TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 128, April 13, 1983*

1. New steps toward a Smokies Wilderness . . . . . p. 2
2. Obed progress . . . . . p. 2
3. Frozen Head petition . . . . . p. 2
4. State matters . . . . . p. 2
   A. Pending legislation
   B. Tennessee's LWCF share
   C. Koppers withdraws
   D. Billboard lobby wins
   E. ORVs ruin AT segment
   F. John Muir Trail
5. Stripmine news . . . . . p. 4
   A. DSM past
   B. DSM present
   C. Pending amendments
   D. Bryce Canyon
6. Parkland acquisition funds needed. Watt misinforms . . . . . p. 5
7. The Alaska Natl. Park Hunting Bill - hunting is not the issue . . . . . p. 5
8. Public lands and wilderness issues . . . . . p. 6
   A. Forest-land give-away
   B. Timbersales vs. wilderness
   C. Watt attack on BLM lands
   D. Watt "defends" his record

****

FROZEN HEAD WILDFLOWER HIKE, APRIL 23

This beautiful Cumberland Mtn area is ablaze with wildflowers in the spring. Take TN62 W from Oliver Springs. Shortly before Wartburg, turn right at Frozen Head sign and proceed about 4 miles to Park HQ, where we'll assemble at 10 a.m. We'll have a choice of short or long hikes. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes, raingear.

****

9. Water, wetlands, and water projects . . . . . p. 7
   A. Wetlands protection
   B. Clean Water Act
   C. Ocoee
   D. Small hydro
   E. Appropriations
10. TVA capsules . . . . . p. 8
   A. Natural Areas
   B. TVA Trails
   C. Dave Freeman award
   D. LBL fund raising
   E. Land-use plan
   F. 50th anniversary
11. National news . . . . . p. 9
   A. Endangered species
   B. Two jobs bills
   C. Clean Air; acid rain
   D. EPA clues
   E. Reagan and envt.
   F. Admin. and scientists
   G. Natl. Trails Act
   H. Hazardous Waste
12. TCWP matters . . . . . p. 11
13. Things to read and things to do . . . . . p. 11
14. ACTION SUMMARY . . . . . p. 12
15. Calendar . . . . . p. 12

---

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

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

1. NEW STEPS TOWARD A SMOKIES WILDERNESS

Although the Gt. Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park was the first National Park System unit for which a wilderness hearing was held -- back in June of 1966 -- there still is no wilderness legislatively designated within that park. The Great Smokies Park Wilderness Advocates (a coalition of which TCWP is a member) some years ago developed a proposal for about 475,000 acres of wilderness (roughly 90% of the park area) which was incorporated in a bill introduced on two occasions by Sen. Sasser. Because of the general political climate, the bill did not move. Now, the "establishment" is taking potentially very important steps in the same direction. The Great Smoky Mountain Park Commission of the State of Tennessee on March 25 passed a resolution (unanimously) to "solicit the 98th Congress to designate ... the Park's Natural Areas, Type I, described in the 1982 General Management Plan [an area of 464,544 acres], for protection under the National Wilderness Preservation System." Copies of the resolution were sent to the President, Sec. Watt, NPS Director Dickenson, the Tenn. Congressional delegation, Governor Alexander, and various Tennessee government officials. TCWP has written to several of these persons in support of the resolution and of inclusion of 475,000 acres (or at least 464,544) in the National Wilderness Preservation System. It would be fitting to have such designation take effect in 1984, which is a double anniversary: the 50th for the Park, and the 20th for the Wilderness Act.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write a short letter supporting Smokies Wilderness to Gov. Alexander and to your U.S. representative and both senators (See p. 12 for addresses)

2. OBED PROGRESS

Overcoming USDI's roadblocks to land acquisition for park system areas (see NL 126 ¶3), the National Park Service recently acquired one of the key tracts for the Obed National Wild & Scenic River, namely, the wedge of land between Obed and Clear Creek. This high point offers spectacular views of the gorges, and NPS plans to develop an overlook with a trail leading to it from the plateau. The recently acquired tract brings the total federal acreage close to 1000 -- a long ways to go yet, but a lot better than the 80 acres NPS had acquired by the time Sec. Watt started his obstructionist tactics.

If you would like to float the Obed but don't care or dare to do it on your own, you may be interested in a raft trip to be organized by Wild River Adventures, a private company, on May 21. Cost is $35 per person, and net receipts of the trip will be donated to SOCM (Save Our Cumberland Mountains). Other dates can be directly arranged (Box 49, Lake City, TN 37769, Ph 494-7328).

3. FROZEN HEAD PETITION

After having been in abeyance for several months, the stripmine permit-application process was reinitiated by the mining company. As you may recall (NL 125 ¶2, NL 126 ¶1), this stripmine operation would be clearly visible from a major portion of the Frozen Head State Natural Area. It would also affect one of the very few remaining unpolluted streams in this part of the Cumberland Mountains, Flat Fork. Consequently, The Frozen Head State Park Association and three affected landowners have filed a petition to declare the area unsuitable for mining under the terms of Sec. 522 of the federal surface mine law. Recently, Tennessee's first "522 petition"-- for the Douglas Branch watershed in Campbell County -- was turned down (NL 127 ¶6B), but the petitioners have appealed the denial.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Commissioner Charles Howell, III (Tenn. Dept. of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville 37203) and urge him to protect Frozen Head State Natural Area and the Flat Fork valley against stripmining in the watershed.

4. STATE MATTERS

A. Legislation pending in the General Assembly

The following are brief summaries of bills of potential interest to TCWP members (see also ¶5C). Some of the bills deserve your support, others your opposition. Please write your state senator and representative about one, several, or all of these bills (just two letters, one to

each of your two state legislators, will do). For addresses, consult the Political Guide and list of legislators that we enclosed with NL 127.

(a) Parks and Recreation Resources Trust Fund.
SB 578 (Lashlee, Lewis)/HB 653 (Rhinehart) would establish this fund from a tax levied on coin-operated video games, pool tables, etc., and would allow it to be augmented from other sources, including appropriations. The interest would go to the Dept. of Conservation for land acquisition, resource protection, and facility construction in connection with state projects or local projects (in the proportion 3:7) related to the Tenn. outdoor recreation plan. A special committee would advise on the allocation of available monies. This bill appears quite worthy of support.

(b) Septic Tank improvements
HB 542 (Yelton) would amend the law that regulates septic-tank construction by repealing some permissive sections. Among other things, the amendment stipulates comprehensive soil analysis, and discourages the building of septic systems in shattered rock or in water courses. Such measures would serve to protect our threatened ground-water resources.

(c) A Tennessee Conservation Corps would be created by HB 37 (Murphy)/SB 557 (Ortwein). The young men and women would carry out year-round projects in land preservation, maintenance of park facilities, etc. The bill's sponsors will attempt to secure funding for the program through an amendment to the appropriations bill. Both HB 37/SB 557 and the associated appropriation are worthy of support

(d) Coons 9 ; hunters 15
That's the ratio into which House Bill 30, passed March 29, would have divided the year. However, on April 6, the Senate Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources rejected the bill. HB 30 had been worked out by the House Conservation Committee and was considered to be a compromise. Because of virtual disappearance of racoon populations from East Tennessee, the TN Wildlife Resources Agency had attempted to set a total moratorium on coon hunting in that part of the state (NL 127 ¶7B). Pressure from enraged hunters produced the original version of HB 30, which would have transferred the authority to regulate 'coon management from TWRA to the county courts. The bill was changed in committee to set uniform rules for all of East Tenn., protecting racoons Feb. 1 - June 15, but allowing hunting or dog chasing during the remainder of the year. TCWP letters in opposition to HB 30 brought sympathetic responses from Sen. Elkins and Rep. McNally (who serves on the conservation committee).

(e) Hazardous waste bills
At least 5 bills affecting hazardous waste (disposal sites, state superfund, etc.) were introduced this year. One of these, S.627 (Davis), was drafted by the Environmental Action Fund, of which TCWP is a member; another is supported by the TN Manufacturers Assoc., and yet another (the committee bill) is backed by the Alexander administration and has been passed by the House. Because of the complexity of these bills, we suggest that interested TCWP members get further details from the Tenn. Environmental Report, Vol. XI, No. 2 (send self-addressed, stamped envelope to TEC, P.O.Box 1422, Nashville 37202; or call 615, 321-5075.

B. Appropriation needed to match Tennessee's LWCF share
As reported earlier (NL 127 ¶9B), the state portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) that the previous Congress appropriated for FY 1983 is 75 million. Though conservation groups had recommended 100 million, 75 is a great improvement over the zero of FY 1982. About half of Tennessee's ca. $2 million allotment will go for state projects (land acquisition, construction) and for administration of the LCWF, the other half for local parks and outdoor recreation facilities. To be able to utilize the LWCF monies the state must match them with funds appropriated by the General Assembly. Your state representative and senator should hear of your support for this appropriation (see Political Guide and list of legislators you received with NL 127).

C. Koppers withdraws once again
The Kopper's Co. proprosal for a gigantic synthetic fuel plant in Oak Ridge was withdrawn prior to the U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corp. meeting of March 24. Koppers, which had sought loan

guarantees and price supports from the SFC, was unable, after many months of trying, to secure a partner for the Oak Ridge venture. By withdrawing, Koppers avoided having its application rejected outright. Although a later reapplication is still possible, it is significant that Koppers plans to give up its option on the land it presently holds just west of Oak Ridge.

D. The billboard lobby wins -- with the help of the Alexander Administration

The General Assembly on April 6 passed HB 1165 (Henry and Stafford)/SB 1093 (Langley), a bill which authorizes the issuance of permits for cutting vegetation that "prevents clear visibility" of a lawful billboard. For a permit fee of $100, the sign owner can now clear tall vegetation from 500 ft. of the right-of-way and replace it "as directed." The bill also contains a few potentially beneficial provisions for removal of certain billboards, and for regulating the size and spacing of outdoor advertising; but these can hardly compensate for the large-scale tree cutting that may now occur along highways. Amendments by Sens. Ashe (to exempt dogwoods) and Elkins (to exempt I-640) were defeated. The bill was supported by the Alexander administration in an unfortunate departure from the course set by past administrations. Thus, under Gov. Dunn 2 million trees/year were planted along highways. If it isn't too late by the time you read this, call Gov. Alexander's office (615, 741-2001) and urge him to veto the tree-cutting bill.

E. Tennessee segment of Appalachian Trail ruined by ORVs

Off-road vehicles (ORV's) have ruined a beautiful section of the Appalachian Trail SE of Greenville, TN. The Forest Service has recommended closing access roads, and providing a separate loop for the ORV's. ORV riders, however, have appealed this decision all the way up to the Chief of the USFS, whose ruling is expected soon.

F. John Muir Trail

Sen. Victor Ashe has written the Commissioner of Conservation requesting an explanation of a reported cancellation of construction of the John Muir State Scenic Trail.

5. STRIPMINE NEWS

A. Division of Surface Mining -- past

A 1982 compilation by the Tenn. Division of State Audits brought out much adverse information concerning DSM's performance. For example, despite the fact that the average reclamation cost is about $2700/acre, DSM has set 70% of all bonds at the legal minimum of $1500/acre. Almost all forfeited reclamation bonds remained uncollected; at least 35 mine sites with forfeited bonds have not been reclaimed. Only 11% of 570 inactive mine sites have been completely reclaimed. Further, reclamation contracts were issued to operators, whose past performance (illegal mining, bond forfeiture) would have prevented them from receiving a permit.

B. Division of Surface Mining -- present

On being moved from the Dept. of Conservation to the Dept. of Health and Environment (DHE) by executive order of February 15 (MNL 127 ¶6A, 7A), DSM underwent a series of personnel changes. The new Director and Asst. Director (and head of the Knoxville office) are Joe Covington and Earl C. Leming, respectively; they replace Austin Gaines and Arthur Hope. Ken Church replaced Danny Rahnema as head of the Technical Services staff (permit applications review), and Buck Swart replaced Larry Stephens as head of Inspection and Enforcement. Those familiar with the various people involved are most encouraged by these changes. We are also encouraged that Dr. Mike Bruner, head of the Bureau of Environmental Management of DHE (within which DSM is now located) followed up on his meeting with TCWP representatives (NL 127 ¶6A) by going on a stripmine tour.

C. Pending amendments to the Tenn. Surface Mine Act

SB 863 (Atchley)/HB 901 (Robinson) is a bill proposed by the stripmine lobby FACT. It would relax restrictions on issuing new permits to operators who are in violation of past permits. Instead of having to correct the violation, the operator would have to be merely "in the process of coming into compliance." The bill would also delete coal loading by tipples as an activity requiring a permit.

An administration bill, SB 1096 (Burleson)/HB 1169 (King, McNally, Henry, Robertson) would eliminate the severance tax on minerals sold for the use or benefit of the state or

any of its subdivisions. This would have the effect of greatly reducing coal-county funds that are earmarked for schools and roads. Both of these bills deserve to be opposed. Late news on HB 1169: In the House, the amendment "except coal" was added to qualify "minerals," rendering the bill relatively harmless.

D. Stripmining near Bryce Canyon?

In 1980, former Interior Secretary Andrus designated the Alton coalfields in Utah as unsuitable for surface mining under Sec. 522 of the federal stripmine law. Such mining would intrude into the famous views from Bryce Canyon National Park. Andrus' successor, James Watt, attempted to withdraw the stripmining ban, but a Utah court rejected this attempt. Subsequently, two mining companies also challenged the Andrus ban. Recently, the U.S. District Court for Utah upheld the 522 decision for a second time.

6. PARKLANDS ACQUISITION FUNDS NEEDED. WATT MISINFORMS

It is none too early to do our annual urging for an adequate Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) appropriation. This is the appropriation that is used for parklands acquisition by the federal government and the states. The federal areas in Tennessee that use LWCF moneys are the Obed National Wild & Scenic River and the Appalachian Trail. (See ¶4B, this NL for the LWCF state portion.) Urge your Congressman/woman to express his/her support for an adequate LWCF appropriation to Congr. Sidney Yates, chmn of the appropriations subcommittee for USDI.

Sec. Watt has again requested only $55 million for parkland acquisition, despite a $900 million backlog of congressionally authorized lands to be acquired, and despite the fact that the money is "in the bank" (since the LWCF comes from revenues from off-shore oil leasing). In the 5 years preceding the Reagan Administration, the LWCF averaged about $500 million annually. In the three Reagan budgets, by contrast, Watt has requested less than $60 million/year. Congress appropriated more than 3 times what he asked for in FY82 and FY83.

Watt's excuse for attempting essentially to stop parklands acquisition has been that the parks are in such a bad state that money must preferentially be used to bring them up to par. Lately, he has been touring the country with multicolored charts (which he also showed on Face the Nation 3/27/83) purporting to show that funding for park maintenance "declined steadily and rapidly" during the Carter years. In a Congressional transcript, he said, "every year in the four preceding years, the budget was cut for taking care of the...national park system. No wonder it was hurting." If you want the truth, look at the following table, which is compiled from information in the Congressional Record of 3/8/83 (page H912).

Year	Park maintenance*		Operation of and construction in Natl Park Syst.*	
	Requested	Appropriated	Requested	Appropriated
1977	124	127	425	426
1978	143	144	485	503
1979	165	168	496	506
1980	156	159	494	500
1981	166	192	498	502

*In million $

Watt also said "... when I came in, I believe we were flushing raw sewage water into the streams and lakes of our national parks." In response to a Congressional question on this matter, NPS could not identify a single park, lake, or stream where this occurred.
[For other corrections of Watt statements, see ¶8D]

7. THE ALASKA NATIONAL HUNTING BILL: HUNTING IS NOT THE ISSUE

The issue in S.49 (Stevens)/HR.1493 (Young) is that 12 million acres of Alaskan national parks would be downgraded to "national preserves," where sport hunting is allowed, and would thus set a dangerous precedent for downgrading national parks throughout the U.S. Tennessee's Sen. Baker and Rep. Quillen are cosponsors of this bill. In Alaska, national park acreage would be

reduced by 37%(!) and the way would be opened to unravel the painstakingly crafted Alaska Lands Act only 2 years after a balanced settlement was reached in Congress.--The issue is not hunting. About 92% of Alaska (an area equal to 20% of the contiguous U.S.) is already open to hunting. The bill is being pushed by a small group of wealthy trophy hunters (based in Ohio), which had last year sought to weaken the Endangered Species Act. Hopefully they will not succeed in splitting the conservation community on this issue, or they'll only make Sec. Watt rub his hands in glee. Watt told FIELD & STREAM a year ago: "In a conflict between preservationists and sportsmen, we're going to the sportsmen ... If there is a wedge to be driven between the conservation community, we'll help drive the wedge."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (a) Tell your Senators and Rep. that a vote against the Stevens bill is a vote for the integrity of the national parks throughout the U.S., and a vote for the preservation of magnificent wildlife for the enjoyment of future generations. See p.12 for addresses. Sen. Baker & Rep. Quillen should be asked to reconsider their stands. (b) Inform your sportsmen friends of the true issues involved in the Stevens bill, and let them know about the many concerns we and they have in common: acid rain (with its threats to forest wildlife habitats and fishing waters), "privatization" (which would close vast acreages to public access by hunters and fishermen), and the onslaught on wetlands (which threatens to destroy waterfowl habitat).

8. PUBLIC LANDS AND WILDERNESS ISSUES

A. "Asset-management program" = "privatization" = give-away

The Reagan Administration plans to sell of 6 million acres of National Forest lands for a start. This amounts to ca. 3% of our national forests nationwide, but in some states (e.g., our neighboring Alabama), the percentage is as high as 10%. Here in Tennessee, we fare relatively better, with 1% of the Cherokee's acreage identified for possible sale. These 6522 acres are distributed among 136 tracts in 8 counties. Sale of forest lands could not occur unless Congress approves; the Agriculture Dept. is proposing a bill to that effect. Therefore, your Representative and Senators must hear from you on this subject. Do you think that 6 million acres should be closed to public outdoor recreation, and that the present mandate for wildlife-habitat and watershed-protection management should be given up from such a major acreage? (see p.12 for addresses). Senators Chafee and Bumpers plan to introduce a bill that will require that the public and long-term interest in any parcel must be fully evaluated before that parcel is put up for sale. Ask your Senators to support this Chafee-Bumpers bill. -- If you know of any endangered, threatened, or state-protected species on any site considered for sale notify Charlie Callison of NRDC (1725-I Street, NW, Wash. DC 20006).

B. Timber sales versus wilderness

The U.S. Forest Service is pushing to increase timber sales from the national forests: 11.6 million boardfeet are proposed for FY 1984, despite the fact that there is a 3-year backlog of sold but uncut timber on public lands. In early March, Pres. Reagan, told a meeting of lumber executives that he opposed designation of "whole-sale amounts" of forests as wilderness. There was no need for this designation, he argued, because "there is today in the U.S. as much forest as there was when Washington was at Valley Forge." Fact (as per USFS): we now have 30% less forest lands than we had then. In line with his boss' philosophy, Asst. Agriculture Sec. Crowell recently declared the entire RARE-II wilderness review invalid and thus, in one stroke, removed the protection that "wilderness-study" status had conferred on numerous areas nationwide. His twisted rationale was based on a court decision to the effect that RARE-II was biased against wilderness (see NL 127 ¶1B). It is to be hoped that Congress will not be fooled by this maneuver and will continue to pass wilderness bills for individual states. The wilderness system now comprises just 1% of the land in the contiguous 48 states. Even if all wilderness study areas were added to the system, the total would still be only 3%.

C. Watt's double-barreled attacks on BLM lands

While Congress was home for Christmas, Sec. Watt removed the "wilderness study" protective status from 800,000 acres of BLM lands, and ordered a review of over 5 million acres that could lead to similar action (NL 127 ¶1C). Nearly all major national conservation groups have now joined in a lawsuit to attempt to stop this wholesale attack on wilderness. In addition, the House Interior Committee on Feb. 10 unanimously approved a resolution protesting removal of the 800,000 acres, and urging Watt to halt the review of the additional 5+ million acres. (That

acreage represents as much as 1/4 of all areas BLM has identified as having outstanding wilderness characteristics.) The committee resolution is unfortunately non-binding, and Watt's response has been to ignore it.

Another threat to fragile public lands comes from a BLM decision to cancel a 1971 Nixon moratorium on coal mining on about half a million acres. BLM is preparing to grant most of 200 dozen-year-old coal-lease applications some of which affect numerous archeological sites, fossil deposits, and critical animal habitats.

D. Sec. Watt "defends" his record

Sec. Watt is on a campaign of accusing the media of distorting his record and of keeping him off p. 1 (that was in pre-Beachboy-remark days!). The AP has twice asked Watt to list instances of inaccurate reporting and to make corrections, but he has declined. Instead, he is traveling all over the country with a set of slick charts to tell his story. And a story it is! "Based on what you have read, how many millions of acres of wilderness do you believe Jim Watt has leased for oil and gas drilling, mining, and development?" he asks. Then, triumphantly, "The answer is zero!" The truth: Watt keeps trying to lease in wilderness, but Congress has three times voted to ban such leasing. Incidental intelligence: there are already 137 million acres of Federal lands (not wilderness) under oil & gas leases. This is an area the size of Wisc., Ill., Ind., Vt., N.H., Mass., and Tenn., combined.

9. WATER, WETLANDS, AND WATER PROJECTS

A. Wetlands protection efforts are needed

Wetlands, which constitute some of the world's most biologically productive ecosystems, are being lost at an alarming rate: e.g., last year alone, the U.S. lost more wetland acreage (460,000 acres) than has been acquired in the past seven years (330,000 acres for migratory bird habitat). This Administration has not sought to appropriate any part of the over $50 million that are available for wetlands acquisition under an authorizing Act. Presently, USDI is courting applause for its POWDR program (Protect Our Wetlands and Duck Resources). POWDR appears to bar use of federal funds for projects that destroy wetlands; however closer examination reveals that about 90% of the threatening developments (e.g., roads, oil & gas, agriculture) are exempt from this fund withholding.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) provides the only federal program to protect our existing wetlands from dredge and fill; about 300,000 acres annually have been saved through this mechanism. However, the Administration's Task Force on Regulatory Relief, under Vice President Bush, has targeted the 404 Program for regulatory "reform." The Administration is quietly pushing for a major weakening of Sec. 404 in the course of the CWA reauthorization process, while taking care to cover its tracks. Thus, according to the N.Y. Times News Service, and INSIDE E.P.A., the White House Cabinet Council on Natural Resources & The Environment on March 9 recommended that EPA make no major changes in Sec. 404 when drafting the Administration version of the CWA reauthorization; but, at the same time, the Council authorized the Corps to draft weakening amendments for Sec. 404, and to "encourage a friend on the Hill" to shepherd the bill containing these amendments. The Corps, through Asst. Secretary Gianelli, has already done its level best to wreck the 404 Program. One tactic has been to grant general (rather than site-specific) permits for filling whole classifications of wetlands, and just handing these general permit programs to state agencies that are unequipped and unwilling to handle them. Among the broad classifications affected are discharges into headwaters of rivers, discharges into waterbodies not fed by streams (e.g. prairie potholes), disposal of dredge and fill material associated with surface mining (see also NL 125 ¶5, NL 126 ¶5B). Another Corps device: redefinition of wetlands as those areas inundated at least 15% of the year (this would remove protection from bottomland hardwood forests in the south). The Corps has also been in a big argument with EPA because it wants 404 regs to be "advisory," while EPA has argued that they be binding.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your U.S. Representative and both Senators (see p. 12 for address) to say that you oppose any weakening of the 404 program. In fact, the program needs strengthening in various ways (e.g., to cover draining of wetlands [not now regulated], and to codify the broad definition of wetlands that was in the Carter Admin. regs.)

B. Clean Water Act reauthorization

Reauthorization time is a time of vulnerability. A recent Harris poll showed that 93% of Americans believe that the CWA should be kept as it is or made even stricter. But industrial groups are lobbying to lift many restrictions on discharges of toxic wastes into waterways. EPA's revised regulations would roll back a decade of progress in water-pollution control, and the Administration will try to incorporate the revised regs into the reauthorizing legislation. A Senate revision of the CWA, S.431 (Chafee) may see floor action in April or May, and a stronger House bill is expected to be introduced shortly by Rep. Howard. For a discussion of the wetlands features of this bill, see ¶9A, this NL

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask your senators to support strengthening amendments to S.431. A letter to Sen. Baker, who is a member of the Environment&Public Works Committee, is particularly important. Among strengthening features needed: stronger controls on non-point-source pollution (e.g. agriculture, stripmines), controls on dam discharges, reaffirmation of the fishable-swimmable goal. Also ask senators to oppose any amendments that may be offered in the future to weaken the Safe Drinking Water Act.

C. Ocoee: the economic argument

In our last issue (NL 127 ¶4D), we reported on an economic analysis by an independent expert, Steven Taylor, which pointed out that savings to electrical power customers from Ocoee's hydrogeneration are many years in the future since, at present, no additional generation capacity is needed in the TVA system. Dave Freeman has now sent us a letter from General Manager Willis that argues with Mr. Taylor's conclusion. This letter states, "the capacity benefit in TVA's 1981 analysis to which you refer represents only a small portion [about 4% maximum] of the total benefits. The primary benefit ... will be the replacement of generation from more expensive existing sources such as oil and coal." The Willis letter also argues that Taylor underestimated the effect of inflation on coal costs by using a linear, instead of a compounding, model to calculate price escalation. In his covering letter to us, Freeman says that TVA is changing Ocoee to a multipurpose project by making the water available for rafting (without a dam the river would be dry in the summer). There is only one issue -- whether the commercial rafters get a free ride or pay for the wasted water. It's not a free flowing stream -- the power dam stores water in winter and creates water in the summer for rafting." We suggest that if you want more details, you secure both the Taylor report and the TVA staff review.

D. Small hydro dams are not being regulated

The Energy Security Act of 1980 authorized the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to exempt projects under 5mW from licensing requirements, but provided that these projects were still subject to site-specific terms and conditions imposed by fish & wildlife agencies. An FERC ruling has now exempted the <5mW projects from the latter type of regulation as well. Several conservation groups have brought suit against the FERC.

E. Water project appropriations

There will be no lessening in the pressures for water project spending, despite the cuts in other types of government expenditures. Sec. Watt, in fact, the man who allows no money for parklands acquisition, has asked for a 20% increase in the funding of Bureau of Reclamation dam projects. House Appropriations subcommittee hearings on water projects were held at the end of March, but completion of a bill is still quite a bit in the future, so there is time left to oppose blatant boondoggles like Tenn-Tom. Unfortunately, as reported elsewhere in this NEWSLETTER (¶11.B), the recently passed jobs bill includes significant amounts for water project construction. With respect to authorizations of new projects, it is significant that 1982 was the sixth year in a row in which no omnibus rivers and harbors bill for the Corps was passed.

10. TVA CAPSULES

A. TVA Natural Areas cover a total of 1696 acres (with a range from 4 to 300). Of the 21 areas, 18 are designated as Small Wild Areas and/or Habitat Protection Areas, and 3 are ecological study areas. In addition, there are 13 proposed natural areas, ranging in size from 20 to 2511 acres, with an average of about 440 acres/site. Many of these areas have unique and valuable natural features, and TVA should be encouraged to protect them.

B. TVA Trails. Apart from the 400 trails on Land Between the Lakes, TVA has 21 short trails of altogether 53 miles loop or round trip (average 2.5 miles/trail). A list with capsule descriptions is available from the TVA Div. of Land and Forest Resources, Norris, TN 37828.

C. David Freeman received the "Conservationist of the Year" Award from the National Wildlife Federation on March 19. NWF honored Freeman for transforming TVA into "a utility that now boasts unique achievements in natural resource conservation and environmental protection."

D. A Land Between the Lakes fund raising plan was announced March 24. The TVA Board will help form a membership association to raise funds supplementing the annual LBL budget. According to Director Richard Freeman, funding problems have restricted TVA's ability to attract new visitors to the recreation area. The visitation rate has hovered around 2 million for the past 8 years.

E. TVA's third reservoir land-use plan is in the works. The Pickwick plan was completed in 1981, and the Guntersville plan is in process of completion. Now, 66,000 acres of TVA land around Kentucky Reservoir have been selected for the next major land planning effort. Preliminary assessments of potential land uses, to be made this spring, will involve discussions with area residents and state and local governments. Public meetings, to be held in the fall, will be followed by a draft plan, public review, and a final plan in 1984. If you wish to have an input, contact R. L. Curtis, Jr. Lands Mngt Planning, at 615, 632-6450.

. TVA's 50th Anniversary celebrations will be kicked off with special ceremonies (Knoxville → Chattanooga → Muscle Shoals) on May 18, the day Pres. Roosevelt signed the Act that created the TVA. The U.S. Postal Service is unveiling a TVA commemorative stamp on that date. The "Valley Adventure," the anniversary exhibit, will be housed on two barges that will travel 1300 river miles (Tennessee, Cumberland, Mississippi), beginning April 20 from Knoxville, with 23 stops planned along the way.

11. NATIONAL NEWS

A. Endangered Species Act: appropriations needed

The Administration is proposing serious cuts in this program for FY 1984. For example, it asks zero funds for the refuge acquisition program, which has ca $5 million this year, and eliminates grants to the states for endangered species protection. The BLM endangered species program is cut about 31%. The Congress' mandate in reauthorizing the ESA can obviously not be carried out without adequate funding. Committee action on ESA appropriations will begin mid May or soon thereafter. Tennesseans on the Appropriations Committees are Sen. Sasser and Rep. Boner. Please write them and ask their support in restoring badly needed endangered-species funding. (See p. 12 for address) -- Late in February, Watt announced that the snail darter's status was being changed from "endangered" to "threatened," and that the fish might eventually be removed from the protection list altogether. Five natural populations have now been found in the Tennessee River system.

B. Environmental implications of two jobs bills: one bad, one good

The emergency jobs bill that was passed in late March unfortunately contains an appreciable amount of money for water projects construction -- almost $400 million for the Corps of Engineers and over $50 million for the Bureau of Reclamation. The bill also contains over $220 million for various parks and natural resources programs, and over $150 million for weatherization.

The House on 3/1/83 overwhelmingly passed a bill to create the American Conservation Corps which would provide 100,000 jobs/yr for 15-25 year olds in park conservation, reforestation, wildlife protection, erosion control, etc. This bill may have a harder time in the Senate, and the Administration opposes it. Write your senators and urge them to co-sponsor S.27, the bill to create this Conservation Corps.

C. Clean Air and acid rain

The compromise Clean Air Act amendments that passed a Senate committee last year were reintroduced as S.768 on March 10. Several separate bills have also been introduced to reduce

acid-rain pollutants, e.g., S.769 (Stafford) and S.145 (Mitchell). However, there are also bills that would accelerate acid-rain research, but postpone controls - the Administration and industry position. In the House, no comprehensive air act amendments have yet been introduced.

The Administration has become a little hysterical about acid rain (which it calls "unbuffered precipitation"). Two Canadian films on the subject have been labeled "political propaganda" by the Justice Dept. and must be presented as works of a foreign agent. The government has to be supplied with the names of all persons who receive copies of the films. A SPORTS ILLUSTRATED lead article of 3/21/83 accuses the Administration of having "undercut and played keepaway with the very research into acid rain it says is still needed." The exec. chairman of Canada's Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office recently complained that Washington was seeking "to influence scientific judgements to produce politically or administratively convenient conclusions." Sec. Watt is quoted as saying to a Canadian official: "When you do something about Canadian blizzards, then this country will do something about acid rain."

D. EPA: watch for the real clues

Whatever we report on EPA is likely to be out of date by the time you read this, but there are some general thoughts to keep in mind as you interpret the news that will be forthcoming from the media. What is the background of the people Wm. Ruckelshaus will appoint for the top echelon slots which, under Gorsuch, were filled by people who had previously earned their living fighting EPA regulations? (Ruckelshaus himself spent recent years with Weyerhaeuser, a large timber and wood-products industry.) What kind of appropriations will be sought by the new management? (Anne Gorsuch-Burford tried to kill her own baby, EPA, by starvation. At least $1.35 billion, i.e., the 1981 level, is needed to restore programs.) Will Ruckelshaus withdraw Administration support for industry-backed amendments to the Clean Air Act? The President's remarks on the recent EPA scandals (see ¶11.E, this NL) may have served to show the public that the policy of waging war on environmental regulations comes straight out of the White House. Columnist Robert Walters recently wrote: "EPA is only one of the ... agencies which the Reagan administration has cynically transformed from an institution devoted to serving the public into a protector of wealthy and powerful special interests."

E. Reagan's thoughts on the environment

When Pres. Reagan made a gross misstatement about forests recently (see ¶8B this NL), his staff explained: "it was something he had stored in his head." Here are some other storage items. During the presidential campaign he proclaimed that vegetation was a major source of air pollution, because it produced "92% of the oxides of nitrogen." (He got confused on plant physiology). He also said that the Mount Saint Helens' eruption released more SO_2 "than has been released in the last 10 years of automobile driving ..." (Fact: 500 to 2000 tons/day from the volcano, as opposed to 81,000 tons/day from all man-made sources; and the volcano doesn't go every day, either.) When EPA's Gorsuch resigned recently, the President expressed himself thus on environmentalists: "I don't think they will be happy until the White House looks like a bird's nest." And, "I sometimes think that the lobbyists for the environmental interest feel that they have to keep their constituents stirred up or they might not have jobs anymore." And, "No one has presented any facts at all [on EPA wrong doing]."

F. The Administration's attempts to influence scientific review

Many government agency programs have, for years, had scientific advisory boards, made up of scientists from outside the agency (academia, industry, national labs, think-tanks, etc) who have a high reputation in the given field. Now, two examples have come to light of attempts to tailor scientific advisors according to ideological considerations. According to an Interior Dept. memo obtained by Sen. Bumpers, Sec. Watt sent the GOP National Committee the names of 14 scientists for the advisory committee on offshore oil leasing. The list came back with 10 names marked "no," and these 10 people were, in fact, not appointed. An even more insulting hitlist came to light from EPA records obtained by Congr. Scheuer. Of 90 scientists that served on various EPA advisory boards (Carcinogen Assessment, Radiation Program, Toxic Substances Program, etc), only 8 received a notation of "good," "mixed reviews" etc. The remarks on most of the remaining 82 ranged from a simple "should go" to catty or vitriolic. Examples of the ideological overtones: "bright and held in high esteem, now an environmentalist, should go"; "husband tied to environmentalist groups"; "poison ... he is a Nader on

toxics"; "not much of anything, a good representative of environmentalists"; "clean air extremist"; "pure ecology type" "reported to be both liberal and environmentalist"; "at technical level rely on 120%; policy level a bleeding heart liberal"; "on principal [sic] alone, get rid of her"; "technically good, but ... bad policy"; four people are bracketed as "all snail-darter types".

G. National Trails System Act amendments

S.271, passed by the Senate 2/3/83, and expected to pass the House 3/15/83, establishes 3 new national scenic trails and authorizes 6 trail routes for study. The three trails are: the Potomac Heritage Trail (704 mi), the Natchez Trace, from Nashville to Natchez, Miss (694 mi), and the Florida Trail (1300 mi). Among the 6 study trails is the Trail of Tears in our region. For the Natchez Trace, $2.5 million are authorized for land acquisition and development. The bill also contains several desirable provisions to encourage volunteers in the development and maintenance of trails.

H. Hazardous waste recycling proposed

Each year, 60 million metric tons of hazardous waste are produced. Tennessee's Rep. Don Sundquist (R-7th Dist.) recently introduced two bills related to this problem: (a) a moratorium on any additional EPA-licensed permits for hazardous waste landfills; and (b) a tax credit of 2¢/pound to generators of hazardous waste who choose to dispose of that waste through recycling procedures as opposed to dumping. He believes this amount would be sufficient to make recycling facilities competitive with firms that dump wastes in the ground, and that the recycling would create jobs.

12. TCWP MATTERS

TCWP's new executive director, Jim Doncaster, attended a Land Acquisition Meeting organized by the National Parks and Conservation Association in Washington, March 28 and 29. While in DC, Jim visited the offices of several national environmental groups to make the acquaintance of key staff people.

Jim, together with Bill and Lee Russell, met with Senator Sasser's new local representative on one of her monthly visits to Anderson County. We talked to her about the Obed, Big South Fork, Smokies Wilderness, and "privatization" and gave her an information package for the Senator.

The North Ridge Trail hike of March 19 was enjoyed by 13 people who ended up in O. K. Sergeant's house for refreshments. Don't forget the Frozen Head hike on April 23.

Do you have space in your basement or spare room for temporary storage of some boxes containing TCWP files that await sorting? It would help us tremendously. Call or write Lee Russell (see bottom of p. 1).

13. THINGS TO READ AND THINGS TO DO

- The Tennessee Law Review, vol. 49, No. 4 (summer 1982) contains a series of interesting articles about TVA. Among them, Zyg Plater's "Reflected in a River: Agency Accountability and the TVA Tellico Dam Case," Dean Rivkin's "The TVA Air Pollution Conflict: The Dynamics of Public Law Advocacy," and David Freeman's "TVA and the National Power Policy."
- An analysis of the issue of strategic minerals as related to public-lands policy has been published jointly by 6 groups. The 105-page booklet may be bought for $5 from Friends of the Earth (530 Seventh St., SE, Wash., DC 20003).
- The leaflet "Red Herring; Myths & Facts About Acid Rain" is available free of charge from the Izaak Walton League (1701 North Fort Meyer Drive, Arlington, VA 22209).
- Community Environmental Legal Services (CELS) is a new national public interest law program organized by the nonprofit Environmental Task Force. If CELS can help you, or you can help them (by becoming part of the network), write CELS (1346 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 918, Wash. DC 20036).

¶13 continued below ACTION SUMMARY

¶13, continued

14. ACTION SUMMARY

¶ No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1	Smokies wilderness	Gov. Alexander, US Rep & Sens	"Support wilderness designation!"
3	Frozen Head	Comm. Howell	"Don't permit stripping in watershed!"
4A	Various state bills	State legislators	Support worthy bills
4B	State LWCF share	State legislators	"Support appropriation!"
4E	Billboards	Gov. Alexander	"Veto tree-cutting bill!"
6	Parklands acquisition	US Rep	"Urge Rep. Yates to appropriate need LWCF monies!"
7	Downgrading Parks	US Sens (and Rep)	"Oppose Stevens bill!"
8A	Selling US Forests	US Rep and Sens	"Oppose this giveaway!"
9A	Wetlands	US Rep and Sens	"Do not weaken 404 program; strengthen it!"
9B	Clean Water Act	Sen. Baker	"Strengthen S.431!"
10A	TVA Natural Areas	TVA Board	"Support Natural Areas Program!"
11A	Endangered Species	Sen. Sasser, Rep. Boner	"Restore ESA funding!"
11B	Amer. Conservation Corps	US Senators	"Co-sponsor S.27!"

Senator John Doe United States Senate Washington, DC 20510	The Hon. John Doe U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515	Governor Lamar Alexander State Capitol Nashville, TN 37219
Dear Senator _____ Sincerely yours,	Dear Congressman/woman Sincerely yours,	Dear Gov. Alexander Respectfully yours,

¶13, continued

- Looking ahead to the 1984 elections brings the realization that unless environmentalists nurture the seeds sown in 1982 now, they'll have to start from scratch next year in building an effective political voice. Consider sending a contribution to the League of Conservation Voters (317 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, Wash., DC 20003).
- "Cave management and Environmental Assessment Activities of the TVA's Regional Heritage project," by Patricia Fink, is an article summarizing this important area of TVA's activities (see also ¶10A). TVA's Div. of Land & Forest Resources Norris, TN 37828 may have reprints available.
- A list of Appalachian Trail publications (guidebooks, maps) can be requested from the Appal. Trail Conference (P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, W. Va. 25425-0807).

15. CALENDAR

April 23	TCWP wildflower hike, Frozen Head. Meet 10 a.m. at park HQ. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes, rain gear.
May 7	SOCM's 9th Annual Spring Benefit, 8 p.m., Tenn. Valley Unitarian Church, Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Si Kahn (songwriter), Jane Sapp (blues singer). Eliz. McCommon (singer) are among the attractions. Tickets, $5 from SOCM (P.O. Box 457, Jacksboro, TN 37757)
May 21	Obed raft float organized by Wild River Adventures (see ¶2, this NL)
June	American Rivers Month: look for announcements of special events in your area
October 28-30	TCWP Annual Meeting. Fall Creek Falls State Park

NOTE: This letter is being mailed with your newsletter at the request and personal expense of the signers. It does not represent the policy of our organization.

Dear Friends:

We are writing to you--our allies in the effort to conserve Tennessee's natural resources--about a matter which we believe is the most significant environmental problem of our time--nuclear war and the arms race.

Most of you believe that nuclear war is simply unthinkable, that no responsible public leader would contemplate deliberate nuclear war. Until recently, our national policy was based on that very assumption. Our nuclear weapons would deter the Soviet Union from using theirs and vice versa.

Several things have changed about that basic assumption. First, the introduction of super-accurate missiles has led military planners to think in terms of preemptive strikes against military targets. Second, the introduction of multiple, independently targetable warheads has made the prospect of a surprise, preemptive strike against military targets very attractive (one missile carrying 3 warheads can theoretically eliminate 3 missiles, each carrying 3 warheads, etc.). Third, international tension, economic difficulties and unpredictable allies have left both sides feeling nervous and scared. Fourth, a new generation of super-sophisticated, relatively invulnerable, nonverifiable nuclear weapons is ready or nearly ready for deployment (ours are the Trident Submarine, the various Cruise Missiles and the MX Missile).

Once these weapons are deployed, we have forever forfeited the prospect of a mutual, verifiable arms limitation treaty. We also will have reached a time when the early warning systems will be totally useless, and anti-missile weapons will be out of the question. In other words, we are at an astoundingly critical turning point in our history. We have a very few years to do something about it.

The question of a limited nuclear war is intriguing. The U.S. and the Soviet Union have about 50,000 nuclear warheads between them. 16,000 of ours and 9,000 of theirs are mounted on missiles or hanging in bomb bays. The average nuclear bomb is somewhere between 1 and 20 megatons (a 1 megaton bomb equals 80 Hiroshima-sized bombs). If one tenth of the deliverable bombs are exploded and these are all 1 megaton warheads, the earth will be a very, very different place. The ozone layer will, according to the National Academy of Sciences, be depleted by 70%. Nearly all mammals and birds and many plants will die. The worldwide fallout will exceed by several orders of magnitude anything experienced in the days of atmospheric testing. The probability of radiation-induced cancers and birth defects will be increased to near certainty for any humans managing to survive. Between 50 million and 500 million people will die of blast and burn. Old diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever, and bubonic plague will flourish. New diseases will evolve and also flourish.

When military strategists talk about limited nuclear war, they are talking about limiting blast and burn to manageable radii and limited populations. For the environment, for our children, there is no such thing as limited nuclear war.

A few military strategists--in our country and in the USSR--are beginning to talk publicly about surviving an all-out nuclear exchange!

Environmentalists and conservationists are traditionally inclined to focus on a few issues or a single category of issues. This has contributed to our effectiveness, but it also poses a limitation which we must now transcend. If the arms race isn't stopped very soon, there will be no chance to stop it. If we don't stop it, the rest of our issues, projects and campaigns become meaningless.

This is a plea to all of you to spend some time learning about the arms race and nuclear war, to cut through the rhetoric of generals and politicians to the truth, to learn what's going on so that you can act. Educate someone else. Write to political leaders and political candidates. Be heard.

We want to emphasize that this has nothing to do with Republicans and Democrats, or for that matter, communists and capitalists. It has nothing to do with finding someone to blame. Technologies, politics and ideologies have so much momentum of their own that we are in danger of experiencing a future no one would choose and few would survive.

This is not a letter of despair, but of hope. Please extend your activism into this most crucial arena--the ultimate environmental threat to the earth.

Thank you for your help!

Sam Pearsall
Linda Pearsall
Ruth Neff
Paul Somers
Larry Smith
Polly Wiley
Dan Eagar
Jack Neff
Tom Johnson
W.L. Russell
Marjorie J. McCormick
Patsy Braswell
Margaret Seedsman

Molly Johnson
Dabney Johnson
Mack Prichard
Sheila Shay
Bill Terry
R.E. Little
May Little
Deborah Narrigan

Lorane B. Russell
Jonathan Jager
Jean Cazort
David Horowitz
Tom Smedley
Jonathan E. May
Clif Ogden
Jim Robertson
Kevin Hancock
Colby R. Chapin
Sarah Pearson Page
Judy Walgash