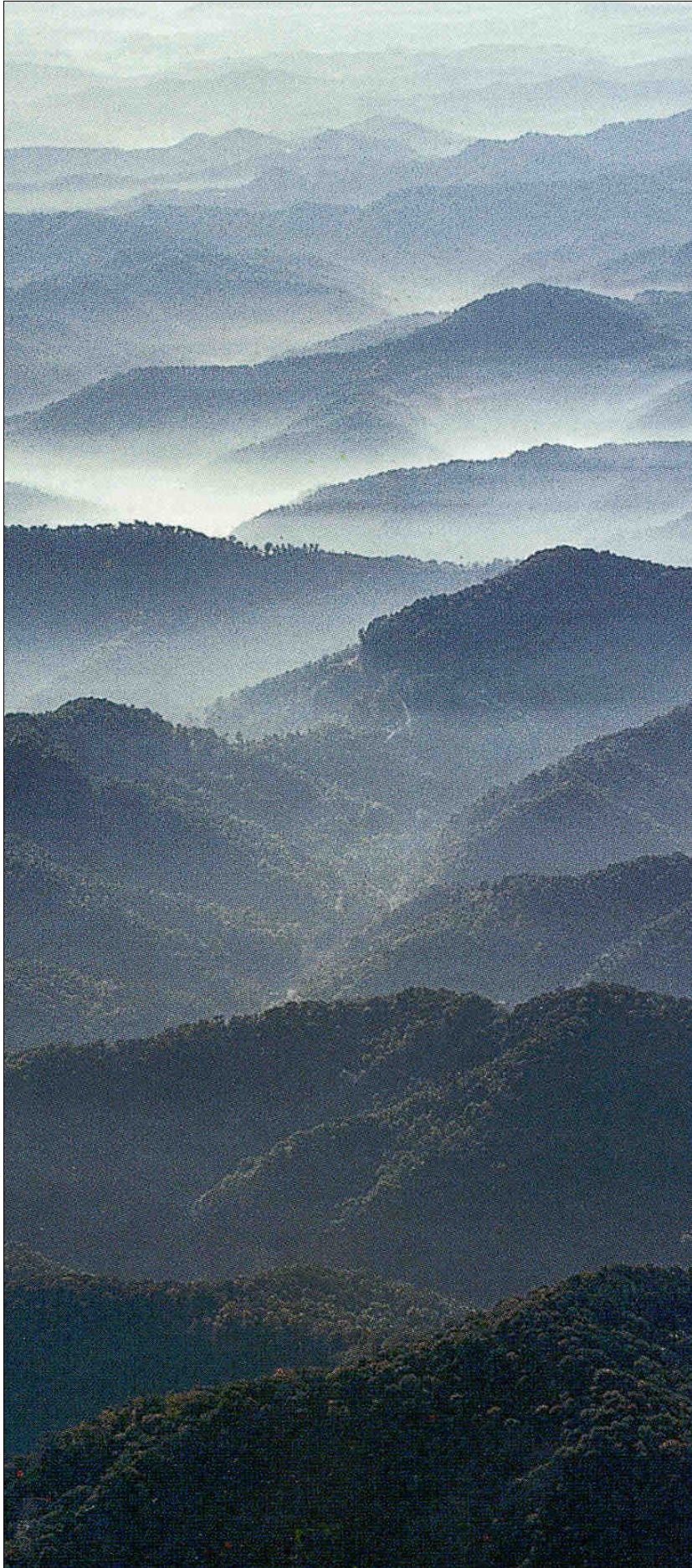
6.0 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LOCAL SHORT-TERM USE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Public and private resources used for preservation and tourism-related projects would directly benefit some local individuals and businesses in the short-term. In the long-term, investments in preservation and tourism would contribute to the overall enhancement of cultural resources and regional economic activity.

Public and private resources invested in research and education about the region's coal heritage is likely to produce few immediate positive social impacts. Positive social impacts may be seen as local communities partner to create a regional identity and resource for state tourism; other positive social impacts may arise as a result of communities building social capital and improving economic capital within the region. In turn, the investment in these programs would have a long-term positive impact on preservation of the area's cultural identity and the development of support for the preservation of coal heritage resources.

In the short-term, visitation is likely to have little or no adverse impact on resources within the NCHA. In the long-term, the cumulative effect of increased visitation could result in some wear and tear on local roads and the historic resources being visited.

Any construction activities could result in short-term disturbance of natural resources within the construction area. These activities could be mitigated through the use of Best Management Practices.



CHAPTER VII.
Energy Requirements
and Conservation
Potential

Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential

7.0 ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND CONSERVATION POTENTIAL

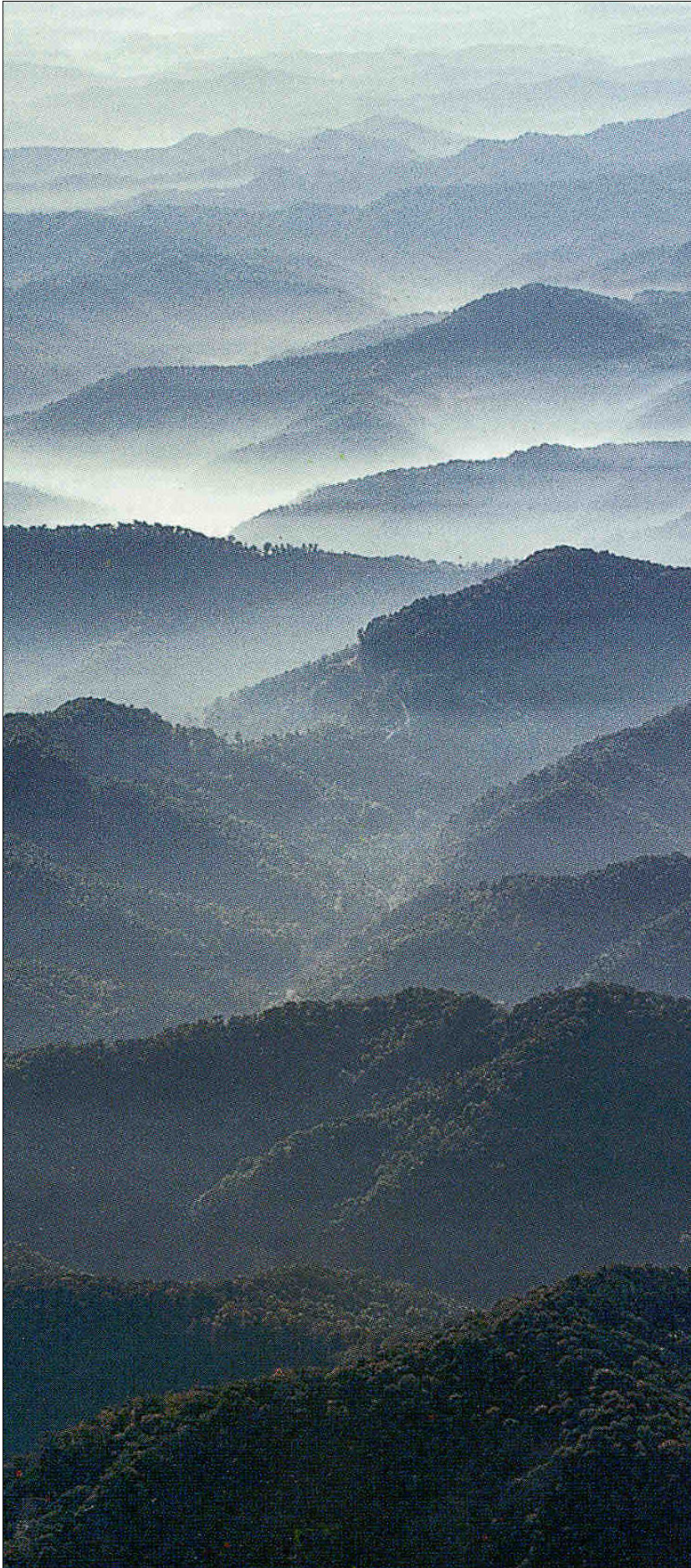
The following activities could have an impact on energy consumption:

- Preservation and restoration measures;
- Construction and maintenance of a museum (Alternatives B and C);
- Development and/or expansion of private sector services, such as restaurants and lodging; and
- Increased traffic, and possibly congestion, as a result of growth in tourism. However, improved access would create a potential for decreased energy consumption.

Short-term energy consumption is likely to be highest for Alternative C since it has the potential for more preservation and restoration activities and increased visitation, and since it involves the construction of a museum.

No secondary or cumulative energy impacts are foreseeable.

CHAPTER VIII.
Secondary and
Cumulative Impacts



Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

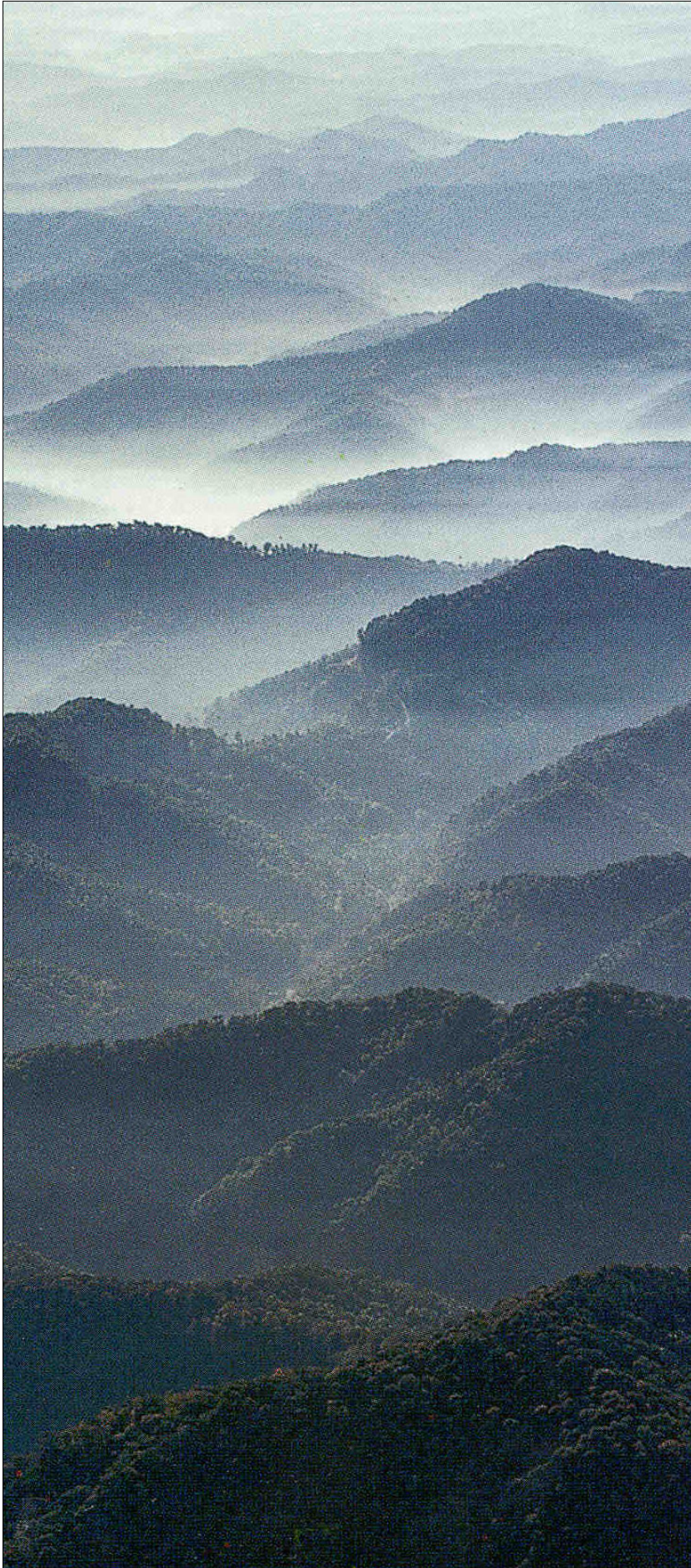
8.0 SECONDARY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Preservation efforts by NCHA management, state and federal agencies, local organizations, communities and individuals will have a long-term cumulative positive impact on protecting the cultural resources of the NCHA for future generations. Increased preservation and interpretation efforts would increase awareness and understanding of the importance of the history of the NCHA, which in turn would result in increased community pride and increased support for the protection of cultural resources. Increased partnership efforts could result in increased levels of funding and investment in the area.

Increased promotion of the NCHA through the development of the destination centers, experience zones and/or the proposed visitor center/museum in Beckley would increase visitation to the area, which in turn would result in increased business and employment opportunities, increased economic growth and increased awareness of what the area has to offer. As more visitors enter the area, recreational resources within the NCHA, such as state and national parks, are also likely to experience increased visitation. An influx of visitors to the area would result in increased traffic, which could lead to congestion on some of the secondary roads that serve as access to some of the destinations within the NCHA. Increased traffic could also result in increased vehicle emissions and increased traffic noise.

Increased visitation would increase the demand for additional services such as restaurants, hotels, gas stations and retail outlets. Growth in the service industry would likely increase the demand for utilities, such as water and sewer, which increases costs for local governments. Increased property taxes could make it more difficult for current property owners or renters to remain in the area.

Increased growth in the NCHA could have a negative impact on cultural resources if it displaces historic structures or destroys the historic integrity and context of the area.

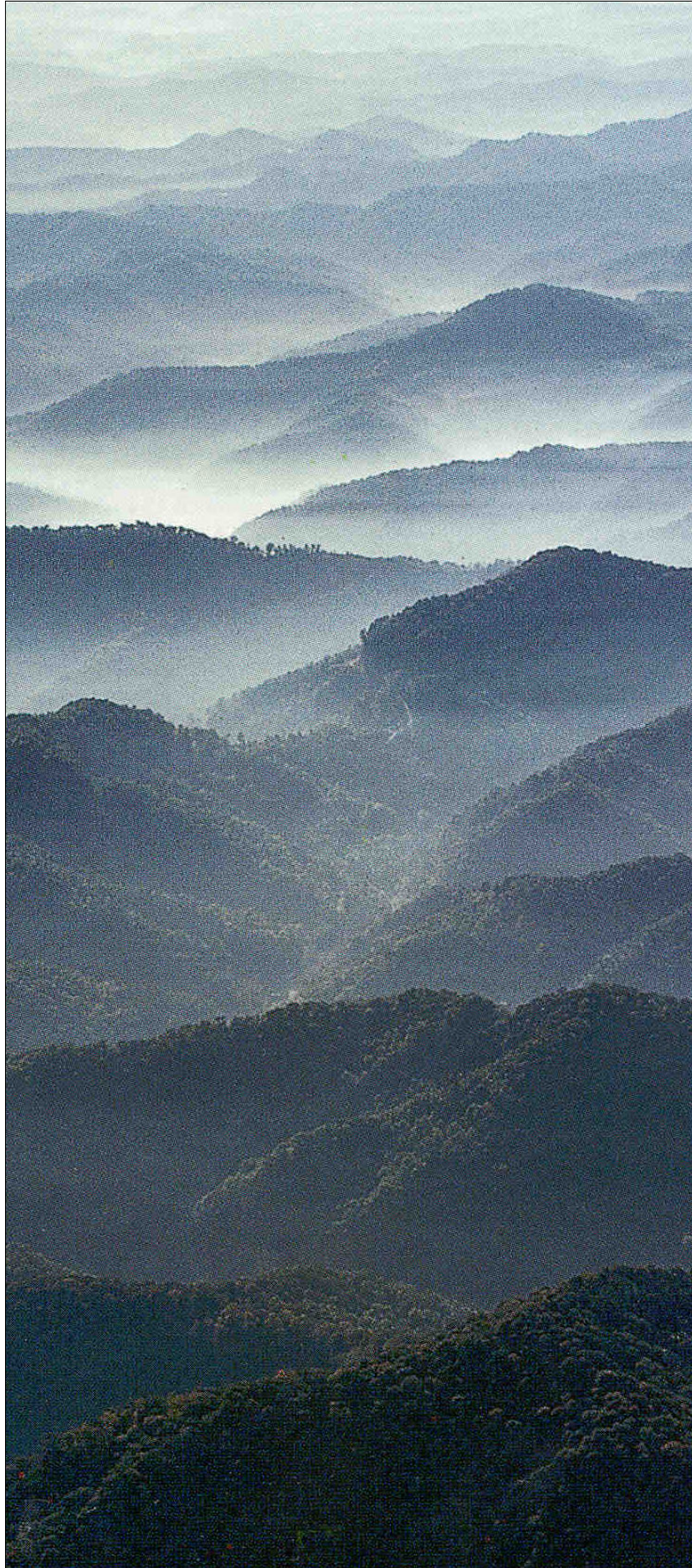


CHAPTER IX.
Unavoidable Adverse
Impacts

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

9.0 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Unavoidable adverse impacts are those adverse impacts for which there are no reasonably practicable mitigation measures. No significant unavoidable adverse impacts have been identified at this time. Subsequent environmental evaluation will detail the environmental impacts of site-specific improvements implementing the selected Plan as they become ripe for decision-making. This will include detailed evaluation of potential unavoidable adverse effects.



CHAPTER X.
Consultation and
Coordination

Consultation and Coordination

10.0 HISTORY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Chronology of the Planning Process, Consultation, Public Scoping and Other Public Involvement

September 1999 – Selection by NCHA of consultant team led by Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) to prepare the Management Plan.

February and March 2000 – Public outreach meetings held in each of the 11 counties of the NCHA to disseminate information about the planning process to the residents and facilitate data collection.

March and April 2000 – Detailed inventory and assessment of sites, structures and artifacts is completed for the NCHA, including completion of analysis mapping illustrating cultural history, visitor destinations, visitor services and infrastructure.

May and June 2000 – NCHA mission statement, goals and objectives developed.

June 2000 – Key stakeholders identified by consultant team for possible interviews.

July and August 2000 – Key stakeholder interviews conducted.

August 2000 – Alternatives developed.

September 2000 – Briefing book prepared outlining the major elements of the Management Plan with a brief overview of the Preferred Alternative and presented to the NCHA Steering Committee for review.

December 2000 and January 2001 – Draft Management Plan published and distributed to the NCHA Steering Committee. Draft Plan presented to the Planning Sub-Committee for review and comment. Draft Plan presented to the entire NCHA Steering Committee and discussed. Comments requested from the Steering Committee, to be submitted to NCHA Executive Director, Jeff Harpold, for compilation.

March 2001 – NCHA Steering Committee comments provided to consultant team for review and incorporation into the Draft Management Plan.

July 2001 – Notice of Intent to prepare EIS published in the *Federal Register*.

August 2001 – Agency scoping meeting held in Charleston, West Virginia, at which agency representatives reviewed Management Plan alternatives and provided feedback concerning issues and environmental impacts.

September 2001 – Three public scoping meetings held in communities in southern West Virginia to solicit comments about Management Plan alternatives.

- September 11, 2001 – Williamson, West Virginia
- September 12, 2001 – Beckley, West Virginia (Tamarack)
- September 13, 2001 – Huntington, West Virginia

Consultation and Coordination

February 2002 – Draft Environmental Impact Statement published by the NPS for public and agency review.

10.1 LIST OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED

Federal Agencies

U.S. Department of the Interior

- National Park Service - New River Gorge National River
- United States Fish and Wildlife Services, Northeast Region

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Farm Service Agency
- Rural Development
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, West Virginia Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

United States Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Federal Railroad Administration, Region II

West Virginia State Agencies

Governor's Office

Legislature

Division of Commerce and Tourism

Division of Culture and History

State Historic Preservation Office

Development Office

Office of Miner's Health, Safety and Training

Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation

Division of Highways

Humanities Council

Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section

Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Resources Section

Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Section

- Babcock State Park
- Bluestone State Park
- Camp Creek State Forest
- Hawks Nest State Park
- Pinnacle Rock State Park
- Pipestream Resort State Park
- Twin Falls State Resort Park

Department of Agriculture

Small Business Development Center

Planning and Development Councils

- Regions I, II, III, and IV

Consultation and Coordination

Local Government Agencies

Boone County

- Boone County Community Development
- Boone County Development Authority
- Boone County Commission

Cabell County

- Huntington Area Development Council
- Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Cabell County-Huntington Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Cabell County Commission

Fayette County

- City of Ansted
- City of Mt. Hope
- City of Oak Hill
- Fayetteville Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Fayette County Chamber of Commerce
- Fayette County Planning and Zoning
- Fayette County Commission

Logan County

- Logan County Chamber of Commerce
- Logan County Development Authority
- Logan County Development Corporation & PRIDE
- Logan County Commission

McDowell County

- City of Keystone
- City of Kimball
- City of Welch
- Welch Chamber of Commerce
- McDowell County Economic Development Authority
- McDowell County Commission

Mercer County

- City of Bluefield
- Main Street Bluefield
- Bluefield Chamber of Commerce
- City of Bramwell
- City of Princeton
- Princeton-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce
- Mercer County Development Authority
- Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Mercer County Commission

Mingo County

- Matewan Development Center
- Main Street Williamson
- Mingo County Development Authority
- Mingo County Economic Opportunity Commission
- Mingo County Commission

Consultation and Coordination

Raleigh County

- City of Beckley
- Beckley Main Street
- Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce
- Raleigh County Commission

Summers County

- Summers County Chamber of Commerce
- Summers County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Summers County Commission

Wayne County

- City of Wayne
- Wayne County Commission

Wyoming County

- City of Mullens
- Mullens Area Chamber of Commerce
- Town of Oceana
- Oceana Chamber of Commerce
- Town of Pineville
- Pineville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Wyoming County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Wyoming County Development Authority
- Wyoming County Commission

Other Organizations

Coalfields Expressway Authority

Coal Heritage Trail Association

Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association

New River Convention and Visitors Bureau

Southern West Virginia Convention and Visitors Bureau

New River Community Partners

Eastern Regional Coal Archives

Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine

Whipple Company Store

Nellis Church Archives

Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology

United Mine Workers of America

Corridor G Tourism Enhancement

Marshall University

Concord College

Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College

West Virginia University – Extension Office

Upper Kanawha Valley Economic Development Corporation

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia

Bluestone River Environmental Restoration

Dunlop Creek Watershed Association

Elkhorn Creek Watershed Association

Indian Creek Watershed Association

Loup Creek Watershed Association

People Who Care for Brush Creek

Consultation and Coordination

Piegon Creek Watershed Association
Trap Hill Watershed Association
Upper Knapps Creek Watershed Association
Upper Paint Creek Watershed Association

10.2 SUMMARY OF MAJOR ISSUES IDENTIFIED

The following issues were considered in developing alternative plans to manage the NCHA:

- Historic Preservation and Conservation
- Economic Development
- Tourism
- Interpretation
- Education and Outreach
- Project Implementation
- Communications and Marketing
- Visitor Experiences
- Access to Visitor Services
- Socioeconomic Characteristics
- Partnerships
- Organizational Structure
- Regional Development
- Performance Standards
- Economic Impacts

In addition, a number of more specific issues were identified by the NCHA Steering Committee and as a result of agency and public scoping meetings held in August and September 2001. These issues are discussed below:

Organizational Structure:

Members of the NCHA Steering Committee, the West Virginia U.S. Congressional delegation, and state legislative members continue to debate the future organization and management of the NCHA. All agree that changes are necessary for the NCHA to accomplish its mission. Two options have been identified for the organizational structure to be used in managing the NCHA: a NCHA Commission or Authority. A commission would reside as a division of the state government allowing the NCHA to build a foundation and establish independence before severing all financial and technical support from the state. An authority would have more autonomy from the state government, would be able to fundraise from public and private entities and issue bonds, and could lobby the legislature. However, the State of West Virginia has indicated that it would not allow another authority to be created since it would put a strain on the state budget as most ask for assistance in some form.

Agency Affiliation of the NCHA:

The NCHA Steering Committee is currently housed in two divisions of state government: Tourism, and Culture and History. Assuming the state creates a commission, there has been debate regarding the state agency within which the new organization would be located to administer the NCHA. Each of the existing divisions, as well the Development Office, are being considered.

Consultation and Coordination

Administration of the NCHA:

Currently, the NCHA is being administered from Charleston because it is a state-sponsored program under the Division of Tourism and the Division of Culture and History. Addressing the issue that the NPS may administer the initiative in the future, it was clarified that the NPS will not administer; that will always be kept as a local or regional function.

NCHA Steering Committee:

The NCHA Steering Committee is comprised of representatives of several disciplines, including: tourism, historic preservation, community development, transportation, academics, coal mining, local government, and state parks, among others. The Steering Committee has approximately 30 members and meets once every six to eight weeks, as necessary. The commission or authority, which would replace the steering committee, will most likely have members appointed by the governor. Sub-Committees of the Steering Committee include: Education and Outreach, Planning, Finance, and Grants.

Local Leadership:

The identification of leaders within local communities to help implement the Strategic Management Plan continues to be a concern for the NCHA Steering Committee as well as residents of the NCHA. Many communities lack the organizational structure for citizens to participate and become involved with the implementation of the Plan. As a result, the NCHA may need to work with local communities to train individuals for leadership positions and develop a stronger organizational structure within the communities.

Incorporation of Additional Projects and Programs into NCHA Agenda and Plan Flexibility:

It has been emphasized that it is important that the Management Plan be flexible enough to permit inclusion of additional projects or programs into the NCHA agenda. It should also be flexible enough to allow for the adjustment of implementation and phasing plans according to changing project and program timelines. The Steering Committee has expressed concern that projects scheduled for implementation in five years could be implemented more quickly as resources permit.

Implementation Phasing:

Based on individual project timelines, implementation phasing may change. The NCHA wants to remain responsive to the desires of the residents and visitors alike.

Decentralized Model of Interpretation:

It has been a strategy of the NCHA Steering Committee to encourage a decentralized model of development and preservation of resources relating to coal heritage in the 11 counties. A “decentralized model,” by definition, emphasizes disbursement of authority to the local level, a reorganization to give greater local autonomy.

Destination Centers:

Concerns were voiced regarding the number and location of Destination Centers, and the basis for their selection.

Consultation and Coordination

Destination Centers were chosen based on several factors. Historic sites and structures throughout the heritage area were evaluated for 1) broad visitor appeal, 2) existing local organization or community leadership, and 3) capacity for visitor services. The consultant team performed this evaluation with input from the NCHA Steering Committee, which is comprised of members with knowledge and expertise regarding coal mining, history and historic preservation, tourism, business and the region in general.

Construction of Visitors Centers and Destination Centers:

Six of the seven proposed Visitors Centers are currently either managed, under construction, or in the planning stage by state or federal agencies. The seventh visitor center would be developed through funding by the Federal, state or local government and/or organizations, or through partnerships with agencies that would build the center. Destination Centers may not require new construction. The Destination Centers are envisioned as rehabilitated, renovated, or expanded structures. Each of the Destination Centers was selected because of the opportunity to interpret what is already on the landscape and is related to coal heritage.

Requirements for Receiving Funding from the NCHA:

Currently, the NCHA is developing a formal grant process. In the past, the process was informal, with limited distribution of funding announcements. The NCHA hopes to be ready for the next round of Early Action Grants in the early months of 2002. The criteria for the grants is being finalized, but the funding must support projects that further the mission of the NCHA. The NCHA receives funds from the NPS; these monies are used by the NCHA to make Early Action Grants. All applicants must have matching funds in place to receive funding.

The Granting Sub-Committee of the NCHA Steering Committee reviews applications and forward recommendations to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee approves Early Action Grants by vote.

Role of the State and National Parks in the NCHA:

The State Parks Department is represented on the NCHA Steering Committee and has provided input to the planning process. No new state parks are proposed in any of the “action” alternatives and the State Parks Department has no jurisdictional authority over the NCHA. Similarly, the NCHA is not proposing creation of any new National Park. The NPS serves in a partnership and partial funding role for the NCHA.

10.3 COOPERATING AGENCIES

No cooperating agencies have been identified for the NCHA Strategic Management Plan and DEIS.

Consultation and Coordination

10.4 SUMMARY OF STEPS TO IDENTIFY AND INVOLVE LOW INCOME AND MINORITY POPULATIONS IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Disadvantaged populations, which include minority and low-income populations, are distributed throughout the NCHA. Efforts to involve such populations were achieved through:

- direct contact with local leaders;
- outreach meetings in all 11 counties;
- direct mailings to over 400 individuals and organizations within the NCHA; and
- articles and advertisements in local newspapers.

As local projects are developed further, additional steps will be taken to identify and involve low-income and minority communities.