

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 167

December 1, 1988

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

12. ACTION SUMMARY

<u>¶No.</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>"Message!" or Action</u>
1A	Cherokee settlement	TCWP	Volunteer to participate in follow-up.
3A	Channelization	Gov. McWherter	"No new test is needed!"
3B	Prentice Cooper Forest	Area Forester	"Send inventory and meeting notification!"
3C	Oak Ridge government	Friends	Spread the word about CQG.
4B	Tennessee rivers	Comm. E. Gill	"Authorize statewide rivers inventory!"
5	Orphan mines	TCWP	Tell us of any sites that might qualify for reclamation.
6A	TVA	TCWP	Volunteer to attend TVA environmental constituency meeting.
7	Amer. Heritage Trust	US Reps and Sens.	"Co-sponsor AHT bill when it gets reintroduced." (If appropriate, also thank them for co-sponsoring AHT in 1988 -- see ¶7)

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Governor Ned McWherter
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37219

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman/woman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Gov. McWherter
Respectfully yours,

To call a Representative or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, (202) 224-3121

To find out about the status of federal bills, call (202) 225-1772

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!

1. THE CHEROKEE AND OTHER NATIONAL FORESTS

A. *Cherokee Plan Appeal settlement: oversight gets under way*

As a follow up to the August 4 settlement of appeals of the Cherokee National Forest Management Plan (NL166 ¶2A), the Cherokee Citizens Task Group is being formed to oversee the implementation of the settlement provisions. The Task Group will be made up of representatives of the Wilderness Society and the 4 Tennessee groups that filed the appeal. TCWP President Martha Ketelle and Board member David Adler attended an organizational meeting November 19 and will serve on the Task Group's steering committee. Interested TCWP members are being urged to participate in the review of plans and activities for specific portions of the Cherokee, in field trips and/or in meetings with the Forest Service. Get in touch with us (address on p.1).

B. *Battle to preserve the public's role in Forest Management plans*

The role of citizens in shaping forest management is now being threatened by a Reagan Administration proposal to "streamline" the US Forest Service's administrative appeals process. Citizens would lose the right to appeal plans beyond one level of the USFS (presently, a two-level appeal is possible), and all cases would have to be filed within 45 days (presently, 60-day extensions are granted to allow preparation of a technical case). The proposed new regs would also eliminate oral arguments, as well as the appellants' right to file a written reply to the USFS arguments. The Natural Resources Defense Council is working to convince the agency not to promulgate the worst features of these proposed new regs.

C. *National Forest Scenic Byways*

Earlier this year, the USFS established the Scenic Byways System and has to date designated 10 roads in 7 states. The roads are intended to provide motorists with opportunities to view scenic beauty, wildlife, and forest management. The first Scenic Byway to be designated is in the Ocoee District of the Cherokee NF. It is 26 miles long and made up of segments of US 64 and USFS Road 77 up Chilhowee Mtn. The dedication ceremony, held October 20, was attended by Sen. Sasser.

2. SMOKIES

A. *Smokies wilderness prospects*

Senators Sasser and Gore have both promised to continue their efforts on behalf of a Smokies Wilderness bill. Rep. Jamie Clark, a staunch supporter of last year's bill, won a tough reelection fight for the 11th Distr. of NC (which includes Swain Cy). His opponent, Taylor, had earlier this year

proposed turning part of the Gt. Smoky Mtn. NP over to the North Carolina State Parks system and commercializing it.

B. *Appalachian Trail within Park*

Smokies Superintendent Randall Pope has appointed a committee to advise him on needed improvements to the 74 miles of the A.T. that traverse the Gt. Smoky Mtns NP and to A.T. facilities. The committee is made up of NPS staff, and of representatives of the Smoky Mtns Hiking Club and the A.T. Conference. For info, contact Dick Ketelle, 240 Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

3. NEWS FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

A. *Governor gives go-ahead on highly destructive channelization project*

The watershed of the Obion-Forked Deer Rivers in West Tennessee is a remnant of a vanishing ecosystem that plays an irreplaceable role in replenishing groundwater supplies, providing habitat for millions of animals, and providing recreational opportunities for people. For the past 40 years, however, the Corps of Engineers has engaged in a project whose ultimate objective was to channelize 225 miles of this river system. By the time the project was halted by court order, in 1972, the Corps had channelized 73 river miles and drained 100,000 acres of wetlands. Ever since then, environmental groups and state and federal agencies have been battling to save the remaining 90,000 acres of wetlands. Even area farmers, who are supposed to benefit from the project, now oppose the channelization and, in fact, halted it for some sections of the rivers when they refused to grant the necessary land easements. The Tennessee Department of Health & Environment (TDHE) denied the Corps the required Sect.-401 Water Quality permit for another river segment, and stood firm against all sorts of subsequent pressures. The Corps turned to a third location (on the S. Fork of the Obion), and again TDHE announced that no "401" permit would be granted.

Now, however, Gov. McWherter has overridden his own agency and is forcing TDHE to allow the Corps to channelize a "test strip" near Sidonia (S. Fork of the Obion) to "evaluate" the effect of channelization on water quality and fish & wildlife. Why is such an evaluation needed? The disastrous effects of channelization in the watershed are obvious from the original 73 miles the Corps worked on. Nationwide, the Corps and SCS have channelized over 32,000 miles of streams, and over 600 scientific studies (including a dozen on the Obion-Forked Deer system) have documented the effects of channelization on ecosystems and on hydrological, morphological, and water-quality changes in streams. The studies agree that water-

quality is severely degraded, fish & wildlife devastated...and flooding problems are compounded rather than mitigated by channelization.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Gov. McWherter (address on p.2) and tell him of your concern at his ignoring scientific evidence and overriding the State's own experts. If the Corps had agreed to use the environmentally sensitive Stream Obstruction Removal Guideline method, in lieu of destructive channelization, TDHE would have been willing to grant a permit.

B. *Prentice Cooper State Forest Plan needs input*

The Div. of Forestry of the Tennessee Dept. of Conservation will soon be drafting a 10-year management plan for the 26,000-acre Prentice Cooper State Forest, much of which lies in the Tennessee River Gorge (see ¶3E, this NL). Many of us are concerned that this plan might promulgate 10 years of needless clearcutting and other logging that would have lasting effects. The Forest provides varied outdoor recreation opportunities -- hiking on the Cumberland Trail and elsewhere, camping, nature study, horse-back riding, rock climbing, etc. The state has been completing an inventory of Prentice Cooper S.F. and plans public meetings in the very near future.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Request a copy of the inventory and ask to be notified of the public meetings. Show up at the meetings, and/or submit written comments on behalf of preserving natural values in the Forest. Write Jeff Sims, Area Forester, P. O. Box 234, Dunlap, TN 37327, Ph: 615, 949-3821.

C. *CITIZENS FOR QUALITY GROWTH formed in Oak Ridge*

It has been obvious from many letters to the editor and from opinions heard orally all around town that lots of Oak Ridgers are concerned about the way the city has been run in recent times, particularly as regards destruction of open space. This concern has now culminated in the formation of a group, Citizens for Quality Growth. CQG has formulated 3 objectives:

1. To promote a city council that is balanced, responsive to the citizens, and *quality* growth oriented.
2. To ensure that development in Oak Ridge occurs according to the Comprehensive Plan and that existing ordinances are enforced.
3. To get the citizens of Oak Ridge involved in local government.

CQG has designated a steering committee, chaired by Virginia Dale, and 4 standing committees (for a start). There should be plenty of tasks for anyone who wishes to get involved (newsletter, publicity, research, etc.). You may wish to spread



the word to other interested Oak Ridgers. For further info call 482-6536.

D. *Oliver Springs Elementary School develops trails*

How about that! The elementary school in this small community owns 27 acres of mountain land on which they have developed 6 miles of trails: a bluebird trail, a state tree trail, a plant trail, and a phys. ed trail. In addition, the school has an outdoor lab, weather station, and amphitheater. These facilities were officially opened in October.

E. *Progress in protecting the Tennessee River Gorge*

The Tennessee River Gorge Natural Areas Trust (TRGNAT) has as its objective the protection of a unique portion of the Tennessee River valley: at Chattanooga, the river turns generally westward and cuts through high escarpments of the Cumberland Plateau, forming a deep gorge for 22 miles before entering Alabama. The Trust has been in existence for but a few years and has managed to protect over 16,000 acres of land as follows: 9800 acres of state lands (Prentice Cooper State Forest) or federal lands (TVA) protected through Memorandums of Understanding, 3965 acres under Conservation Management Agreement with private land owners, 1200 acres donated by Bowater, Inc., and 857 acres purchased or optioned. Protection of the last-named acreage was made possible through a fund for high-priority tracts initiated with a grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation of Chattanooga. This will be replenished through fund-raising efforts. For further info, contact Graham G. Hawks, Jr., TRGNAT, James Bldg., Suite 203, 735 Broad St., Chattanooga, TN 37402.

F. *TCWP Comments on State's Nonpoint Source Pollution Plan*

TCWP Pres. Martha Ketelle submitted extensive comments on the State's draft Nonpoint Source Water Pollution (NPSWP) Management Plan (NL166 ¶4D). While TCWP is very supportive of the effort, it offers suggestions for strengthening the NPSWP Plan. One major area of concern expressed by TCWP is that while 65% of NPSWP comes from the agricultural sector, the Tennessee draft plan relies totally on voluntary programs rather than on regulations designed to achieve maximum benefits in water-quality improvement as well as in soil productivity. TCWP also expressed disappointment that, instead of suggesting remedies, the report merely makes the understatement that "preliminary data *suggest* [emphasis added] that ground-water contamination does result from blasted-in-bedrock subsurface sewage systems [namely, septic tanks], urban runoff in karst areas, and the application of agricultural chemicals."

G. *Tennessee Recycling Conference set for February*

The Tennessee Environmental Council is hosting a recycling conference on Feb. 17-18, 1989, in Nashville. The first day is designed to help local officials understand how recycling fits into solid-waste management, while the second day will include workshops for citizens on how to recycle, how to organize, etc. For more info, contact Walt Childress, TEC, 615, 321-5075. On the two days prior to the TEC-organized event, there will be a related event, the Clean Tennessee Annual Conference.

4. RIVERS IN TENNESSEE AND IN THE NATION

A. *New superintendent for Big S. Fork/Obed*

As of October 1, the Big South Fork NRR and the Obed WSR have a new superintendent. William K. Dickinson took over from Jim Wiggins, Assistant Superintendent, who had been serving as Acting Supt since mid-August, when Charles L. Vial moved to Cumberland Gap Natl Historical Park. Dickinson, 36, has a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the Univ. of Illinois. He was former superintendent of the USS Arizona Memorial, a Park Service unit at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

B. *State rivers inventory urged.*

Chris Brown, former exec director of American Rivers and now with the National Park Service (NPS), recently spoke to the Rivers Advisory Council that was created following the Collins River debacle (NL153 ¶6C). He urged compilation of a statewide rivers inventory, an activity that has been in limbo since the days of the Alexander administration (NL153 ¶6C). The Council was very receptive to this proposal, especially since NPS now has resources for providing technical assistance for river studies. The inventory compiled by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service under the Carter Administration should form an excellent basis for a state inventory. All that remains to be done is to get the TN Dept. of Conservation to agree to do the study.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write Commissioner Elbert Gill, TN Dept. of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37219 and urge him to authorize DoC to compile a statewide rivers inventory.

C. *Columbia Dam, still stalled by endangered species, is not needed for water supply.*

We haven't had much news about Columbia Dam recently, so we welcome the following information from Frank Fly (the leader of the fight against the dam). Though the dam structure was 80% complete when construction was halted, remaining costs of the project would be \$158 million. TVA has failed to convince the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that transplantation of two

endangered species of mussels to other rivers will be successful. Furthermore, a third endangered species, the tan riffle shell mussel, was discovered in the Duck River the spring of this year. TVA is preparing a biological assessment of project alternatives, including a reservoir level lower than the one originally projected, improved waste treatment facilities, tributary reservoirs, and interbasin transfer.

Many of you will recall that one of the major justifications for Columbia Dam was water supply. TVA, however, now concedes (as many of us have been saying for years) that the water-supply needs of the local area can be met by water from Normandy Reservoir upstream, and that Columbia Reservoir is not needed for water supply. Despite this fact, local proponents are continuing to push for Columbia Dam.

D. *The dirty Pigeon River.*

By the terms of the permit EPA issued last March, the Champion Intl Paper Co of Canton, NC, must change its wood-bleaching process so that within 3 years the Pigeon River will have no more than 85 color units at the point where it enters Tennessee. Tennessee law allows only 50 color units, and Champion has claimed that it is technologically impossible for them to achieve that level. So the State would have to grant a "variance" in order for the paper company to operate under the permit. However, the Dead Pigeon River Council, based in Newport, TN, believes (on the basis of information leaked by an EPA employee) that Champion could meet the 50-unit standard by employing a combination of methods. The Council has asked the State of Tennessee to pay for an independent study of Champion's options before deciding whether to grant a variance. Unfortunately, Pigeon River studies have already been a considerable expense to the State, and some agency personnel have expressed the worry that programs on other rivers will suffer as a result. [Editor's note: In view of an amendment to the State Water Quality Control Act that was passed this year (NL164 ¶3A), it is not clear whether a variance would be needed to accommodate the pollution level in the Pigeon River.]

E. *National Wild & Scenic Rivers System grows by 40 rivers*

Just before it adjourned, Congress passed an Oregon rivers bill that swells the National WSR System from 75 to 115 rivers and increases protected river mileage from 7709 to 9138. Some concessions had to be made to get the bill passed, including allowing continuation of a dam study for the Klamath River.

5. ABANDONED MINE LANDS IN TENNESSEE

Tennessee has evidently been "done out" of certain federal Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) funds for several years, it seems by design of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM). Here is the background. The federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) created an AML fund to repair mine sites abandoned before 1977. The fund is generated by a small tax on current mining (35¢/ton on stripmined and 15¢/ton on deepmined coal). When Tennessee gave up primacy (i.e., State enforcement conforming to SMCRA) in 1984, it lost its right to the State portion of the AML fund, but it was still eligible for the Secretary's discretionary portion of the fund (especially so since the AML "tax" continues to be levied on coal mined in our State). When it became clear that orphan mines in Tennessee were being ignored, 8 groups (including TCWP) petitioned for these discretionary AML funds in July 1985. OSM responded that "any decisions in this regard will depend on progress made to restore primacy to the State."

Then Sen. Sasser came to the rescue. In March 1986, by filibustering the confirmation of Jed Christensen as OSM Director, he forced OSM to release \$2 million annually from the discretionary fund. This money has allowed a small proportion of our AML sites to be restored. At Sasser's request, the General Accounting Office (GAO) recently visited Tennessee to evaluate OSM's AML program. On that occasion, representatives of Save Our Cumberland Mtns learned something of great interest from GAO staff.

It seems that Tennessee has all along been eligible for Emergency AML funding (over and above the \$2 million that Sen. Sasser shook loose). Other states have filed large numbers of requests for this "emergency" money -- 2000 in Pennsylvania, 300 in Kentucky -- and about 50% of these requests have in fact resulted in reclamation funding. Yet, over the past 5 years, only two requests have been made for Tennessee. In fact, every time citizens inquired about sites qualifying for emergency funds, they were told that the criteria were extremely stringent. On the basis of the experience in PA, KY and other states, this is obviously not the case. One cannot escape the conclusion that OSM has discriminated against Tennessee for dropping the State stripmine program. If you know of any orphan-mine site that might qualify for emergency reclamation, let us know.

6. TVA NEWS

A. *TVA's Environmental Agenda will be subject of meeting.*

TVA's Environmental Quality Staff has drafted "Recommended Goals and Objectives for the 1989 Environmental Agenda" (G&O), based on information in an earlier Environmental Trends & Issues document (NL166 ¶6A). Covered in the

G&O draft are compliance, water resources, land resources, and materials & waste management. For example, under land resources, one of TVA's objectives is to "continue to emphasize the need for and benefits of floodplain and natural-resource management, discourage the conversion of prime farmland and wetlands, reclaim abused lands in cooperation with others, and evaluate and transfer archaeological site-stabilization techniques." TVA plans to host a constituency meeting January 19-20, at Knoxville, which will focus on the agency's environmental agenda. Any TCWP member interested in participating in such a meeting should get in touch with us (address on p.1)

B. *TVA steamplant is nation's second-worst polluter*

One of TVA's coal-fired plants, the Cumberland Steam Plant in Middle Tennessee, is almost at the top of the list of the nation's SO₂ emitters. In fact, Cumberland, with an annual output of 344,000 tons SO₂ is just barely behind an Ohio Electric Co plant that emits 350,000 tons, and is well in front of 406 other plants ranked by EPA. TVA points out that the Cumberland plant is very large, and that its emissions do not violate federal or state limits. EPA has been concerned by reports of respiratory problems from airborne SO₂, and Congress will (hopefully) soon again address mandated reductions of SO₂ emissions as part of the Clean Air Act reauthorization. S. David Freeman, former TVA chairman, has advocated reducing allowable SO₂ limits by 50%, saying "I'm not supportive of TVA becoming just another utility and losing our stature on environmental protection. We used to be a model for the nation."

7. *AMERICAN HERITAGE TRUST: good outlook for next year if we keep up the effort*

The American Heritage Trust (AHT) would provide steady and eventually self-sustained funding for the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is used to acquire lands for parks, refuges, and historic sites. The need for the AHT is urgent: nationwide, open space is disappearing at the rate of 2-4 million acres per year, and experts warn that most land-protection options will no longer be available 5 years from now.

In recent years, the LWCF has been appropriated in increasingly smaller proportions of the authorized amount (\$900 million/year from offshore oil and gas leases) -- see, e.g., NL166 ¶8G. Further, any unappropriated portions of the present LWCF revert to the general treasury; by contrast, unappropriated funds would remain in the AHT to earn interest. (For other features of the AHT, see NL162 ¶7B, NL163 ¶7A).

The AHT bills sponsored this year by Mo Udall (HR 4127) and John Chafee (S 2199) would have set up a

self-sustaining dedicated trust fund that would eventually generate \$1.5 billion/year in interest. Despite the short time since their introduction, these bills accumulated a large number of co-sponsors: as of 9/28/88, 236 in the House (where the magic number needed for passage is 218), and 40 in the Senate. Rep. Jim Cooper and Sen. Al Gore, Jr., were early co-sponsors; but subsequently every member of the Tennessee delegation (except for the 2nd District seat, which was empty) became a co-sponsor. This strong, bipartisan support reflected exceptional grassroots efforts, not only by citizens but by State and local officials.

The House bill was in the process of being scheduled for floor action, when Appropriations Committee Chairman Jamie Whitten objected on procedural grounds. It seems that inclusion of appropriations language in bills from authorizing committees (like the Interior Committee) is the subject of long-standing tension in the House. HR 4127 was deemed to be appropriating interest on the proposed trust. These concerns could not be resolved in time for a vote this year, and rather than subjecting the bill to undue opposition, Rep. Udall withdrew it on Sept. 27.

Udall has stated that the AHT will be one of his top legislative priorities in the next session. No substantial changes in the bill are contemplated; instead, efforts will be made to develop better answers and educational materials to respond to the appropriations concerns expressed by opponents.

*** WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to your Rep and to both Senators Gore and Sasser (addresses on p.2) and thank them for co-sponsoring AHT legislation. Strongly urge them to again co-sponsor the bill when it is introduced in the next session. Tell them why you think the AHT is badly needed. (Note: if you live in another state, contact us to find out which members of your Congressional delegation were co-sponsors.) To keep up to date on AHT status, contact Charles Howell, former TN Commissioner of Conservation, at 2704-12th Ave. So., Nashville 37204.

8. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

A. *Wrap-up on the environmental work of the 100th Congress*

The 100th Congress began by reauthorizing the Clean Water Act (by overriding the Reagan veto) and ended by finally reauthorizing the Endangered Species Act (NL166 ¶8A). Other accomplishments include energy-efficiency requirements for fluorescent lights and appliances, a partial reform of the pesticide law (but much more must be done by the next Congress, including groundwater protection), holding off (at least for now) oil & gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (NL166 ¶8B), designation of the 114,000-acre El Malpais Natl Monument in New Mexico, passage of a

significant addition to the Wild & Scenic Rivers System (¶4E, this NL), designation of the Bowerman Basin, on the coast of Washington State, as a National Wildlife Refuge, and keeping the public land acquisition process alive despite continuing Administration attempts to kill it (NL166 ¶8G).

Several important pieces of legislation did not make it, although some came very close to doing so and have a good chance in the next Congress. Probably the most visible of these is reauthorization of the Clean Air Act (NL166 ¶8D), where proponents hope to build on the incomplete 1988 victories. (Election of Sen. George Mitchell as Senate majority leader should greatly help this effort.) The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (NL166 ¶8C) may require major compromises for passage. An Act to end the large-scale mandatory clearcutting of the magnificent Tongass National Forest (SE Alaska) passed the House and had enough votes to pass in the Senate had not Alaska's senators prevented a floor vote in the closing days of the session (hopefully, they cannot do so forever in the upcoming session). In some ways most disappointing was the failure to pass the American Heritage Trust Act (see ¶7, above).

B. *Energy policy needs to be a top priority of the next administration*

The Board of Directors of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, a prestigious group of energy experts, environmental leaders, and corporate executives, has called for Congress and the Bush administration to take up a series of initiatives, including the following:

- Improve energy efficiency (fuel-economy standards, phased-in gasoline tax, cost-sharing support for energy-efficiency R&D, etc.)
- Rejuvenate the federal R&D program for solar and other renewable energy sources.
- Explore the potential of a CO₂ tax and other mechanisms that would encourage emission cuts.
- Remove production subsidies that encourage the unwise use of fossil fuels.
- Adopt domestic and international policies to greatly limit deforestation and encourage reforestation.
- Take leadership in developing international initiatives to reduce global warming.

The EESI points out that energy efficiency must be the first line of defense in our efforts to slow the rate of global warming. Further, it can provide the "least cost" contribution to our energy supply, enhance our economic competitiveness, offer new

market opportunities, and combat air pollution. (For a copy of the complete statement, send \$10 to EESI, 122 C St, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001).

C. *Our Wildlife Refuges are in a sorry state*

Of the 445 National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) administered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, all but a handful have been damaged or blighted by toxic chemicals, water diversions and wetlands drainage, oil drilling, off-road vehicles and other insults wrought by man. A recent Wilderness Society report gives 10 examples, "the tip of the iceberg." Among them: Great Swamp NWR, in NJ, where polluted runoff and an asbestos dump are endangering fish, deer, foxes, and 300 bird species; Yazoo NWR, in MS, where a drainage project is destroying waterfowl wintering areas; Lower Rio Grande NWR, in TX, where pesticide contamination and commercial development threaten eagles, peregrine falcons, and ocelots; Chincoteague NWR, in VA, where off-road vehicles are wrecking nests, plant life, and dunes.

9. THE ELECTIONS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

A. *The election - odds and ends*

- Tennessee has two new members of Congress: John Duncan, Jr. (R-2), who follows his father, and John Tanner (D-8), who won the seat vacated by Ed Jones. Tanner was endorsed by the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.
- Among the changes that will take place in the Tennessee General Assembly, the following will be of interest to environmentalists. Jan Bushing (D-56, Nashville), who had a Sierra Club endorsement because of her excellent record, lost to Beth Halteman. Jerry Jared (D-42, Cookeville), who had been very concerned about meaningful stripmine regulations, retired and is succeeded by Cookeville's Republican mayor, Dwight Henry. David Coffey (R-33, Oak Ridge), who impressed many of us with his effective support of the surface rights bill in 1987, is the new Republican floor leader of the House.
- Of candidates supported by the League of Conservation Voters, 79% won election; the success rate was 59% in LCV's 34 priority races. One of Environmental Action's "Dirty Dozen," Sen. Chick Hecht (R-NV) was defeated.

B. *The Bush Administration - prospects*

Since the election, some environmental groups have expressed cautious optimism that Bush's campaign promises to improve the environment, the composition of the new Congress, and the interest in environmental issues demonstrated during the campaign all bode well for environmental issues. Several groups have

indicated that they will hold Bush to his promises, including "no net loss of wetlands," cutting of SO₂ emissions to reduce acid rain, greenways in urban centers, and U.S. leadership in international action to address global problems like ocean pollution and thinning of the ozone layer.

One important question: will the Bush Administration's Transition Team avail itself of Blueprint for the Environment (NL163 ¶8A)? This important document represents the work of many environmental professionals over the past several months. About 30 subgroups generated specific recommendations which could provide guidelines for each new assistant secretary in all the government agencies concerned with environmental policy. (Bill Chandler and Jim Price co-chaired a subgroup on TVA, which also included TCWP members Bob Luxmoore and Arthur Smith.) Project Blueprint also generated a talent bank of people qualified to work in appropriate government agencies. If the Transition Team chooses to ignore the Blueprint, this would be an ominous sign.

C. *The Reagan legacy for the environment*

In an article in the *New York Times*, the eminent director of the Wood's Hole Research Center, George Woodwell, calls the Reagan era "eight years of subsidized avarice." In a recent article in *The Amicus Journal*, Stewart Udall, JFK's Secretary of the Interior, analyses the Reagan "Revolution" with respect to environmental issues. Reagan's ideology about the evils of big government "impelled him to reject the national consensus about resource stewardship," says Udall. Some environmental regs were relaxed, and others simply not enforced. The Administration tried to dismantle the energy-conservation programs it inherited, and systematically opposed legislation that would increase energy efficiency. On all of these issues, Reagan avoided a meaningful national debate (e.g., by introducing legislation); instead, he made policy through the budgetary process -- resource programs the administration didn't like were simply strangled by lack of funding. The environmental movement regularly had to go to court to force federal agencies to obey and enforce existing laws. Reagan, says Udall, "has the shameful distinction of being one of only 2 or 3 presidents in this century who served his term without proposing any major initiative to further the cause of conservation...[His] negative legacy is a gargantuan debt that restricts the action options of his successors and of the American people." The "great communicator," however, failed to influence U.S. citizens to adopt his views on the environment. On the contrary, a 1987 poll revealed that environmental quality has again become a consensual issue, as it was in the early 1970's.

D. TCWP meets with prominent State legislator

On November 29, members of three environmental groups met with State Representative David Coffey, who will be the Republican floor leader in the Tennessee General Assembly. (David Adler, Karen Finkel, Maureen Cunningham, Eric Hirst, Alice Runtsch, Charlie Klabunde, Louise Markel, Marion Garber, Bill and Lee Russell represented TCWP.) TCWP presented 6 issues for Coffey's consideration and urged specific actions on his part. The issues were: Natural Areas acquisition, statewide rivers inventory, funding for nongame and endangered species, oil & gas regulations, blasting in bedrock for septic tanks, and the insensitivity of the state administration to natural values. Rep Coffey was an interested listener who displayed a great deal of background information on the issues and a political astuteness about chances to get anything done. We gave him copies of our 6 issue statements and are confident that he'll act further on at least some of them. [If you want a copy of each statement, send a self-addressed, stamped (45¢) envelope to TCWP (address on p.1)]

10. TCWP NEWS**A. Year-end summary**

During the year that's about to end TCWP.

- kept the Cedar Barrens from being sold for a mall, had it rezoned Greenbelt, and took responsibility for managing this valuable natural area;
- saw settlement of the appeal of the Cherokee National Forest Plan, a settlement which reduced the amount of future clearcutting and added many thousands of acres to Scenic-Area and other protective designations;
- fought valiantly for a Smokies Wilderness bill, only to be defeated at the last moment by Sen. Helms (we'll keep trying, though !);
- kept the State from choking off our Natural Areas program and, in fact, succeeded in getting some additions to the System;
- took up the renewed fight to have the Flat Fork Valley at Frozen Head declared unsuitable for coal mining;
- kept up the pressure to have land acquisition completed on the Big South Fork NRR and Obed WSR;
- took part in TVA's "environmental constituency" program, met with the new chairman, and participated in reservoir-system planning;
- maintained the Northridge Trail and the White's Creek Trail;

- worked on many State issues and many federal issues, etc., etc.

As always, we have kept our members informed and actively involved via our NEWSLETTER and our updated POLITICAL GUIDE. This year, in addition, we prepared an extensive pre-election coverage of candidates' environmental records and positions.

B. Activities and volunteers

- Members of the old and new Boards have in recent weeks been involved in several special activities:

Pres. Martha Ketelle attended a Tennessee Environmental Council retreat to brainstorm future environmental efforts in Tennessee.

Martha Ketelle and David Adler attended the formation meeting of the Cherokee Citizens Task Group (§1A, this NL).

Maureen Cunningham has been active in organizing Citizens for Quality Growth (§3C, this NL).

Bill Russell was the moderator at a meeting of citizens'-group representatives with State Rep. David Coffey (§9D, this NL). Maureen Cunningham was involved in organizing this meeting.

Liane (Lee) Russell gave talks (about the BSFNRRA and other matters) at an Altrusa luncheon meeting and at the Chota Canoe Club membership meeting.

Chuck Coutant developed the Haw Ridge Canoe Trail and is drafting a brochure about it.

- Karen Finkel carried out quite a few executive-director jobs during Jenny's absence in China. We are most grateful to her.
- We thank the following wonderful volunteers for their help in assembling recent NEWSLETTERS.

NL165, Oct. 10 at Flossie Starling's house: Donald Davis, Ruth Kernohan, Charlie Klabunde, Flossie Starling, Fred Sweeton, Ken and Helen Warren.

NL166, Oct. 17 at Alice Runtsch's house: Carolyn & Don Hunsaker, Charlie Klabunde, Margaret Olson, Marion Roesel, Alice Runtsch.

C. Addendum to Annual Meeting report

- When reporting on the TCWP Annual Meeting in NL166 §9, a major oversight made us neglect to mention the talk by Eileen Hurt on Historic Rugby. Rugby has a strong and intrinsic relation with the Big South Fork -- in fact, a century ago, the site was chosen by the English writer Thomas Hughes, Rugby's founder, because of the great beauty of the area and the closeness of the Clear Fork and Whiteoak Creek gorges. In his planning for the Rugby colony, Hughes was very determined on keeping the surrounding area unspoiled. The

organization Historic Rugby has done a fine job at restoring much of the original housing and trying to maintain the town's original charm. Eileen reported that they were "thrilled to have the BSFNRRRA on their doorstep." A BSF Heritage Trail has been instigated by Historic Rugby, and many Rugby visitors (e.g., Elderhostel participants) are directed to the scenic attractions of the BSFNRRRA. The organization has been working to have the Corps substitute construction of a Rugby bypass for the original proposal to have one of the two BSFNRRRA lodges located in Rugby.

11. ACTIVITIES, READING MATTER

- The next Adubon TV Special will be on sharks. It is to be aired on TBS Dec. 16, 24, 27, and 30 (see your local listings) and on PBS in June 1989.
- Feb. 17-18, 1989, Nashville: Tennessee Recycling Conference (see ¶3G, this NL)
- The Annual Environmental Sourcebook contains listings and descriptions of 130 books on water, wildlife, federal lands, biological diversity, etc. Write Center for Resource Economics/Island Press, 1718 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 300, Wash. DC 20009.
- "How Tennessee's Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Law Affects You" is a one-page brochure that may be had free from Lamar Bradley, Bureau of Env't., TN Dept. of Health & Env't., T.E.R.R.A. Bldg, 159 Ninth Ave, N. Nashville 37219-5404.
- "Ill Winds: Airborne Pollution's Toll on Trees and Crops," by J. J. MacKenzie and Mohamed T. El-Ashry, describes present damages, the inadequacy of existing legislation, and new approaches needed to control pollution. (\$10, incl. postage, from Publications - Dept. IW, World Resources Inst., 1750 New York Ave, NW, Wash. DC 20006.)
- "The Forest for the Trees? Government Policies and the Misuse of Forest Resources," by Robert Repetto, shows how governments of 10 countries (including Brazil, Malaysia, and the USA) are accelerating forest destruction, and makes recommendations for change. (\$10 + \$2 postage, WR1 Publications, Box 620, Holmes, PA 19043.)