TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING
Newsletter No. 139, January 8, 1985*

We hope you will excuse the long interval between Newsletters 138 and 139. Your editor was in Nepal (trekking and rafting) for part of this time. But TCWP has been far from idle, as you will read in this issue.

1. Oppose huge military center in Savage Gulf - Fall Creek Falls Area . . . . . p. 2

2. Oppose disproportionate budget cuts that would end TVA's best programs . . . . . p. 3

3. Much is happening on the Tennessee stripmine front . . . . . p. 3
   A. TCWP's activities — C. OSM's Tennessee program — E. Historical summary
   B. Watt's regs — D. New state law?

4. "Lands unsuitable for mining" petition for Frozen Head, and other "522" news . . . . . p. 4

5. Obed and Big South Fork. . . . . p. 5
   A. Pipeline crossing prevented — B. BSF capsules

6. Wilderness bills: a good crop . . . . . p. 5
   A. Tennessee — B. The nation

7. Smokies wilderness prospects . . . . . p. 6

8. State Natural Areas: acquisition funding . . . . . p. 6

9. Other news from the State. . . . . p. 8
   A. Scenic Rivers — D. Farm problems — G. Wildlife area
   B. Dale Hollow Plan — E. Water quality — H. Forestry Commission
   C. Erosion, wetlands — F. Conservancy areas — J. Resources foundation

10. TVA capsules . . . . . p. 9

11. TCWP: 1984 Summaries; 1985 names. . . . . p. 9
    A. 1984 efforts and activities — C. These will serve you
    B. 1984 Annual Meeting — D. Capsules

12. Actions of the 98th Congress: a post-mortem . . . . . p. 10
    A. Rivers — C. Bills that failed — E. Bills that passed
    B. Water projects — D. A vetoed bill

13. New leadership for important federal agencies . . . . . p. 11
    A. Interior — B. EPA — C. Forest Service

14. The Green Vote, November 1984 . . . . . p. 12

15. THINGS TO DO AND THINGS TO READ . . . . . p. 12

16. ACTION SUMMARY . . . . . p. 14

---

*Editor: Liane B. (Lee) Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Ph. 615, 482-2153.

Star in margin means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY!

ACTION CALL

1. OPPOSE HUGE MILITARY CENTER IN SAVAGE GULF - FALL CREEK FALLS AREA

Here are some of the data about this proposal by the Tennessee National Guard which would create one of the largest military installations in the world. [The information has been compiled from (a) A 1984 booklet "Proposed Spencer Range and Training Complex" by MG Carl D. Wallace, (b) Articles in the VOLSTATE GUARDSMAN, the TN National Guard's publication, by Capt. S. Hatcher and Capt. Hooper Pennel, and (c) an Oct. 10 briefing by Adjutant General Wallace.]

Location: On the southern Cumberland Plateau (Van Buren, Warren, Bledsoe, Grundy, and Sequatchie Counties), bordering on Fall Creek Falls State Park (on the NE) and the Collins River escarpment (on the W), and coming to within 1 mile of the Savage Gulf Natural Area. Site contains (among other things) Rocky River Gorge, the headwaters of the rivers that form the falls at Fall Creek Falls, and two Nature Conservancy Preserves. Nearest towns: Spencer (6 mi), McMinnville (10 mi).

Size: 114,000 acres to be purchased, plus another 60,000 acres to be leased for avigation rights

The 114,000 acres break down into:

36,000 for facilities to fire all artillery systems

72,500 for tanks (on and off trails), other maneuvers, water supply lakes, a military road network

5,500 for support facilities (e.g., housing, aircraft assembly)

A couple of the sources mention an airstrip large enough to handle C-5 planes for troop transport, but this was denied at the briefing

Cost: $360 million (according to one source), $250 million (according to another); all federal. Request may be in the FY 1986 budget.

Timescale: Construction start, 1987; completion, 1990 -- provided funds are appropriated.

Military use: originally planned for only Tennessee troops (about 13,000), but may be projected for Guardsmen from all over the eastern half of the U.S. Up to 4000 at a time will be trained. Because there will be minimal permanent occupancy, few jobs will be created for the local population (less than 150).

Other uses: Since mineral rights will not be acquired when the land is purchased for the National Guard Center, there would be continued and probably increased future coal mining. The Huber Corp (a coal company) presently owns 80% of the land. There are an additional 350 landowners.

Arguments being used to support choice of site:

"This is the only terrain in USA to simulate European terrain" [What part of Europe? Holland? the Alps?]

"Present land use is restricted anyway, due to the presence of duds left over from the Old Spencer Artillery Range (operated 1941-46)" [But, even if true -- despite subsequent de-dudding operations -- this affects only 6000 acres of the proposed 114,000.]

What TCWP has done so far:

We wrote to all 9 U.S. Reps and to Sen. Sasser at the end of October, urging Congressional hearings and the writing of an EIS. Sasser, Cooper, Lloyd, and Duncan have responded. Cooper (whose district is involved) was also questioned by us at our Annual Meeting. He stated that we need to improve our conventional forces (for Europe) to help avoid use of nuclear weapons. [But why train them on this site?] He supports us in demanding a first-rate EIS. TCWP has responded to several local people and to groups who have contacted us for help in their opposition. We have joined with several groups, which will be coordinated by Joe McCaleb (Sierra Club). Two TCWP representatives will attend a TEC-sponsored conference on the subject on January 12.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

(1) Write to your members of the Tennessee Congressional delegation (address on p. 14) urging him/her (a) to hold House and Senate hearings on this project which would affect some of Tennessee's most precious natural and scenic resources, and (b) not to appropriate money for a military installation at this site. (2) Any of you who are willing to help us document our case or to help review the Guard's Environmental Assessment (now nearing completion), or some future Environmental Impact Statement, should let us know. (Expertise in endangered species, wildlife, hydrology, forestry, fisheries, noise impact, etc. etc. is helpful. We may also need experts on warfare techniques.)

ACTION CALL

2. OPPOSE DISPROPORTIONATE BUDGET CUTS THAT WOULD END TVA'S BEST PROGRAMS

The Reagan Administration is planning to slash $96.4 million from TVA's request for appropriations, leaving only $38.6 million for all of the agency's non-power programs (The power program, which represents 97% of total TVA costs, pays its own way.) Virtually all of the functions of the Office of Natural Resources and Economic Development would be eliminated. This includes numerous activities of major importance to natural resource conservation and restoration in the Tennessee Valley, many of which we have reported in recent TCWP Newsletters (including this one). Here are a few examples: the Heritage Program (species and habitat inventories, ¶10 this NL), wildlife restoration (e.g., ¶10 this NL), surface-mine restoration research (NL 136 ¶9, NL 137 ¶7C), the natural areas and Small Wild Areas programs (e.g., Whites Creek where TCWP will maintain the trail, NL 132 ¶4), water quality improvement (NL 135 ¶8) acid rain research, extensive forestry research which serves the region in developing timber resources, control of farmland erosion, pilot plant for converting hardwood to ethanol fuel, Land Between the Lakes (the closure of which would lose $40 million to the economy), etc.

We hope you will bring these valuable programs to the attention of Congress and urge that they be maintained at least at their present level. Write to both Senators and to your Representative, regardless of what state you live in (addresses on p. 14). Particularly important are the Congressional delegations of TN, AL, GA, Miss. and KY.

3. MUCH IS HAPPENING ON THE TENNESSEE STRIPMINE FRONT

A. Summary of TCWP's activities

Following the Oct. 1, 1984 federal takeover of the Tennessee stripmine program, our efforts have been concentrated in two major areas: (a) scrutiny of the regulatory program promulgated for Tennessee by the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM); and (b) input into a bill by which the state will attempt to regain primacy. In order that you may understand the first of these activities (¶3C), we suggest you first read 3B., below.

B. Watt's stripmine regs being overturned

When James Watt became Sec. of the Interior, he immediately expended a major Departmental effort on re-writing the regulations that had been promulgated by former Sec. Andrus under the terms of the 1977 federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). When Watt's hundreds of weakening changes went into effect in Sept. 1983, they were challenged in U.S. District Court by an environmental coalition on the grounds that they failed to conform with the requirements of SMCRA. In 1984, Judge Thomas Flannery handed down two sets of decisions on this challenge (7/6/84 and 10/1/84), and the third set is expected early in 1985. Flannery has thrown out most of the Watt amendments to the Andrus regs that he has considered to date. We reported on the first group of decisions in NL 137 ¶6A. Among the regulations ruled on in the second group are some that affect haul roads, prime farmland, bonding, backfilling and grading. For example, where Watt's reg merely said that reclamation be "as contemporaneous as practicable," the Judge has ruled that specifics must be stated, as had been the case in the Andrus regs. Flannery's decisions were not appealed and are final.

C. We challenge OSM's regulatory program for Tennessee

Prior to the federal takeover, TCWP and some other groups had recommended (with extensive documentation) that OSM retain the old Tennessee regulations. We were told by OSM that this was indeed an option. However, when OSM published its regs in the Federal Register of October 1 (the day OSM took over the Tennessee program), these turned out to be largely the federal regs (Watt version), only slightly strengthened by the inclusion of a few provisions that had been recommended in the comments of citizens' groups.

On November 30, TCWP and 4 other groups (SOCM, LEAF, Sierra Club, EPI) submitted to OSM a "Petition for Rulemaking." In this petition, we ask that OSM alter its Tennessee regs to conform with the decisions made (and to be made) by Judge Flannery, who has found a large number of the Watt-promulgated federal regs to be invalid (see B, above). Petitioners expect a

ruling within 90 days (i.e., by the end of February) and are prepared to file suit unless OSM takes timely needed action. Among supporting arguments, petitioners point out that from 8/10/82 (when Tennessee assumed the state program) until 10/1/84, the regulations used in the state conformed with the Andrus regs. The Watt regs were thrust upon the state at about the time that the court was finding them to be illegal.

D. A new state law in the making?

The Alexander Administration's effort to draft another stripmine bill is being headed by Steve Roberts of the TN Dept. of Health & Environment. Roberts distributed the draft bill prior to meeting with representatives of various groups on November 15 to discuss the proposal. Detailed comments were subsequently submitted by TCWP, SOCM, LEAF, and EAF, all of whom appreciated this opportunity for input. Among the commendable parts of the draft were certain provisions essentially retained from the 1980 law, e.g.: regulation of the mining of any amount of coal if 25 tons or more (regardless of size of area -- i.e., no <2-acre exemption, as in Kentucky); concurrent reclamation; felony for wildcatting; pre-mining inspection; proof of a miner's right-of-entry as prerequisite to permit approval (but should be extended to exploration as well). One of the major problems with the draft bill is the clause that the state regs may be no more stringent than the corresponding federal regs. Federal regs, having been written for the country as a whole, are not meant to address specific local problems, such as -- in Tennessee -- steep slopes, wildcatting, paucity of topsoil, etc. Under the terms of the present draft bill, such special provisions would thus have to be addressed by changes in the law itself (requiring an act of the legislature). Yet, paradoxically, it is the intent of the Administration to have an "enabling" law, i.e., one that leaves all the details to the regs! (Examples of the lack of specifics: no requirement for highwall elimination, no 100-ft buffer for streams, no specific regulation of exploration are contained in the draft bill.

It will be interesting to see how the State drafters respond to the groups' comments. The final draft has not yet reached us. It will presumably become part of the Governor's legislative package unless some legislator chooses to adopt it for his own. One general point that has been strongly made by several knowledgable people is that Tennessee should not be given primacy unless the state makes a commitment for funding that is adequate to support an effective program (i.e., qualified employees, and enough of them).

E. Historical summary available from TCWP

A 5-page summary of events related to the Tennessee stripmine program has been compiled by Sandra Edwards. The period covered is from 5/2/80 (start of Tennessee's 1980 law) through 10/16/84. For a copy of this summary, send a self-addressed envelope and $1 to Sandra Edwards, 104 Montreal Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

4. STATUS OF OUR "LANDS UNSUITABLE FOR MINING" PETITION FOR FROZEN HEAD AND OTHER "522" NEWS

In April, Commissioner Word granted our "522" petition to have the area adjacent to Frozen Head declared unsuitable for mining (NL 135 ¶4). Soon afterwards, this decision was appealed by the stripmine operator and the landowner (NL 136 ¶3). In the meantime, the State legislature had repealed the Tennessee Surface Mine Law, and the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) was scheduled to take over on October 1, 1984. Both parties to the appeal tried to determine whether they would fare better in a state or federal forum; hearing dates were set a couple of times at short notice and then postponed. Finally, Oct. 1 came and the case is now officially in federal hands. However, since OSM presently has its hands full with various aspects of the Tennessee program (see ¶3C, this NL) it is unlikely that the "522" case will come up for a while. In the meantime, no mining can occur in the area we're trying to protect. Our attorney is watching over developments, and we are keeping in contact with our expert witnesses, as well as gathering additional field data to support our case.

A fourth "522" petition has now been filed in Tennessee (see NL 137 ¶1C for the others). This one is for the Rock Creek watershed on Walden Ridge in Bledsoe and Hamilton Counties.

Among the regs promulgated under Sec. Watt for the federal stripmine law (see ¶3B and C, this NL) are some that make it impossible to gain "lands unsuitable" designation. Furthermore, the

present draft of a new state stripmine bill (¶3D, this NL) does not allow a "522" petition to be filed after a stripmine-permit application has been accepted -- yet it abolishes the past requirement that newspaper ads of intent to mine be run prior to making the application for a permit. This is obviously a Catch-22 situation for the public.

5. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

A. Pipeline crossing is prevented, but some damage has occurred

Early in November, we learned that the B & W Oil Co. had filed an application for a permit to lay a pipeline across the Clear Creek (a major Obed tributary) two miles downstream of Barnett Bridge. The dredge-and-fill permit, sought from the Corps of Engineers under Sec. 404 of the Clean Water Act, required prior certification from the State. TCWP immediately wrote to the TN Division of Water Management to point out that clearing and excavation of a swath down the steep slopes banking the river, and digging up of the river bed were incompatible with the objectives of National Wild & Scenic River designation and would, in addition, adversely affect the habitat of two endangered species of fish. We also contacted the National Park Service staff at Oneida (who were planning to send a letter to the same effect) and alerted other groups. The State has now denied certification for the 404 permit, so the river crossing will not be perpetrated. Unfortunately, the B & W Co had jumped the gun and already cut a swath of trees to approach the river from the south. The State's Division of Water Management is requiring the oil company to revegetate the damaged slope, but it will take quite a while until the scar is healed.

B. Big South Fork capsules

- Closures of roads leading into the "gorge area" of the BSFNRRA have been completed in accordance with the provisions of the law forbidding motorized travel in this area. Other roads in the upland portions of the Area have been improved.
- On Sept. 29, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the Blue Heron Site in the Kentucky portion of the BSFNRRA. At this site, the facilities once associated with a historical underground coal mine will be restored.
- On Oct. 4, the Southeast Regional Director of NPS, Bob Baker, attended an open house at Oneida for the new superintendent, Charlie Vial. TCWP Pres. Bill Russell and Board member Don Todd went up to meet Mr. Vial. The superintendent and his wife, Rebecca, subsequently dropped in for part of the TCWP Annual Meeting on Oct. 20.

6. WILDERNESS BILLS: A GOOD CROP FOR THE NATION, INCLUDING TENNESSEE

A. Wilderness in Tennessee

As reported earlier (NL 138 ¶2), the wilderness bill for the Southern Cherokee National Forest (P.L. 98-576) was passed on October 4. It was signed into law on October 30. The following table summarizing Tennessee's wilderness and probable wilderness is based on our earlier report and on material compiled by Will Skelton for the November Tennes-Sierran. Note that there is as yet no wilderness in the Northern Cherokee NF.

Area Name	Designation	Acreage	Year enacted	Ranger Distr
Joyce Kilmer/Slickrock	Wilderness	3,887	1974	Tellico
Cohutta[a]	Wilderness	1,795	1974	Ocoee
Gee Creek	Wilderness	2,493	1974	Hiwassee
Citico Creek	Wilderness	16,000	1984	Tellico
Bald River Gorge	Wilderness	3,887	1984	Tellico
Big Frog Mountain[a]	Wilderness	5,055	1984	Ocoee
Big Frog "Addition"[a]	Wilderness planning[b]	3,457	1984	Ocoee
Little Frog Mountain	Wilderness Study[c]	4,800	1984	Ocoee

[a]Cohutta, Big Frog, and Big Frog "Addition" are contiguous to each other

[b]Recommendation to be addressed in upcoming USFS Plan

[c]Protected unless and until Congress decrees otherwise

B. Wilderness in the nation

The last Congress passed 19 state wilderness bills (including Tennessee's) adding a total of 8.3 million acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System. This blossoming of legislation (the System in the Lower 48 grew by 35%) was attributable to the natural progression of the timetable started with the RARE-II process of the Carter Administration -- rather than to any stimulus from the Reagan Administration, which has been hostile to wilderness. Among the bills passed in the last session, there was a wide spread between states -- with areas ranging from 5,500 acres in Mississippi to 3,200,000 in California (where wilderness was designated in two national parks, as well as in forests). Four states (Alabama, Colorado, Idaho, Montana) failed to get their bills passed, and other states (e.g., Kentucky) are still in process of formulating bills. (Those TCWP members who remember Ernie Dickerman, one of TCWP's founders, will be interested to learn that he was one of the chief movers of the 56,000-acre Virginia wilderness.)

Even in those states that passed bills, many deserving areas had to be left out in order to gain any legislation. The RARE-II data indicate that there are at least another 96 million acres of "roadless areas" in the lower 48 states, a large percentage of which is likely to be deserving of wilderness designation. The "release language" (see NL 136 ¶6) in the bills passed by the last Congress now opens large numbers of these areas for exploitation, which will probably occur quickly. As of the end of 1984, the National Wilderness Preservation System totals about 88.6 million acres, of which 56.4 million are in Alaska. In the lower 48 states, only about 1.5% of the land area is in wilderness.

7. SMOKIES WILDERNESS PROSPECTS

Our hopes for Smokies wilderness were dealt a double blow by the November election. Not only was Sen. Jesse Helms re-elected, but, in the 11th Distr. of N.C. (which includes Swain County), Rep. James Clarke was defeated by William Hendon. Clarke was a member of the House Interior Committee and had actively supported our coalition's wilderness bill. By contrast, Hendon (whom Clarke had replaced in 1982) expressed himself against wilderness when he toured the Smokies with then-Sec. James Watt in 1981. Thus, things look bleak on the North Carolina side. Here in Tennessee, fortunately, we gained extra support in the Senate when Gore succeeded Baker. (As you may recall [NL 135 ¶2] Baker, who had finally agreed to support our wilderness bill, later buckled under to pressure from Helms and the Administration and apparently convinced Gov. Alexander to do likewise.) Sen. Sasser, a long-time Smokies wilderness supporter, has widely distributed a statement headed "Fight for Smokies Wilderness will continue." He points out that we are ahead now in that Congressional hearings have been held on the issue establishing, for the public record, the need for immediate wilderness protection. He promises that designation of 467,000 acres of wilderness (the compromise supported by our coalition) will remain one of his "top priorities in the 99th Congress."

8. STATE NATURAL AREAS: ACQUISITION FUNDING

New life is blooming for the Tennessee Natural Areas System, and TCWP has renewed its activities with regard to support of the system (see e.g., NL 136 ¶4, NL 137 ¶4A). There are many aspects to the program: data collection and inventories, selection of areas, land protection mechanisms, staffing, staff activities (planning, development, management, monitoring), constituency development, etc. In this issue, we shall focus on funding for natural areas acquisition.

The System was created in 1971 through the Tennessee Natural Areas Act (which TCWP partly wrote and strongly supported). Since then, 29 natural areas totalling 56,360 acres have been designated. Only about 1/5 of this acreage has actually been acquired; the rest was already in state ownership (e.g., parts of state forests) or remains in private ownership. Altogether only $8 million have been spent since 1971 (88% of this money going for Savage Gulf and Radnor Lake), and only a small part of this sum, namely $2.8 million, came from State appropriations. The Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), TVA, and the Radnor Lake Coalition provided the remainder.

The State appropriations were by no means equally distributed over the years: about $1.3 and $0.9 million came in 1973 and 1974, respectively, and only $0.6 million altogether were

appropriated during all of the 9 subsequent years. That is why it was so exciting when the effort for a $2 million appropriation paid off in 1984. Much of the stimulus for this funding came from the Safe Growth Team and Governor Alexander. The Natural Heritage Division was renamed Ecological Services Division and, in it, the Natural Areas program was re-established by Commissioner Howell, who directed the Division to prepare a Natural Areas Action Plan. One problem encountered thus far is that the State's mechanisms for land acquisition are extremely cumbersome and slow, so that purchase opportunities may be missed even though funds are available.

The September 29 Tennessee Environmental Summit, in which several TCWP members participated, adopted a number of resolutions on natural areas. Among these (in abbreviated form): that the Governor and legislature support $2 million/year appropriations for natural areas acquisition; that the Div. of Ecol. Services be funded at a level that allows identification of significant features and proper management of natural areas; that positions be created and filled, (a) for administration, designation, and protection of natural areas, and (b) for coordinating volunteers for areas for which these can be used. A resolution was also passed on Sept. 29 to endorse the Action Plan for Natural Areas that has been developed by DoC.

* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to your state legislators (see p. 14) in support of the points covered in the above list of resolutions. In particular, urge the appropriation of $2 million/year.

9. OTHER NEWS FROM THE STATE

A. State Scenic Rivers reviews

The second state scenic rivers committee is still deliberating. In case you are confused, these are the groups. (a) The Ad Hoc Committee on Tennessee Scenic Rivers (chaired by Lynn Pruitt, Sierra Club) was formed from representatives of various citizens groups (including TCWP), met in July and September, and prepared a report of their recommendations which was eventually submitted to the second committee. (b) Commissioner Howell appointed the Citizen Committee for Scenic Rivers Review, which met Oct. 9 and 25, and Nov. 27, and will meet again in mid-January with the objective of preparing a report by the end of the month. This is not the task force Gov. Alexander promised when he vetoed deletion of the Collins from the Scenic Rivers Act, but has at least semi-official status. In addition to several persons prominent in the conservation community, (including TCWP's Bill Russell and Don Todd) the Howell committee includes the McMinnville attorney who led the effort for Collins River deletion, two other Collins landowners, a member of the Ocoee River Council, and a member of the Safe Growth Team. A legislation subcommittee was appointed to draft amendments to the law, but some committee members see dangers in opening up the act to an unpredictable legislature. They point out that the major problems of the past 16 years have not arisen from the language of the law but from its implementation (or lack thereof).

B. Dale Hollow forest management plan

The Corps of Engineers' forest management plan for Dale Hollow Reservoir has drawn some opposition because it proposes a rotation of clearcuts to be made over the next several decades, with 85% of the total acreage to be eventually affected. Questions have been raised not only about the aesthetic consequences, but also about soil erosion herbicide use, water-quality degradation, damage to bald eagle habitat, and nature of reforestation. [The Corps had sent a draft of the Plan to us for comment last February. Being without an executive director at that time, and heavily involved in some other issues, we failed to respond. We were therefore surprised to see TCWP included in the Corps' list of groups with which development of the plan had been coordinated. (The other groups in that list -- we later learned -- also had failed to comment.) A local newspaper interpreted this confusing description in the obvious way and published the list under the heading "Groups who back plan."] Sen. Sasser asked the Corps to suspend its clearcutting plan (the first bid was going to be let on Sept. 11) pending more broadbased input from citizens. In December, five public information workshops on the proposed program were conducted by the Corps. Sandra Edwards, our exec. director, attended the one in Livingston. It is probable that some compromise will be arrived at.

C. Soil erosion and wetlands protection

Last year, the General Assembly adopted resolution HJR 401, which was written and pushed by the Environmental Action Fund (of which TCWP is a member). In response to this resolution, a committee was formed to study issues relative to soil erosion and wetlands protection. This 16-member committee consists of 8 legislators; top-level staff of the Safe Growth Council, TWRA, SCS, Tenn Farm Bureau; representatives of citizens' groups (EAF and TCL); and others. Several presentations were heard at meetings on Dec. 3, 4, 13, 14, including Safe Growth Council Reports on "Reduction in Soil Erosion" and "Wetland Maintenance." The committee will be happy to receive written testimony on the subjects under study. (Send to Rep. Dan R. Byrd, 109 War Memorial Bldg., Nashville, TN 37219).

D. Tennessee's farm problems have an environmental impact

According to a recent study (The Tennessee Food System: Planning for Regeneration, by Sue A. Male, the Cornucopia Project), Tennessee has lost almost 30% of its farmland since 1950, and now imports 84% of the fresh produce consumed. Each year, 83,000 acres of farmland are lost to development. In addition, the soil erosion rate is the highest in the nation. Thus, 14.5 tons/acre are lost annually, or a total of 84 million tons per year. This produces a tremendous sedimentation load in the State's waters, which are already impacted by heavy fertilizer runoff (see preceding paragraph).

E. Water quality: State conditionally accept some of Corp's "Nationwide Permits"

One of the Reagan Administration's regulatory "reforms" that has served to weaken environmental protection is the issuance of Nationwide Permits (NWPs) by the Corps in their administration of Sec. 404 ("dredge and fill") of the Clean Water Act. The NWPs are blanket authorizations which do away with individual permit applications. The TN Dept. of Health & Environment recently gave unconditional certification to several NWPs (e.g., one pertaining to fills associated with small hydro projects), but it failed to certify certain activities in the NWP associated with stripmining activities -- specifically, channel relocations, discharge into wetlands, and any discharge exceeding 20 cu. yd will continue to be handled on an individual basis.

F. New Nature Conservancy projects in Tennessee

Hubbard's Cave (Warren County): a 50-acre purchase has secured this extremely significant habitat for nationally endangered gray bats and Indiana bats.
Goose Pond (Grundy County): a 96-acre marshland, which provides breeding habitat for four bird species on the state's "threatened or endangered" list. has been protected by cooperative agreement with the landowner.
Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge: 638 acres (see NL 137 ¶4E; NL 138 ¶3E).

G. New wildlife management area

A large area near Monterey on the Cumberland Plateau is in process of becoming a state-managed wildlife area. The General Development Corp. of Miami has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Tenn. Wildlife Resources Agency concerning 8,200 acres (being retained in private ownership) and will later deed over to TWRA an additional 3000-3500 acres.

H. Tennessee Forestry Commission

None of the 3 highly qualified candidates nominated by TCWP for the Tenn. Forestry Commission has been chosen by Gov. Alexander. We had previously submitted the three to the Tenn. Forestry Assn. (NL 137 ¶4F), which included one in its list of candidates. The names of appointees has not yet been made public.

J. Formation of a Tennessee Cultural and Natural Resources Educational Foundation is being promoted by the Tenn. Dept. of Conservation. This not-for-profit foundation would support the DoC's education, information, and public-service functions. (For info, contact Mark Fraley, Tenn. DoC, 701 Broadway, Nashville 37203).

10. TVA CAPSULES

- The Implementation Committee, which provided citizen oversight over TVA's compliance with the Clean Air consent decree, has now been disbanded, but several people feel that the citizens-TVA dialogue that was developed during that process should, in some manner be continued. Representatives of TCWP, SOCM, and possibly other groups, will this week meet with TVA staff to discuss this matter.
- TVA has been under some pressure from the TN Valley Public Power Assoc. (TVPPA) to abandon its conservation program and return to its earlier practice of promoting electric consumption. TVPPA represents TVAs 157 distributors of electricity, who have an economic stake in selling power. At its Nov. 14 meeting, the TVA Board, however, confirmed its commitment to continuing energy-conservation efforts. TCWP has written to the Board members, commending them for their action.
- TVA's newest Board member, John Waters, recently stated his commitment to the environmental health of the region. Speaking before the TN Conservation League on 11/29/84, Waters followed in the footsteps of former Director, Dave Freeman in calling for Congressional action in reducing sulfur emissions. "I am satisfied that there is sufficient evidence of a causal connection between fossil fuels and acid deposition," he said. Soil erosion was among other major valley problems cited by Waters.
- TVA's Natural Heritage Project has compiled an inventory of 3791 plant species, 7036 animal species; and many sensitive natural features in the 7-state region. The project also monitors 33 TVA-owned and -managed natural areas.
- A TVA census has indicated that wading-bird populations are on the rebound in the Tennessee Valley. Ten years ago, there were only 398 breeding pairs in 9 colonies. This year, TVA counted 2723 breeding pairs in 18 colonies. The bulk of active nests are those of great blue herons and black-crowned night herons. The largest great blue heron colony, that in the Armstrong Bend area of Meigs County, was recently threatened when the owner proposed to increase his agricultural and timber harvesting work. When approached, however, the owner agreed to exchange land-use rights within the heron colony for agricultural rights on adjacent farmland that is owned by TVA.
- Early in October, TVA held a recreation/tourism constituency meeting. TCWP's vice president, Ron Foresta, attended.

11. TCWP: 1984 SUMMARIES; 1985 NAMES

A. Super-abbreviated summary of TCWP's 1984 efforts and activities

Obed: Succeeded in getting an additional $0.5 million appropriation for land acquisition. Had input into Land Protection Plan

Big South Fork: Brought timely opposition to secretly proposed name change. Urged increase in authorized spending for land acquisition.

Frozen Head: Our "Lands Unsuitable for Mining" petition was approved by the State. We secured a small foundation grant to fight the appeal in coming court action.

Cherokee wilderness: TCWP was part of a coalition that succeeded in getting a wilderness bill passed for the Southern Cherokee Natl. Forest.

Smokies: Despite considerable effort (including oral testimonies at Bryson City and Washington), wilderness status fell victim to politics

Stripmine regulation: Took a lead role in fighting damaging amendments to state stripmine law. Provided inputs into OSM program for Tennessee and into draft of new state bill.

TVA: Major participation in Board Appointment Coalition which sought to have input in the choice of Dave Freeman's successor. Coordination re trail TCWP will maintain in TVA's Whites Creek Wild Area.

State issues: Successfully supported Natural Areas acquisition funding. Unsuccessfully fought removal of Collins from Scenic Rivers System. Participated in State's Natural Areas Advisory Committee and in two committees to review State Scenic River's Act.

Political: Prepared and circulated a Political Guide and list of state legislators. Prepared candidate questionnaires for Nov. election and published responses.

Organizational: Employed Sandra Edwards as executive director. Organized a very successful weekend-long annual meeting. We continue to rent office space.

B. 1984 Annual Meeting Report

For those of you who weren't there, take my word: it was a truly fine meeting, with informative and stimulating speakers (selections of what we learned from them are found elsewhere in this NL), an attractive meeting hall with a fine view of the steep-sided lake, fine food and comfy housing, and lots of good fellowship (including Sylvia Hubbel, singing a TCWP song she had composed). We had good weather for our Saturday afternoon outings, our Sunday morning walk, and the short hike to dramatic Window Cliff on the way home. Some physical memories: the downpour on arrival night, during which Bob Edwards pinned arrows to trees in the dark; the fantastic wine & cheese party contributed by Audubon Council; dragging canoes through brambles from the Caney Fork take-out to I-40. Thanks to Eric Morgan for fine local arrangements.

C. The following will serve you in 1985

PRESIDENT: William L. Russell
VICE PRESIDENT: Ronald A. Foresta
TREASURER: Charles Klabunde
SECRETARY: Eileen Neiler

DIRECTORS: Charles Coutant
Miriam Guthrie
Eric L. Morgan
Liane B. Russell
Donald Todd

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Mary Ann Gross, Dick Raridon, Lynn Dye Wright
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Liane B. Russell
NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY: Flossie Cosgrove and Miriam Roesel will take turns in assembling and leading groups of volunteers. It was suggested in one of our Annual Meeting workshops that these sessions be called Guilt Assuaging Socials (GAS). Please volunteer.

✳ Please pay your dues to help us do our work. Send the enclosed form with your payment TODAY.

D. Other TCWP capsules

- Four people walked for TCWP at a recent SOCM-sponsored walk-a-thon around Norris (Sandra and Bob Edwards, Bill and Lee Russell). Half of the pledges made to these people will be returned to TCWP.* We expect to get about $220 from this effort. * SOCM retains the other half.
- TCWP's vice president, Ron Foresta, is the author of a recently published book, America's National Parks and their keepers (see ¶15).
- TCWP had an exhibit in the recent "Lifestyle Oak Ridge" event. The exhibit was prepared by Sandra Edwards and manned by Ed and Jean Sonder, Sylvia Hubbell, and Helen Warren, all of whom deserve our thanks.
- A 2-page profile on Bill and Lee Russell appears in the Sept/Oct issue of the TENNESSEE CONSERVATIONIST. They are the first to be featured in a new "People" segment which will be appearing regularly in the magazine.
- Jane Orleans, a longstanding member of TCWP, died 12/9/84. Many of us will miss her.
- TCWP has had official representatives at a number of recent meetings. Exec. Director Sandra Edwards has been to Rockwood, Crossville, and Harriman where DSM and environmental groups have discussed upcoming stripmine legislation; to Nashville for another meeting of the Natural Areas Advisory Committee; to Livingston in connection with proposed Dale Hollow clear-cutting; to Center Hill to participate in the Envtl. Summit; and to Nashville to brief the Sierra Club on stripmine reg status. Paul Somers represents TCWP on EAF (Environmental Action Fund). Don Todd went to the Southeast Trails Conference meeting at Paris Landing; Ron Foresta attended TVA's Recreation/Tourism workshop in Knoxville. Bill Russell and Don Todd went to the Scenic Rivers committee meetings at Nashville and at Crossville.

12. ACTIONS OF THE 98TH CONGRESS: A POST-MORTEM

A. Wild and Scenic Rivers

Five new river segments (308 miles total) were added to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System, representing the first congressional additions to the National WSR System since 1978 (except for the inclusion of Alaskan rivers in 1980). The five segments are: The Tuolumne (CA, 83 mi), Owyhee (OR, 112 mi), Illinois (OR, 50 mi), Verde (AZ, 40 mi), and Au Sable (MI, 23 mi). Addition of the California and Arizona rivers was accomplished via the wilderness bills for these states (see ¶6B, this NL). Three river segments (51 miles, total) were designated for WSR Study. Among these is the Horsepasture in our neighboring state of NC

(see NL 138, ¶5B), which is threatened by a hydro project. Rep. Clarke, who accomplished the "Study" designation, was unfortunately not reelected (see ¶7, this NL). -- Administration-sponsored damaging policy changes for the WSR Act (NL 134 ¶7B) failed to pass. No action occurred on the State and Local River Conservation Act (NL 134 ¶7C).

B. Water project authorization and appropriations

This was the 8th year in which no new Corps of Engineers projects were approved. The House bill would have authorized 300 new projects costing $20 billion; the Senate had a bill for "only" $11 billion. An unusual coalition of environmentalists with the OMB was able to defeat new projects on the basis that they contained insufficient cost-sharing provisions. Appropriations were passed for continuing a number of ongoing water projects.

C. Bills that didn't make it in the Congress

Among several re-authorizations that were not accomplished were the following: Clean Air Act (bogged down in acid-rain controversy), Clean Water Act (may be strengthened in next session), Safe Drinking Water Act, Superfund, Ocean Dumping Act. Many of the failures occurred in the Senate and/or were due to lack of Administration support.

D. A bill that passed but was vetoed

The American Conservation Corps would have employed young people to carry out tasks such as tree planting, erosion control, and trail maintenance in a highly cost-effective manner. Congress had authorized $225, spread over 3 years, for the ACC. Reagan vetoed the bill, but its sponsors promise to bring it up again, possibly with more adequate funding levels.

E. Bills that made it

Following the House-Senate compromise on "release language" (NL 136 ¶6), a 3-year deadlock was broken and many wilderness bills passed (see ¶6B, this NL). The moratorium on off-shore oil leasing for the California coast and Georges Bank was continued, and the Marine Sanctuaries Act was re-authorized. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (on tracking of hazardous substances) was strengthened. Endangered Species appropriations fared quite well (as part of the Continuing Resolution), but plant species received much less attention than did animal species.

13. NEW LEADERSHIP FOR IMPORTANT FEDERAL AGENCIES

A. U.S. Department of the Interior

- Sec. Clark is returning to private life in March, and, as of this writing, no successor has been named. A couple of months ago, on the anniversary of James Watt's resignation, two national groups issued a report that stated that "with Clark, the president has merely changed his environmental image, not his environmental policies." Many controversial decisions were merely postponed -- among them those affecting coal leasing on federal lands and offshore oil drilling.
- Also leaving USDI are two Asst. Secretaries: G. Ray Arnett, responsible for the Park Service and Fish & Wildlife Service, and Garrey Carruthers, overseer of the Bureau of Land Management (where much wilderness is at stake). Arnett has strongly abetted the Administration's anti-parklands-acquisition policies. Before he actually departs, Arnett wants to make sure trapping will be allowed in certain NPS units. His successor will thus probably be chosen by Clark's successor
- A fourth major departure from the USDI will be Russell Dickenson, Director of the National Park Service (NPS). Although Dickenson has played along with many Reagan Administration policies, insiders say that things would have been worse without him. It is likely that Sec. Clark will name a successor before his own departure.
- About 3.5 million acres of private inholdings remain within national park boundaries and pose a threat to resource protection. Because of USDI's deliberate slowdown in land acquisition, and/or reduced funds, NPS is often unable to act quickly enough to prevent such lands from being sold or misused. The National Parks & Conservation Association has created the National Park Trust, which is operating in a manner similar to the Nature Conservancy and preserving lands within or adjacent to NPS units. To learn more about the Trust and/or to contribute,

* write NP Trust, Box A, 1701-18th St. NW, Wash. DC 20009

B. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- As had been predicted for some time, Ruckelshaus ("Mr. Clean") stepped down as EPA Administrator right after the election, and Pres. Reagan named Lee M. Thomas to succeed him. Thomas, had come to EPA with Ruckelshaus as Acting Deputy Administrator, and was in charge of Superfund. Recently, he almost doubled the priority list of toxic waste sites to be cleaned up. Thomas, 40, a graduate of the Univ. of the South, was exec. director of the South Carolina criminal justice program from 1972-77. From 1981-83, he was assoc. director of the Feral Emergency Management Agency. National environmental groups consider Thomas an able administrator and hope he will fight for bigger EPA budgets.
- The Administration is trying to dismantle clean air regulations from within EPA by proposing weakened rules for the implementation of the Clean Air Act. Among sections affected are those pertaining to visibility protection for national parks and wilderness areas, emissions from tall stacks (which cause acid rain), and fugitive dust from stripmines. Write to Lee Thomas, * Administrator, EPA (401 M St. SW, Wash. DC 20460) and ask him to strengthen all the proposed regs, making protection of the environment a higher priority.

C. Forest Service

John Crowell, who is the Asst. Sec. of Agriculture responsible for the U.S. Forest Service has resigned. He has been strongly opposed to wilderness.

14. THE GREEN VOTE, NOVEMBER 1984

Supporting or endorsing organization[a]	Success rate for candidates House	Senate	Cash contributions	Field staff
League of Conservation Voters (LCV)	65% (51)[b]	70% (10)	$113,000	118
Sierra Club (SCCOPE)	74% (183)	59% (18)	150,000	35
Friends of the Earth (FOEPAC)	73% (84)	83% (12)	10,000	26

[a]Other environmental PACs: Environmental Action, Solar Lobby, and a few arms-control groups

[b]Number in parentheses shows total races in which organization took a stand

Senate: In the past Congress, the Senate was the "burial ground" for most environmental legislation (see also ¶12C, this NL). The election of Gore (TN), Harkin (IA), Kerry (MA), and Simon (IL) should substantially improve the outlook for such legislation in the Senate. Disappointments: failure to defeat Helms (NC) and Gramm (TX).

House: In the past Congress, the House passed good environmental bills at a respectable pace. It is unlikely that the modest changes produced by the 1984 elections will alter this situation Among key allies who won with environmental support are Edgar (PA), Kostmeyer (PA), Studds (MA), Au Coin (OR), Sikorski (MN), Wolpe (MI). Tennessee Reps. supported (or endorsed) for re-election by the Sierra Club were Cooper, Boner, and Ford; all won. The critical indicator to watch for is new composition of important committees (e.g., Interior, Public Works).

15. THINGS TO DO AND THINGS TO READ

- "America's National Parks and Their Keepers," by Ronald A. Foresta (TCWP's vice pres.), is the first analytical study of the Park Service as a bureaucracy, and of the System that it has created. (Publ. 1984 by Resources for the Future, 1755 Mass. Ave, NW, Wash. DC 20036; distr, by The Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, Baltimore, ISBN 0-915707-03-9)
- An "Assessment of State River Conservation Programs" is the most extensive collection of data ever collected on this subject. All 50 states are covered: 28 of them have river protection programs ($25 from River Conservation Fund, 322-4th Street, NE, Wash. DC 20002)
- COMMON CAUSE has a job opening for state executive director, Nashville. Send resume and letter explaining interest to Common Cause Search Comm., P.O. Box 150781, Nashville 37215.
- "Rare Plant Protection in Tennessee" is an informative brochure for those of us who will be working for a Rare Plants bill again this year. (Contact Ecological Services Div., TN Dept. of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203)

- "Big South Fork Interime Trail Guide 1985" is a one-page brochure available from NPS, Big S. Fork NRRA and Obed WSR, P.O. Drawer 630, Oneida, TN 37841
- A directory of conservation organizations in Tennessee appears in the Sept/Oct issue of the TENNESSEE CONSERVATIONIST. This magazine of the TN Dept. of Conservation is now better than ever. Subscr. cost, $7.50/yr If you subscribe through TCWP, and at least 25 people do so, TCWP gets to keep 1/3 of the amount.
- "Environmental Opportunities" is a monthly bulletin that seeks to bring together job seekers and job offerers in the environmental field (research, administration, internships, etc.) (P.O. Box 670, Walpole, NH 03608. Subscr. 6 mo/$20, 1 yr/$36.)
- "Water Problems and Coal Mining: A Citizens Handbook," by John Sherman, specifically address problems found in TN, KY, VA, and WV ($5 from Center for Health Services, Sta. 17, Vanderbilt Medical Center, Nashville, TN 37232)
- "Lady Finger Bluff: TVA Small Wild Area" is a 1-page brochure with map of this area on the East side of Kentucky Reservoir, S. of I-40. (Free from TVA Regional Natural Heritage Project, Attn. Judith Bartlow, Natural Resources Bldg, Norris, TN 37828)
- In "Promised Land: Adventures and Encounters in Wild America," Michael Frome presents portraits of people whose lives have been changed by wild places ($17.95, Westview Press, Frederick A. Praeger, Publ., 5500 Central Ave, Boulder, CO 80301). Frome, a friend of many TCWP members', is also known for "Strangers in High Places," "Whose Woods These Are," and "Battle for the Wilderness."
- "100 Favorite Trails in the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains," originally published by the Carolina Mountain Club, has been revised and is available from the Appalachian Trail Conference (P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, W. Va. 25425-0807, $2 [$1.70 to ATC members])
- "Radnor Lake: Nashville's Walden" is a 72-page photo essay by John Netherton and John Egerton. Proceeds from the sale of this book will be divided between the Radnor Lake Educational Fund (for a nature center) and The Fine Arts Center at Cheekwood (for photo shows). ($15.95 from Millers Book Stores or any Third National Bank office)
- "Status of Water Quality in Tennessee," the 1984 "305 (b)" Report by The Div. of Water Mngt, evaluates existing and future trends (write Tenn. Dept. of Health & Envt., TERRA Bldg., 159-9th Ave, N, Nashville 37203)
- On April 13 and 14, Montgomery Bell State Park is hosting a Natural Spring Festival. Naturalists will present programs in a large number of interest areas. (Write to the park, Rt #1, Box 684, Burns, TN 38053, Ph. 615, 797-9051.)
- The National Parks & Conservation Assoc. (1701-18th St, NW, Wash. DC 20009), through its book program, is offering interesting and unusual books about national park archeology, history etc. Discounts to members.
- The Office of Technology Assessment's Groundwater Contamination report cites inadequate laws and programs as chief factor in chemical contamination of water supplies ($7.50 from Govt. Printing Office. Stock #052-003-00966-8. Call 202, 783-3238)
- "Water for the Energy Market," by J. A. Folk-Williams and J. S. Cannon, examines the upcoming conflicts between rapidly growing western coal production and the demands for water by a variety of constituencies (Western Network, 214 McKenzie St., Santa Fe, NM 87501)

Turn the page for Action Summary

16. ACTION SUMMARY

¶ No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1	Military Center near Fall Creek Falls	Tenn. Congressional delegation	"This site is unsuitable!"
		TCWP	Offer your expertise
2	TVA budget	US Sens., Rep	"Save the valuable programs!"
8	TN Natural Areas	State legislators	"Appropriate $2 million!"
9C	Erosion; wetlands	Rep. Byrd (see p. 8)	Send testimony
13B	Clean air	EPA Administrator	"Strengthen regs!"
11C	Dues	TCWP	Send your check

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman/woman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Rep. or Senator (State)
Tennessee General Assembly
Nashville, TN 37219

Dear Representative __, Dear Sen.
Sincerely yours,

To call, dial Congressional switchboard, 202, 224-3121