

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 54, April 2, 1973

We have a FIRST in this NL: news from our Holston Valley Chapter (item 10). Also with this issue we bring you our Political Guide -- save it. Items 1-4 will give you much practice using this guide -- on the state and federal levels. Remember, citizen action brings results, so please act on at least 3 of the starred items.

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1. THE STATE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION: BILLS OF INTEREST

A. Stripmine bills

* (1) Considerable detail on TCWP- and SOCM-supported efforts to improve our stripmine law and its enforcement are presented in Sec. 2. Make it a high priority item actively to support stripmine control. (2) A bill to worry about is Bowman's HB 128. This would make it difficult for the state to refuse a stripmine permit by requiring that, in cases of permit denial, the state must buy the land or compensate the owner for 10% the appraised value of the coal on his land. It needs to be pointed out that refusal of a stripmining permit would not prevent a landowner from deepmining, nor would it preclude other land uses that could bring income. We hope you will help other legislators to realize the insidious nature of this bill. (3) Various bills that would make slight changes in the coal severance tax are in various stages of passage. The latest to be introduced (3/27/73) is a bill by Murphy and Bissell which adds 1¢/ton to the existing severance tax, to be earmarked for orphan mine reclamation, with the landowner paying 1/3 cost (cf SOCM "Land Restoration Act," Sec. 2A).

B. Natural areas bill

* The Natural Areas Act of 1971 sets up the mechanism for a natural-areas system, but does not name any actual areas. According to the Act, designation can be made only by the legislature. An administration bill just introduced, HB 487 (Bible) SB 410 (Garland) now names 16 areas to be included in the system, 8 each in Classes I and II (the latter being the more protected classification). The largest area is Savage Gulf, 13,000 acres, Class II. Also in Class II are: Northrup Falls in the Big S. Fork watershed, May Prairie in Coffee County, Piney Falls in Rhea County, and the four Bowaters Pocket Wildernesses (as "registry" items). All of our legislators should know how much support there is for this bill.

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C. Threat to State Trails, Scenic Rivers, Natural Areas, and Parks Systems

HB 13 (Denton, Bible) would prohibit the Commissioner of Conservation from exercising the power of eminent domain. (Ironically, another bill, SB 66, would expand the state's right to condemn land for highways.) Although our existing park-type legislation specifically recommends that eminent domain be used only as a last resort, nevertheless the existence of this power is essential if the effectiveness of an entire unit is not to be severely diminished, especially in such elongated "parks" as scenic trails or scenic rivers. This bill must be strongly opposed.

D. Threat to the Water Quality Control Act

HB 138 (Pickering et al.) would exempt from the necessity for obtaining water discharge permits the act of removing gravel from stream beds. Not only is gravel removal itself potentially harmful to the stream biota and to the stream bed and banks, but passage of this bill would be a start toward undermining our good Water Quality Control Law. The measure has been favorably reported out of House Agriculture Committee, but no companion bill has been introduced in the Senate. It is not too late to communicate with your legislators about this bill.

E. State Park planning

HB 104 (Murphy et al.) provides for public hearings before final adoption of a master plan for state park development. We think this is an important bill to ensure citizen participation (see also item 6B).

F. Other bills

A large number of other bills concerned with air and water pollution, solid wastes, safety of small dams, etc. have been introduced. For more information see TEC's February, March, & April Newsletters; or contact Ruth Neff, TEC, TN-Botanical Gardens, Cheek Road, Nashville, TN 37205.

2. STRIPMINING: LEGISLATION, FACTS, LAWSUIT, OUTING

A. State legislation

The TCWP Stripmine Committee, has, for the third year in a row, studied the workings of existing state law and developed model legislation for improvement in the law and its enforcement. Based on this study Sen. Baird and Rep. Murphy have introduced SB 312 and HB 390, respectively, the "Citizens Amendments" to the 1972 Act.

Three of the amendments place special emphasis on protecting water quality by (a) requiring a buffer zone of 300 feet between coal surface mines and streams, lakes, or reservoirs; (b) forbidding the placement of overburden into natural or constructed drainways; and (c) requiring an operator to obtain a water discharge permit before a stripmining permit could be granted (the present law requires him only to apply for such a permit). The strengthening amendments also seek to protect local residents of stripmined areas from blast damages and from other adverse off-site effects. The opportunities for area residents to learn more about a permit application prior to any approval by the Commissioner are improved in a number of ways, including the possibility of a public hearing. As the 1972 law has been practiced so far, local people have not been allowed a voice. The amendments would not limit in an absolute way the degree of slope that could be mined for coal, but would prevent an operator from placing overburden on a slope greater than 15°, and would prohibit manmade grades in excess of 24° to remain after grading. This provision would greatly reduce long-term damage from landslides and erosion that result from earthmoving on steep slopes.

Hearings on stripmine legislation will probably be held in Nashville during the week of April 9. It is very important that you contact your legislator as soon as you can and tell him of your support for strengthening our stripmine law. Send him item 11 from this Newsletter (see 2C, below).

Save Our Cumberland Mtns. (SOCM) is supporting two stripmine bills. One, the "Mountain People's Law," would completely ban stripmining in Tennessee within 6 months (Koella, Murphy). The other (SB 372, Baird; HB 367, Murphy), the "Land Restoration Act," provides for an inventory of existing damage by 1/1/74, and repair by 1/1/78, with the responsibility for the latter going to the landowner (usually a big out-of-state corporation). Even though most members of the legislature are not ready to sponsor the ban bill, its existence makes them aware of the popular groundswell in this direction. The extensive SOCM screenings, throughout Tennessee, of the film "The Stripping of Appalachia" has done much to heighten awareness of the stripmine mess. As a result of all these efforts, the climate for passage of our "Citizens amendments" may be improved, but your legislator must hear from us, not just the stripminers.

B. Federal legislation

The Senate Interior Committee held hearings March 13-16, and Lee Russell went to Washington to testify for TCWP. Our lengthy written statement, which details conditions in Tennessee, analyses pending bills, and sets forth TCWP's position, is available on request. Very briefly summarized, we endorsed, among many other things, the following provisions for a federal law. (1) Controls and regulations to take effect within 6 months of enactment. (Note: the Administration bill, S. 923, would allow $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ years to elapse!) (2) Prohibition of new surface mining, if slope is greater than 15° -- where mining is to be done with present technology; or where it would result in deposition of spoil on a downslope of greater than 15° ; or where a man-made slope of greater than 24° would remain after grading; or on certain federal lands, or lands under study for federal designation. On-going mining under any of these conditions should be terminated within 6 months (except for reclamation efforts). (3) Provisions for designating specific or generic areas as unsuitable for surface mining. (4) Regulation of all surface mining not prohibited under (2) or (3) by explicitly including in the language of the Act certain duties of the regulatory body. Seven of these are detailed in our testimony including the duty to require clear demonstration, based on actual experience, that the detailed mining and reclamation plans can and will accomplish what the Act asks for.

The following bills have been introduced to date: S. 923 (Administration bill), weaker than our existing State law and incredibly slow to take effect (see above); S. 425 (Jackson), very much stronger than last year's Senate bill, but weak in guaranteeing federal surveillance, and lacking a slope limitation; HR 3 (Hays), very similar to the rather strong bill passed by the House last year, and containing slope limitations (with a possible escape clause); S. 1163 (Baker) similar to the Cooper-Baker bill of last year (see NL #45); HR 5988 (Saylor), just introduced, which is said to be partly modelled after the strong Pennsylvania law; and HR 1000 (Hechler, co-sponsored by, among others, our Congr. Fulton; Senate companion bill by Case), which would stop contour stripping 6 months after enactment and phase out area coal mining in 2 years.

Ed Thackston, Gov. Dunn's Environmental Advisor, testified among government witnesses (2 days before TCWP) to tell the Committee that Tennessee had a fine law and that no federal measure any stronger than the Administration bill was needed. The stripmine lobby also appeared in full force at the Senate hearings and is working very hard against strong federal legislation. Pres. Nixon is expected in his forthcoming Energy Message to stress our reliance on coal, with the implication that strong stripmine control might hurt our energy needs.

The House will hold hearings April 9, 10, 16, 17 and TCWP will again present oral and written testimony. This is a good time for our members and friends to communicate with their Senators and Representatives and let them know what we think of stripmining in Tennessee and of our position on federal legislation. Send the question-and-answer sheet (item 11) or use info from it.

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C. Stripmine studies

(1) The Environmental Policy Center has compiled an excellent summary of data on coal reserves, mine employment, coal prices, etc., from the following sources: U.S. Bureau of Mines, Council on Environmental Quality, Natl. Coal Assn, and Env'tl Protection Agency. For copy, write to John McCormick, EPC, 324 C Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. Among the highlights are the following ratios for our coal "reserves" (defined as that portion of our "resources" that can be mined economically with present technology):

(U.S.A.), deepmine : strippable	= 8 : 1
(Appalachia), deep : strip	= 11 : 1
(Appalachia, low-sulphur), deep : strip	= 10 : 1

The following production and employment trends are also of interest. Between 1966 and 1971, the number of deepmines decreased from 4741 to 2268, with a production loss of 62.6 million tons,

the number of surface mines increased from 1572 to 2268, with a production gain of 79 million tons.

Between 1960 and 1970, the employment loss in deepmines was 34,285; while the employment gain in stripmines was only 3,234.

(2) The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), responding to a Nov. 1972 request from Sen. Jackson, has published a report on coal surface mining of which we presently have only the 7-page summary and 8 tables available. The CEQ study addressed itself, among other things, to "impact of slope angle prohibition" and concluded that a 15° prohibition would affect 7-18% of present total U.S. production; and a 20° prohibition, 3-14% of total U.S. production. "Because the overwhelming majority of U.S. reserves is recoverable only by underground mining ... the loss of reserves from a slope angle prohibition represents under 1% of the total reserves physically available." We question, however, CEQ's figures on "direct economic impact of 15° slope angle prohibition" (Table VII), according to which the Knoxville and Bristol areas would experience employment losses of 1523 and 1477, respectively: according to Tennessee Dept. of Labor statistics for 1970 and 1971, a maximum of 1000 persons were employed in all coal surface mining in the state.

(3) We have prepared a question-and-answer sheet from the above studies and other data (p. 11). Tear this out and send it to your legislator, or use the information when writing to him about pending bills.

D. Lawsuit against TVA

A hearing was held March 14 in Federal District Court in Knoxville on the motion for preliminary injunction, or, in the alternative, partial summary judgement, on the question of impact statements for major stripmine contracts. Plaintiffs (which include TCWP) ask that TVA be enjoined (a) from purchasing coal on three major stripmine contracts cited in the suit (one of them in the amount of \$78 million!), unless TVA prepares, within 90 days, a separate draft environmental impact statement on each contract; and (b) from entering into any term contracts until practices consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been adopted. At the hearing, TVA tried to prove that such procedures would be too tedious, and would lead to an energy crisis, since TVA had "over 200" contracts. Even in court, this number was reduced to 106, and subsequently to 28 current term contracts active post-NEPA. Judge Taylor has the case under advisement. May 2 is the date for the major part of the suit, bearing on the question of adequacy of TVA's general policy statement on stripmining (e.g. were alternatives properly considered?).

Lawsuits are expensive. TCWP will be grateful for contributions for this suit, or for our general fund. Won't you celebrate Earth Week this way?

E. View some stripmines and serve a good cause (for \$3)!

* Want to see the current status of stripmining in one of our coal counties (Morgan)? You can do so while contributing to the Petros Health Clinic (Note: Morgan County has not a single resident M.D.!). On April 14, J. W. Bradley will take a group up to Frozen Head Mountain to walk in the spring woods and get some views of stripmines on surrounding ridges. You pay \$3 to participate (children free); or you can sponsor someone else for \$3. Whoever enters with most \$\$ wins a homemade quilt. Meet 9 a.m. at J.W.'s house in Petros (last house on right before Hiway 116 makes a sharp left turn). In the evening, there'll be hot dogs etc. at the Petros schoolhouse, with mountain and gospel singing by the New River Boys and Billy Christopher.

3. RIVER NEWS

A. Obed: more study!

* A very thorough Task Force report was sent to Washington, but the reviewers up there sent it back with a request for modification: they want more alternatives set forth. In the meantime, there has been another one of these many staff changes in the Atlanta BOR: Bob Harrison, by now thoroughly familiar with the Obed and with all the people who are concerned for it, was moved into another program. Fortunately, Jim Rousseau, who has taken on the study, (with the help of Jim Williams), has some acquaintance with the river. He assures us that -- in spite of these various problems -- there will be no delay in the original plan to send the final proposal to the Secretary of the Interior in June. Hearings in the Obed area will be held in May, and we urge all of you who have the well-being of the Obed at heart to be ready to testify. Please let us know if you are willing to do so, and we'll inform you of details. New Atlanta BOR chief Bob Baker and family were taken for short hikes on Obed and Clear Creek on March 25 and loved it -- in spite of an on-and-off drizzle.

B. Big South Fork: House hearings coming

* As we reported in NL #53, the Big S. Fork (BSF) bill passed the Senate as part of the Omnibus Rivers & Harbors Bill. The House Committee on Public Works expects to hold hearings on this bill in May. Apart from the BSF section and one or two others, the R & H Bill consists mostly of pork-barrel authorizations. There is the distinct possibility that the House will enlarge the bill by adding more pork; and therefore the distinct danger that subsequent attempts to trim the bill -- either in the House itself, or in Conference Committee, or after a likely Presidential veto -- may result in the non-pork sections (including the BSF) being cut out. Now is the time to show your strong support with our Tennessee member of the Public Works Committee, LaMar Baker; with Cong. Duncan, in whose District much of the Big S. Fork lies and who still has many friends on the Committee; and with Sen. Baker, the author of the BSF section, who will have considerable influence in Conference Committee. Let's keep up the end spurt!

C. Duck River: environmentalists are in court

* The Duck River Preservation Assn, EDF, and others filed a complaint with Federal District Court July 5, 1972, and the suit was assigned to Judge Neese's jurisdiction at Winchester. After several motions, back and forth, by both sides (see NL #50) -- during which time TVA has been proceeding at a feverish pace with work on the Normandy Dam -- Judge Neese has now admitted the suit. Attorney for plaintiffs is delighted by the ruling that the case will be tried on the basis of substantive, as well as procedural, applications of NEPA.

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D. Little Tennessee: September trial set; TVA blames Chattanooga flood on Tellico Dam delay

At a hearing, March 20, in Federal District Court, Judge Taylor set Sept. 17 as the beginning date of the Tellico Dam trial and outlined the issues as follows: does TVA's impact statement comply with NEPA? has TVA complied with the law on notification concerning disruption of national historical or archeological areas? has TVA complied with the 1972 Water Quality Control Act? was TVA's decision to build the dam arbitrary, capricious, and lacking in good faith?

Two days later, TVA Chairman Wagner issued an official statement to the effect that Tellico Dam would have reduced flood damage in Chattanooga by \$15 million, and that "the people of this region ... are paying a heavy price ... in human suffering and anguish ... as a result of the efforts of a small but vocal minority ... to delay this project. ... This burden of physical suffering ... has been imposed by groups from outside ... " TCWP president W. L. Russell, APLTR president Ken Elrod, and EDF lawyer Rick Brown issued a series of statements which, among other things, point out the following facts: (a) Already before the project was halted by the temporary injunction of January 1972, TVA had determined that the dam could not be completed until 1975. Earlier delays were due to inadequate funding by Rep. Evins and Congress -- not "outsiders". (b) Tellico Reservoir, even if completed, would have added only 1.3% to the flood storage capacity already built above Chattanooga. (c) The court delay was not "imposed" by plaintiffs, but due to the finding (upheld by higher court) that TVA was not complying with the law. (d) The "small but vocal minority" includes over 7000 petition signers; and the "individuals ... [who] accept no responsibility for the consequences of their action" include the governor of Tennessee and heads of state government departments. As one TCWP statement concluded, "This violent attack by Mr. Wagner should not be allowed to throw a smokescreen over the fact that the suffering in Chattanooga is a result of inadequate planning, particularly with regard to flood plain zoning and regulation."

4. EASTERN WILDERNESS: YOUR SUPPORT STILL NEEDED

Felix Montgomery testified orally for TCWP and some other member organizations of Eastern Citizens for Wilderness at Senate Interior Committee hearings in Washington on Feb. 21, in favor of Sen. Jackson's S. 316 (see NL #53 for details). Several Tennessee conservation groups, in addition to TCWP, also sent written testimony specifically endorsing the Tennessee areas as described in the bill (except that we asked for the Gee Creek area to be enlarged). House hearings are coming up very shortly. In response to many requests from his District, Congr. LaMar Baker has introduced HR 4614, a bill identical to HR 1881 and S. 316. We hope you will express your gratitude.

Unfortunately, some erroneous statements attributed to Tony Campbell, TCL's new executive director, have appeared in several outdoor columns and have even found their way into Senate testimony by the National Wildlife Federation. These statements, aimed toward diminishing the proposed wilderness areas in Tennessee, claim the following: (a) That creation of the Cohutta Wilderness would prevent canoe access to a state Scenic River, the Conasauga (actually, two of three access roads to the same put-in place would be unaffected; and we are proud of TSRA's testimony that "the inconvenience of a more lengthy access is a small price to pay for more adequate protection of the water qualities of the beautiful Conasauga."); (b) that there has been recent logging in the Citico portion of the proposed Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness (actually the boundaries were drawn to specifically exclude recently logged areas); (c) that the proposed Wildernesses contain wildlife management areas (actually, only

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about 20% of two much larger WMA's overlap with proposed Wilderness Area boundaries; hunting and fishing is permitted in Wildernesses); (d) that \$80,000 is presently being spent by the state for habitat manipulation in the proposed wilderness boundaries (actually, only about 10% of this sum, or less, is being thus expended); and (e) that TCL has been excluded from input into the wilderness proposals (actually, repeated attempts were made to include TCL in decision making, but no response was received).

* Because of the wide dissemination of this misinformation, some of our Congressmen may receive adverse reactions to the Tennessee wilderness proposals. It is therefore doubly important for us to express our strong support for these areas as mapped in S. 316 and HR 1881 (except that we propose enlargement of Gee Creek). Write to your own Senators and Congressman and to the chairmen of the House and Senate Interior Committees, Congr. James Haley and Sen. Henry Jackson, respectively.

5. TCWP's NORTH RIDGE TRAIL RECEIVES NATIONAL STATUS. COME TO THE DEDICATION HIKE!

The Greenbelt Trail idea was born at TCWP's first public meeting, Oct. 12, 1966. Six years of political and trail-building efforts were rewarded on March 7, 1973 when Interior Secretary Rogers Morton declared our trail a National Recreation Trail. The official letter of award, presented to Oak Ridge Mayor Bissell by Robert Baker, Director of BOR's S.E. Regional Office, commends the city, the state, and TCWP "for the enhancement of the recreational opportunities afforded to the citizens of Oak Ridge." The North Ridge Trail, which runs through the city's 8-mile long 564-acre greenbelt, is only the fourth National Recreation Trail to be designated in the southeastern U.S., and the first to receive such designation after the national package of 27 was announced in June 1971.

* TCWP will sponsor a dedication hike on the Trail Sunday, April 15, starting at 1 p.m. from the Hilltop Market. Mayor Bissell and government officials will participate in a short opening ceremony. Car shuttles will be arranged.

6. STATE ADMINISTRATION NEWS: SOME GOOD, SOME BAD

A. Tony Koella appointed Deputy Commissioner of Conservation

Tony Koella, long-standing member of TCWP, has been appointed to replace Ann Tuck, who has moved to another branch of government. Four of the Department's nine Divisions will be supervised by Tony, the rest by Penn Foreman (the other Deputy Commissioner). In Tony's group is the Division of Planning and Development which, among other things, deals with State Scenic Rivers, Trails, and Natural Areas. We offer Tony our fullest cooperation. Tony's brother, Carl, is a new State Senator.

B. Prison land added to state park

* For quite a while, there have been persistent rumors that coal lands surrounding Brushy Mountain Prison (Petros) might be sold by the state or might in some other manner be opened to stripmining. Since this land is presently unspoiled, highly scenic, and adjacent to one of our most beautiful state parks, TCWP has worked for some time to get this land transferred from the Dept. of Correction to the Dept. of Conservation, to be added to Frozen Head Park. Last April, Rep. Bissell introduced HJR 404 to this effect (which, however, never passed the Senate); and we have also been in repeated contact with the Dept. of Conservation on this matter. Early in March of this year, Governor Dunn added a big portion of the prison land to Frozen Head State Park. You may wish to express your gratitude for this action. Unfortunately, the State Honor Farm was not included in the transfer. The ridges flanking the Honor Farm are in private ownership, and we hope the State can acquire this land,

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or at least a scenic easement to it, to protect this very vulnerable approach to the Park -- surely one of the prettiest scenes in the eastern U.S.! (If you are unfamiliar with this area, see calendar for April 21,22).

C. Offroad vehicles being allowed in state parks

It came to the attention of the Intergroup Conference (see item 8A) that the Dept. of Conservation was developing a policy for allowing motorized trail bikes in state parks. A resolution was signed by 20 organizations, urging the Commissioner to restrict such vehicles to roads, and not to plan for other uses by such vehicles, at least until the Outdoor Recreation Master Plan was completed. Unfortunately, however, the Department is even now proceeding with its original intent, and Parks Naturalists have been issued a directive to create a trail for motorbikes in each of three parks, East, Middle, and West Tennessee. The argument is that trailbikes have as much right to state parks as do hikers. Hikers, however, do not disturb the other occupants of the parks (including wildlife): in general, they don't smell much and do not make excessive amounts of noise. After all, drinking might be considered by some to be a legitimate form of recreation, yet alcoholic beverages are barred from State parks! Obviously, the Dept. does draw the line somewhere: how about drawing it in a way that protects the values for which the parks were created? You may wish to write to the Governor, or Commissioner Hinton about this matter.

7. TCWP's HARVEY BROOME FILM SERIES HAS NEW DISTRIBUTOR; ALL FILMS TO BE SHOWN DURING EARTH WEEK

On February 20, the ten films currently constituting our Harvey Broome Series were transferred to the Oak Ridge Public Library (Civic Center, Oak Ridge, TN 37830) for distribution. Elizabeth Peelle deserves much credit for making this arrangement after we lost our old distributor, the Cooperative Science Education Center. Our films are available for loan by educational institutions (first priority), community groups, etc. Tennessee users pay only return postage and insurance; out-of-state users pay \$5 rental fee.

As an Earth Week activity, we are sponsoring (with the Knox Audubon Chapter) previews of the Film Series on April 9, 10, 11, as follows:

- April 9, Sevierville: Public Library, Film Group A*
- Knoxville: U.T. Plant Sciences Bldg, Film Group B*
- April 10, Norris: Community Bldg, Group A
- Maryville: Municipal Bldg, Group B
- April 11, Morristown: Public Library, Group A
- Oak Ridge: Public Library, Group B

All showings start at 7:30 p.m.

*(Group A: Two Yosemite, Glen Canyon, The Persistent Seed, The Ravaged Land, The Flooding River. Group B: Tragedy of the Commons, So Little Time, The Squeeze, No Room for Wilderness, Rise and Fall of the Great Lakes.)

8. ORGANIZATION NEWS

A. Report of Intergroup Conference

The TCWP-sponsored Intergroup Conference Jan. 19-21 (see NL #52) was a great success, and Fred Sweeton who did much of the dirty work deserves our sincerest thanks. About 30 groups were represented, and listened to a day-long summary by experts on currently "hot" conservation issues in Tennessee. Workshops were held on the following day, and films and slides shown in the evenings. Six resolutions were passed and have been sent to the pertinent officials and politicians. A package containing summaries of the reports and workshops, texts of the resolutions, and list of participants was prepared by Lee Russell and is available to anyone on request.

B. New Committee appointments:

* Pat Tyrrell is our new coordinator of volunteer services. If you can donate even just a little time to our effort please write to her, c/o the editor, or call her (Knoxville 693-9672 evenings, Oak Ridge 483-8611, ext. 3-7929 working hours). We have many openings, both for service and issues committees. Fred Sweeton is keeping the mechanisms for coordinating with other Tennessee environmental groups up-to-date: let him know of any new groups, or of any changes in officers or addresses. John Tansil, chairman of our Eastern Wilderness Committee could use more helpers. So could Bob Farmer, chmn. of the Land Use Planning Committee. Anyone willing to help with the Obed and Big S. Fork efforts (see items 3A and 3B, this NL), get in touch with the editor.

C. Tennessee Environmental Council.

TCWP became a member organization of TEC in March and looks forward to even greater cooperation with the Council's able Executive Director, Ruth Neff.

D. TCWP Chapter Guidelines adopted.

Pursuant to the Bylaws amendment passed at our last annual meeting, the Board of Directors recently adopted Chapter Guidelines under which our two new chapters (Holston Valley and Chattanooga) now operate. Groups of members in other locations who are interested in forming a chapter can obtain a copy of the guidelines on request.

E. TCWP members in the public eye.

Tony Koella has been appointed Deputy Commissioner of Conservation (see item 6.A). OUR CONGRATULATIONS! WETE's "Open Line" recently featured Bob Peelle and Don Todd for an hour program on stripmining, and Ed Clebsch for a program on the Little T. Bill Russell gave a National Engineer's Week talk at Arnold Engineering Development Center, and Lee Russell was a speaker at the Alabama Conservancy's Annual Meeting. A chapter by Lee Russell appears in the new book Action for Wilderness (Sierra Club Battlebook, 1972).

F. Dués: please pay now, if you have not already done so (see enclosed slip)

G. Bulk mailing: Some of you had been getting Newsletters very late. Charles Klabunde has now talked to several post offices, and subsequent spot checks indicate an improvement. This NL will be mailed April 5. Let us know of any undue delays (we may have to consider first-class mailing to certain locations).

H. New publications: Among many recent additions to the TCWP library are the following:
"Water Pollution Control Handbook: A Citizen Guide to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972," NRDC, March 1973, 25 pp + bibliography + appendices.
"Don't Leave it All to the Experts: the citizen's role in environmental decision making," EPA, Nov. 1972, 18 pp.
"Whose Environment?" articles by Senators Nelson and Hart and 5 prominent environmentalists, in the Feb. 1973 issue of The Progressive.

9. OVERTON PARK: VICTORY IN JEOPARDY

* Many of you probably read the good news of January 19 on then-Secretary Volpe's decision not to route I-40 through Overton Park; and perhaps you thought the battle was won. But we have a new Secretary of Transportation, Claude Brinegar, and the state and local highway forces have gone to work on him. The state DOT has filed suit against the U.S. Failing a favorable decision, the latest scheme is to make the Overton Park section of I-40 independent of federal approval by building it with state funds exclusively. Would you like to see State funds used for the purpose of circumventing the law? If not write to Gov. Dunn and to Sen. Baker.

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10. HOLSTON VALLEY CHAPTER NEWS (by Don Kreh)

A. Organization

Dick Ardell (716 Teasel Drive, Kingsport, 37660) has been chosen by the Board of Directors as the new chairman. Other Board members (*) and committee assignments follow:

Program - Darrol Nickels*, Outings - Jay Cox* and Gordon Newland*, Newsletter - Don Kreh*, Publicity - Powell Foster* and Political Action - Zellie Earnest.
We need one or more people to head up an active telephone committee, and a volunteer willing to provide secretarial services.

B. Bays Mountain Park Recreation Area

All necessary paper work has finally been signed for the master study. The State and City of Kingsport will both be contributing \$4,000 for the study of the 1500+ acre area. James Franklin and Associates of Chattanooga will be doing the work and a 90-day completion time has been set. It is anticipated that Mr. Franklin will be available for public input during the second week of April. A group headed by Darrol Nickels is preparing input for the plan. The chapter input will stress only limited development and creation of hiking and horse trails, walk-in-camping, picnicking, and "primitive camping". Your support is needed.

C. National Forest Unit Planning

The South Holston Unit-15 Plan (Cherokee National Forest surrounding South Holston Lake, to crest of Holston Mountain) has just been released to the public. This plan has been in preparation for over two years, and the chapter submitted both oral and written input at the 1971 listening session. Many of our recommendations have been included in draft plan just released; however we still need to direct attention to some other problem areas. A second listening session is scheduled for April 30 at the Sullivan County Courthouse in Blountville. Powell Foster with the help of several others is preparing a written and oral response. Your support and attendance are needed.

D. Buckeye Falls -- Clarks Creek

Buckeye Falls (actually a cascade) is the highest waterfall east of the Mississippi. It is located on Clarks Creek in Unicoi County on land owned by Kimberly Clark Company. Tennessee Game and Fish personnel have indicated that K-C is planning to sell some 10,000 acres along the N.C.-Tenn. line. Write to Robert Lusk, Supervisor Cherokee National Forest, Cleveland, Tenn., with a copy to Congressman Quillen, urging that the Forest Service initiate an aggressive campaign to purchase this tract.

E. Bays Mountain Park Commission

As many as four of the current commissioners will be replaced in a few weeks: Thornton, Barr, White (deceased) and possibly Gordell. This leaves only Steadman, Nealy, and Sullins of the old board. Chairman Nealy has invited the HV chapter to offer nominations. Forward your suggestions to Powell Foster. There have been many comments in the past among conservationists about decisions of the board. Now is the time for your help in selection of a favorable board.

April 3, 1973

Questions and answers about contour (= steep mountain) stripping in Tennessee

Question: If we stopped contour stripping as it is done today in Tennessee, would it not turn out the lights?

Answer: Certainly not in this region. Of the coal used by TVA in power generation, 1972,
(a) only about 8% came from stripmining in Tennessee -- contour and area stripping
(b) less than 20% came from contour stripping anywhere. [TVA "Coal Receipts, FY 72"]
For Appalachia, the ratio of deepminable to stripminable reserves is 11 : 1 [U.S. Bur. of Mines]

Question: But would not a nation-wide ban of contour stripping have a drastic effect on available electric power?

Answer: Nationwide, the ratio of deep to stripminable reserves is 8 : 1. The President's Council on Environmental Quality states in a 1973 report "The loss of reserves from a slope angle prohibition represents under 1% of the total reserves physically available." Even with the present great reliance on stripping, electric utilities in 1970 relied on contour-mined coal for only 11% of their fuel needs, nationwide.

Question: But would it not cost a lot to convert to deepmining?

Answer: A switch from contour-augered coal to deepmined coal for power production would cost 50¢/year/individual under conservative calculations, and even assuming that all additional costs are passed on to the consumer and taxpayer. This small amount would impose the cost of mining on the consumer, instead of on the land and people of the regions where stripping is done. [Source: Surface-mined Coal and the Production of Electricity, by Bruce Driver, Environmental Policy Center]

Question: But would we not cause much economic harm to Tennesseans by stopping contour stripping?

Answer: (1) Fewer than 1000 people were employed in strip-auger operations in Tennessee in Fiscal Year 1971, representing much less than 10% of the total employment of the coal counties. Deepmining employs almost twice as many people per ton of coal mined. [Source: Tenn. Dept. of Labor Annual Reports for FY ending 6/30/70 and 6/30/71] Many of those employed in stripmining, drive coal trucks, which they could continue to do if there was a switch to deepmining.

(2) In the 5 counties that together supply 80% of Tennessee's stripped-augered coal, over 75% of the coal lands are owned by large land companies, most of them with out-of-state or even foreign interests.

(3) An economic study of two closely comparable blocs of counties (28 in all), that differed in that stripmining was a major economic activity in one but not in the other, showed that income levels were actually slightly lower in the stripmine counties. [Source: TVA's Division of Navigation and Regional Development, as quoted in the Nashville Tennessean of 2/1/72]. The unemployment rate in Tennessee's coal counties far exceeds the state average.

(4) Nationwide, as stripmining took over from deepmining between 1960 and 1970, employment loss in deepmines was 34,285, while employment gain in stripmines was only 3,234.

(5) Stripmining kills the hope for economic help from other sources by causing loss of potential tourism resources, destroying timber and farm lands, and discouraging the development of manufacturing.

12. A POLITICAL GUIDE (Save this in an easily accessible place)

A. State

The enclosed folder lists all state senators and representatives in alphabetical order, followed by District No. Check for your own legislators, note down their names and addresses, find out their phone numbers and keep these data in an easily accessible place. (If you do not know what District you are in, inquire of Tennessee Legislative Council, State Capitol Bldg, Nashville, TN 37219.) During the session, legislators are generally in Nashville Monday afternoon through Thursday. All have offices with individual phone numbers in the War Memorial Bldg, Nashville, TN 37219. You can also call (for less than \$1) the Legislative Switchboard, 615, 244-2394 and ask that your legislator call you back. They are very good about returning calls. Over the weekend, get in touch with them at home. Some of the larger delegations have regularly scheduled sessions at home when they hear from constituents (e.g. Knox County delegation, every Saturday morning). Your legislator expects to hear from you, so don't be shy! For toll-free information on the status of a bill, call 1-800-342-8490 during working hours. To subscribe to a weekly legislative newsletter, send \$3 to Ms. Verna Fausey, 2330 Golf Club Lane, Nashville, TN 37215.

Other useful addresses:

Gov. Winfield Dunn, State Capitol Bldg., Nashville, TN 37219. 615, 741-2001

Commissioner of Conserv.	Granville Hinton	} Tenn. Dept. of Conservation 2611 West End Avenue Nashville, TN 37203 615, 741-2301
Deputy Comm. of Conserv.	{ Tony Koella	
	{ Penn Foreman	
Chief, Div. of Planning:	Walter L. Criley	
Chief, Div. of Surface Mining:	Chase Delony	
State Parks Naturalist:	John Page	

David Goodrich, Director, TN Game & Fish Comm., P.O. Box 9400, Nashville, TN 37220
S. Leary Jones, Exec. Dir., TN Water Qual. Control Bd, Rm 621, Cordell Hull Bldg,
Nashville 37219

B. Federal

Your U.S. Senators are: Howard H. Baker, Jr., (202) 225-4944* (Knoxville 546-5486)
William E. Brock, III (202) 225-3344 (Chattanooga 266-3151)

Your U.S. Representative is one of the following (find your county in list below)

- 1st Distr.: James H. Quillen (202) 225-6356* (Kingsport, 247-8161*)
(Carter, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington)
- 2nd Distr.: John J. Duncan, (202) 225-5435 (Knoxville, 546-5686)
(Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Knox, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, Scott, Union)
- 3rd Distr.: LaMar Baker, (202) 225-3271 (Chattanooga, 266-3151; Oak Ridge 482-3468)
(Anderson, Bledsoe, Bradley, Hamilton, Marion, Meigs, Morgan, Polk, Rhea, Roane, Sequatchie)
- 4th Distr.: Joe L. Evins (202) 225-4231 (Smithville, 597-4099)
(Bedford, Cannon, Clay, Coffee, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Franklin, Grundy, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Marshall, Moore, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Rutherford, Smith, Sumner, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, White, Wilson)
- 5th Distr.: Richard Fulton, (202) 225-4311 (Nashville, 749-5296)
(Davidson, Cheatham, Robertson)
- 6th Distr.: Robin Beard (202) 225-2811 (Memphis, 5384 Poplar Ave.)
(Chester, Decatur, Dickson, Fayette, Giles, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury, McNairy, Montgomery, Perry, Wayne, Williamson, part of Shelby)

*The first phone number given is that of the Washington office. The number in parenthesis is that of the main Tenn. office. Both Senators and some Representatives maintain additional offices in

Tennessee. Find out about the one nearest to you. That office, in turn, will inform you when your Senator or Congressman is in Tennessee and how you can contact him in person.

7th Distr.: Ed Jones (202) 225-4714 (Yorkville, 901, 643-6123)
 (Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Haywood, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale,
 Madison, Obion, Stewart, Tipton, Weakley, part of Shelby)
 8th Distr.: Dan H. Kuykendall (202) 225-3265 (Memphis, 901, 534-3319) (part of Shelby)

When you write:

The Honorable John Doe
 U. S. Senate (House of Representatives)
 Senate (House) Office Bldg.
 Washington, D.C. 20510 (20515)
 Dear Senator (Congressman) Doe:
 Sincerely yours,

President Richard Nixon
 The White House
 Washington, D. C. 20500
 Dear Mr. President
 Very respectfully yours,

C. GENERAL HINTS

1. Being in touch with your elected representatives -- by letter, by wire, by phone, in person -- is infinitely more effective than the average person realizes. Often, even a few letters, wires, or calls can tip the balance.
2. When you write to your Congressman or to any other political figure,
 - a. your letter need not be long, and it may be handwritten, misspelled, etc.;
 - b. be specific -- if you write about a bill, refer to it by subject and sponsor (or by number if you have it);
 - c. show that you have thought about the issue -- give at least one reason for your request.
3. When there is no time to write, you can send a Public Opinion Message wire through Western Union -- about \$1.20 for a 15-word message. A "nightletter" to Washington costs \$1.90 and allows you 100 words of text. Allow about 24 hours delivery time on each.
4. For complete listing of membership of Congressional Committees, and much other useful information, consult the current Congressional Directory in your public library.
5. For a two-way listing of all 132 members of the State legislature as well as list of Tennessee governmental agencies, request from South Central Bell a small directory entitled the "88th General Assembly".
6. To obtain quick information on the status of federal bills, call 1,202,225-1772.

13. CALENDAR

April 7,8 TSRA, Upper Duck float (call Jim Rion, Old Hickory, 847-2040)
 April 9,10,11 TCWP sponsors Harvey Broome Film Series showings (see Item 7)
 April 12 Mack Prichard will talk on archeological preservation, Oak Ridge High School Auditorium, 1-3 p.m.
 April 12 Audubon Wildlife Theater, McClung Museum, U.T., Knoxville, 7:30 p.m.
 April 12, 13 Symposium on "Outdoor Recreation in Tennessee," University Center, Tennessee Tech, Cookeville
 April 14 J. W. Bradley sponsors Petros Health Clinic walk and stripmine views (see Item 2E)
 April 15 TCWP sponsors North Ridge Dedication hike (see Item 5)
 April 21-22 TTA, Frozen Head Wildflower hike (call Don Todd, Wartburg, 346-3113)
 April 19-22 TSRA, White Water Camp (call Bill Mitchum, Nashville, 269-9759)
 May 3 Audubon Wildlife Theater, McClung Museum, U.T. Knoxville, 7:30 p.m.
 May 19-20 TSRA, Obed-Emory float (call W. Mitchum, Nashville, 269-9759)
 May 19 TTA, maintenance hike, Cumberland Trail (call John McIntyre, Oak Ridge)