

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 180

January 9, 1991

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

12. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	BSF Land Protection	TCWP; NPS	Get informed for possibly needed action
1B	Obed & BSF	Sens. Sasser, Gore; Rep. Cooper; your Rep.	"Work for FY '92 acquisition funds: \$6M for BSF; \$600,000 for Obed!"
1C	Obed Management Plan	Sens. Sasser, Gore; Rep. Cooper; your Rep.	"Urge NPS to proceed with Obed GMP!"
3	Road thru Cherokee NF	Fed. Highway Adm.	"A complete EIS is required!"
4A	Nongame species	State Sen. & Rep.	"TRWA needs Nongame Apprpr. of \$250,000
4A	TWRA	Gov. McWherter	"License \$\$ to be spent for wildlife only!"
4C	Tennessee wetlands	State Sen. & Rep.	"Oppose any bills threatening wetlands!"
4D	Trail on RR right-of-way	R. K. Evans	Offer to help
5	Cherokee NF	Hugh Irwin	Offer help with Cherokee issues.
8A	Tongass NF	USFS	"We support Alternative A!"
8C	Environmental Scorecard	Sen. Gore; Reps. Cooper, Clement, Gordon	"We commend you on high LCV score!"
9A	Oak Ridge Greenbelt	TCWP	Offer to get involved in preventing invasion of Northern Greenbelt

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

1. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED PROTECTION ISSUES

A. NPS developing Big S. Fork Land Protection Plan as prerequisite to acquiring currently unprotected areas

As we reported in NL179 (§1A), the long and complicated struggle to make possible the completion of land acquisition for the BSFNRRRA finally ended in success with passage of a bill (on the last day of the 1990 Congressional session) that transferred jurisdiction over the BSFNRRRA from the Corps of Engineers (CoE) to the National Park Service (NPS). The cost-sharing provisions that had hampered the CoE no longer apply, so that acquisition will be done with 100% federal funds. A parallel bill appropriated \$1 million for land acquisition in FY 1991, plus a \$0.5 M add-on for NPS operations in the BSFNRRRA (and \$0.5 M for the infrastructure for the Kentucky lodge).

The next step is development by NPS of a Land Protection Plan (LPP), the prerequisite to actual acquisition of the remaining 16,000 acres. A recent NPS news release states that the LPP will prioritize the tracts of land to be acquired, with factors to be considered including watershed protection, scenic or recreational values, rare or endangered species, future plans for visitor facilities, and potential uses that might have a negative environmental impact on the area's resources.

It is anticipated that the draft LPP will be available for public comment in April 1991. We urge those of you who are concerned about speedy protection of the as-yet-unacquired lands (which include the beautiful North White Oak Creek and Laurel Fork gorges) to take an active interest in the LPP. We can expect the LPP to address possibly controversial issues (e.g., the O&W right-of-way), and we must be ready to pull our weight against pressures for adverse development. If you are willing to help, contact Lee Russell (address on p.1). If you have questions about the LPP or want copies of documents, contact NPS' Ron Wilson, 615-879-3625.

B. Obed and BSF acquisition funds needed for FY1992

Congress will soon begin work on the various FY1992 appropriations bills. Several of the national conservation groups are currently assembling a document for Members of Congress, listing recommended Land & Water Conservation Fund appropriations for various areas all around the country. TCWP has succeeded in having the Obed National Wild &

Scenic River and the BSFNRRRA included in this document, with recommended funding amounts as explained below. If these areas are funded, it will be under the Interior Appropriation.

(a) Big South Fork

It is estimated that altogether about \$13 million will be needed to acquire the remaining 16,000 acres within the BSFNRRRA. After careful deliberation, we decided to work for \$6 M for FY1992 in order to achieve protection where it is most critically needed. Our reasoning was as follows.

Two major tributaries, North White Oak Creek and its Laurel Fork in the upper part of the BSF watershed, contribute clean water that significantly dilutes the siltation and pollutants brought in by the New River, one of the BSF's major stems. Moreover, these two rivers flow through highly scenic and wild gorges. Some landowners in the area have understandably become discouraged over delays in the government acquisition program, and are seriously threatening to timber their tracts, develop them for oil, and/or sell them for residential developments. This would have disastrous effects on water quality, scenic values, and vegetative diversity. About 3/4 of the 11,000-acre N White Oak/Laurel Fork area are contained in just three tracts, requiring fairly big bucks for the purchase of each tract.

(b) Obed

The total area currently authorized for the project is 5,074 acres (much too little, we think, but that's another question). Of this, 1,639 acres remain to be federally acquired, at an estimated cost of \$1,150,000. NPS currently has about \$540,000 in the bank for the Obed, most of which could probably be obligated in FY1991. We have decided to work for \$600,000 for FY1992 in order at last (after 15 years!) to complete land acquisition.

The Obed WSR is a very fragile resource and can easily be severely damaged by certain developments. Among these are timbering that is becoming more prevalent in the area, coal mining, oil & gas extraction (which is now accelerating because of the increased price of oil), and residential construction. There have already been harmful intrusions into the gorge, such as timber and stone removal, and the construction of an oil pipeline; seeping oil wells have appeared on private land within the authorized boundary. Speedy completion of land acquisition is therefore of the essence.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Sens. Sasser and Gore, to Rep. Cooper, and to your own Rep (addresses on p.2) and urge them to work for LWCF appropriations of \$6 million for the BigS. Fork, and \$600,000 for the Obed. You may wish to include some of the reasons cited above why these appropriations are so important. Also, if you have not done so before, express your thanks for their efforts in passing the 1990 transfer-legislation and securing the FY1991 appropriation.

C. The Obed is by-passed again

We have been told repeatedly that an Obed General Management Plan (GMP) is a top priority at NPS Headquarters in Washington, but the Regional Office in Atlanta keeps by-passing the Obed and, instead, authorizing projects for which they have been lobbied by Congressmen. We were hoping that FY1991 would finally bring good news for the Obed, but now we find that the two projects chosen by the Regional Office for GMPs are Natchez National Historical Park and Birmingham Distr Heritage Corridor Study!

A GMP for the Obed is years overdue. Specific management prescriptions, and actions based on the GMP, are needed in order to provide long-term protection for the resource. Somehow, we get the impression the Regional Office does not quite appreciate what a great resource we have in the Obed, and how fragile it is. It's hard to believe that the Obed lost to Birmingham! An Obed GMP may actually be relatively easy to generate since the 1978 Obed Development Plan already contains most of the information needed for a GMP.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If other Congressmen can lobby NPS, so can ours; but we must get their support first. Write to Sen. Gore, Sen. Sasser, Rep. Jim Cooper, and your own Rep. (addresses on p.2) and ask them to urge NPS to proceed expeditiously with development of an Obed GMP. Point out that the Obed WSR having been established over 14 years ago, it is high time NPS cleared the way for needed management actions. The Obed should not be a stepchild of the SE Regional Office. Send copies to James M. Ridenour, Director, NPS, US Dept of the Interior, Interior Bldg. Washington, DC 20240.

C. Equipment bought with money we collected

In November, the Big South Fork NRRA finally received the money TCWP raised in connection with the March for Parks (NL177 ¶10B). We raised \$2,007, but turned over \$855 to the Natl Parks & Conservation Assoc

for national parks protection efforts. With the \$1,152 that went to the BSNRRA, the following water-quality equipment will be purchased: a pH meter, a conductivity meter, a dissolved-oxygen meter, and a probe for nitrates.

2. RIVERS ASSESSMENT FOR TENNESSEE

(Based on material submitted by Jenny Freeman)

To get Tennesseans thinking about the value of their rivers, as well as to provide a factual basis for assessing opportunities, needs, and problems in river protection will require an assessment of all rivers in the state. However, State government has not provided funds for such a project. Therefore, we decided to attempt to move the process forward with private funding. TCWP's exec director, Jenny Freeman, obtained the collaboration of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Assoc (TSRA), and, together, the two organizations wrote a proposal for an \$80,000 foundation grant (see NL179 ¶3B for details).

In mid-December, we were officially notified that the Lyndhurst Foundation of Chattanooga would provide a grant of \$30,000, and would release these funds when we had secured commitment for an additional \$50,000, at least half of which must be from public sources (federal, state, or local governments). We have until 6/30/92 to secure these additional funds.

On January 2, Jenny Freeman (TCWP) and Bill Allen (TSRA) went to Nashville to meet with Dr. Ruth Neff (Planning Office), Mike Countess (Deputy Commissioner of Conservation), Jack Murrah (Lyndhurst President), Wink Hastings (National Park Service [NPS], Atlanta), Fred Quinones (State Dir. of the U.S. Geological Survey), and Terry Bonham (Tenn Dept of Conservation [DoC]). They discussed at length how USGS and the State might provide additional support for the rivers assessment. The USGS, while not a funding agency, has the capability of providing in-kind technical support through the computerized Geographical Information System. However, the USGS is not equipped to tackle the most important part of the project -- public involvement. The rivers assessment should be a mechanism for bringing various river interests together throughout the State, including conservation groups, the Farm Bureau, the Forestry Assoc, riparian land owners, U.T., TVA, and pertinent State agencies.

The group decided to tackle the problem of additional support by having two proposals submitted simultaneously to DoC: (a) USGS will address the technical aspects of the project, and

(b) TCWP, TSRA, and NPS will address public participation as well as the ways in which data will be used in the future. The group will then evaluate whether the two proposals can be melded into one cohesive package. As to funding, DoC has indicated that it will attempt to find State revenues for the project; and the Lyndhurst Foundation has indicated that it might enhance the initial funding amount.

The Nashville meeting was most encouraging because it generated enthusiasm for the rivers assessment and helped build momentum toward arriving at a funding scheme. It is fitting that this effort will be ongoing in 1991, which is the 25th-anniversary year for both TCWP and TSRA, and that the two organizations are once again working together for Tennessee rivers, as they did at their founding.

3. A PROPOSED ROAD THAT WOULD SEVERELY DAMAGE THE CHEROKEE NP

The Tennessee Dept of Transportation (TDoT) last July completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) that discusses alternatives for State Route 40 (US 64), which currently runs along the Ocoee River in Polk County. TDoT's "preferred alternative," A-1, would move the road up, out of the valley, and fragment a large tract of the Cherokee National Forest with 9.4 miles of a high-speed 4-lane highway (the equivalent of a piece of an Interstate). Both TWRA (the Tenn Wildlife Resources Agency) and EPA have pointed out that this route, as well as one proposed earlier to run along the mountain crest, would cause irreversible damage to high-quality streams (which would be strongly acidified as a result of road-cuts through pyritic soils) and to wildlife habitats (this portion of the Cherokee is home to one of the largest bear populations in East Tennessee, as well as to turkey, and to many other species).

Both TWRA and EPA have urged TDoT to chose the "reduced-design" alternative (modified Alternative B) that would improve traffic flow and safety by creating passing lanes and pull-off areas on the existing road. It is noteworthy that the EA barely discusses modified Alternative B, and provides no cost estimate for it. The "preferred" Alternative A-1 is estimated to cost \$318 million. Even this staggering sum is, however, a major underestimate, since it does not include mitigation costs associated with work in pyritic soils, consultant fees, and relocation of several TVA towers.

In its document on the Ocoee road, TDoT makes assurances about impact mitigation that ring distinctly hollow in view of the agency's poor environmental record. In fact, these assurances are disturbingly similar to those given prior to the initiation of the Foothills Parkway Project, which turned out so damaging that an enforcement action

had to be brought against TDoT under the Tennessee Water Quality Act.

The EA has already gone to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review. If a finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is handed down, the State will seek Congressional funding, and this over-designed project will become a pork barrel.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to the FHWA (address follows) to oppose this project. Cite some of the arguments described above. Point out that a complete Environmental Impact Statement should be required in view of the projection (by TWRA, EPA, and others) that the preferred alternative A-1 (as well as the mountain-top alternative) would result in probably irreversible damage to wildlife, forest, and aquatic resources. An EIS should also more fully address the alternative of upgrading the existing road. Address: Mr. Dennis Cook, Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, 249 Cumberland Bend Drive, Nashville, TN 37228.

4. STATE CAPSULES

A. *Tennessee's nongame and endangered species need your help*

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is responsible for managing wildlife in our State. Over 89% of Tennessee's approximately 1,440 wildlife species are classified as nongame (about 150 species are listed as endangered, threatened, or in need of management). Yet, only 1.4% of TWRA's budget is devoted to the Nongame and Endangered Species program. The program has only one full-time and four part-time employees. The primary threat to species comes from destruction of habitat, but many trends could be reversed if the resources were available.

A broader problem afflicting TWRA is the diversion of sportsmen's license \$\$ from wildlife purposes to other uses, such as support of State government in general.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Write your State Senator and Representative (see Political Guide for addresses) and urge them to increase TWRA's Nongame and Endangered Species appropriation to \$250,000 (currently, it is \$100,000). (2) Write to Gov. McWhorter and ask him to ensure that TWRA license \$\$ be used for wildlife purposes only.

B. *At least one State Forest without clear-cutting*

Despite a great deal of input by citizens concerned about clear-cutting, the finally completed management plan for the Prentice

Cooper State Forest, near Chattanooga, turned out to be vague — particularly on the subject of clear-cutting. However, at the first public meeting on the implementation of the plan, the concerned citizens (led by SOCM) found to their delight that the state had no clear-cutting plans, at least for the coming year, and that the only tree-cutting in the Forest would be for pest control, wildlife management, and road maintenance. Obviously, citizen pressure had paid off.

However, in the absence of written assurances, continued vigilance will be needed, (a) to keep the state to their "no clear-cutting" promise, and (b) to make sure that cutting justified as pest control or wildlife management does not turn into something more extensive. The State will formulate implementation plans on an annual basis, and will hold two public meetings per year. If you have any interest in the Prentice Cooper SF, we urge you to get involved, and to help maintain the vigilance.

C. 1991 will see another fight over Tennessee's wetlands

About 70% of Tennessee's original 2.3 million acres of wetlands are gone. Nationwide, during the past 200 years, the lower 48 states have lost an average of 60 acres of wetlands every hour! Wetlands are essential to the environment — as wildlife habitats, as resuppliers of ground water, and as substrates for valuable hardwood forests.

Another fight now looms over the fate of the state's wetlands, most of which are in West Tennessee. In 1990, the General Assembly deferred action on two opposing bills. This year, we are expecting another wetlands-destruction bill (probably similar to last year's SB 2187) to be drafted by the Tennessee Farm Bureau, the primary wetlands-drainage proponent. The bill will probably attempt to exempt certain wetlands from the provisions of the Tennessee Water Control Act.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (a) Write to your State Senator and Representative (see Political Guide for addresses) to inform them about the value of wetlands, and to urge them to oppose the Farm Bureau's wetlands-destruction bill. Also, or alternatively, (b) ask us (address on p.1) for a copy of a petition that describes wetland values, collect signatures on this petition, and send it on to your state legislators.

D. Proposal to convert railroad track to trail

A 14-mile railroad line between Crossville and Crab Orchard is being abandoned by

Southern Railway. Railroad ties and track will be removed, and the company is in process of appraising the value of the right-of-way. Attorney Richard Evans, Kingston, is attempting to obtain support for conversion of the right-of-way into a trail for hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders. Questions: (a) is the Railway willing to sell to the State? and (b) is the State interested in buying? To achieve the latter will obviously require some urging. If you are interested in helping, contact Richard K. Evans, 1000 Brentwood Way, Suite 200, PO Box 777, Kingston, TN 37763, Ph. 615-376-5353.

E. Changes in State government

- Conservation Commission Elbert Gill plans not to serve for McWherter's second term.

- According to one report, Gov. McWherter will ask the General Assembly to split the current Dept of Health and Environment (DHE) into a Dept of Public Health and a Dept of Environment. He has for some time considered DHE to be too large, and the Dept has been overwhelmed with applications for environment-related permits. Another source has since denied that all this will come about. We suggest you watch the papers to see what happens.

F. OSM plans stronger environmental controls for Tennessee coal mining

The Office of Surface Mining, which enforces Tennessee's federal program, recently stated that a gradual decrease in violations has freed inspectors for other work. As a result, the Knoxville office of OSM is planning improvements in environmental protection, such as continuous monitoring of mines for acid drainage (in addition to pre-permit testing of soil samples) and for landside potential. In addition, OSM will obtain multiple expert opinions on mining and reclamation plans. -- The Tennessee Coal Association has complained that these new procedures constitute delaying tactics for permitting mines.

G. New faces in the State Legislature

There will be 28 new legislators in the Tennessee General Assembly in 1991: 15 incumbents were defeated. Among those not returning are several that had good environmentalist records, such as Chris Turner and Pam Gaia, both of Memphis, and Bill Owen of Knoxville. There will be a new Speaker of the House (probably Jimmy Nafteh), and a new Majority Leader (probably Bill Purcell, who has a good environmental record). In the Senate, John Wilder will remain as Speaker. Committee assignments will be made later this month.

Look for your TCWP Political Guide, which will be mailed as soon as we have that information

6. TVA CAPSULES

H. Tennessee EQABs

Local Environmental Quality Advisory Boards in Tennessee, with Oak Ridge's EQAB for an example, have been nominated for a Renew America project that identifies, promotes, and rewards successful environmental programs nationwide. For further info, contact Jim Harless, Municipal Technical Advisory Service, U.T., 600 Henley Street, Suite 120, Knoxville, TN 37996-4105

6. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST CAPSULES

A. Cherokee Forest Voices stays alert

Cherokee Forest Voices (CFV), consisting of representatives of several groups (including TCWP), was formed after the settlement of the Cherokee Forest Plan Appeal to monitor compliance with the Plan and to work toward an environmental orientation in the management of the Cherokee. There have been successes as well as problems. Currently, CFV is awaiting a decision from the Chief of the Forest Service on the remaining issues of the Cherokee Appeal: biological diversity, below-cost timbersales, and visual quality. CFV will also monitor and influence the development of management plans for Wilderness Areas within the Cherokee, and will work for protection of other special areas. There is also a need to find volunteers who will review compartment plans (see §5B).

CFV will hold a one-day planning session on February 9. If you are interested in attending or in working on CFV issues, contact Hugh Irwin, 3200 Haggard Drive, Knoxville, TN 37917, Ph. 522-3093.

B. Cherokee NF invites review of compartment plans

A considerable number of plans will be formulated by the Cherokee NF during FY 1991. These plans are for individual compartments within individual ranger districts (Hiwassee, Nolichucky, Ocoee, Tellico, Unaka, and Watauga), and they contain specifics on proposed timber harvests and road construction. The plans are slated to be implemented between FYs 1992 and 1995, but the public comment deadline for most is quite soon, and for many it has already passed.

If you are willing to review any of the plans contact the Cherokee NF (PO Box 2010, Cleveland, TN 37320) for addresses of the ranger districts. Also, notify Hugh Irwin (see §5A, above).

- The entire Tennessee Congressional delegation recently wrote to Pres. Bush opposing an increase in hydroelectric rates for TVA. OMB had asked DOE to require public power agencies to boost their hydroelectric rates to market levels in an effort to end federal subsidies. Hydroelectric generation provides about 20% of TVA's power. TVA's power program pays for itself and is not subsidized.
- TVA was one of 6 federal agencies recently honored by Trout Unlimited (TU) for making a public commitment to improving America's fisheries. Among TVA activities of particular interest to TU have been the agency's efforts to increase dissolved-oxygen content and increase minimum flow below Norris and Tim's Ford Dams. These achievements were the result of an initiative by David Freeman when he was TVA chairman during the Carter Administration.

7. THE 101st CONGRESS: WRAP-UP

Here is the good news

A. Clean Air Act

Passage of the comprehensive Clean Air Act was probably the most significant achievement of the 101st Congress (see NL179 §7B). Despite the tremendous gains made (especially with respect to acid-rain control), several initiatives fell by the wayside. E.g., a filibuster threat by 24 western senators killed a provision to reduce visibility-impairing air pollution over parks and wilderness areas. EPA is directed merely to study the visibility problem.

B. End of a decade-long fight over the Tongass NF

The Tongass NF in southeastern Alaska, the last largely intact rain forest in the temperate zone, has for a decade been subject to excessive cutting mandated by a 1980 law (NL174 §8D; NL175 §6C). At long last, Congress agreed on a compromise that (a) drops the automatic annual \$40 M appropriation for timber operations, (b) ends the requirement that the USFS sell 450 million board feet annually [but the Forest must supply enough timber to meet local "market demand"], (c) modifies [but, alas, does not end] a 50-year sweetheart contract with two large pulp mills, (d) designates 296,000 acres of wilderness, (e) bars commercial logging in an additional 723,000 acres [which are, however, still open to mining and other uses], and (f) establishes a 100-ft-wide buffer along major salmon streams where timber cutting is barred.

C. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

Just one day after Iraq invaded Kuwait, Sen. Murkowski (R-Alaska) attached an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill that would empower the President to bypass laws like the Endangered Species Act or the National Environmental Policy Act any time the amount of foreign oil the USA consumes exceeds a certain (easily reached) limit, and to promulgate a "schedule of leasing" that opens up tracts in the order of their oil & gas potential (NL 179 ¶6A). This provision was obviously aimed at ANWR. The Murkowski amendment fortunately did not make it through conference committee, but a similar onslaught on ANWR is expected early in 1991.

D. National Park Service

The Vento bill was passed that requires NPS to prepare a report every three years on the needs of each unit of the System in areas such as land acquisition, resource management, interpretation, etc. Within the next year, NPS must also prepare a set of criteria for evaluating effects of park boundary changes, including cost, impact on local communities, etc (this, in lieu of the badly-needed boundary studies *per se*). Congress boosted NPS funding for FY91 by \$320 M over the Administration's recommendation.

E. National Park System additions

A new site was created. Petroglyph National Monument near Albuquerque. Everglades National Park was expanded by the addition of 108,000 acres of wetlands. Pecos Natl Monument in NM was expanded by 5,500, and renamed. Several Historical and Military Parks were expanded, and a few were created.

F. Wild & Scenic Rivers System gains

About 87 miles were added to the system on rivers in NM, WY, and CA, but attempts failed to give Scenic River designation to 76 miles of the Niobrara in Nebraska. About 232 miles were designated for study on rivers in FL, GA, NC, NH, and MA. Funding increases were obtained for the NPS Rivers and Trails program, and for river studies by NPS, USFS, and BLM.

G. Wilderness

New wilderness areas were designated in AZ, IL, ME, and NV, but attempts to designate wilderness areas in ID, MT, UT, CO, CA, and NC were put on hold, at least temporarily. A major onslaught by Sen. McClure on the Wilderness Act itself (NL 176 ¶7) fortunately failed. McClure retired at the end of the session.

H. Farm Bill has good environmental features

Congress increased wetlands protection by denying subsidies to farmers who destroy wetlands. Additionally, under a new long-term wetlands easement program, the government will pay farmers for setting aside high-quality wetlands from crop production. The bill also commits funding and assistance to farmers to implement water-quality protection programs.

J. National Environmental Education Act

Modeled after a similar measure enacted in the early 1970s but repealed in 1981, this Act sets up an Office of Environmental Education within the EPA, authorizes up to \$5 M annually for grants to school systems and \$7 M annually for teacher training and curriculum assistance, directs natural resource agencies to create 300 internships per year, and sets up a foundation to solicit donations.

K. Other successes

- The overall national timber cut for 1991 was set at 9.3 billion board feet (bbl), a decrease of 17% from the 11.2 bbl in 1990.
- The Packwood amendment that would have greatly weakened the Endangered Species Act and increased the logging of ancient forests (see NL 179 ¶7A) was defeated, with both Sens. Gore and Sasser voting against it. They deserve your thanks. (Note that this success was merely a maintenance of the status quo.)
- A bill was passed that greatly limits the export of raw logs cut on federal and state lands in Pacific-Coast states (NL 179 ¶7A). This will help reduce timber demands on ancient forests and will increase employment in local mills.
- A new American Conservation Corps was created to enhance habitat and recreation on public lands. Authorization: \$17 M for FY91, rising to \$32 million for FY93. Funding is to be channeled to states and non-profits who provide a 25% match.
- Oil-spill legislation was passed that dramatically increases penalties for spillers as well as their liability for damages (NL 178 ¶9B).
- Congress voted a one-year oil-drilling ban on Outer Continental Shelf areas additional to those already protected by the Bush moratorium of last summer.
- The Biden/Boxer bill that sets standards for tuna-cantelabeling was passed (see NL 177 ¶8C; NL 179 ¶7F).

And now for the bad news.

L. *Fuel Efficiency*

The country has recently been going in the wrong direction on fuel efficiency: the average miles per gallon for cars sold in 1988 was 28.8, but that for cars sold in 1990 was only 27.8. A bill by Sen. Bryan would have required the "Corporate Average Fuel Economy" (CAFE) to be increased to 40 mpg by the year 2005 (an achievement that is technologically feasible even now). This would have saved 40% of the amount of oil we currently import (NL179 ¶6B). Despite support from the majority of the Senate (Sen. Gore was a strong advocate, but Sen. Sasser an opponent), the Bryan bill was halted by a filibuster. The bill will be reintroduced, so it is important to inform both Senators of your support for strong fuel-efficiency legislation and of your feelings on how they voted on this issue in 1990.

M. *No reform yet of the 1872 Mining Law*

Under this law, which is still in effect for all "hardrock" minerals, anyone who discovers a "valuable mineral" on most public lands has an automatic right to mine it, pays no royalty to the government, and is under no obligation to restore the land (NL178 ¶8B). Two bills were introduced to reform this law and almost made it. Sens. Gore and Sasser both voted for both of the reform bills, and Sasser was a co-sponsor of one of them.

N. *California Desert*

The Cranston-Levine bill that would have protected the fragile California desert and would have designated 4.5 million acres as wilderness was deadlocked as a result of opposition by Sen. (now Governor) Pete Wilson.

P. *Other initiatives that failed*

- The American Heritage Trust Act, which would have provided an increased capability for protection of parks and open spaces through acquisition
- A bill to restructure NPS so as to make it more independent of political interference
- A bill to grant EPA cabinet status
- An attempt to decrease the Forest Service roads budget by \$100 M.

8. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

A. *Tongass still needs help*

Despite passage of reform legislation (see ¶7B, above), the magnificent Tongass, the largest remaining temperate-zone rain forest, is still in trouble. The reform legislation gave protected status of one form or another to a little

over 1 million acres. Another 15-16 million acres, however, are still at the mercy of day-to-day Forest Service decisions. The Forest Service has written a draft management plan that calls for clear-cutting 420 million board feet (mbf) of Tongass timber annually, far exceeding recent rates, which have peaked at 377 mbf. Clearcuts are proposed for some of the best wildlife habitat in the Tongass, and some of the richest salmon streams would be impacted. This draft plan, if approved, would govern Tongass management for the next 10-15 years. Therefore, it is terribly important that it be modified.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Without delay, write to oppose the agency's "preferred alternative" and to support Alternative A, which proposes the strongest protection. Address: Mike Barton, Regional Forester, US Forest Service, PO Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

B. *Election returns*

Election results were a very mixed bag for environmental candidates. For us, locally, who have so long been hoping for a Smokies wilderness bill, the news was all bad: Harvey Gantt failed to unseat Sen. Jesse Helms; and Rep. Jamie Clarke (NC, 11th Dist.) went down to defeat. Bad news elsewhere was the failure to defeat Senators Hatfield (R-OR), Heflin (D-AL), Gramm (R-TX), and McConnell (R-KY). In each case, the pro-environment challengers were clearly outspent by industry-backed incumbents. -- However, many pro-environment incumbents who were vulnerable pulled through successfully; and a number of pro-environment challengers (most notably Paul Wellstone in MN and Mike Kopetski in OR) managed to dislodge anti-environment incumbents.

Everyone knows, of course, that Big Green lost in California, and that the Adirondack bond issue lost (though only barely) in New York. But the media made little of environmental initiatives in other states, many of which passed. Among these were creation of the Arizona Heritage Fund, bond issues for conservation acquisitions in Florida, a constitutional amendment in Minnesota that dedicates 40% of lottery proceeds to the state's Natural Resources Trust, and a bond issue for parks, wildlife, and land protection in Nevada.

C. *The 1990 National Environmental Scorecard*

The League of Conservation Voters recently issued this scorecard based on 12 Senate and 8 House votes. Here is how the Tennessee delegation scored (compared with scores for preceding years):

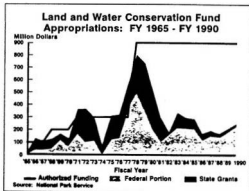
YEAR:	90	89	87/88
Gore	92	100	50
Sasser	98	80	50

Oulien(R-1)	13	0	19
Duncan(R-2)	38	20	-
Lloyd(D-3)	63	40	25
Cooper(D-4)	75	80	75
Clement(D-5)	75	50	50
Gordon(D-6)	75	90	63
Sundquist(R-7)	38	20	19
Tanner(D-8)	90	60	-
Ford(D-9)	69	80	50

Tennessee's average 1990 Senate score of 75% compares well with the nationwide average of 49%, and with the southeast average of 36%. Our average House score is the same as the nationwide average -- 54%. Any member of the delegation who scored 75% or higher deserves our commendation

D. An upward trend for the LWCF?

The Land & Water Conservation Fund, derived from royalties paid to the government for offshore oil & gas leases, constitutes the money available for purchases of public lands. However, ever since the advent of the Reagan Administration, the actual appropriations under the LWCF have been only a fraction of the authorized potential, and the state-and-local portion of the appropriations has shrunk to next-to-nothing (see Figure, below)



Not only are appropriations way below the oil & gas revenues, but the latter are seriously minimized, according to a recent Congressional study. This study showed that (a) the oil companies under-report their takings, and (b) due to lax administration, royalties amounting to over \$400 M annually go uncollected.

The good news has been the recent upward trend in appropriated land-acquisition monies (recall, however, that we started from what was almost a null time low). Figures are in thousands of \$\$.

	FY89	FY90	FY91
NPS	52.6	87.5	103.6
FWS	57.5	74.0	100.6
USFS	64.2	63.4	88.7
BLM	12.3	12.6	15.6
States	16.7	16.5	29.8

	FY89	FY90	FY91
NPS	52.6	87.5	103.6
FWS	57.5	74.0	100.6
USFS	64.2	63.4	88.7
BLM	12.3	12.6	15.6
States	16.7	16.5	29.8

E. Recycle facts

(Adapted from the Tenn Env'tl Education Newsletter, Fall 1990.) The quantities being compared are 1 ton in each case.

	Raw	Recycled
PAPER		
Requires:	17 trees	0 trees
	24,000 gal water	10,080 gal
	28 M Btus energy	20 M Btus
Releases:	125 lbs CO ₂	890 lbs CO ₂
Disposal:	1.5 cu yd landfill	0 space

ALUMINUM		
Requires:	4.5 tons bauxite	0 tons
	1000 lbs Petr. Coke	0 tons
	200 M Btus energy	10 M Btus
Releases:	2900 lbs CO ₂	145 lbs CO ₂

GLASS		
Requires:	1330 lbs sand	No sand
	15.2 M Btus energy	2.3 M Btus
Releases:	441 lbs CO ₂	103 lbs CO ₂

F. Government must encourage energy conservation

There is a strong connection between saving energy and protecting the natural environment. Currently, energy consumption brings with it stippling for coal, oil drilling in fragile areas, and emissions of CO₂, SO₂, and NO_xs that increase the Greenhouse Effect, produce acid rain, and impair visibility.

For a while, the USA did quite well on conserving energy. Between 1973 and 1986, though the gross national product grew by 35%, there was no increase in annual energy use, and actually a 2.3% decline in CO₂ emissions. Then, in the next 4 years, energy use increased by 9.5%, and CO₂ emissions by 9%. During that period, also, imports of OPEC oil more than doubled.

In his talk at the Dec. 12 TCWP meeting, Eric Hirst made the point that the potential for increasing energy efficiency (which the public supports) will not be implemented without government action. For example, DOE could expand R&D on new energy-saving technologies, work with states on building standards, collect information on energy use (and not just on supply), and educate the public. Administration leadership could smooth the way to energy-saving legislation, though this sometimes gets enacted even without Administration support; e.g., the National Appliance Energy Efficiency Act was passed after an initial Reagan veto in 1987, and has already saved the equivalent of 35 large coal-fired steam plants. What needs to be done via legislation is to upgrade efficiency standards for motor vehicles and for buildings, to increase investment in mass transit, and to require utilities to weigh the economic and environmental costs of new energy production against costs of efficiency and renewable alternatives.

9. OAK RIDGE GREENBELT

In September, Ronald Asher (Ridge Realty) submitted a request to the Oak Ridge Regional Planning Commission for the annexation of a 49-acre strip for a 52-house subdivision north of the City boundary, and bordered by North Illinois Ave (Highway 62) in the northeast and Reservoir Road in the west. It soon became apparent that the requested parcel was separated from the inhabited part of the City by a portion of the Northern Greenbelt within which lies the North Ridge Trail. Asher requested to cross the greenbelt with a sewer line.

On October 25, the Planning Commission, on recommendation of City staff, voted unanimously to recommend annexation of the parcel as well as of the right-of-way along Reservoir Road (presently only a rutted trail), which would become the access to the parcel.

Prior to the City Council meeting of November 19, at which the First Reading of the annexation ordinance was to be acted on, we obtained the City staff analysis of the anticipated consequences of the annexation. This contained some very interesting information. For example, traffic on West Outer Drive would be increased by 50%: 520 trips per day would be added to the current 1050 trips. The annexation would be a net financial loss to the City; i.e., the differential between new City taxes and new costs to the City was expected to be about \$2500 annually, but even this was presumably an underestimate since it did not include costs such as the eventual re-

paving of subdivision streets, police and fire protection, etc.

Quite a number of TCWP members and other citizens attended the Nov. 19 Council meeting and expressed these concerns as well as others. For example, it was pointed out by many area residents that the new intersection between Reservoir Rd and West Outer Drive would be in a very bad location from the point of view of traffic safety. Others mentioned that a huge powerline would cross the annexed parcel and might present electromagnetic health hazards to residents. [Whether this is the case or not, we calculate that the powerline right-of-way would significantly decrease the number of homes that could be constructed on the parcel, thus decreasing new tax revenues and further increasing the net cost to the City.] Still others questioned the wisdom of adding \$250,000 homes on the periphery of the City when no money was being spent to rehabilitate the old neighborhoods in the center. In view of the clear opposition, the developer withdrew his request for a first reading of the annexation ordinance and said he would bring the matter up at a future Council meeting, at which time he would have more facts.

The matter came up before the Dec. 6 EOAB meeting, but action was postponed, pending more factual information. In response to a question, Asher stated that he would not develop the parcel (which he has not yet purchased) unless it was annexed and he was allowed to cross the greenbelt.

Though many individual TCWP members have several of the concerns that were brought up at the Nov. 19 City Council meeting, TCWP as an organization must restrict itself to the greenbelt issue. On January 3, at the developers request, four TCWP Board members (Adler, Coutant, Cunningham, and Russell) met with Ridge Realty management. We expressed ourselves opposed to traversing the greenbelt with a sewer line because we feel that this would set a dangerous precedent for invading the Northern Greenbelt elsewhere. The Ashers have a feeling that running the sewer line on alternative routes (up Highway 62, or up Reservoir Rd) would be prohibitive, but they have not generated any actual estimates of the cost (could it be recouped by a slight increase in the price per lot?). They also have not so far drawn up the internal plans for the proposed subdivision: how many houses would there actually be? and how close to the greenbelt, which, in one section, is only 200 ft wide?

*** WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Please keep informed on and involved in this issue. The greenbelt is a major factor in making this a wonderful city. Call Maureen Cunningham (483-8312 or 576-5815) or Lily Rose Claiborne (483-3250) to say you want to play a role.

Plan to attend the January 28 City Council meeting to voice your opinion. If you can't attend, call as many Council members as you can prior to the meeting (call the City Clerk 482-8311 for a list of their names and phone numbers).

10. TCWP NEWS

A. 1990 in review

The year past was a highly successful one for TCWP. A very abbreviated list of our major achievements follows.

- At long last, we won on our petition to have the privately-owned valley adjacent to Frozen Head State Park designated unsuitable for surface coalmining.
- At long last, we broke the impasse that had for years prevented the completion of land acquisition for the Big South Fork NRRRA and had brought imminent threat of adverse development: a bill was passed to transfer jurisdiction to NPS.
- We got the first post-transfer appropriation (\$1 million) for buying the remaining BSFNRRRA lands; we also secured increased funding for NPS administration to help get the work done.
- We started a major effort for a statewide rivers assessment and secured a \$30,000 challenge grant to stimulate other support for this program.
- We worked to revitalize the State Scenic Rivers program and secured a seed grant for producing a brochure.
- We worked to get land acquisition cranked up for the Obed. (The Obed should get much more of our attention in 1991.)
- The Cedar Barrens fence was completed from money we had collected or solicited, crowning our earlier victory in saving this registered State Natural Area from development.
- We organized a March for Parks event and collected money for water-quality monitoring equipment for the BSFNRRRA.
- We participated in Forest Voices (which keeps an eye on the Cherokee NF), lent support to attempts to protect the state's natural lands and waters, warded off certain development pressures for the BSF, and maintained the North Ridge and Whites Creek Trails.

B. Dues statement near: Political Guide later

A statement for you 1991 dues is enclosed. Your prompt payment saves us a great deal of effort and money. Don't set the statement aside.

We had intended also to enclose the 1991 POLITICAL GUIDE which is being assembled by Lynn Wright. However, the Tennessee General Assembly has not yet met for its committee assignments. Office space and phone numbers have also not yet been assigned. We hope to mail you the Political Guide later this month, before the session proper starts. Save it in a place where it will be accessible to you all year.

C. Report of TCWP Meeting Dec.12

About 35-40 members attended our meeting on Dec.12 and greatly enjoyed a highly informative talk by Dr. Eric Hirst on energy conservation and its implications (§8F, above). Since this also had to double as our Annual Meeting (see NL179 §9A), we heard short summaries of our year's achievements (see §10A, above) and of the state of our treasury, as well as electing the 1991 Board (see §10D, below). Finally, we enjoyed a variety of home-made bakeries.

D. TCWP's 1991 Board and Nominating Comm.

President:	Martha Kettle
Vice Pres.:	Maureen Cunningham
Secretary:	Louise Market
Treasurer:	Charles Klabunde
Directors:	David Adler
	Dick Ambrose
	Judith Bartlow
	Chuck Coutant
	Bob Luxmoore
	Neil McBride
	Lee Russell

[This is the first time in TCWP's 25-year history that the entire board was reelected. No anti-incumbency mood here!]

Nominating committee: Sylvia Hubbell
Karin Finkel
Webb Van Winkle

E. Volunteers

We are grateful to the following who assembled NL 179: Doris Adler, Dick Ambrose, Frank and Mary Henstey, Miriam and Francois Kertes, Charles Klabunde, and Henri and Bettie Levy.

11. ACTIVITIES, ORGANIZATIONS READING MATTER

- Feb. 15-17, Southeast Public Lands Conference, Dauphin Island (near Mobile), AL, jointly sponsored by Sierra Club, Wildermess Soc., and Audubon. Contact Wanda Sellers, Sierra Club SE Office, 864 Weisgarber Rd, Knoxville 37919.
- March 1-3, Workshop on Environmental Education and the Arts, \$65 incl. meals & lodging, Gt Smoky Mtns Inst at Tremont, Rt.1, Box 81, Townsend, TN 37882; 615-448-6709.
- March through September 1991, 10-or 17-day participations in volunteer research on the turtles of Tortuguero (Costa Rica). Coordinated by Massachusetts Audubon Soc., Natural History Travel, Lincoln, MA 01773; 1-800-289-9504.
- June 7, 8, and 9, Appalachian Region Forestry Workshop at Hollins College, Roanoke, VA, sponsored by the Sierra Club's Appal. Regional Coord. Committee. Contact Hugh Irwin, Knoxville, 615-522-3093.
- June 24-30, July 15-21, Naturalist and Educator Weeks, \$170 each week, incl. meals & lodging, Gt Smoky Mtns Inst at Tremont, Rt.1, Box 81, Townsend, TN 37882; 615-448-6709
- 1991 Audubon Ecology Workshops will be held in S.Florida, Yellowstone, Costa Rica, Trinidad, etc., etc. For brochure, write Audubon Ecology Camps and Workshops, Dept.A, 613 Riversville Rd., Greenwich, Conn. 06831; 203-669-2017.
- The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) has established the Stanley A.Murray Memorial Fund to honor Stan for his dedication in saving the Highlands of Roan. During Stan's lifetime, 14,500 acres were put under protection. The Fund will be used to purchase a 377-acre tract on Houston Ridge. Contact SAHC, POBox 4092 CRS, Johnson City, TN 37602.
- Russ Manning and Sondra Jamieson have recently published *Historic Knoxville and Knox County*, a walking and touring guide for the City's Bicentennial celebration in 1991. The 256-page pocket-sized book guides the reader through the city center, neighborhoods, and parks of Knoxville and the back roads of Knox County. This is the third Tag-Along Book and,

like the others (the Big South Fork and the South Cumberland guides) is available in area bookstores for \$9.64 (incl.tax), or from Laurel Place, POBox 3001P, Norris, TN 37828, for \$10.79 (incl.shipping).

- *Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails, and Greenway Corridors* is a 130-page publication by the NPS' Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program that describes beneficial impacts in detail and offers models for analysing the economics of a greenway project. Free; call 415-556-5751.
- *Greenways for America*, by Charles Little, offers guidance to individuals who are looking for effective ways to preserve natural wildlife migration corridors, protect scenic routes from development, and provide paths for recreation (237 pp., 44 photos, 16 maps). \$22.95 from Johns Hopkins Univ Press, 701 W 40th, Suite 275, Baltimore, MD 21211.
- The *Audubon Sanctuary Directory* lists and describes about 250 wildlife sanctuaries throughout the USA that are owned and/or managed by the Natl Audubon Soc or its chapters for wildlife habitat, recreation, or environmental education. Sanctuaries range from 1/8 acre to 23,000 acres. \$10 (including shipping) from Sanctuary Dept, Natl Audubon Soc, 93 West Cornwall Rd. Sharon, Conn. 06069.
- *Wild by Law* is a large-format book of superb photographs of places that were saved by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. The text recounts landmark cases in environmental law. \$39.95 from SCLDF, 2044 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, CA 94115-9971.
- *World Watch Magazine* comes from the informed folks at World Watch (Lester R. Brown, Pres.). Its aim is "to reverse the trends of environmental degradation that are undermining the future." \$13 per year (6 issues, no advertising) from World Watch, POBox 6991, Syracuse, NY 13217-9942.
- *The Earth Care Annual 1991* promises "inspiring solutions to help you transform your own concern for the plight of the earth into positive action." \$17.94 from Rodale Libraries, POBox 10280, Des Moines, IA 50380-0280.

