

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 28, December 30, 1969

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The Tennessee Legislature reconvenes January 13. This second session of the 86th General Assembly could be of considerable importance to our efforts to preserve Tennessee's natural environment. A promising bill is pending, other legislation has been proposed. Several legislators are concerned and willing to help, but you MUST let them know of your support. For this reason, rather than bringing you the broader array of reports that we usually do, we are devoting this issue of the NEWSLETTER to the upcoming session of the Tennessee Legislature, as it affects conservation.

Because effective action can come only through communication with our elected representatives, we have prepared for you a political guide (federal and state). Please pin this to your bulletin board, or keep it in a readily accessible place. Also included in this mailing you will find (unless you have already paid) a bill for dues. Please return it, with your payment, today: the dues are modest, but we do need them.

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As you know, some of the most scenic areas in our state have already been lost, or are now threatened by logging, mining, roadbuilding, or development. This bill provides a method for saving at least some of what is left, and we therefore consider it of very high priority. Here is what you can do:

* 1. Communicate (by letter, by phone, in person) with your state senator and representatives (see enclosed directory) to express your opinion on the bill (the Scenic Historic Preservation Act of 1970, revised version of HB 936). It is MOST important that every one of us do this. Remember that the session starts January 13. Repr. Ashe is planning to introduce the revised bill on the first day, and it may not take too many days to get to the floor.

* 2. Come to our January 8 meeting to find out more about the details of the bill, and about the philosophy and practice of natural-areas legislation in general. By coming to the meeting, you will also be expressing support: all Tennessee legislators have been invited to attend.

SCENIC RIVERS

The state is still sadly behind in implementing the landmark Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. TCWP and TSRA have, in the past few weeks, had several meetings and conversations with Dept. of Conservation staff and have studied reports prepared by the Department. In our opinion, three measures are necessary above all.

(over)

- (1)
The \$200,000 already appropriated must be spent, with the greatest possible dispatch, for acquisition of scenic easements along rivers already designated in the act. Only thus can we demonstrate how the system works and build the support that is required to add other rivers.
- (2)
Additional funds must be requested by the Dept. and appropriated by the legislature.
- (3)
A Division of Scenic Rivers, headed by a Director, should be created within the Department of Conservation. This will assure adequate commitment to this landmark program. (It should be noted that a bill drafted by Deputy Commissioner of Conservation, Col. Wm. Slayden, which proposes a reorganization of the Department by creating within it a "Tennessee Conservation System", does not establish a Division of Scenic Rivers, nor a full-time manager for either scenic rivers or natural areas.)

It is our understanding that the Department of Conservation is hoping to proceed along the lines of suggestions 1. and 2., but they may welcome encouragement from citizens. Any additional funds requested must be approved by the legislature, so there is, again, a need to communicate with your legislators.

With regard to point 3, we are happy to report that Senator Brown Ayres (Knox) has announced that he will sponsor legislation to create a Scenic Rivers Division within the Department of Conservation. Representatives Ashe (Knox), Jensen (Knox) and Howell (Davidson) have publicly stated their support for this proposal, which TCWF enthusiastically endorses. You should make your opinion on this proposal known to your legislator as soon as you can.

The Department of Conservation and the Game & Fish Commission may propose addition of rivers to the system, specifically the Hiwassee, downstream from US 411, as Class II (the upstream section is already included as a Class-III river); the Hatchie as Class-II; and perhaps other rivers. It should be noted that the Hatchie was contained in the original 1968 bill as a Class-I river; was removed at the last moment through a series of misunderstandings, involving Washington, D.C.; and was proposed for re-inclusion by a bill introduced in 1969, but left in committee. We believe the entire Tennessee portion of the Hatchie deserves to be in the system, with the bulk of it as Class-I.

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- 1 More land acquisition by the State to preserve scenic areas; use of the already authorized bond issues for this purpose.
- 2 Use of state forests for trails and nature centers.
- 3 A statewide trail system, given official status by the Legislature.
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- 5 Statutory recognition of two basic types of state parks -- recreation areas and natural areas -- to prevent degradation of the latter through overdevelopment.
- 6 An amendment to the Tennessee Constitution making it the policy of the state "to preserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty".
- 7 A number of regulations to strengthen laws on water, air, noise, and pesticide pollution.

Let your own legislator know whether you approve of these and similar measures. Only if they know your sentiments can they act in your interest.

ANNOUNCING
A
PUBLIC PROGRAM
ON
"PRESERVING TENNESSEE'S NATURAL AND SCENIC RESOURCES"

PLACE: The University of Tennessee, Student Center Ballroom

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, 8 January, 1970, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM: "Why Preserve Natural Areas?" Dr. Alton A. Lindsey,
Professor of Biological Sciences, Purdue University

"Natural Area Preservation and the Federal Government",
Mr. Roy Wood, Director, Southeastern Region, Bureau of
Outdoor Recreation, U.S. Department of Interior

REFRESHMENTS

"An Action Program", Victor Ashe, Representative to the
Tennessee General Assembly from Knox County

SPONSORS: Department of Botany, The University of Tennessee
Graduate Program in Ecology, The University of Tennessee
Graduate School of Planning, The University of Tennessee
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Howard H. Baker, Jr. 202, 224-3121, Ext. 4944

Your U. S. Representative is: Joe L. Evins 202, 224-3121, Ext. 4231

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The Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of the Interior
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240
Dear Mr. Secretary:
Sincerely yours,
Phone: 202, 343-6704

STATE

Your State Senator is: Ray R. Baird
441 S. Douglas
Rockwood, Tenn. 37854
354-9162 (W); 354-1772 (H)

Your State Representatives are:

G. C. Cook, Jr.
Rte. 3, Tacora Hills
Clinton, Tenn. 37716
457-1996 (H)

James E. Elkins
105 W. Vanderbilt Dr.
Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830
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(OVER)

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 State Capitol Building
 Nashville, Tennessee 37219
 615, 741-2001

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 Deputy Commissioner of Conservation: Col. Wm. M. Slayden
 Chief, Division of Planning: Walter Criley
 Department of Conservation
 2611 West End Avenue
 Nashville, Tennessee 37203
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