TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 169 March 22, 1989

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

12. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Big S. Fork NRRA	Corps of Engr	"Lodge must have no impact on Gorge Area experience!"
2A 3A	State Park System Crooked Fork	TCWP	Offer assistance
2B	Frozen Head	Park Supt.	"Keep park undeveloped!".
2C	Golf courses	State Sen & Rep	"Don't replace natural landscapes with golf courses!"
3B	Channelization	Sen Sasser, Rep Tanner	"Require Corps to substitute SORGS!"
3D	Pigeon River	EPA	Comment on draft permit.
3G	Chattooga WSR	Ass. Consulting Group	"Unneeded airport is incompatible with WSR!"
5A	Mining in parks	OSM, by 4/24/89	"Withdraw proposed rules change!"
5B	OSM shake-up	Sens. Sasser, Gore	"Thanks for letter to Lujan!"
7A	Southern national forests	US Rep & Sens	"Support reform in forest management!"
7B	Endangered Species Act	US Rep	"Increase implementation funds for FWS, NPS BLM, USFS!"
7C	Arctic Refuge	US Sens	"Oppose any development in Arctic Refuge!"
7D	Recycling	Local government	"Organize recycling as part of trash collection!"
9A,B	World Environment	Sen. Gore	"Thanks for your leadership role!"
10C	Cedar Barrens	TCWP	Contribute for one section of fence.
10B,D	TCWP activities	TCWP	Join us April 1, April 15, May 6, Sept. 22-24

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

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

Dear Congressman/woman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Governor Ned McWherter
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37219

Dear Gov. McWherter
Respectfully yours,

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

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

Continued from page 12:

- May 6, 7. Plant Sale, UT Arboretum at Oak Ridge, noon - 5 p.m. each day.
- The *Tennessee Explorer* is a new bi-monthly magazine aimed at promoting outdoor recreation activities throughout the State. You can subscribe by calling 1-800-365-7608.
- "Blueprint for the Environment" is a compilation of 300 of the 600 specific recommendations regarding US environmental programs. Dozens of environmental groups contributed to the Blueprint, and some of their representatives met with Pres. Bush in December ($13.95 from Howe Brother, P. O. Box 6394, Salt Lake City, UT 84106).
- The American Rivers Guide to Wild & Scenic River Protection, by Kevin J. Coyle, is packed full of information on every step of protecting a river. ($15.95 + $2 shipping from American Rivers, 801 Pennsylvania Ave, SE; Wash. DC 20003. You may, at the same time, wish to order "Two Decades of River Protection," free).

1. BIG SOUTH FORK: A PRIVATE LODGE

A. *A public lodging facility near Devils Jumps?*

The Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area (BSFNRRA) authorizing legislation, Master Plan, and EIS, identified two lodges (one in Tennessee and one in Kentucky) to be built in the Area at government expense. There has been no pressure to build a Tennessee lodge, but some groups in Kentucky, and local Congressman Hal Rodgers , feel that a lodge in the Kentucky portion of the BSFNRRA holds the key to economic benefits for McCreary County. Since federal funds for lodge development are unlikely to be forthcoming in the near future, the Park Service (NPS) has been encouraged to seek a private developer, who would then operate the lodge as a concessionaire. The facility is projected to have 100 rooms, a swimming pool, tennis courts, and support building.

The Kentucky lodge site specified in the Master Plan is above the mouth of Bear Creek in the "Adjacent Area" (i.e., back of the gorge rim). Potential developers have indicated that it would be uneconomical to build on this site because no infrastructure (electricity, water, sewers, etc.) is available there. Other sites are therefore being considered, and this requires a supplement to the Master Plan.

Four alternatives will be evaluated:

(a) A site near the Blue Heron overlook in the "Adjacent Area" near Devil's Jump.
(b) A site on Laurel Ridge, about 1 mile south of there.
(c) A site on private lands outside the National Area.
(d) No action

As we formulate our position, here are items to be considered. The sites for both alternatives (a) and (b) are less than 1 mile from the eastern park boundary, but Kentucky-lodge supporters feel strongly that the facility would be much more of a drawing card if visitors didn't have to travel a mile to see the view. We unfortunately have no grounds in the authorizing legislation (and thus can exert no congressional pressure) to oppose a lodge in the BSFNRR so long as it is within the Adjacent Area. The authorizing Act does not even limit the *number* of lodges to be built (only the number to be paid for by federal funds). Therefore, there is no guarantee that this would be the <u>only</u> lodge. We must, however, make a strong case concerning the impacts such a facility would have on the Gorge Area, which the legislation clearly intends to provide a wilderness experience. We should therefore make the following points.

a. It is our preference that the lodge be built outside the boundary on private land, though near Blue Heron (which will be a drawing card for visitors).
b. If the lodge is built inside, it must under no circumstances be visible from within the gorge below it. Two substantial overlooks (Devils Jumps and Blue Heron) are already in place, and short walks to them could provide views for lodge visitors.
c. If the lodge is build inside the BSFNRRA, an Adjacent Area location as close as possible to Blue Heron is recommended, since that site is *already* a "loss" from the point of view of wilderness experience.
d. No roads or parking lots built in association with the lodge should be visible <u>or</u> audible from within the gorge.
e. Developments, such as swimming pool and tennis courts, should be placed as far back from the gorge rim as feasible.
f. Contract with any concessionaires should be relatively short-term and subject to frequent review, so that no outfit becomes entrenched and is put in a position of influence over the NPS (as has occurred in Yosemite Valley, for example).



An environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to address impacts associated with the development and constraints to be imposed upon it. Comments are due by April 14 and should be addressed to Commander, Nashville Distr., Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CEORN-ED-E, P. O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070.

B. *Otters for Big South Fork and Obed*

River otters were plentiful when the first white settlers came to the Cumberlands, but fur trapping soon eliminated the population. Now, the BSFNRRA and Obed WSR provide opportunities for bringing back these wonderful animals. Early in February, 10 river otters, imported from Louisiana, were released at Leatherwood Ford on the Big S. Fork. Six others had been released in 1986, but one of these was hit by a car. Otters eat fish during the winter, crayfish and insects during the summer. Some of their food source is adversely affected by stripmine run-off in the New River stem of the BSF. The otters released in the BSFNRRA are not being monitored by telemetry.

By contrast, 4 others, released on the Obed in 1984, were tracked for 18 months. All survived, at least during the monitoring period, and their range was found to extend up to 40 river miles. Signs of otters have increasingly been found on the Obed, but no positive evidence of reproduction.

2. TENNESSEE'S STATE PARKLANDS

A. *Status of the system: problems and opportunities*

A Tennessee Envtl Council Special Report, authored by Bill Terry, discusses Tennessee's Stewardship of State Parklands. (For a copy, send self-addressed, 25¢-stamped envelope to TEC, 1725 Church St, Nashville, TN 37203.) The Division of State Parks, within the TN Dept. of Conservation (TDoC), owns or manages 86 areas having various classifications, namely, (a) Natural Resource Areas (Natural Areas, Scenic Rivers, Scenic Trails), (b) Cultural Areas, and (c) State Parks. After summarizing the history of the system, the report focuses on problems and recommendations. The Scenic Rivers and Scenic Trails programs have become stepchildren, starved for funds, and with little done in the past to build public understanding of, and support for their values.

Many state parks have been developed with resort-like facilities, leaving few areas untouched. As budgets tighten, maintenance gets cut, and -- especially -- land acquisition gets cut. Acquisition of lands surrounding many park-system areas is badly needed in order to protect the existing resource. Nowhere is this more dramatically illustrated than at the Savage Gulf State Natural Area, where much of the present boundary runs with the edge of the bluff, allowing developments to occur that have adverse impacts on views from the gorge, and on water quality. Even within their boundaries, the parks are not safe. For example, golf courses are proposed for 8! parks in 1989 (see also ¶2C, this NL); a zoo wishes to locate within a state park (see ¶2D) (if state park land can be taken for this use, what else will it be taken for in the future?). Frightening, also, is the State's recent emphasis on generating *income* from State parks, and to privatize park facilities on a long-term basis (25- to 40-year leases). Increasingly, management decisions may be made that benefit the concessionaire rather than the natural environment.

The Report proposes specific remedies, one of which is planning. While the TDoC's current planning process is applauded, the writer notes that the preparation of management plans for individual areas has brought very little public involvement because of lack of notification of key groups . Will these individual park plans have the stewardship of the resource as their primary objective? Badly needed, also, are more adequate funding and the setting of priorities. One of the report's concrete suggestions is for a bond issue that would provide money to acquire needed additions to the park system (new units) as well as lands contiguous to existing units that are needed for protection of the resource. TCWP will be developing an action plan concerning the State Park System. Any offers of assistance will be appreciated.

Tennessee's State Park Act of 1937 states: Every park...shall be preserved in a natural condition so far as may be consistent with its human use and safety and all improvements shall be of such character as not to lessen its *inherent* recreational value."

B. *Frozen Head Master Plan*

As part of the planning process for the State Park system, Frozen Head is developing a Draft Master Plan. TCWP Pres. Martha Ketelle and Board member Maureen Cunningham attended a meeting on February 10 to hear about the various options. Although some development was proposed by a few of the participants (e.g., a swimming pool and tennis courts), the site being considered for this is not within the present boundary but in a field near the park entrance that may become available for purchase by the State.

Martha Ketelle and Lee Russell subsequently submitted separate written testimonies for TCWP that stressed our membership's desire that Frozen Head be maintained in an undeveloped state, and opposed the opening of any additional roads within the boundaries. We applauded the decision to zone all areas above 1600 ft. elevation as State Natural Area. Additional recommendations included: continuation and expansion of the Park's environmental education and interpretive activities; generation of inventories of the Park's many resources; protection of contiguous lands downstream from the Park; and stress on management practices that protect water quality, plant and animal species, and visual resources.

While the official comment period ends March 31, your input may still be acceptable (Duane Wyrick, Superintendent, Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area, Wartburg, TN 37887): call first to make sure (615-346-3318).

C. *Invasion of the golf courses*

In 1988, the General Assembly authorized $675,000 for feasibility studies to locate golf courses in 8 state parks (NL168 ¶3C). Not only the construction but the subsequent maintenance of these developments would cost the taxpayer dearly (see below). Yet golf courses have become a favorite boondoggle by which state legislators, and some administrators, seek to please influential constituents. If we are to stop this wholesale destruction of the natural lands that the parks were created to protect, we must act quickly by contacting state legislators (see list enclosed with NL168). Even a brief note, postcard, or phone call will help.

Here are some of the facts and arguments you may want to be aware of. We are citing Rock Island State Park as an example, though several of the points apply to the 7 additional parks that are

currently threatened (and goodness knows to how many more in the future).

- The golf course and related developments would destroy the rich woodlands of a 340-acre peninsula, which provides diverse habitats and constitutes over half of the park's total woodlands.

- There would be major water-quality impacts on the beautiful Collins River from siltation and from the run-off of the huge quantities of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides that are used in golf-course maintenance.

- Less than 19% of Tennesseans play golf, while 28% hike, 31% observe and photograph nature, 58% walk or run for exercise, and 27% go bicycling regularly. The benefits lost by eliminating these latter activities, all of which currently go on in the wooded peninsula, were not subtracted by the consultant firm that computed the economic impacts of the golf course.

- It would cost $7,500,000 of state money to build just this golf course (multiply by 8 for all parks now under consideration). [And this State refuses to spend any money for badly needed natural areas, buffer zones for existing parks, etc!]

- The consultant report projects *continuing* annual losses from the operation of the Rock Island golf course, e.g., $770,000 in 1991, $362,000 in 2010 -- a constant drain on state budgets. No golf course can be profitable without charging exorbitant greens fees, and by keeping greens fees at levels consistent with a public park, the state must pick up the tab.

- An existing State-park golf course is only 30 miles away at Fall Creek Falls. There are also 16 additional golf courses in the area. Do not delay: contact your state legislators.

D. ***Zoo proposal for Long Hunter State Park***

Should 200 acres of natural landscape in a public park be replaced by cages holding animals? The request by the Zoological Society of Middle Tennessee (ZSMT) to build a zoo in Long Hunter State Park surfaced about a year ago and has generated opposition from environmental groups, including TCWP (NL164 ¶3B, NL166 ¶4H). Recently, there have been a couple of encouraging developments. Conservation Commission Gill, in a letter to the ZSMT's executive director, commented that, instead of being involved in divestiture of land to private entities, the Department should be acquiring more public land to protect and preserve. And, on January 10, the State Conservation Commission voted unanimously to recommend that the proposed zoo is not compatible with the state-park mission, and that the ZSMT application be turned down.

3. RIVERS AND OTHER WATERS, IN TENNESSEE AND THE NATION

A. ***Help needed to protect Crooked Fork, Morgan County***

Several of our members are familiar with Potter Falls and Lamance Falls near Wartburg, Morgan County. The river that forms these falls, Crooked Fork, rises near Petros and continues through a steep and scenic gorge until it joins the Emory R. below Nemo. We have recently heard of several existing adverse impacts on Crooked Fork (water pollution, a quarry) and of some possible future threats. Any of you willing to join forces to try and protect this beautiful river valley should get in contact with us. A concerted effort by even a few dedicated individuals can accomplish a great deal.

B. ***West Tennessee wetlands jeopardized: alternatives to channelization are recommended***

For the past 40 years, the Corps of Engineers has been engaged in a project that has already channelized 73 river miles of the Obion-Forked Deer system in NW Tennessee, and has drained 100,000 acres of wetlands, which play such an important role in replenishing groundwater supplies and in providing animal and plant habitat (NL167 ¶3A). Ever since 1972, when a court order halted the project, environmental groups, some government agencies, and -- increasingly -- area farmers have been battling to save the remaining 90,000 acres of wetlands in the watershed. A few months ago, however, Gov. McWherter overrode his own Dept. of Health & Environment (which had denied the Corps a permit) by proposing channelization of a "test strip" on the S. Fork of the Obion River (as if the disastrous effects of channelization had not already been amply studied and documented). It is interesting to note that, while channelization is supposed to provide flood control, the only stretches of the Obion-Forked Deer system in which flooding occurred following the torrential February rains were those in which channelization had been completed.

The modern, environmentally sensitive, alternative to channelization is use of Stream Obstruction Removal Guidelines (SORG), which provides cost-effective flood control with minimal disruption to river ecosystems. This approach is supported by all conservation groups (except TCL), and all pertinent state and federal agencies (except the Corps).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Sen. Jim Sasser and Congressman John Tanner (addresses on p.2), who are known to be sympathetic, urging them to require the Corps of Engineers to substitute the SORGs for channelization on the Obion and Forked Deer Rivers. Your letters should be positive and supportive. Send copies to Gov. McWherter (address p.2).

C. ***Unregulated stream modifications are eroding Tennessee's Water Quality law***

By request, TCWP regularly receives mailings from the Tenn. Dept. of Health & Environment (TDHE) informing us of (and inviting our comments on) applications by individuals or government agencies for permits to modify streams. Some stream modifications, however, are made without benefit of permit or subsequent enforcement action, and sometimes we learn of these after the fact. Last Month, TCWP President Martha Ketelle wrote to Gov. McWherter concerning an unpermitted alteration of Bat Creek in Monroe County. A sizable portion of the creek (about 1/2 mile) had been relocated, with resulting damage to stream bed and banks. TCWP's concern went beyond the specific case to the danger that failure of enforcement would undermine the TN Water Quality Control Act and give license to other violations to follow suit.

We recently received a response from Commissioner Luna reporting that TDHE staff and others had met with the landowner and determined " that it would not be feasible to restore Bat Creek to its original condition." The landowner has been ordered to instal revetments to prevent further erosion, and to replace vegetation. A civil penalty will be assessed against the landowner, but it is not clear whether his cost of revegetation will be considered to constitute part (or all) of this penalty. TCWP is disappointed that creek restoration was not ordered by TDHE. Major damage has occurred not just to this creek but to our State's good Water Quality Act which is weakened every time a violation is allowed to stand.

D. ***Revised Champion mill permit proposed***

As a result of Tennessee's refusal to grant a variance in the color standard for the Pigeon River, polluted by the Champion paper mill in Canton, N. C. (NL160 ¶3, NL161 ¶4B, NL167 ¶4D), the plant cut its operation in half and applied for a permit to govern the clean-up period. EPA released this draft 5-year permit on March 15 and is asking for comments by April 28 (USEPA Region IV, 345 Courtland St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30365). (Champion has operated since 1984 under an expired permit while battling the EPA and Tennessee over the color standard.) The draft permit requires Champion to meet the Tennessee color standard within 3 years. It also sets a low limit on dioxins in the plant's wastewater discharge. Since Champion has made a $1.28-billion profit over 10 years, without taking even minimal steps to abate the pollution of the Pigeon River, the company should have no financial difficulty in making the necessary changes in its paper-bleaching process.

Members of the Dead Pigeon River Council have expressed some unhappiness over the permit, on two scores. First, there are no requirements for a step-by-step cleanup prior to the date, 3 years hence, when the standard is to be met. Second, there is concern that dioxin monitoring is too insensitive if done in the plant's water discharge; since dioxin can build up in fish tissues even when levels in the water are nondetectable, experts feel that fish, instead of water, should be monitored.

E. ***Ground-water monitoring to be initiated for Tennessee***

A comprehensive ground-water-quality monitoring program for Tennessee is about to be initiated by the US Geological Survey, in collaboration with State agencies. This program will have 3 components. (a) Analysis of samples from 90 wells and springs, throughout the State, that are utilized for public-supply purposes by communities. (b) Measurements of ^{222}Radon in ground water in Lewis and Maury Counties. (c) Analysis of well water from 150 small farms across Tennessee to monitor for potential contamination of water supplies at farmsteads. These bodies of data will be essential for many environmental programs, including the Non-Point-Source Pollution Program, Superfund, and the Tenn. Groundwater Protection Strategy.

F. ***Initiatives by other organizations concerning Tennessee water quality***

Current Tennessee law specifically exempts normal agriculture and forestry activities from water-quality (WQ) regulation, yet such activities are among the greatest contributors to our State's non-point-source pollution problems. At its March 3 meeting, the Tennessee Conservation League passed a resolution urging that the State's water quality laws be amended so as "to remove the agriculture- and forestry-activity exemptions in a manner that will prohibit a permitting process but will allow the State to hold all Tennesseans accountable for violations of water-quality standards caused by their activities."

The Izaak Walton League, a national organization, is getting involved in Tennessee WQ issues through its local chapter(s). For more information, contact Nelson Ross, 615-475-9061.

G. ***National Wild & Scenic River near us is threatened***

The Chattooga is one of a handful of National W & S Rivers in the Southeast (our own Obed is another). Rabun County, Georgia has requested a permit to build an airport on National Forest land, within 1/2 mile of the river. Adverse impacts: (a) low flyovers, noise, possible fuel spills; (b) siltation and other water-quality impacts from moving a million cu. yds of earth to build the 5000 ft. runway; (c) intrusion in the wilderness experience. Does Rabun County really need this airport? Two other airports exist within 25 miles of the proposed strip; and there are only 12 privately-owned planes in the county. A public information meeting on the subject

was held March 15, and written comments may be sent to Associated Consulting Group, Suite 225, 315 W. Ponce de Leon Ave, Decatur, GA 30084. Send a copy to Kenneth D. Henderson, Forest Supervisor, Chattachoochee-Oconee National Forests, 508 Oak Street, NW, Gainesville, GA 30501.

H. *Bill to prohibit dams in national parks to be reintroduced*

Incredible as it may seem, no specific protection exists against water projects in national parks or national monuments. The House of Representatives has twice passed a bill (sponsored by Congressman Richard Lehman) that would prohibit such projects. However, when the companion measure, spearheaded by Wyche Fowler, came before the Senate Energy Committee, amendments were added that would have made it more harmful than helpful. The bill was therefore allowed to die. Another attempt will be made in 1989, with Sen. Fowler again sponsoring the measure in the Senate.

J. *Many of the Nation's rivers are worthy of protection*

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory, the National Park Service's listing of potential National Wild & Scenic Rivers, has not been updated since 1982. *American Rivers* has now published, and presented to the Park Service, an "Outstanding Rivers List", which includes ca 15,000 river segments totaling ca 300,000 river miles. These segments, scattered through the 50 states, represent about 10% of the nation's river miles. While each of the rivers in the publication is considered worthy of protection, the *List* does not recommend specific protection mechanisms for specific rivers. (The *List* may be purchased from American Rivers, 801 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, Suite 303, Wash. DC 20003; $24.95 for the complete publication, $9.95 for any individual state.)

4. OTHER TENNESSEE CAPSULES

A. *Oil & Gas law may be amended*

In May 1987, the Tennessee legislature enacted a bill that made at least a start toward regulating oil & gas (O&G) extraction -- though much remained to be done (NL156 ¶2C). This year, instead of strengthening the law, the legislature will probably weaken it, as a result of industry pressure. SB117 (Anna Bell O'Brien) would have returned to the O&G operator one-half of his bond money as soon as only the initial reclamation work was finished. However, as a result of a compromise subsequently worked out by the Environmental Action Fund, the Dept. of Conservation (DoC) and the industry, 1/3 of the bond would be returned after initial revegetation, and the DoC would define the outlines of the active work area. This compromise bill has passed a Senate committee and is expected to pass the full Senate and House.

B. *Prentice Cooper State Forest: TCWP comments*

Though TCWP was notified too late about the January 18-19 meetings on the Prentice Cooper State Forest Management Plan to be able to send a representative (NL168 ¶3A), Pres. Martha Ketelle subsequently submitted written comments. She recommended that the management plan be sensitive to the facts (a) that this forest is one of a *decreasing* number of large undeveloped tracts in public ownership that provides habitat for native plant and animal species, and (b) that the forest location near Chattanooga and the Tennessee River Gorge (TRG) makes it an ideal area for nonconsumptive outdoor recreation. With regard to timber harvesting, she urged that this be barred from the viewshed of the TRG, and that, elsewhere in the Forest, even-age management and monoculture replanting be kept to an absolute minimum. Finally, she urged controls on the use of off-road vehicles which would otherwise damage habitat and diminish recreation experience of others.

C. *Oak Ridge has become a Tree City*

On March 3, Arbor Day, Oak Ridge was officially designated a "Tree City USA" and joined 10 other such cities in Tennessee, and about 1000 in the Nation. The National Arbor Day Foundation recognizes cities that develop a comprehensive community forestry program (financially supported by at least $1 per capita), have a legally constituted tree board (EQAB, in the case of Oak Ridge), have a community tree ordinance, and arrange for an Arbor Day proclamation and public tree-planting ceremony. Through the program, the Foundation attempts to make the public more aware of trees and of their value to the qualities of the community. Figures cited at the celebration: just one 50-year old tree can save a homeowner $73 annually in air-condition costs, $75 in soil erosion and storm-water control, and $50 in air-pollution control. Multiply this by many thousands for the city.

D. *Proposed landfill may have adverse environmental impact*

Shelby County has proposed to expand the Shake Rag Road landfill near Bear Creek, and some people are concerned about the possible impact this may have on wetlands in the area. The Division of Water Pollution Control (DWPC) will hold a public hearing on the issue on April 11, 7 p.m., at the Millington Community Center. Written testimony will be accepted for 10 days following the hearing. For further information, call Bill Duffel, DWPC, Nashville, 615-741-7883.

5. STRIPMINING: OSM'S SORRY ROLE

A. ***Uproar over OSM's proposal that would allow mining in parklands***

On February 16, hearings were held in Denver, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Washington, Lexington, and -- thanks to Sen. Sasser's backing of requests by SOCM and TCWP -- in Knoxville. The subject was OSM's proposal to redefine "Valid Existing Rights" (VER) to mine in areas that had been put off limits by the 1977 Federal Surface Mining Act. If adopted, this definition would allow, stripmining in national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wild & scenic rivers, etc.; in state and local parks; and in the currently enforced buffer zones around residences, roads, churches, etc. (see NL168 ¶2A and special TCWP Action Call of Feb. 9).

Despite incredibly short notice and inconsiderate scheduling (during working hours), the Knoxville hearing was attended by over 150 people (several of them TCWP members) who were of one mind: the rules change must not occur. Over 50 people spoke eloquently to that effect, taking a variety of individual approaches to the issue. One of the speakers was Sen. Sasser's Legislative Assistant, Will Calloway, who had come from Washington to urge OSM to withdraw its proposal. We know of many others who submitted written testimony (thanks to those of you who sent us copies). Detailed comments were submitted on behalf of TCWP and we'll be glad to send you a copy if you let us have a stamped self-addressed envelope.

The Tennessee Commissioner of Conservation has written to OSM protesting that the proposed rules changes "constitute an extraordinary threat" to the preservation of Tennessee lands, and strongly encouraging OSM to reaffirm administration of the current regulations, without modification.

Because various groups have complained about the short notice for the hearing, OSM has extended the comment period for 45 days. The new deadline is April 24. We urge all of you who have not commented already to avail yourselves of this opportunity. (Address: OSMRE, Administrative Record Room 5131L, 1951 Constitution Ave, NW, Wash. DC 20240.)

B. ***OSM needs a shakeup***

There is little doubt that the proposal to redefine VER (¶5A, above) would not have been made had the management team at OSM not consisted of Acting Director Gentile -- a former stripmine operator -- and the industry supporters he has placed in high positions in the agency. A nomination for OSM Director will soon be made by the Bush Administration (surely it couldn't be Gentile! or could it?), and the nominee must be confirmed by the Senate.

A few days ago, 6 senators sent a letter to Interior Secretary Lujan stressing the need for a new management team at OSM, and adding that replacement of the Director was only the first step. We're proud to report that, of the 6 senators, two were our own Sens. Sasser and Gore. [The other senators were Bingaman (D-NM), Bumpers (D-AR), Metzenbaum (D-OH), and Simon (D-IL)] We hope you will express your thanks (addresses on p.2). In addition, thank Sen. Sasser for insisting that one of the VER hearings be held in Knoxville, and for sending Will Calloway to present testimony (¶5A).

6. TVA NEWS

A. ***The environmental forum, January 20***

A meeting on January 20 brought together 22 environmentalists (from 5 valley states) with TVA's top managers, including Chairman, Marvin Runyon. The objective was to review TVA's efforts to fulfill its own Environmental Agenda for 1988/89, and to respond to the FY 1990 agenda. A report from attendees cites successes in water quality, especially with regard to counteracting low oxygen levels below dams and with regard to TVA's participation in Tennessee's Non-Point Source Pollution Management plan. Other successes: TVA's reassessment of the entire reservoir system; the help provided to communities for developing recycling plans; implementation of hazardous-waste reduction for TVA facilities. Among failures, the biggest is TVA's backing away from energy conservation ("Energy conservation is not cost effective for TVA to do," said TVA's Power Chief, Steffy, at the meeting). Equally disappointing is TVA's air-quality stance (also related to energy policy); though the steam plants have been operating so as to emit considerably less SO_2 than their permits allow, Steffy is now planning to burn more high-sulfur coal (cheaper) which will bring emissions up to the full permit limits.

The group of environmentalists called on TVA to get involved in formulating a national energy policy that will provide incentives for energy conservation. Further recommendations were that TVA expand its efforts on those issues which only the agency can address, including energy production, water quality, and land-use manage-ment of TVA lands. Concern was expressed by attendees that TVA is increasingly subordinating environmental concerns to economic concerns.

B. ***TVA budget***

The TVA non-power budget was in trouble throughout the Reagan era. Each year, the Administration proposed tremendous cuts, and each year the Congress restored funding, at least to a flat level (which, in effect was a cut, due to

inflationary rises in costs). Thus, for fiscal years from 1986 through 1989, the successive appropriations were $100, 100, 103, and 103 million. The Reagan budget for FY 1990 is $88 million. Presumably some restoration of funds will again occur.

7. NATIONAL NEWS

A. *The need to reform management of the national forests in Southern Appalachia*

The Wilderness Society has isssued a carefully researched report, "Mountain Treasures at Risk", that looks at management plans for the 6 national forests (in 5 states, including Tennessee) that essentially surround the Smokies. The report finds these plans, "seriously flawed." The USFS considers the forests essentially as tree farms. The board-feet of timber cut doubled in the 10 years between 1977 and 1986, from 63 to 126 million; a further doubling is projected by 1996, and a 350% increase by the year 2030! Not only is the volume staggering, but 65% of the lands slated for logging would be harvested by clearcutting and re-vegetated by "even-age management" (often, monoculture). The logging would destroy much of the old-growth forest, including about 60% of the area that qualifies for wilderness designation. In conjunction with timbercutting, hundreds of miles of logging roads would be built, causing erosion, and opening up currently protected wildlife habitat. In addition to being incredibly destructive, this timber orgy is very costly to the US taxpayer; in FY1987, for example, the USFS reported a $5.5 million loss on timber sales from The Southern Appalachian forests. Further, there is no need for all this timber in the SE, and, as the USFS itself admits, timber needs could be met by the production of privately-owned forests in the region.

The Southern Appalachian national forests contain (except for the Smokies) virtually all the wilderness there is in the Southeastern US, and represent numerous valuable ecosystems not duplicated elsewhere. They harbor 130 species of trees alone -- more tree species than in all of Europe. The Report strongly recommends that a regional ecosystems approach be developed for all of the S. Appalachian national forests, instead of managing each forest as an isolated unit. The management objectives, as well as the budgets, should emphasize wildlife habitat, biological diversity, and outdoor recreation. More wilderness areas should be designated to protect biological diversity. Timber sales, which cost the taxpayer millions of $$ annually, should be phased out, road construction stopped, forestry practices reformed (no more even-age monocultures!), and "tree-farm" areas rehabilitated into real forests. An outside task force should be set up to evaluate the USFS management plans.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to your US Rep and Senators (addresses on p.2) to bring the findings of this report to his/her attention and to urge him/her to support appropriate reforms. Send a copy to Sen. Wyche Fowler, Chmn, Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, US Senate.

B. *Funding badly needed for the Endangered Species program*

Although the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was reauthorized last year, the funds that have been requested to implement it are totally inadequate. For each of the 4 federal agencies that deals with protection of endangered species, the FY 1990 budget requested by the Administration represents a major drop below FY 1989 appropriations. For the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), the major implementer of the ESA, the FY 90 request is 8 million below the FY 89 figure of 33.5 million, a 25% decrease -- even without inflation. Experts believe that an appropriation of $38 million (the authorized level) is needed. For the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wildlife program, the Administration request is 21% below the cost of continuing the program at FY 89 levels; this would translate into cutting 50 biologists from the staff. Only $5 million were requested by the Administration for the US Forest Services's (USFS) endangered species programs, again below FY 89 spending levels. And the National Park Service (NPS), which potentially has excellent opportunities to protect endangered species, is terribly underfunded in its resource-management and research budgets. A special case can be made for Hawaii, for which ES funding falls far short of the state's proportionate share or need: Hawaii has 11% of listed endangered species native to the USA, yet receives only 1-2% of funds.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your US Rep. (address on p.2) to appropriate the authorized $38 million for the FWS endangered species program, with special increases earmarked for Hawaii; and at least cost-of-living increase for BLM and USFS wildlife programs. The NPS resource-management and research budget needs badly to be boosted.

C. *Arctic Wildlife Refuge: the battle is on again to stop drilling*

The battle lines have been drawn early in this Congress on the question of whether oil & gas drilling should be permitted in the wildlife-rich coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (NL158 ¶8A, NL161 ¶8A, NL162 ¶7E, NL163 ¶7F, etc.). Bills to designate the area a wilderness have been reintroduced (with the same no. as last year): S39 sponsored by Wm Roth (R-DE) in the Senate, and HR39 by Udall (D-AZ) in the House. On the pro-development side are S406 and HR49, which would open up the refuge for leasing, with some of the revenue dedicated for wildlife management elsewhere in the country. Committee action on S406 is imminent, and a Senate floor fight on the issue may follow soon thereafter.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: No time should be lost in writing to both your Senators (address on p.2)

asking them to oppose any development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

D. ***Recycling Facts***
Gleaned from an EDF flier:

- 88% of newspapers are never recycled. Every Sunday, 500,000 trees are used for these papers.
- The amount of aluminum discarded could rebuild our entire commercial airfleet every 3 months.
- The iron and steel we discard could *continuously* supply all the nation's automakers.
- Instead of composting them, we annually dispose of 24 million tons of leaves and grass clippings in crowded landfills.
- We throw away enough office and writing paper annually to build a wall 12 ft. high between New York City and Los Angeles.

✳ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your local governments to create recycling opportunities for your community. Organizing recycling should be part of that government's responsibility for organizing trash collection and disposal.

E ***National groups have merged***

In February, 3 national environmental organizations -- the Environmental Policy Institute (EPI), Friends of the Earth (FOE), and the Oceanic Society (OS) -- announced that they would combine forces. FOE will function as a membership and lobbying organization operating not only nationally, but worldwide (through the 33 current affiliates of FOE-International), and EPI will continue to operate as a tax-exempt research, advocacy, and public-education organization. A staff of over 40 will be headed by Michael S. Clark, currently President of EPI. Among world issues to be newly tackled are global warming, tropical deforestation, ozone-layer depletion, and ocean dumping; continuing national issues are groundwater protection, strip mining, harmful water projects, and coastal concerns.

8. CABINET APPOINTEES AND CONGRESSMAN - VIS À VIS THE ENVIRONMENT

What signs shall we look for in the Bush cabinet appointments? The following impressions (¶A and B) are gleaned from publications by National Audubon, Environmental Action, and Friends of the Earth.

A. ***Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Interior***

He's a retired Congressman from New Mexico, who has consistently had low ratings from the League of Conservation Voters (13, 16, and 25% during the last 3 periods) and high ratings from the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. He was a strong supporter of James Watt right up to Watt's departure from the Reagan cabinet. Hodel, who eventually followed Watt, moved Watt's programs forward without the abrasiveness that had attracted public attention to Administration policies, and he has left an agency riddled with right-wing ideologues and corporate influence. Since Lujan, a "nice guy," is expected to be a "caretaker" at Interior, policy may be made by these hold-overs from Hodel's tenure. (It will be important to watch whether there are any changes in the management team.) Some encouraging words come from people who know Lujan personally, especially in New Mexico where Lujan has a record of impartial constituent service and of supporting state environmental positions (despite his poor national record). According to one of these people, Lujan is concerned not so much with "philosophy and policy as with constituent service...The environmental community has to become a constituent of the department."

B. ***William K. Reilly, EPA Administrator***

Trained as a lawyer and land-use planner, Reilly is president of the Conservation Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund, and once was a member of the Council on Environmental Quality. He gets generally high marks from environmental groups, which are pleased to see a "card-carrying environmentalist" head up EPA. He is regarded as intellectual but pragmatic, a problem solver, a consensus builder. Some people are worried by this last characteristic: they're afraid that Reilly was picked because he is a compromiser rather than a hard-hitting advocate. Others, who stress Reilly's honesty and integrity, predict that these concerns will soon be laid to rest. It is expected that Reilly's EPA will write and promote legislation -- something that didn't happen during the Reagan era when EPA merely tried to survive.

C. ***Bush's campaign promises on the environment***

This is a good time to recall some of the campaign promises so that we may, in the months to come, remind the Administration that we expect to see follow-throughs. The following are from the "Summary of Key Environmental Initiatives" that were issued by the Bush campaign on 8/31/88.

- Work with states to attain the goal of no net loss of wetlands. ("All existing wetlands, no matter how small, should be preserved".)
- Make energy conservation a priority because it is a critical answer to the greenhouse effect.
- Convene a global conference on the environment during his first year in office (to address problems like global warming, ozone depletion, and acid rain).
- End ocean dumping by 1991.
- Protect and expand the National Park system.
- Support a program to cut "million of tons" (how many?) of SO_2 emissions by the year 2000, and to "significantly reduce" NO_x emissions as well.
- Exceed EPA's national goal of a 25% reduction in waste.

D. ***Environmental performance of Tennessee's Congressmen***

1987-88 voting charts have been compiled by the League of Conservation Voters on the basis of

16 key votes for the House and 10 votes for the Senate. The House scores are listed here, along with scores for the past 2 sessions

	87/88	85/86	85
Quillen (1-R)	19	10	17
Duncan, Sr. (2-R), died	31	11	8
Lloyd (3-D)	25	22	26
Cooper (4-D)	75	69	75
Clement (5-D)	50	–	–
Gordon (6-D)	63	43	42
Sundquist (7-R)	19	26	42
Jones (8-D), retired	56	29	42
Ford (9-D)	50	72	75

It is possibly a complete coincidence that the Tennessee Congressman with the consistently lowest score, Quillen, in the last election received higher PAC contributions ($342,701) than any other Tennessee House Member, even though his seat is considered totally safe.

Below, the 1987/88 Tennessee scores are compared with those for the rest of the nation.

	Rep.	Dem.	Overall
Tennessee	23	53	43
Southeast			42
Nation	35	66	54

It is also interesting to note that of only 4 *zero*-scorers in the House, 2 are now members of the Bush cabinet: Cheney (R-WY) and Kemp (R-NY).

9. WORLD ENVIRONMENT: SEN. GORE LEADS PROTECTION EFFORTS

A. *Gore's World Environment bill*

On the first day of the 101st Congress, Sen. Al Gore, Jr., introduced his World Environment Policy Act of 1989, which has, so far, been co-sponsored by 21 other senators. The bill concentrates on measures to slow the "greenhouse effect" (i.e., the global warming, which most scientists now accept as a fact) and it designates 1990 as the "International Year of the Greenhouse Effect" in order to focus attention on this issue. The bill would require a complete phase-out of the production of CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), improvement in fuel-economy standards for vehicles (see also below, ¶9B), a 5-year phase-out of non-recyclable packaging, a phased-in ban on imports of those tropical wood products that are linked to environmental damage at the source, and the creation of a Council on World Environmental Policy (to replace the present Council on Environmental Quality).

In addition, there is considerable emphasis on halting destruction of the Amazonian rainforest, destruction which currently produces 10% of the world's CO_2. Our Secretary of State is directed to work with the World Bank and other international development banks to discourage them from supporting destructive developments in the area. (Sec. Baker has since announced that he will treat the global warming problem as one of his top priorities.) The bill also requires the Secretary of State to ask Brazil to convene a conference focusing on conservation of the Amazon basin. (Brazil has already protested that it does not wish to be made a scapegoat when the problem exists in other countries as well; Brazil would agree to a conference designed to address *worldwide* problems.) Gore recently made a 5-day visit to the Amazon and was shocked by the destruction he witnessed. Forests there are being burned at the rate of 20 million acres annually -- an area the size of South Carolina. The resultant soil is so poor that reforestation will not occur. In addition to exacerbating the greenhouse effect, this destruction causes unprecedented species extinction; at least one-half of the world's estimated species live in the Amazonian rainforest. Economically profitable activities, such as rubber production and Brazil-nut harvesting, can be carried on without destroying the rainforest.



We hope you'll write to Sen. Gore to thank him for his leadership role in efforts to save the world environment.

B. *Auto-fuel efficiency*

Sen. Gore is also a chief sponsor of Timothy Wirth's National Energy Efficiency Act, which reinforces much of Gore's World Environment bill (¶9A, above). Energy efficiency (the ratio of goods and services produced to energy used), which had risen by 24% between 1976 and 1986, retrogressed in 1987 and 1988. Authors of the Worldwatch Institute's 1989 State of the World report believe that actions to cope with global warming must concentrate on improving energy efficiency. Today's 5.5 billion tons of annual CO_2 emissions from fossil-fuel use will rise to 10 billion by the year 2010, if use grows at just 3% annually (probably an underestimate). Energy efficiency improvements *alone* could cut that growth by 3 billion tons.

Gore is one of a group of Senators who recently wrote to Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner, urging imposition of a 27.5 mile-per-gallon standard for 1990-model cars. The current standard is 26.5 mpg, and, while the law calls for it to go to 27.5 mpg next year, it also allows the Secretary to relax the standard year by year. The letter thus urges Skinner not to do so (thus letting the law take its course), despite pressures from the automobile industry to the contrary.

10. TCWP NEWS

A. *Jenny is back!*

After an absence of 6 months, Jenny Freeman Johnson is back in her part-time job as TCWP exec .director. She had gone to China in September, planning to stay only 2 months, which she thought would be sufficient for finalizing arrangements to adopt a baby girl she and Ken had fallen in love with on an earlier trip. Bureaucratic red tape threatened the whole process, but now she's home with daughter Mei-mei, and anxious to get involved in TCWP business again.

B. *Northridge Trail maintenance, Saturday, April 1*

We'll be working on the section between N. Walker Lane and Gee Spring Rd. Meet at the Children's Museum parking lot at 9 a.m. Bring clippers, any other hand tool you wish, a large plastic bag. Carry lunch & beverage. These sessions are fun, so come out and help!

C. *Cedar Barrens dedication, Saturday, May 6*

Saturday, May 6, at 10 a.m., there will be a little ceremony to dedicate The Cedar Barrens as a Tennessee Natural Area. Park your car between the ballfield and the school, but come to the Fairbanks Rd side of the Barrens to watch the sign go up. By that date, we hope to have in place at least a portion of the split-rail cedar fence that will protect the Barren on the road side. This fence, however, costs money -- $20 per 10 ft. section to be precise -- (labor will be volunteered). We hope several of you will chip in for a section of fence; make your check payable to TCWP but mark it "for Cedar Barren." Send to address on p.1 of this Newsletter.

D. *Other important dates*

- Cherokee Forest Voices Training Session, March 31 - April 2.
- Whites Creek hike, Saturday, April 15. (See NL168 for details; or call Chuck Coutant (483-5976) or Lee Russell (482-2153, evenings).
- TCWP Annual Meeting, Sept. 22-24
  We'll be back at Pickett State Park (after 4 years), with our usual great program. Mark your calendar NOW, and look for further announcements.

11. ACTIVITIES; READING MATTER

- TCWP events (see ¶10, this NL).

Apr. 1	Northridge Trail maintenance hike.
Apr. 15	Whites Creek Trail hike.
May 6	Cedar Barren Natural Area dedication
Sept. 22-24	Annual Meeting, Pickett State Park

- The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is recruiting people wishing to spend one week this summer on grass-bald restoration. Efforts will be concentrated on Grassy Ridge. SAHC has received a $12,000 challenge grant from the Forest Service for biological research and management of the grassy bald complex of the Roan Mtn massiff. For info, contact Judy Murray, Rt. 8, Box 434, Kingsport, TN 37664.
- Volunteers will get their way paid and their food provided if they join the Student Conservation Association (SCA) in fire recovery work at Yellowstone (mostly trail work, bridge building, replanting seedlings, etc). Over 50 work groups of 6-8 persons each will live in tent camps (Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and 6 surrounding wilderness areas) and have their food provided by SCA. SCA will also provide training and equipment and pay for travel by the least expensive form of transportation. For info: Yellowstone Recovery Corps, c/o SCA, P. O. Box 550, Charleston, NH 03603. Ph. 603-826-5206/5741.
- If you want to do outdoor volunteer work in Alaska this summer, there are two sets of opportunities. As soon as possible, contact Bill Knauer, US Fish & Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503; Ph 907-786-3399. (2) Contact Alaska State Parks, P. O. Box 107001, Achorage, AK 99510-7001.
- Participants are invited for a bald eagle nesting survey in the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area (Minnesota). Sessions are June 16-25 and June 30-July 9. Travel will be mostly by canoe; food, canoes, and camping equipment are provided. College credit available. Cost $350. Contact David Chasson, 612-245-2648.
- Correspondence courses for interested lay persons or professionals are now available in National Forest Recreation Management. (Examples: Management of Wilderness; Trails, Facility Design.) The 7 courses may be taken for credit (1-3 per course) or for Continuing Education Units (1.5 - 4.5 per course), and range in cost from $65-195 (if for credit) or $55-$165 (noncredit). For info, call 1, 800-525-4950.
- April 4-5. Perspectives on Biological Diversity in the Southeast, a Symposium and working groups sponsored by the USFS, SE Chapt. Ecological Soc., Assoc. of SE Biologists. Charlotte, NC. Call Dr. Carolyn Blalock, 704-547-4861; or Ed Clebsch, 615-974-2256.
- April 8. Environmental Education Workshop, Warriors' Path State Park, Kingsport. Free, and open to all. Call Park Naturalist Marty Silver, 615-239-8531.
- April 27-29. Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Gatlinburg and the Gt. Smoky Mtns Natl Park. Daily walks, workshops, talks, exhibits. Call Ed Clebsch, 615, 974-2256.
- The Maps and Publications Shoppe, 427 Clinch Ave, Knoxville, Ph 546-6533, is carrying on the map service that TVA has abandoned -- and more. For sale: topographic quadrangles, recreation maps, navigation charts. Harold Donahue, the owner, will also order maps for you.

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