

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 163

June 7, 1988

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12. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
3B	Forest Research	USFS	Offer to "adopt" Research Natural Area
3C	Balds	SAHC	Volunteer for bald research or management
4A	Burgess Falls	TN Dept. of H&E	Oppose hydro project
4B	Long Hunter Park	TN Dept of Cons.	Oppose zoo in park
5A	State Rivers	Gov. McWherter	"Help local groups; generate inventory!"
5B	Nolichucky River	Powell Foster	Offer help in getting Nolichucky WSR
6B	TVA and environment	TVA	Examine report on environmental agenda
7A	Trust Fund	US Rep and Sens	"Co-sponsor HR 4127/S 2199!"
7B	NPS independence	US Rep	"Co-sponsor HR 3964!"
7E	Endangered species	US Sens	"Support S 675 without amendments!"
7F	Arctic Refuge	US Sens & Rep Reps Cooper, Ford Rep Lloyd	"Oppose S 2144/HR 3601; support S 1804/HR 39!" "Thanks!" "Change your position!"
7G	Clean Air	US Sens Sen. Gore US Rep	"Co-sponsor S 1894!" "Thanks!" "Support strigent bill!"
7H	Rails to Trails	US Sens	"Support S 1544!"
9B	Antarctica	US Sens	"Oppose mineral exploitation!"
10A	TCWP Annual Meeting		Mark Sept. 23-25 on your calendar

Senator Joe 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 a federal bill, call (202) 225-1772

1. SMOKIES WILDERNESS BILL HITS A SNAG

A. Wilderness bill hits unexpected snag in Senate

The House passed a Smokies wilderness bill last September (NL159 ¶1; NL161 ¶5). When the Senate Energy Committee finally reported out a companion bill on February 25 (NL162 ¶1), most of us assumed it would be nearly smooth sailing from then on (except for the possibility of a Helms filibuster). Then, unexpectedly, one of the measure's main sponsors, Sen. Sanford (D-NC), demanded a long list of amendments in the bill that had already been finely honed by the committee. Some of the changes, which reportedly were suggested to Sanford by former Swain County residents, are innocuous, e.g., a statement that the bill does not affect vehicle usage of US 441 or the Newfound Gap Road, or nut gathering by the Cherokees. Others prescribe harmless micro-management obligations for the Park Service (NPS) in connection with cemetery visits, e.g., replacement of a couple of bridges (already planned anyway), a historical display outside the wilderness, the use of more comfortable vehicles to transport cemetery visitors, etc. One paragraph will allow private vehicles licensed by NPS (in addition to NPS-owned vehicles) on roads leading to cemeteries, but only if such roads adjoin paved roads (only two are of this type), and only if use is limited to cemetery visitation and NPS is given 7-days notice.

The most significant amendment proposed by Sanford concerns the 46,000 acres north of Fontana Res. The bill reported by the Committee specifies that this area will become wilderness only after any reserved rights have been extinguished or transferred to NPS, but in no case later than 10/1/91. Sanford now is adamantly opposed to having any automatic date (even one as late as 1995, instead of 1991). His amendment would direct NPS, within 2 years of passage of the bill, to compile a list of outstanding rights, and then to take action to extinguish or acquire such rights "as soon as reasonably practicable." This means that portions of the 46,000 acres would come into wilderness piecemeal. However, the situation is not as bad as it appears at first glance. It is estimated that on ca 50% of the acreage there never were any retained rights; and that on 90% of the remainder, rights have already been extinguished. Thus, the 2-year NPS study would reveal that 95% of the 46,000 acres could become wilderness immediately. NPS is directed to pursue acquisition of the remainder.

Having convinced themselves that Sen. Sanford was immovable, members of the Smokies Wilderness Coalition have agreed to accept his proposed amendments. Senate Majority Leader Byrd intends to call up the bill in mid-June, so it may have passed (or been scuttled by Helms) by the time you read this. The Senate bill will have to be reconciled with the House bill by a conference committee.

B. More North Carolina politics

At a May 26 meeting in Bryson City, the Republican candidate for Congress from that district proposed that parts of the Gt. Smoky Mtns Natl Park (? the 46,000 acres?) be leased to concessionaires, to be operated as State Parks. Interior Sec. Hodel and Sen. Jesse Helms were invited (we don't know whether they attended). Taylor is running against incumbent Jamie Clarke, a strong supporter of Smokies wilderness.

C. Smokies listed as one of 10 most threatened parks

The Smokies are included among the country's 10 most threatened national parks in a report issued by the Wilderness Society 5/24/88. The Park, which contains some of the most biologically diverse forest on the continent, is by itself not big enough to provide all the needed resources for native species. That is why developments around the perimeter, and clearcutting in adjacent national forests, are having major adverse impacts on species within the GSMNP. Air pollution from the surrounding areas is contributing to a virtual wipe-out of high-elevation spruce and fir forests. Other threatening factors: the heavy visitation (the GSMNP was the first park to record over 10,000,000 visitors per year), and the exotic wild boars that are highly destructive to native plant and animal species.

D. Houseboats finally removed from Park

Owners of 8 houseboats that have long been illegally docked in the Hazel Creek embayment of Fontana Reservoir (i.e., the shores of the Park) were finally taken to court by TVA and ordered to move their boats (NL162 ¶5B). They appealed, but the court upheld the original ruling and the boats have now been moved to the south shore of the reservoir.

2. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED

A. TCWP Annual Meeting to be in Big S. Fork NRRRA

We shall have our annual meeting in the BSFNRRRA, will feature the area in a series of talks, and will explore it in our hikes and floats. Shortly, you will receive a preliminary announcement and pre-registration form. In the meantime, mark your calendar for the September 23-25 weekend.

B. The road issue is still festering

Once again, the county-road issue was stirred up in McCreary County, KY. This time, some local officials claimed that the National Park Service (NPS) had blocked off a county road when it improved river access and parking at the Yamacraw bridge and, in fact, did block vehicles from entering the Sheltoee Trace, a National Recreation Trail. The county folks generated a lot of media coverage, and nasty things were said about the NPS and the BSFNNRA.

None of this would have happened if only the county-road rights-of-way had been acquired by the government several years ago, along with other lands in the BSFNNRA. Roads within the Gorge Area portion of the BSFNNRA are forbidden by law, except for those specified by name in the ACT. Even for the remainder of the Area, the Master Plan specifies that county roads will be acquired by the government, and if not utilized for access to recreational facilities will be closed to vehicular traffic. But almost 14 years after passage of the authorizing legislation, no roads have been acquired, permitting the futile agitation to fester needlessly (see also NL157 ¶2A, NL158 ¶2A).

Almost a year ago, TCWP wrote to the Corps of Engineers to urge speedy acquisition of the road rights-of-way to finally lay the matter to rest. In their response, the Corps "anticipate[d] concluding the road transfer by ...December 1987." Obviously, there has been a delay. Recently, TCWP again wrote to inquire whether a new target date has been set. We now understand that matters are very close to a resolution.

C. Parcels within "deferred area" sold at auction

The largest and most significant of the several "deferred areas" is the 11,000-acre area surrounding the North Whiteoak Creek and its Laurel Fork. This watershed is not only highly scenic and wild, but it contributes a major portion of the water of the Big S. Fork. All reason and expert opinion to the contrary, Corps HQ in Washington has interpreted the local cost-sharing provisions of the 1986 Water Resources Act to apply to land acquisition in the BSFNNRA, and consequently has made no effort of any kind to purchase land in this (or any other) "deferred area." At the end of April, about 1600 acres around the Laurel Fork came on the auction block (along with much other land in Tennessee) and sold for \$205/acre -- much less than what the Corps has paid on average, for land acquisition in the BSFNNRA. We can only hope that the land sold at auction will not be developed or otherwise harmfully impacted before it is finally added to the BSFNNRA. [It may take a change in Administration for Corps HQ to change its stance on cost sharing and thus on acquiring the "deferred areas."]

D. Oil company wants to build pipeline through river in BSFNNRA

An oil company applied to the Corps for a "404" permit to cross the New River at Mile 0.2 (i.e., barely upstream from the confluence with Clear Fork) with an oil pipeline. Both sides of the river, at that point are already in public ownership as part of the BSFNNRA whose Authorizing Act prohibits structures from being constructed within the Gorge Area. The National Park service has therefore asked the Corps to deny the permit.

E. Other BSF capsules

- In the first 4 months of 1988, the BSFNNRA logged 136,454 recreation visits. In April alone, there were 63,212, about 2/3 of them in the Tennessee portion. In April, 2016 overnight stays were recorded in the Bandy Creek campground, and 213 at the Charit Creek hostel. Also in April, 419 people floated the river in commercial operations.
- \$4.5 million will be spent for improvements in the BSFNNRA. Most of the work involves the area around Burnt Mill Bridge and the Bandy Creek campground, where a reliable water supply is being installed, and a swimming pool will be constructed.

F. Obed progress

The lovely new visitor center in Wartburg (have you seen it?) has made the local community feel much more positive about the Obed WSR. Those who have not personally visited the river get some idea of its beauties from the color photos in the visitor center. -- Land acquisition is proceeding, but ever so slowly. The outcome of the November election will probably tell us how much effort will be required from us to get NPS to finally complete the process.

3. THE CHEROKEE AND NEARBY NATIONAL FORESTS**A. Cherokee wilderness implementation plans**

Thanks to the past efforts of the Cherokee National Forest Wilderness Coalition (which includes TCWP) the Cherokee NF contains 11 wilderness areas totaling more than 66,000 acres. The Forest Service (USFS) is required to develop an individual, site-specific implementation plan for each of the 11 wildernesses, and recently requested input into these plans. Will Skelton, with contributions from other members, last week submitted detailed comments (both general and specific) from the Wilderness Coalition. The Coalition recommends two top priorities of the Cherokee NF

with regard to wilderness management: (1) maintenance of existing trails, and (2) prevention of illegal ORV (off-road-vehicle) use.

While the Coalition was finalizing its comments, it became apparent that the USFS will delay preparation of the Wilderness Implementation Plans -- possibly for as long as a year. It seems that the Regional Office (Atlanta) wants to do a prototype plan somewhere before the individual forests can proceed with their own plans.

B. USFS invites use of Research Natural Areas

* Since 1927, the USFS has had a Research Natural Area (RNA) program, which sets aside a wide spectrum of areas that typify natural environmental settings. The objectives for this program include preserving genetic diversity, studying succession, establishing baseline data for long-term ecological changes and for manipulative research, and providing educational activities. The USFS is now inviting conservation organizations and universities to "adopt" RNAs for surveys, nonmanipulative short-term or long-term research, or instruction. Small amounts of money will be available on a selective basis. For more information about RNAs in your area, contact Margaret Devall, Southern Forest Experiment Station, Room T-10210, USFS, 701 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA 70113.

C. Bald management research and bald maintenance -- volunteers needed

* In keeping with its program to restore and maintain the grassy balds of the Highlands of Roan, the USFS has funded, for the second year, a challenge grant for biological data gathering. A research team will this year gather data on Big Hump and on the protected portion of Grassy Ridge. Any one wishing to assist for one or more days between 6/27 and 8/26/88, should call Judy Murray, 615, 323-4993. No experience is necessary.

Volunteers are also needed for a bald-maintenance program coordinate by the Appalachian Trail Conference and the USFS during the period from 7/21 to 8/22/88. If you sign up for a week or more, meals and tent camping will be provided; or come for shorter periods and bring your own. For information, call the Southern Appalachians Highlands Conservancy at 615, 323-4993 or 323-3677.

4. STATE NEWS

A. We oppose hydro project in a State Natural Area

* A developer has filed an application with the TN Division of Water Pollution Control to install and utilize a 500 kW hydro-electric facility using the existing small Burgess Falls Dam, which was built in 1929. Similar proposals in 1981 (by the City of Cookeville) and 1983 (by the same developer) drew strong objections from the Dept. of Conservation because the 130-ft Burgess Falls and surrounding lands are a State Natural Area. TCWP President Ketelle has written to the Water Pollution Control Div., opposing a permit for the hydro development because of the natural-area status of the site, and because of adverse water-quality impacts that would occur during construction and operation. If you wish to add your voice, write to Larry Bowers, Div. of Water Pollution Control, TN Dept. of Health and Environment, 7th floor TERRA Bldg, 150-9th Ave., N., Nashville, TN 37219-5405. (The same developer also wants to develop a hydro project on the Calfkiller River near Sparta, and any of you who have an opinion on that should also contact Mr. Bowers.)

B. State park not the place for a zoo

* Long Hunter State Park near Lebanon has been proposed as a zoo site by the Zoological Society of Middle Tennessee. The zoo would take up a major portion of the park, destroy natural ecosystems, and disrupt miles of trails that have been constructed by volunteer labor. People knowledgeable about the area point out that an alternative site on Percy Priest Res., the Jones Mill Boat Ramp area, would be just as suitable for the zoo. Urge the Dept. of Conservation not to give up state-park land for the zoo. (Write Dr. Elbert T. Gill, Commissioner, TN Dept. of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37219-5237, Ph. 742-6748.)

C. Anderson County Wildlife Sanctuary established

Through the efforts of John Byrd, a Clinton Jr. High School biology teacher, the Anderson County Commission on May 16 designated over 100 acres of county land on Blockhouse Valley Rd as a wildlife sanctuary. The area includes a former landfill site, plus beech and pine forests and low-lying land with a pond. Anderson County and Oak Ridge schools will cooperate in a species survey over the next few years. This summer, 50 students will make a trail for use by fall classes. Byrd had earlier established a Rest Home for Raptors at which students work as caretakers.

D. Capsules

Gov. McWherter's 1988/89 budget contains very modest increases for the Dept. of Conservation -- 2-7% for the different Divisions. This translates into virtually no change in the number of staff positions.

Reinstatement of the position of State Trails Administrator, supported by the State Trails Council (NL162 ¶2G) has not come about.

E. Elmo Lunn has retired as head of the Office of Water Management (Dept. of Health and Environment). He has been replaced by Ken Bunting, formerly director of the Division of Water Pollution Control.

Operation of state parks was the subject of a General Assembly resolution, SJR 482, which directs the Division of Parks & Recreation, among other things, to propose "innovative methods of generating additional revenues" and "to encourage more visitation." The State Parks director must also establish an advisory committee composed of representatives of various recreational development organizations.

Last year's Surface Rights Law, hard won through the efforts of SOCM, was threatened this year by damaging amendments proposed by the Tennessee Forestry Assn. TFA, however, dropped these amendments in return for SOCM's agreement to make a couple of minor, clarifying changes in the law.

The Tennessee River Gorge Natural Areas Trust (NL159 ¶3B) has received a \$100,000 grant for land preservation from the Lyndhurst Foundation of Chattanooga.

A proposal to develop a trail on a recently abandoned railroad bed between Cowan and Tracy City, via Sewanee and Monteagle -- a highly scenic area -- has been formulated by a group of local citizens. The state is being urged to purchase this right-of-way, but it may take a major effort to get action. (For a related item, see ¶7H, this NL.)

Tennessee scored 8th from bottom among 50 states rated by a national group for their environmental programs. Among low-scoring programs were land-use planning and reduction of pesticide contamination.

5. RIVERS IN THE NATION AND THE STATE

A. 20th Anniversary for National and State Scenic Rivers Act

Since the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act was signed into law in Nov. 1968, 7700 river miles across the country have achieved permanent protection. To celebrate the 20th anniversary and to shape directions for the future of the program, American Rivers, along with the National Park Service and US Forest Service, will host a conference on Nov. 18 and 19 (see ¶ 11, this NL, for details). High on the agenda are discussions on how to revitalize the WSR Act, and how to develop new tools for the advancement of state rivers programs. Tennessee has one National WSR, the Obed, which represents about 0.6% of the WSR mileage nationwide, and much of whose corridor acreage is yet to be protected (see ¶ 2F, this NL). If we work on it, we may get a second WSR, the Nolichucky (¶ 5B, this NL).

Our Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act actually preceded the National WSR Act -- it was passed in April 1968, largely through the efforts of TCWP and TSRA. (For an account of the history of its passage send a self-addressed, stamped envelope.) Unfortunately, the State government has, over the years, failed to "sell" the program, and local misunderstanding (sometimes deliberately fostered by special interests) has led to ~~dedesignation~~ of several river segments and to subsequent timidity by the State to do anything further to implement the Act. Currently, 10 river segments with a total of 316 miles are in the system. The Hatchie (185 miles) and the Hiwassee (23 miles) are the only ones actively managed. In addition, there are: the Roaring R. (15 mi), Blackburn Fork (15 mi), and Spring Creek (11 mi) -- these 3 are part of one river system; the Buffalo (8 mi) and the Harpeth (15 mi) -- both had major sections ~~dedesignated~~ in the past; the Conasauga (8 mi), French Broad (29 mi), and Tuckahoe Creek (7 mi).

A number of local river-protection efforts are under way, including the Tennessee River Gorge Natural Areas Trust (NL159 ¶3B), the Harpeth River Coalition (NL162 ¶3A), the Wolf River Conservancy, and others. Citizen groups and individuals should urge Governor McWhorter (address on p.2) (a) to establish a state agency which would provide funding for and technical assistance to these local groups, and (b) to have the Tenn. Dept. of Conservation generate a state-wide rivers inventory, a process that could, among other things, spur other local river-protection efforts.

The Tennessee legislature did do something for the TN Scenic Rivers System this year. In the last week of the session, it voted \$75,000 for construction of a new bath house at Gee Creek on the Hiwassee State Scenic River. Maybe the day will come when we can report that an appropriation was made for acquisition of scenic easements along rivers in the system. An equivalent amount would buy protection on a couple hundred acres at least!

B. Support needed for a Nolichucky National Wild & Scenic River

In the report of its Nolichucky River study, the U.S. Forest Service expresses a preference for Alternative B, which would designate a 7.2-mile segment of the river, entirely within the Cherokee National Forest, as a National Wild & Scenic River. Many of us feel, however, that the portion downstream from the National Forest should also be



included. It will, further, require some effort to convince Rep. Quillen and Senators Sasser and Gore, to formulate and support appropriate legislation. Anyone wishing to help should contact Powell Foster.

C. Pigeon River pollution will be the subject of a Congressional investigation. At the request of Congressman Quillen, the House Public Works Committee's water resources subcommittee will hold hearings on why EPA's findings of dioxin in Pigeon River fish were not made known until March, though samples had been taken last fall. The results were thus not available for the January hearings on the proposed EPA permit for the Champion papermill, the polluter of the Pigeon R. (NL160 ¶3). Though dioxin was found in river fish, the chemical was not detected in groundwater from 10 wells subsequently sampled in Hartford, TN, a small town on the Pigeon R.

D. Status of proposed airport near Chattooga Natl Wild & Scenic River

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has responded to TCWP's letter, as well as to Congresswoman Lloyd who wrote on our behalf, informing us that they have agreed to let the Federal Aviation Administration make a feasibility study of the proposed airport site (which is just 1000 yds from the river -- see NL162 ¶3D). The FAA study will require generation of an Environmental Impact Statement and opportunity for public input. The USFS will withhold any decision concerning the proposed airport until after completion of the FAA study. TCWP has been placed on the FAA mailing list to receive information as it develops.

E. Revised rule somewhat discourages hydro developments on state-designated rivers

Applications for hydroelectric developments are constantly being received by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). For example, two were received from Tennessee within the past 6 weeks: one for the Falling Water River, the other for the Calfkiller R. near Sparta (¶4A, this NL). In its decision on whether to license a project, FERC is required to consider the extent to which the project is consistent with a comprehensive State or Federal plan. Originally, FERC interpreted "comprehensive" too narrowly, which would have excluded very few rivers from project licensing. Now, as a result of a challenge by American Rivers and several national conservation groups, FERC has broadened its interpretation to include, at a minimum, all state scenic rivers programs, even though most were not set up under a plan that was comprehensive in the sense of having considered *all* competing river uses. It is now necessary for the states to file all river plans with FERC, or they will not be recognized in licensing decisions. A scenic rivers inventory for Tennessee (see ¶5A, this NL) seems more important than ever.

6. TVA INTERACTIONS WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY

A. Environmental Constituency Steering Committee established

During the TVA Environmental Constituency meeting in Chattanooga on Feb. 3-4 (NL161 ¶7B), a number of concrete suggestions were made on how to establish and maintain a responsive dialogue between the agency and environmentalists. One suggestion that has now been implemented is to establish an environmental constituency steering committee to set up issue-specific meeting with appropriate TVA Offices. The four members of the committee are Ed Passerini (Alabama), Taylor Barnhill (NC), John Sherman (TN), and Arthur Smith (TN). The group met on May 5 to discuss plans for future interactions with TVA. If you have any issues you feel should be addressed, contact the Tennessee representatives through TEC (1719 West End Ave, Suite 227, Nashville 37203).

B. TVA progress toward achieving environmental objectives

Another proposal made at the Feb. 3-4 meeting (see ¶6A, above) was to have TVA publish quarterly reports on its progress in achieving environmental objectives. The first of these reports was issued May 18, organized according to the six headings of the Environmental Agenda, as follows: compliance, water resources, air resources, land resources, materials and waste management, and control technology. We hope that some of you may wish to critically examine the report, as well as the Environmental Agenda itself. For copies, call the Citizen Action Office (1-800-362-9250 in TN; 1-800-251-9242 in other Valley States).

C. Is TVA's energy-conservation program in jeopardy?

TVA's energy conservation program has, over its 10-year life span, surveyed a million homes and made loans worth \$517 million to consumers. There is now some concern that the program, which has spared TVA the need to generate 850 megawatts of power, may be targeted for the Runyon budget axe. The TVA chairman recently stated that the agency is primarily in the business of generating power.

7. NATIONAL ISSUES

A. Trust Fund legislation needs your support

HR 4127 (Udall) and S 2199 (Chafee, Graham, Baucus, Fowler) would establish an American Heritage Trust, an endowed, self-sustaining fund that would provide a minimum of \$1 billion annually for federal, state, and local land



acquisition. The fund would succeed the present Land & Water Conservation Fund which has been appropriated in increasingly small proportions of the authorized amount (\$900 million annually from offshore oil and gas leases), and whose unappropriated balance has been returned to the general treasury, instead of remaining to earn interest for the intended purpose of land preservation. (For other features of the Trust Fund, see NL162 ¶7B.) Three weeks ago, a subcommittee of the House Interior Committee held hearings on HR 4127. There was unanimous support from environmental and historic-preservation groups, but opposition from public-land users (cattlemen, woolgrowers, logging and mining interests) who worry that the Fund would give the government irresistible buying power. The National Inholders Assoc. also opposes the bill. More than ever, HR 4127 and S 2199 need your support. A big backlog of land has already been identified to be in need of protection but not yet acquired, and much of this will surely be destroyed by adverse development unless the Trust Fund is enacted.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Senators to co-sponsor S 2199, and your Representative to co-sponsor HR 4127. Ask them to let you know whether they will do so.

B. Administration opposes more independence for NPS

Hearings were recently held on HR 3964 (Vento), which would give the National Park Service independent authority within the US Dept. of the Interior (NL162 ¶7C), making the NPS director a presidential appointee with a fixed 5-year term. Asst. Sec. of the Interior W. P. Horn, and NPS Director Wm Penn Mott, Jr., opposed the bill. Recent instances of political interference with NPS have convinced knowledgeable observers that this bill is essential. In particular, top-level USDI officials have influenced NPS resource-protection decisions to provide short-term benefits rather than long-term protection. Your U.S. Representative should be encouraged to co-sponsor HR 3964. Ask him/her to let you know whether he/she will do so.

C. Addition of 48 natural areas to the National Park System is recommended

The comprehensive long-term plan for the National Park System recently published by the National Parks & Conservation Assoc. (NL162 ¶7H) calls for addition of 48 natural areas to the Park System as soon as possible. The study indicates that about 42% of America's significant natural environments are not represented under NPS. The 48 proposed areas may be the last generation of National Parks; many are directly threatened with development. In the southeast, they include Amicalola River (GA), Atchafalaya Basin (LA), Currituck Banks (NC), Florida Keys (FL), Gauley R. (WV). -- In the past 7 years, only two natural areas have been added to the system: Great Basin National Park in Nevada and El Malpais National Monument in New Mexico. In existing National Parks, visitation has been increasing by 4% every year. All this underscores the importance of enacting Trust Fund legislation (¶7A, this NL).

D. Minerals exploration in National Parks

Minerals under nearly 100 units of the National Park System -- a total of 1,200,000 acres -- are privately owned. In Big Cypress National Preserve, the Park Service has given permission to an oil & gas exploration company (not the owner of the minerals) to detonate 10,000 charges of TNT along 85 miles of survey lines. Despite likely impacts on endangered species (e.g., the Florida panther) and on waterflows essential to the Everglades ecosystem, NPS issued only an environmental assessment, and not a comprehensive environmental impact statement. A broad coalition of groups has filed suit to require an EIS. The broader objective is to make NPS face its responsibilities to keep resource disturbance to the absolute minimum necessary to accommodate existing private rights.

E. Endangered Species Act needs push in the Senate

Floor action on the committee-passed S 675 is still being delayed by the Senate leadership's unwillingness to confront those senators who oppose protection for certain species. Both Senators Gore and Sasser have co-sponsored S 675 and you should express your gratitude. Sen. Gore, moreover, is co-signer of a letter written by 15 senators to Majority Leader Byrd and Minority Leader Dole urging them to schedule early Senate action. Environmental groups have set June 16 as their target date, and they ask interested persons to call their senators (202-224-3121) and ask them to support reauthorization *without amendments*. The House bill passed in December, but if the Senate fails to act, we'll have to start from scratch in the new Congress.

F. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: oil leasing bills must be stopped

The oil industry and Reagan Administration are pushing hard to open the incomparable ANWR to oil & gas activities before this Congress adjourns. Legislative status: the Senate Energy Committee on 2/25 approved S 2114, and the House Merchant Marine Committee on 5/3 approved HR 3601 -- similar bills that would phase in oil leasing in the wildlife-rich ANWR Coastal Plain ("America's Serengeti") with little if any meaningful environmental safeguards. The Senate Environment Committee's request to review S 2114 was turned down by the Energy Committee's leadership; consequently, some senators may place holds on the bill if it appears ready for floor action. In the House, the Interior Committee shares jurisdiction over this issue with the Merchant Marine Committee, and is holding hearings June 7 and 9. This committee also has before it Udall's HR 39, co-sponsored by Tennessee Congressmen Jim Cooper and Harold Ford, which would give wilderness status to the ANWR Coastal Plain, thus barring oil & gas leasing. The committee is also in possession of a report that may influence its action.

This report was produced by the Fairbanks office of the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and was prepared at the request of Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of an Interior subcommittee. The USDI was planning to revise the report and delay its release, but copies were leaked to the Congress. The subject, like that of the *Oil in the Arctic* study released recently by a consortium of conservation groups (NL162 ¶7E) is the record of the Prudhoe Bay oil development, just 70 miles west of the ANWR Coastal Plain. Like *Oil in the Arctic*, the FWS report finds that the oil development caused much more environmental damage than the government predicted in its Environmental Impact Statement. For example, 11,000 acres of vegetation used by wildlife at Prudhoe Bay have been lost, about double what was predicted. The quality and quantity of freshwater was damaged and fish populations had declined much more than predicted. The development destroyed the habitat used by over 20,000 birds. Intensive pesticide spraying occurred. Paradoxically, the number of caribou increased, but this is due to a marked decline in predator species (wolves, bears, and others). Like *Oil in the Arctic*, the FWS report disproves the oil industry's and USDI's position that oil development and environmental protection can be compatible.

The significance of the report lies not only in its findings but in the light those findings shed on USDI's testimony and recommendations to Congress. Particularly, USDI's attempts to suppress the report will not sit well with the Congress. Other questions are being asked as well. Should the Coastal Plain be opened before other energy alternatives are explored? For example, if the fuel-economy standards for automobiles were raised from 26 to 28 mpg, we would save much more oil than would ever be found in the ANWR Coastal Plain. Should Congress act on the issue in the waning days of an Administration that is going to such lengths to push the oil leasing? Should Congress wait for an independent, scientifically credible body, such as the National Academy of Sciences, to evaluate all documents?

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you have not already done so, contact your Senators to oppose S 2114 and your representative to oppose HR 3601. Urge them to support, instead, the wilderness bills S 1804/Hr 39. Thank Reps. Cooper and Ford for co-sponsoring HR 39. Ask Rep. Lloyd, who has co-sponsored a leasing bill, to change her mind.

G. Progress in breaking the Clean Air Bill stalemate

Who are the victims of the 8-year stalemate in the nation's clean-air programs? They are the 75,000,000 Americans still breathing unhealthy levels of ozone (O₃) and carbon monoxide (CO), and in particular those who are vulnerable (asthmatics, emphysema sufferers, those allergic to O₃). They are also the plants and animals wiped out by acid rain (in the South and West, as well as in the NE), and the once-clear vistas destroyed by haze.

There is still a good chance to break the long stalemate in the remaining 2 months of the 100th Congress. In the House, a bill has been stalled because of conflicts between subcommittee chairman Waxman (D-CA), who has a strong bill (HR 3054) to reduce the O₃ and CO constituents of urban smog, and Energy Committee Chairman Dingell (D-MI), who is upholding the interests of the auto industry of his home state. In March, 9 members of the 42-member committee, organized as the Group of Nine (which includes Tennessee's Jim Cooper) to attempt to bridge the Waxman-Dingell conflict. They propose "tailpipe standards" similar to those in HR 3054, as well as reductions of other pollution sources; but they would give nonattainment areas (over 100 cities, nationwide) up to 17 years (depending on severity) to come into compliance -- as opposed to up to 10 years in HR 3054. The Group of Nine has had inputs from Waxman, and from Dingell and Republican Committee members; a final proposal is being fashioned. The Group is also trying to develop an acid-rain proposal (SO₂ and NO_x limitations) that represents middle ground between HR 2666 (Sikorski) -- marked up by the Waxman subcommittee in March -- and Dingell's position. Jim Cooper's HR 4331, introduced 3/31, may form the basis of a compromise. After that, it is hoped that a House bill will combine both urban-smog and acid-rain provisions.

The Senate is encountering a different type of obstacle. Its Environment Committee already last October marked up a good, comprehensive bill, S 1894 (Mitchell, Burdick, Stafford, Chafee -- with Sen. Gore as one of the original co-sponsors). Senate Majority Leader Byrd (D-WV), who hails from a coal state, opposes the acid-rain provisions of S 1894, and has refused to schedule time for a floor vote on the bill. This spring, 48 senators wrote to Byrd urging him to call up the bill, and there is talk that if he will not do so S 1894 will be tacked on to another measure.

In the meantime, Congress is getting thousands of "grassroots" letters generated by slick phone and mail campaigns of polluting industries (chemical, auto, utilities, coal), urging the status quo. Congress needs to hear from all of us if we are to have Clean Air legislation in the short time remaining.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Urge both your Senators to co-sponsor S 1894 (thank Gore for already doing so), to work for its passage, and to oppose any weakening amendments. (2) Urge your Representative to support legislation that includes tough new automobile provisions, an acid-rain program (both SO₂ and NO_x controls), and a toxic-air emissions program that includes municipal-waste incinerators. Please don't delay: Congress may adjourn in August. (Addresses on p.2)

H. Rails-to-Trails bill on the move

Thousand of miles of rail line are abandoned each year. These corridors often provide attractive land for trails because they follow a gentle grade and often have outstanding scenic value. They also provide wildlife habitat and prevent soil erosion. A bill (HR 2641) that would keep abandoned railroad rights-of-way on federal land in the public domain passed the House on April 19. A companion bill (S 1544) was recently marked up by the Senate Energy Committee. To support this bill, contact your Senators (address on p.2).

J. A little energy conservation could go a long way

In an editorial in the May/June Audubon Activist, Peter A.A. Berle writes: "The next president of the United States should establish as a national goal the improvement of energy efficiency by 2% a year..... If the U.S. used energy as efficiently as Japan, we would cut our annual fuel bill by \$200 billion..... [A] worldwide 2% increase in energy efficiency could help us avoid environmental catastrophe through the "greenhouse effect." What about it, presidential candidates?

8. ELECTIONS ARE APPROACHING**A. Environmental recommendations for the new administration**

"Project Blueprint," a prescription for changes in environmental programs to be made by the next administration, has been launched by a group of environmental professionals, many of them former government officials. About 30 subgroups are generating very specific recommendations which could provide guidelines for each new assistant secretary in all the government agencies concerned with environmental policy. These guidelines will be available immediately after the election, so that the new administration's transition team will be able to move the recommendations forward. Project Blueprint will also set up a talent bank (resumes of qualified people) for the next administration. If you would like to be involved in any phase of Project Blueprint, contact Liz Raisbeck, Natl Audubon Soc., 801 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, Suite 301, Wash. DC 20003, Ph: 202-547-9009.

B. Congressional races in Tennessee

Prior to the November election, TCWP will bring you information on the environmental position of candidates and on the record of incumbents. Sen. Sasser will be seeking reelection. On the House side, three seats may be uncontested: Jim Cooper's (D-4), Bob Clement's (D-5), and Harold Ford's (D-9). Two incumbents are retiring: John Duncan (R-2), whose son is hoping to succeed him, and Ed Jones (D-8), for whose seat 5 Democrats, including former Gov. Blanton, are competing in the primary. Marilyn Lloyd (D-3) is opposed both in the primary and general election; and Jimmy Quillen (R-1), Bart Gordon (D-6), and Don Sundquist (R-7) have opposition in the general election.

9. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**A. What it would cost to save the Earth's environment**

To restore the Earth's environmental health and put the world economy back on a sustainable path would require investments of \$150 billion per year over the next decade, according to Lester R. Brown, Pres. of Worldwatch Inst (State of the World 1988, Worldwatch Inst, 1776 Mass ave, NW, Wash. DC 20036). To put this into perspective, Brown estimates that global military expenditures amount to \$900 billion annually. To show what can be done, Brown cites the example of China, which has halved the military share of its GNP and invested the money in family planning, reforestation, and food production.

Here's another cost tidbit: last year, the USA spent 18 times as much on military aid to Honduras and El Salvador as it did on natural-resource programs for the entire Caribbean region. (Source: Env'tl. Policy Inst.)

B. Antarctica threatened by minerals exploitation

The pristine and very special nature of the Antarctic environment has been recognized in the past through provisions of the Antarctic Treaty. At this time, however, representatives of Antarctic Treaty nations are working on a plan that could allow exploitation of the continent's mineral reserves. Greenpeace and others have proposed that, instead, Antarctica be designated a World Park, with no mineral extraction. If you agree with this position, contact both your Senators to oppose the minerals convention. Your opinion can play a crucial role in U.S. Antarctic policy.

The International Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) recently agreed to limit the total allowable icefish catch and to have observers present on board both commercial and research ships to enforce the limits. Further, all such vessels must now display a placard prohibiting the disposal of plastics and other non-degradable waste. This provision was spurred by the sighting of Antarctic seals entangled in abandoned fishing gear. Despite various treaty provisions, seals are still being victimized by hunting as well. The USSR, last year, killed 500 seals for "scientific research" and later sold the furs.

C. "Debt-for-nature swaps"

Closer to home, Central America is under severe environmental stress. Population pressures and financial crises are prompting governments to deplete natural resources, especially forests and wetlands, far faster than they can be replenished. The impact of national debts on development has been examined by several groups and by the Congress. As a result, this year's Continuing Resolution (PL100-202) directs the Treasury Secretary to analyze ways by which the development banks (e.g., The World Bank) and the International Monetary Fund could enable developing countries to repay portions of their outstanding debt through investments in the conservation of tropical forests and wetlands.

10. TCWP ITEMS

*** A. Our Annual Meeting** will be Sept. 23-25 in the Big South Fork NRR, with BSF subjects for the talks and Big South Fork outings. Mark your calendar, and look for a separate pre-registration announcement from us.

B. Reports on recent activities

- (1) Our Whites Creek hike on April 16 was attended by 26 people. The trail needed only the most minor maintenance and a couple of signposts. Mostly, we enjoyed the woods, the views, the wild-flower identification (courtesy of Grace Foster & Judith Bartlow), the wild azaleas and paw-paws in bloom.
- (2) The Cedar Barrens clean-up on April 23 was attended by 15 faithful members. Several garbage bags were filled with stuff that shouldn't be in the Barrens (mostly long-discarded building materials), and now there isn't too much trash left. The dozers were working on the adjacent mall site, but from inside the Barrens you hardly noticed it. With the scene of devastation nearby, we were doubly proud to have saved what we did.

C. Thanks to other volunteers

- Karen Finkel and David Adler have taken on the task of writing many letters on behalf of TCWP while Jenny Freeman Johnson is in China.
- Ken Warren spoke on behalf of TCWP at a hearing in Pikeville on April 11, opposing issuance of a stripmine permit to the Rith Energy Company. Rith has proposed to mine the highly toxic Sewanee coal seam, and local residents are justly worried about groundwater contamination. OSM had required Rith to submit a toxic materials handling plan. The great majority of those testifying found the plan technically inadequate.
- The following helped assemble and mail TCWP Newsletter #162: Fred Sweeton (coordinator), Alice Runtsch, Martha Adler, David Adler, Karen Finkel, Oddie Curtiss, Marian Garber, Louise Markel, and Charlie Klabunde. Thank you all!!

D. News about, and from, TCWP members

- Don Todd has been nominated for the Harper Johnson Human Relations Award by the Morgan Cy Education Assoc.
- Jenny Freeman Johnson, TCWP Executive Director, wrote a great letter from Chengdu, Sichuan, China, where she is assisting husband Ken in panda research for the World Wildlife Fund (they'll be back in July). They spent 3 weeks in the Tangjiahe Natural Reserve and saw not only pandas but takin, musk deer, and sambar deer. As they travel through this and other areas in China they are becoming convinced that the real problem the panda has is not the quantity of bamboo but the fragmentation of habitat; cut-off small panda populations are unable to sustain genetic viability. Other problems are poaching, snaring, and illegal timber cutting. Moreover, panda loans to U.S. zoos encourage the taking of pandas from the wild. Ken has suggested that money raised through zoo loans should be used to move human inhabitants out of panda-reserve boundaries.

E. More on how to make your letters count

Consult the Political Guide we mailed you earlier this year for hints on how to write effective letters to legislators and administrators. Here are a few additional points. (1) If you asked for a legislator's position and failed to get a satisfactory reply, write again and politely ask for his/her specific stand. (2) "Thank you's" are very important. (3) If the legislator has written to say he may take action opposite to that recommended by you, you can sometimes change his mind by writing again with additional information or arguments. (4) A letter you write to a legislator or administrator can be very effective as a letter-to-the-editor of your paper. Send it in as-is, with a brief transmitted note (e.g., "Readers of this paper may be interested in the letter I recently wrote to _____ on the issue of _____").

11. JOB OPENINGS, EVENTS, RESOURCES

- Sept. 23-25, TCWP Annual Meeting (see ¶2A and ¶10A, this NL).
- Job opening: American Rivers seeks a development assistant to work with the director of foundation and donor fund raising. For more information, call Pat Munoz, 202, 547-6900.
- The student Conservation Association offers expense-paid conservation internship all year round. Fall and winter listings are now available; requests for the summer of 1989 will be accepted starting 11/1/88. Contact Cindy Faucher, Student Conservation Assn., Inc, P. O. Box 550, Charlestown, NH 03603; Ph: 603, 826-5206/5741.
- A video cassette tape "Arctic Refuge: Wilderness in Peril" is available on loan from TCWP (you pay only postage). It was sent to us by the Wilderness Society.
- Audubon specials on wildlife and nature are coming to PBS, Sundays at 8 pm, starting June 26. Schools and libraries can purchase the programs on videotape, along with a teacher's guide.
- Sept. 14-16, Southeast Raptor Management Symposium and Workshop, Blacksburg, VA. Contact Natl Wildlife Federation, Inst. for Wildlife Research, 1400-16th St, NW, Wash., DC 20036-2266; Ph: 703, 790-4268.
- Nov. 18-19, "Celebrate America's Rivers," a conference to honor the 20th anniversary of the WSR System -- see ¶5A, this NL. Radisson Mark Plaza Hotel, Alexandria, VA. Contact Suzanne Wilkins on Kevin Coyle at American Rivers, 801 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, Suite 303, Wash., DC 20003, Ph.: 202, 547-6900.
- OSM's "Annual Report 1986" presents data for individual states as well as the nation (OSM, 530 Gay St, SW, Suite 500, Knoxville, TN 37902).
- The World Resources Institute's catalog of publications (14 new and many old titles) on forest resources, the greenhouse effect, population growth, and other environmental issues is available from WRI Publications, P.O. Box 620, Holmes, PA 19043.
- A listing of film and video resources on environmental issues is available from Coronet/MTI Film & Video, 108 Wilmot Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015.