TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 30, March 31, 1970

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1. OBED: RENEWED HAZARDS TO ITS PERMANENT PROTECTION

A. New pro-dam campaign

In Newsletter No. 29 we reported on a renewed campaign, originating in Harriman, to push for costly and destructive Obed dams in order to give absolute protection to 200 acres of flood plain land that could be controlled by proper zoning if ordinances already in existence were implemented. On February 18, a group of dam proponents from Harriman and Morgan county under the leadership of Roane County Judge Frank Qualls presented their case before the TVA board of directors. (Several other residents of these areas recorded their opposition to the delegation.) TVA Chairman Wagner pointed out to the group that repeated studies have shown that even the most feasible of a number of dams considered is still far from economically justifiable. However, Judge Qualls reported support from Congr. Evins (who telephoned during the meeting to endorse the delegation) and Senator Baker. In a newspaper report, Qualls is reported as saying: "When these two gentlemen tell me they can take care of the money, I think they can do it ... We'll not be asking for any more conferences with you (TVA board). We'll be going to Washington."

We believe that TVA should be supported in their stand against unjustifiable dams and in the assistance they have already given and can still provide for Harriman along the lines of flood-plain zoning, relocation of structures, and compatible development (e.g. a city park). If you feel that a free-flowing, natural Obed is an irreplaceable scenic treasure that must not be destroyed for the sake of providing absolute protection to 200 downstream acres (which could, instead, be utilized in compatible ways), then write to Congressman * Joe L. Evins, House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515 and to Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510. Send copies to Aubrey J. Wagner, Chairman, TVA, New Sprankle Bldg., Knoxville, Tenn.

B. The Scenic River study is in danger

The study that was to have begun early in 1970 for inclusion of the Obed and tributaries in the national wild and scenic rivers system has been slowed and threatened by reorganization within the Southeast Regional Office of BOR. * Tennessee conservationists are writing to their Congressman urging speed in this study and protesting any BOR reorganization that would delay it.

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C. Powerline crossing

As reported in Newsletter No. 27, TCWP alerted the Dept. of Interior to TVA's plans to cross Obed and Daddys Creek with a 500-Kv powerline without prior notification of Interior, in violation of Sec. 7(c) of P.L. 90-542. The Atlanta Office of BOR was called in to study the problem and, as a result, TVA has agreed to prevent environmental damage by the following steps: (a) the new line will be located entirely within an existing right-of-way already containing a lower voltage line; (b) towers will not be visible from the river; (c) no vegetation will be removed where the right-of-way traverses the gorges; (d) the line will be strung by helicopter to avoid damage by heavy ground equipment; and (e) the vegetation in the new and old rights-of-way will be permitted to continue its natural growth. BOR concludes that, with these provisions, the new line will have "no direct and adverse effect on the values for which the Obed River and Daddys Creek might be designated for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System."

2. BIG SOUTH FORK: INTERAGENCY REPORT IS PUBLISHED

A. Comparison of alternatives

The three-agency report on alternative uses for the Big South Fork, authorized under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1968, was sent to Congress toward the middle of February. Several earlier Newsletters have informed you of TCWP's great involvement in this study.

The alternatives which are discussed--without recommendations--in the Report are as follows: (a) Acceleration of existing federal, state and local programs. (b) Reservoirs alone, namely a high and low Devils Jumps (flooding to 1220 and 1124 ft elevations, respectively), Helenwood, and New River. (c) National Scenic River, without and with reservoirs. (d) National Recreation Area (NRA) without and with reservoirs. (e) National Forest, either alone, or with high or low Devils Jumps. (f) National Park. Some of these alternatives are rejected in the Report. Thus, the Helenwood and New River dams do not have sufficient benefits to be economically justifiable. The combination of National Scenic River with Devils Jumps reservoirs (i.e., above and below) is found incompatible. And the NRA with either of the Devils Jumps projects would not meet the mandatory criteria for establishment of an NRA "and would destroy a unique natural resource."

Among the remaining "without reservoir" alternatives, we have compared National Scenic River (31,360 acres), NRA (210,000 acres), National Forest (469,000 acres), and National Park (120,000 acres). The following comments may be made. National Forest would bring intensive timber management, probably clear-cutting in many areas. Timbering would extend even to within the gorges, where "selective cutting would be used ... to maintain a healthy and attractive forest cover for maximum recreational use ..." Emphasis on maximum use is also found elsewhere. The great bulk of National Forest land acquisition would not include mineral rights, so private mining would proceed. The NRA, while putting less emphasis on timber harvest than does the National Forest, would still permit it (though specifying "selective"). Mineral exploration and leasing on a limited basis would likewise be allowed. Hunting is permitted. Emphasis on large-scale recreational use results in more proposals for big recreation developments (campgrounds) in areas that now have wilderness character (No Business Cr., Station Camp Cr.). A National Scenic River, which could be administered by the Secretary of Interior and/or Agriculture, does not provide as much area for protection as do the other proposals (barely rim-to-rim). In lands for which easements only were obtained (the major portion), mining activities might not be completely controllable. Hunting would be permitted.

The National Park proposal gives the best preservation to the entire area. Wilderness designation for the gorges could be written into the Act creating a Park. The Park proposal's main drawback, at present, is that it contains no lands in Kentucky, since these are already authorized in the purchase boundary for the Daniel Boone National Forest. However, the study states that some of these lands would qualify for NP status and an extension of the presently proposed boundary could presumably be requested by Congress.

A comparison of financial figures provided in the report, shows the National Park to have by far the greatest local economic impact relative to its cost. Scenic River and NRA are in 2nd and 3rd place, with low Devils Jumps Reservoir way at the bottom of the list.

B. The political situation

Early in February, Senator Gore in a Senate speech enthusiastically supported a national park for the Big South Fork and included in the Congressional Record the over 50 organizations that have endorsed TCWP's statement of goals*(the list has since grown and now also includes National Audubon, as well as Sierra Club, Wilderness Soc., etc.etc.). However, after the Report was published, Sen. Gore realized that land held by his children is involved in the National Park proposal. Since the Senator has a fine record for fighting conflict of interests, he obviously could not put himself in a position of being accused of same, and therefore recused himself from "participating in the determination pro or con of the use of these resources." *You may wish to thank him.

Senator Baker, a member of the Public Works Committee which requested the Report, is obviously in a powerful political position on the fate of the South Fork. You should definitely let him know your feelings on the subject, particularly on the question of dams versus preservation of the river and its surrounding area. TCWP will make a more detailed analysis of the alternatives; at this point we lean toward the national park proposal (perhaps slightly modified) as giving not only the most reliable preservation of the area but also by far the best economic benefit to the region.

Senator Cooper, leading minority member of the Public Works Committee, will be hearing from our Kentucky friends with whom we are in frequent contact. Our Kentucky liaison is Paul Harbour, 1545 Alexandria Drive, 1A, Lexington, Ky. 40504.

3. TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS: CONSERVATION VICTORIES AND DEFEATS

A. Hatchie River added to Tennessee Scenic Rivers System.

Both Houses passed a bill sponsored by Repr. Walker (R., Crockett, Haywood) which designates the Hatchie in West Tennessee as a Class-I river and sets boundaries for Class-I swamp rivers (such as the Hatchie) between 200 and 1000 ft from the usual banks on each side. (Note: boundaries for Class-I gorge rivers remain unaffected -- see Newsletter No. 29, item 3.)

B. Natural Areas Legislation loses by one vote.

As reported in Newsletter No. 29, the "Scenic-Historic Preservation Act of 1970", H.B. 1197 sponsored by Repr. Ashe (R., Knox) passed the House on January 26 with a vote of 55: 16. The Senate sponsor, Sen. Bruce (D., Shelby) brought the bill to the floor February 12 where the vote was 14 in favor, 8 opposed, not enough for passage (constitutional majority requires more than half the Senate membership, i.e. 17 or more). Against almost insurmountable odds, Sen. Bruce managed to bring the bill up a second time in the very short time remaining. This time the vote in favor was 16:8, one short of success. Senator Bruce and Repr. Ashe deserve our expressions of gratitude. It is hoped that the bill, with revisions, will be re-introduced next year.

C. Scenic Rivers Division never came to Senate floor

A bill, sponsored by Sen. Brown Ayres and Repr. Jensen (both R., Knox) which would have created, within the Dept. of Conservation a Division of Scenic Rivers with its own full-time professional Director, passed the House 56:0. Although Sen. Ayres twice got it out of Committee, it was not put on the calendar for full Senate action.

D. Mixed success on other bills and resolutions

Among resolutions passed: HJR 157 (Davis, D., Hamilton), directing the Dept. of Conservation to establish a program for the designation of scenic landmark areas); HJR 135 (Krieg, R.,

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Knox), requiring the Stream Pollution Board to study laws of other states; HJR 234 (Elkins, Ashe, Cooke, R., Anderson and Knox), congratulating Dr. and Mrs. Wm. L. Russell for their work in conservation and requesting the Governor to name one of them to the next vacancy on the Conservation Commission. The only one of a number of water pollution measures that passed was a bill by Ashe et al. increasing the membership of the Stream Pollution Control Board. Two bills introduced by Repr. Bible (R. Sullivan) did not get to the floor: one would have created a Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality; the other, a Tennessee Trails System. Both will probably be reintroduced next year.

4. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES

A. Timber Supply bill defeated

A coalition of national conservation organizations, helped by many smaller groups throughout the country (including TCWP), won a resounding victory when the Timber Supply bill, H.R. 12025, was rejected upon reaching the floor of the House for the second time. On the first occasion, February 6, the bill was temporarily withdrawn when proponents found they lacked the votes needed for passage. Subsequently, timber industry lobbyists re-doubled their efforts; and conservationists were shocked when the Administration officially endorsed the bill with statements by Secretaries Hardin and Romney. However, Congressmen had been flooded by grass-roots mail against H.R. 12025, and, when the bill came to the floor for the second time on February 26, the House voted to reject the rule under which it was to be considered. Although the vote was on the rule, rather than on the bill itself, the practical effect of the vote was to kill H.R. 12025, since it was not recommitted to Committee for further consideration.

The vote on the rule was a decisive one, with 228 against and 150 for. However, among Tennessee's nine Representatives, only 2 voted "nay": Congressmen Duncan and Evins who, we know, heard from very many of their constituents in the second and fourth districts. These gentlemen will appreciate a note of thanks -- even if it is only a sentence or two. Voting for the rule were Tennessee's Blanton, Fulton, Jones, Kuykendall, and Quillen; Brock was "paired for." The floor fight against H.R. 12025 was effectively led by the following bi-partisan group of Congressmen: Dingell (D., Mich.), Saylor (R., Pa.), Teague (R., Calif.), McCloskey (R., Calif.), Reuss (D., Wis.), Udall (D., Ariz.). (Note: for the record it must be stated that one knowledgeable member of TCWP objected to TCWP's position opposing H.R. 12025. His reasons for supporting the bill are set forth in a detailed letter which arrived after the last Newsletter went to press. It is available to interested members on request.)

B. TCWP opposes Alaska pipeline

TCWP has sent the following message to President Nixon: "We support the conservation organizations who are urging that the proposed oil pipeline in Alaska not be licensed at this time and that you require further consideration of the potentially serious environmental damage that the presently planned line might cause."

C. Sonic booms increasingly threaten wilderness

The Transportation Subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will hear public witnesses in late April on President Nixon's proposal to provide $275,000,000 in the coming fiscal year for further work on the SST. The operational SST will be required by law to break the sound-barrier over uninhabited areas, which will increasingly mean public lands, particularly national forests. If you wish to express an opinion about the proposed SST funds, write to Rep. E. Boland or Senator John Stennis, House and Senate Office Bldgs., respectively, Washington, D.C. 20515 or 20510, and ask that your letter be included in the hearing record. A petition opposing loosing of sonic booms over wilderness, national park and forest areas is available, and you can add your name and address by sending them to TCWP on a postcard.

D. Chattooga may be added to national Wild and Scenic Rivers System

The beautiful Chattooga River in Georgia and S. Carolina is proposed in a U.S. Forest Service report for inclusion in the national system. Alternative uses (dam projects) are also discussed in the report. Hearings were held at Clayton, Georgia on March 17, and you can still

express your opinion for the record by writing to Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Suite 800, 1720 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30309.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION DAY

Last fall, Senator Nelson and Congressman Paul McCloskey proposed a day of Environmental Action, April 22. Since then, numerous groups have sprung up throughout the country, including all the major cities in our state. The Tennessee General Assembly passed Senate Joint Resolution No. 111, by Senators Lamar Baker, Berry, and Ayres recognizing April 22 as "Environment Day." We shall not attempt to outline the many activities which have already received much publicity through the general news media, but are here summarizing only TCWP's participation.

A. A pictorial display with handouts on the Big South Fork will be prepared and made available for environmental "fairs" in Oak Ridge, Knoxville, Lexington, Ky., and Louisville, Ky. It will be used for general circulation later.

B. At the "fair" to be held at the Oak Ridge High School, April 22, TCWP will, in addition, have displays on the Obed and on greenbelts, as well as slide shows. The displays will also be exhibited at U.T. in Knoxville.

C. In a forum on Appalachian coal versus nuclear power (ORHS, April 22) TCWP Director W. L. Russell will be one of the main panelists.

D. Outings to Morgan Forest and greenbelt trails will be sponsored by TCWP on weekends adjacent to April 22 (see 11.B and C).

E. A newspaper article will be prepared on open space preservation in Oak Ridge.

April 22 should not be thought of as merely one day set aside to think about the environment but as marking the beginning of a concerted effort to further environmental understanding. For more information write to Environmental Action, Inc., Room 200, 2000 P Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

6. OVERTON PARK INJUNCTION DENIED

At a hearing held February 26 in U.S. District Court, conservationists were denied a temporary injunction to halt the construction of I-40 through Overton Park. In his ruling, the judge stated that all appropriate administrative actions were taken by the Department of Transportation. A notice of appeal has been filed by conservationists (Citizens to Preserve Overton Park, joined by the Sierra Club and National Audubon), who feel that there is inadequate evidence that consideration was given to alternate routes less damaging to park values. Citizens to Preserve Overton Park express their gratitude to TCWP members who sent financial aid following the appeal in Newsletter No. 29.

7. TENNESSEE WILDERNESS ACTION COUNCIL (TWAC) REPORT

Because of conflicting job responsibilities, Ken Warren resigned from the TWAC chairmanship early in February. We are fortunate that Jeanne Carver, 4216 Walpine Lane, Knoxville (525-9888), has agreed to serve as the new chairman. We also have new 2nd and 4th District Representatives, namely McKinlay Zimmerman of Knoxville (584-0554), and Mrs. H. E. (Marjorie) Collier of Tullahoma (455-4186), herewith completing our roster for all nine Districts.

A brochure describing TWAC has been printed and distributed to a large number of organizations throughout the state. It is available on request. Anyone who has contact with or knows of any group that might be interested in joining the TWAC communications network, should contact Jeanne Carver or his own TWAC District Representative.

The Tennessee Environmental Council, recently organized in Nashville, will not be in conflict with TWAC since it will probably concern itself mainly with pollution problems, while TWAC's chief emphasis will be on preservation of wilderness and open spaces. Bob Miller is TWAC's representative to the Tennessee Environmental Council.

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8. OAK RIDGE TRAIL AND GREENBELTS COMMITTEE

The committee has prepared a report shortly to be presented to City Council. Activities reported include (a) development of trails, (b) preparation of a greenbelt and trails map, (c) planning for signs to mark greenbelt accesses, (d) conducting of public hikes in the past and future, (e) investigating the possibility of federal aid for and national recognition of the trail system. The committee is asking City Council to investigate (a) unauthorized private cutting of trees in City-owned greenbelts, and (b) the need for marking the City boundary line.

TCWP endorses and urges creation of an Environmental Quality Advisory Board, one of whose main functions would be to advise City Council and the Regional Planning Commission on matters concerning open spaces.

About 14 TCWP members attended the full Planning Commission meeting March 26 and helped defeat a proposed change in zoning for a 3-acre parcel between Fairbanks Road and the Turnpike (Ernie's Creek vicinity).

9. TO READ AND WRITE FOR

A. We have several copies of the Department of Conservation's "Tennessee's Scenic Rivers: A Progress Report". These are available on request.

B. The July 16 issue of The Balance, a publication of the BOR's Mid-Continent Regional Office, is devoted to an excellent 5½-page discussion of flood-plain planning. "Rivers will use their flood plain .... By restricting the use of flood-prone land, a community can work with nature and lessen the need for costly control structures. At the same time, badly needed beauty and recreation can be provided..." We have requested a large number of copies which the BOR has kindly provided. If you know of someone who would profit from reading this pamphlet, please send us his address.

C. Starting March 7, The Saturday Review is publishing a new monthly supplement entitled "Environment and the Quality of Life".

10. DUES NOTICE; MEMBERSHIP

In one recent one-month period of this new year, we added 60 new members (109 total new in 1970), including our 13th life member, T. W. Comer of Nashville. However, about 120 of our old members have not yet paid their 1970 dues. We are confident that this is an oversight in most cases and are enclosing a second billing if you are delinquent. Please take care of this right away, or your Newsletters will have to be discontinued.

Brochures describing TCWP are available for giving to potentially interested friends. Please request these forms from us; or furnish names and addresses of prospective members to the Treasurer, Fred Sweeton, 334 Louisiana Avenue, Oak Ridge 37830, 483-3379, or the Secretary, Jeanne Carver, 4216 Walpine Lane, Knoxville 37912, 525-9888.

11. OUTINGS and EVENTS

TCWP members and friends have a large number of outings and events to choose from in the next few weeks. Following a description of some of these, you will find a summary calendar to help you make plans.

A. Trails Seminar, Montgomery Bell State Park, April 11

This all-day event is sponsored by the Tennessee Trails Association with the assistance of the Dept. of Conservation. The program will deal with the steps required in developing a state-wide trail system. Representatives of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, as well as officers of national and state citizen trail associations will participate in panel discussions. Two films will be shown. Specific trail plans and trail legislation will be discussed. The seminar will start at 9:30 a.m.

and end at 4:30 p.m. Overnight accommodations in the Park are available by reservation (double room $9-$10). Montgomery Bell is just west of Nashville.

B. Wildflower Hikes, Morgan Forest, April 18, 19

TCWP has in the past sponsored hikes in Morgan Forest which we believe should be preserved as a natural area. The upcoming outings there are cosponsored by TTA, TCWP, and EACOR (Environmental Action Council of Oak Ridge). There will be three hikes on Saturday going to different parts of the Forest -- one long (all day, starting 9:30) and two short (2 hours each, starting 10:00 and 1:30). The single Sunday hike starts at 1:30. Assembly point for all hikes is at the caretaker's residence, Flat Fork Valley. (Take Tenn. 62 connecting Oak Ridge and Wartburg and turn north at the State Honor Farm, which is 5.5 mi. west of the Rt. 116 turnoff and just east of Wartburg. Caretaker's residence is about 4 miles in on this road.) Wear sturdy shoes. For the long hike take a lunch and canteen. Convenient camping places are available just beyond the caretaker's residence for anyone wishing to camp Friday and/or Saturday nights. For further information contact Donald E. Todd, P.O. Box 35, Wartburg, Tenn. 37887.

C. Oak Ridge Trail outings, April 19, 26

In addition to the Delaware Trail, completed by TCWP last spring, our trails committee has partially developed three segments of the proposed Black Oak Ridge trail that will eventually extend the length of the northern greenbelt. Even though portions of these segments are not definitively laid out, we have decided to show them to all interested people on the Sundays preceding and following Environmental Action Day, in order to stimulate interest in permanent preservation of greenbelts. On each of these Sundays there will be two hikes, one in the eastern and one in the western section of the town.

April 19 - (1) East from Illinois Ave., ca. 3 mi. round trip. Meet 2 p.m. Hilltop Market parking area (at top of Illinois Avenue).
(2) Delaware Trail, 2 mi. round trip. Meet 2 p.m. in Outer Drive Shopping Center.

April 26 - (1) Same as No. 1 on April 19.
(2) West from Georgia Ave., 5 mi. round trip. Meet 2 p.m. in Outer Drive shopping center. The first part of this hike will use a portion of the Delaware Trail.

Please remember, the trails are not yet perfect, so bear with us. Interested members willing to serve as guides for one or two of these outings should contact Bob Lefler, 482-3302, or Lily Rose Claiborne, 483-3250. Hikes to acquaint prospective leaders with the trails will be held April 12.

D. Clear Fork Floats, April 25, 26

The Clear Fork is an integral part of the Big South Fork system whose preservation has so vitally concerned us (see 2, above). Because we feel it is important to make many people aware of the great beauty of the system, we plan a series of outings in that region this year, of which this is the first. It is co-sponsored by TSRA, ETWWC, TCWP, and EACOR. On both days, there will be two floats, one for novices, one for experts. The easy one goes from Peters Bridge to Brewster Bridge (6 miles) and has nothing harder than a few riffles. It will include a short side-trip hike to see a beautiful natural arch. The whitewater trip goes from Brewster Bridge to Burnt Mill Bridge (10.3 miles) and has several class-II and a couple of class-III rapids. Participants for both trips on both days should assemble at Brewster Bridge, which is the Tenn. 52 crossing of the Clear Fork (12 mi. W of US 27 at Elgin, or 16 mi. E of US 127 at Jamestown). Those planning to take the whitewater trip should be ready to float at 11 a.m. Eastern time; those for the easy float should be ready at 11 a.m. to join the car caravan to Peters Bridge. No one will be permitted on either trip without a life jacket. For the whitewater trip no more than two persons per canoe are allowed. For further information, contact Tom Berg, 395 East Drive, or Reid Gryder, 116 Sanford Lane, both in Oak Ridge 37830; or Bill Mitchum, 1623 Otter Creek Road, Nashville 37215.

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E. Virgin Falls Hike, May 2 (alternate date, in case of rain, is May 22)
On April 19 of last year, we sponsored an outing to Virgin Falls in Scott's Gulf in order to stimulate interest in the preservation of this unique natural area. Since then, as reported in our last Newsletter, Bowaters Southern Paper Co. has set aside Virgin Falls as one of its "pocket wildernesses", and has developed a foot trail within the area. TCWP is participating in the dedication hike. Virgin Falls comes down the north slope of Scott's Gulf, a spectacular valley, almost 900 feet deep. The 120-ft high waterfall emerges from a cave and disappears into a hole in the ground. Several caves and sink holes are nearby. The trail to the falls is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, the last 1/3 being a loop route. It passes Sheeps Cave and at one point offers a scenic overlook over the Caney Fork River. The hike is an easy one but has a net elevation change of 860 feet. Because the trail is freshly cut and still largely bare, it could become slippery during and shortly after a rainfall. For this reason, we have provided an alternate date for this outing in case May 2 is rainy (rain on May 1 won't matter).

Meet 10:00 a.m. EDT (this is 9:00 a.m. CDT) in De Rossett, which is on US 70, 17 mi. W of Crossville. Meeting place is the junction with a blacktop road going south from US 70 about 1/4 mi. west of the De Rossett sign and the old railroad station. The corner bears signs "Scott's Gulf" and "Fire Tower". (From the US 127-Crossville exit of I-40 to meeting place, driving time is 35 minutes). Cars will be consolidated there before driving the additional 8 miles to the trail head. Wear sturdy shoes, bring lunch and a canteen. For further information, consult Charles Klabunde, 219 E. Vanderbilt Dr., Oak Ridge, 483-8055.

F. Audubon Wildlife Films coming to Knoxville
The Greater Knoxville Area Audubon Chapter will sponsor a 1970-71 series of Wildlife Films. Write to Wildlife Films, P.O. Box 1213, Knoxville, Tenn. 37901 for details.

G. Summarizing calendar
April 11 - Trails Seminar, Montgomery Bell State Park (see 11.A)
April 18, 19 - Upper Duck River float (easy) and camping. (Due to conservationists' appeals, funds are temporarily frozen for a dam that would destroy this river.) Sponsored by TSRA*
April 18, 19 - Morgan Forest Wildflower hikes (see 11.B).
April 19 - Oak Ridge trails, two hikes (see 11.C)
April 25, 26 - Clear Fork, two floats each day (see 11.D)
April 26 - Spring Creek float (difficult). This outing to one of the Class-I rivers of our state scenic rivers system is sponsored by TSRA*
April 26 - Oak Ridge trails, two hikes (see 11.C)
May 2 - Virgin Falls hike (rain date is May 22) (see 11.E).
May 16, 17 - Obed float (Class-III rapids). This outing to our most magnificent river is sponsored by TSRA*
May 16, 17 - Big South Fork float (mostly easy). Sponsored by Cumberland Chapter of Sierra Club. Contact Paul Harbour, 1545 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, Ky. 40504.
(Note: If possible, TCWP will co-sponsor the Obed and Big S. Fork floats, in which case you will receive more detailed information in the next Newsletter).
*For information on TSRA-sponsored trips, contact Bill Mitchum, 1623 Otter Creek Road, Nashville, Tenn. 37215.

REMINDER: Don't forget to write, wire, call concerning the issues discussed in this Newsletter (see stars in the margin)!

Lee Russell, Editor
130 Tabor Road
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830
482-2153

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C. Powerline crossing

As reported in Newsletter No. 27, TCWP alerted the Dept. of Interior to TVA's plans to cross Obed and Daddys Creek with a 500-Kv powerline without prior notification of Interior, in violation of Sec. 7(c) of P.L. 90-542. The Atlanta Office of BOR was called in to study the problem and, as a result, TVA has agreed to prevent environmental damage by the following steps: (a) the new line will be located entirely within an existing right-of-way already containing a lower voltage line; (b) towers will not be visible from the river; (c) no vegetation will be removed where the right-of-way traverses the gorges; (d) the line will be strung by helicopter to avoid damage by heavy ground equipment; and (e) the vegetation in the new and old rights-of-way will be permitted to continue its natural growth. BOR concludes that, with these provisions, the new line will have "no direct and adverse effect on the values for which the Obed River and Daddys Creek might be designated for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System."

2. BIG SOUTH FORK: INTERAGENCY REPORT IS PUBLISHED

A. Comparison of alternatives

The three-agency report on alternative uses for the Big South Fork, authorized under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1968, was sent to Congress toward the middle of February. Several earlier Newsletters have informed you of TCWP's great involvement in this study.

The alternatives which are discussed--without recommendations--in the Report are as follows: (a) Acceleration of existing federal, state and local programs. (b) Reservoirs alone, namely a high and low Devils Jumps (flooding to 1220 and 1124 ft elevations, respectively), Helenwood, and New River. (c) National Scenic River, without and with reservoirs. (d) National Recreation Area (NRA) without and with reservoirs. (e) National Forest, either alone, or with high or low Devils Jumps. (f) National Park. Some of these alternatives are rejected in the Report. Thus, the Helenwood and New River dams do not have sufficient benefits to be economically justifiable. The combination of National Scenic River with Devils Jumps reservoirs (i.e., above and below) is found incompatible. And the NRA with either of the Devils Jumps projects would not meet the mandatory criteria for establishment of an NRA "and would destroy a unique natural resource."

Among the remaining "without reservoir" alternatives, we have compared National Scenic River (31,360 acres), NRA (210,000 acres), National Forest (469,000 acres), and National Park (120,000 acres). The following comments may be made. National Forest would bring intensive timber management, probably clear-cutting in many areas. Timbering would extend even to within the gorges, where "selective cutting would be used ... to maintain a healthy and attractive forest cover for maximum recreational use ..." Emphasis on maximum use is also found elsewhere. The great bulk of National Forest land acquisition would not include mineral rights, so private mining would proceed. The NRA, while putting less emphasis on timber harvest than does the National Forest, would still permit it (though specifying "selective"). Mineral exploration and leasing on a limited basis would likewise be allowed. Hunting is permitted. Emphasis on large-scale recreational use results in more proposals for big recreation developments (campgrounds) in areas that now have wilderness character (No Business Cr., Station Camp Cr.). A National Scenic River, which could be administered by the Secretary of Interior and/or Agriculture, does not provide as much area for protection as do the other proposals (barely rim-to-rim). In lands for which easements only were obtained (the major portion), mining activities might not be completely controllable. Hunting would be permitted.

The National Park proposal gives the best preservation to the entire area. Wilderness designation for the gorges could be written into the Act creating a Park. The Park proposal's main drawback, at present, is that it contains no lands in Kentucky, since these are already authorized in the purchase boundary for the Daniel Boone National Forest. However, the study states that some of these lands would qualify for NP status and an extension of the presently proposed boundary could presumably be requested by Congress.

A comparison of financial figures provided in the report, shows the National Park to have by far the greatest local economic impact relative to its cost. Scenic River and NRA are in 2nd and 3rd place, with low Devils Jumps Reservoir way at the bottom of the list.

B. The political situation

Early in February, Senator Gore in a Senate speech enthusiastically supported a national park for the Big South Fork and included in the Congressional Record the over 50 organizations that have endorsed TCWP's statement of goals*(the list has since grown and now also includes National Audubon, as well as Sierra Club, Wilderness Soc., etc.etc.). However, after the Report was published, Sen. Gore realized that land held by his children is involved in the National Park proposal. Since the Senator has a fine record for fighting conflict of interests, he obviously could not put himself in a position of being accused of same, and therefore recused himself from "participating in the determination pro or con of the use of these resources." *You may wish to thank him.

Senator Baker, a member of the Public Works Committee which requested the Report, is obviously in a powerful political position on the fate of the South Fork. You should definitely let him know your feelings on the subject, particularly on the question of dams versus preservation of the river and its surrounding area. TCWP will make a more detailed analysis of the alternatives; at this point we lean toward the national park proposal (perhaps slightly modified) as giving not only the most reliable preservation of the area but also by far the best economic benefit to the region.

Senator Cooper, leading minority member of the Public Works Committee, will be hearing from our Kentucky friends with whom we are in frequent contact. Our Kentucky liaison is Paul Harbour, 1545 Alexandria Drive, 1A, Lexington, Ky. 40504.

3. TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS: CONSERVATION VICTORIES AND DEFEATS

A. Hatchie River added to Tennessee Scenic Rivers System.

Both Houses passed a bill sponsored by Repr. Walker (R., Crockett, Haywood) which designates the Hatchie in West Tennessee as a Class-I river and sets boundaries for Class-I swamp rivers (such as the Hatchie) between 200 and 1000 ft from the usual banks on each side. (Note: boundaries for Class-I gorge rivers remain unaffected -- see Newsletter No. 29, item 3.)

B. Natural Areas Legislation loses by one vote.

As reported in Newsletter No. 29, the "Scenic-Historic Preservation Act of 1970", H.B. 1197 sponsored by Repr. Ashe (R., Knox) passed the House on January 26 with a vote of 55: 16. The Senate sponsor, Sen. Bruce (D., Shelby) brought the bill to the floor February 12 where the vote was 14 in favor, 8 opposed, not enough for passage (constitutional majority requires more than half the Senate membership, i.e. 17 or more). Against almost insurmountable odds, Sen. Bruce managed to bring the bill up a second time in the very short time remaining. This time the vote in favor was 16:8, one short of success. Senator Bruce and Repr. Ashe deserve our expressions of gratitude. It is hoped that the bill, with revisions, will be re-introduced next year.

C. Scenic Rivers Division never came to Senate floor

A bill, sponsored by Sen. Brown Ayres and Repr. Jensen (both R., Knox) which would have created, within the Dept. of Conservation a Division of Scenic Rivers with its own full-time professional Director, passed the House 56:0. Although Sen. Ayres twice got it out of Committee, it was not put on the calendar for full Senate action.

D. Mixed success on other bills and resolutions

Among resolutions passed: HJR 157 (Davis, D., Hamilton), directing the Dept. of Conservation to establish a program for the designation of scenic landmark areas); HJR 135 (Krieg, R.,

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Knox), requiring the Stream Pollution Board to study laws of other states; HJR 234 (Elkins, Ashe, Cooke, R., Anderson and Knox), congratulating Dr. and Mrs. Wm. L. Russell for their work in conservation and requesting the Governor to name one of them to the next vacancy on the Conservation Commission. The only one of a number of water pollution measures that passed was a bill by Ashe et al. increasing the membership of the Stream Pollution Control Board. Two bills introduced by Repr. Bible (R. Sullivan) did not get to the floor: one would have created a Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality; the other, a Tennessee Trails System. Both will probably be reintroduced next year.

4. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES

A. Timber Supply bill defeated

A coalition of national conservation organizations, helped by many smaller groups throughout the country (including TCWP), won a resounding victory when the Timber Supply bill, H.R. 12025, was rejected upon reaching the floor of the House for the second time. On the first occasion, February 6, the bill was temporarily withdrawn when proponents found they lacked the votes needed for passage. Subsequently, timber industry lobbyists re-doubled their efforts; and conservationists were shocked when the Administration officially endorsed the bill with statements by Secretaries Hardin and Romney. However, Congressmen had been flooded by grass-roots mail against H.R. 12025, and, when the bill came to the floor for the second time on February 26, the House voted to reject the rule under which it was to be considered. Although the vote was on the rule, rather than on the bill itself, the practical effect of the vote was to kill H.R. 12025, since it was not recommitted to Committee for further consideration.

The vote on the rule was a decisive one, with 228 against and 150 for. However, among Tennessee's nine Representatives, only 2 voted "nay": Congressmen Duncan and Evins who, we know, heard from very many of their constituents in the second and fourth districts. These gentlemen will appreciate a note of thanks -- even if it is only a sentence or two. Voting for the rule were Tennessee's Blanton, Fulton, Jones, Kuykendall, and Quillen; Brock was "paired for." The floor fight against H.R. 12025 was effectively led by the following bi-partisan group of Congressmen: Dingell (D., Mich.), Saylor (R., Pa.), Teague (R., Calif.), McCloskey (R., Calif.), Reuss (D., Wis.), Udall (D., Ariz.). (Note: for the record it must be stated that one knowledgeable member of TCWP objected to TCWP's position opposing H.R. 12025. His reasons for supporting the bill are set forth in a detailed letter which arrived after the last Newsletter went to press. It is available to interested members on request.)

B. TCWP opposes Alaska pipeline

TCWP has sent the following message to President Nixon: "We support the conservation organizations who are urging that the proposed oil pipeline in Alaska not be licensed at this time and that you require further consideration of the potentially serious environmental damage that the presently planned line might cause."

C. Sonic booms increasingly threaten wilderness

The Transportation Subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will hear public witnesses in late April on President Nixon's proposal to provide $275,000,000 in the coming fiscal year for further work on the SST. The operational SST will be required by law to break the sound-barrier over uninhabited areas, which will increasingly mean public lands, particularly national forests. If you wish to express an opinion about the proposed SST funds, write to Rep. E. Boland or Senator John Stennis, House and Senate Office Bldgs., respectively, Washington, D.C. 20515 or 20510, and ask that your letter be included in the hearing record. A petition opposing loosing of sonic booms over wilderness, national park and forest areas is available, and you can add your name and address by sending them to TCWP on a postcard.

D. Chattooga may be added to national Wild and Scenic Rivers System

The beautiful Chattooga River in Georgia and S. Carolina is proposed in a U.S. Forest Service report for inclusion in the national system. Alternative uses (dam projects) are also discussed in the report. Hearings were held at Clayton, Georgia on March 17, and you can still

express your opinion for the record by writing to Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Suite 800, 1720 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30309.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION DAY

Last fall, Senator Nelson and Congressman Paul McCloskey proposed a day of Environmental Action, April 22. Since then, numerous groups have sprung up throughout the country, including all the major cities in our state. The Tennessee General Assembly passed Senate Joint Resolution No. 111, by Senators Lamar Baker, Berry, and Ayres recognizing April 22 as "Environment Day." We shall not attempt to outline the many activities which have already received much publicity through the general news media, but are here summarizing only TCWP's participation.

A. A pictorial display with handouts on the Big South Fork will be prepared and made available for environmental "fairs" in Oak Ridge, Knoxville, Lexington, Ky., and Louisville, Ky. It will be used for general circulation later.

B. At the "fair" to be held at the Oak Ridge High School, April 22, TCWP will, in addition, have displays on the Obed and on greenbelts, as well as slide shows. The displays will also be exhibited at U.T. in Knoxville.

C. In a forum on Appalachian coal versus nuclear power (ORHS, April 22) TCWP Director W. L. Russell will be one of the main panelists.

D. Outings to Morgan Forest and greenbelt trails will be sponsored by TCWP on weekends adjacent to April 22 (see 11.B and C).

E. A newspaper article will be prepared on open space preservation in Oak Ridge.

April 22 should not be thought of as merely one day set aside to think about the environment but as marking the beginning of a concerted effort to further environmental understanding. For more information write to Environmental Action, Inc., Room 200, 2000 P Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

6. OVERTON PARK INJUNCTION DENIED

At a hearing held February 26 in U.S. District Court, conservationists were denied a temporary injunction to halt the construction of I-40 through Overton Park. In his ruling, the judge stated that all appropriate administrative actions were taken by the Department of Transportation. A notice of appeal has been filed by conservationists (Citizens to Preserve Overton Park, joined by the Sierra Club and National Audubon), who feel that there is inadequate evidence that consideration was given to alternate routes less damaging to park values. Citizens to Preserve Overton Park express their gratitude to TCWP members who sent financial aid following the appeal in Newsletter No. 29.

7. TENNESSEE WILDERNESS ACTION COUNCIL (TWAC) REPORT

Because of conflicting job responsibilities, Ken Warren resigned from the TWAC chairmanship early in February. We are fortunate that Jeanne Carver, 4216 Walpine Lane, Knoxville (525-9888), has agreed to serve as the new chairman. We also have new 2nd and 4th District Representatives, namely McKinlay Zimmerman of Knoxville (584-0554), and Mrs. H. E. (Marjorie) Collier of Tullahoma (455-4186), herewith completing our roster for all nine Districts.

A brochure describing TWAC has been printed and distributed to a large number of organizations throughout the state. It is available on request. Anyone who has contact with or knows of any group that might be interested in joining the TWAC communications network, should contact Jeanne Carver or his own TWAC District Representative.

The Tennessee Environmental Council, recently organized in Nashville, will not be in conflict with TWAC since it will probably concern itself mainly with pollution problems, while TWAC's chief emphasis will be on preservation of wilderness and open spaces. Bob Miller is TWAC's representative to the Tennessee Environmental Council.

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8. OAK RIDGE TRAIL AND GREENBELTS COMMITTEE

The committee has prepared a report shortly to be presented to City Council. Activities reported include (a) development of trails, (b) preparation of a greenbelt and trails map, (c) planning for signs to mark greenbelt accesses, (d) conducting of public hikes in the past and future, (e) investigating the possibility of federal aid for and national recognition of the trail system. The committee is asking City Council to investigate (a) unauthorized private cutting of trees in City-owned greenbelts, and (b) the need for marking the City boundary line.

TCWP endorses and urges creation of an Environmental Quality Advisory Board, one of whose main functions would be to advise City Council and the Regional Planning Commission on matters concerning open spaces.

About 14 TCWP members attended the full Planning Commission meeting March 26 and helped defeat a proposed change in zoning for a 3-acre parcel between Fairbanks Road and the Turnpike (Ernie's Creek vicinity).

9. TO READ AND WRITE FOR

A. We have several copies of the Department of Conservation's "Tennessee's Scenic Rivers: A Progress Report". These are available on request.

B. The July 16 issue of The Balance, a publication of the BOR's Mid-Continent Regional Office, is devoted to an excellent 5½-page discussion of flood-plain planning. "Rivers will use their flood plain .... By restricting the use of flood-prone land, a community can work with nature and lessen the need for costly control structures. At the same time, badly needed beauty and recreation can be provided..." We have requested a large number of copies which the BOR has kindly provided. If you know of someone who would profit from reading this pamphlet, please send us his address.

C. Starting March 7, The Saturday Review is publishing a new monthly supplement entitled "Environment and the Quality of Life".

10. DUES NOTICE; MEMBERSHIP

In one recent one-month period of this new year, we added 60 new members (109 total new in 1970), including our 13th life member, T. W. Comer of Nashville. However, about 120 of our old members have not yet paid their 1970 dues. We are confident that this is an oversight in most cases and are enclosing a second billing if you are delinquent. Please take care of this right away, or your Newsletters will have to be discontinued.

Brochures describing TCWP are available for giving to potentially interested friends. Please request these forms from us; or furnish names and addresses of prospective members to the Treasurer, Fred Sweeton, 334 Louisiana Avenue, Oak Ridge 37830, 483-3379, or the Secretary, Jeanne Carver, 4216 Walpine Lane, Knoxville 37912, 525-9888.

11. OUTINGS and EVENTS

TCWP members and friends have a large number of outings and events to choose from in the next few weeks. Following a description of some of these, you will find a summary calendar to help you make plans.

A. Trails Seminar, Montgomery Bell State Park, April 11

This all-day event is sponsored by the Tennessee Trails Association with the assistance of the Dept. of Conservation. The program will deal with the steps required in developing a state-wide trail system. Representatives of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, as well as officers of national and state citizen trail associations will participate in panel discussions. Two films will be shown. Specific trail plans and trail legislation will be discussed. The seminar will start at 9:30 a.m.

and end at 4:30 p.m. Overnight accommodations in the Park are available by reservation (double room $9-$10). Montgomery Bell is just west of Nashville.

B. Wildflower Hikes, Morgan Forest, April 18, 19

TCWP has in the past sponsored hikes in Morgan Forest which we believe should be preserved as a natural area. The upcoming outings there are cosponsored by TTA, TCWP, and EACOR (Environmental Action Council of Oak Ridge). There will be three hikes on Saturday going to different parts of the Forest -- one long (all day, starting 9:30) and two short (2 hours each, starting 10:00 and 1:30). The single Sunday hike starts at 1:30. Assembly point for all hikes is at the caretaker's residence, Flat Fork Valley. (Take Tenn. 62 connecting Oak Ridge and Wartburg and turn north at the State Honor Farm, which is 5.5 mi. west of the Rt. 116 turnoff and just east of Wartburg. Caretaker's residence is about 4 miles in on this road.) Wear sturdy shoes. For the long hike take a lunch and canteen. Convenient camping places are available just beyond the caretaker's residence for anyone wishing to camp Friday and/or Saturday nights. For further information contact Donald E. Todd, P.O. Box 35, Wartburg, Tenn. 37887.

C. Oak Ridge Trail outings, April 19, 26

In addition to the Delaware Trail, completed by TCWP last spring, our trails committee has partially developed three segments of the proposed Black Oak Ridge trail that will eventually extend the length of the northern greenbelt. Even though portions of these segments are not definitively laid out, we have decided to show them to all interested people on the Sundays preceding and following Environmental Action Day, in order to stimulate interest in permanent preservation of greenbelts. On each of these Sundays there will be two hikes, one in the eastern and one in the western section of the town.

April 19 - (1) East from Illinois Ave., ca. 3 mi. round trip. Meet 2 p.m. Hilltop Market parking area (at top of Illinois Avenue).
(2) Delaware Trail, 2 mi. round trip. Meet 2 p.m. in Outer Drive Shopping Center.

April 26 - (1) Same as No. 1 on April 19.
(2) West from Georgia Ave., 5 mi. round trip. Meet 2 p.m. in Outer Drive shopping center. The first part of this hike will use a portion of the Delaware Trail.

Please remember, the trails are not yet perfect, so bear with us. Interested members willing to serve as guides for one or two of these outings should contact Bob Lefler, 482-3302, or Lily Rose Claiborne, 483-3250. Hikes to acquaint prospective leaders with the trails will be held April 12.

D. Clear Fork Floats, April 25, 26

The Clear Fork is an integral part of the Big South Fork system whose preservation has so vitally concerned us (see 2, above). Because we feel it is important to make many people aware of the great beauty of the system, we plan a series of outings in that region this year, of which this is the first. It is co-sponsored by TSRA, ETWWC, TCWP, and EACOR. On both days, there will be two floats, one for novices, one for experts. The easy one goes from Peters Bridge to Brewster Bridge (6 miles) and has nothing harder than a few riffles. It will include a short side-trip hike to see a beautiful natural arch. The whitewater trip goes from Brewster Bridge to Burnt Mill Bridge (10.3 miles) and has several class-II and a couple of class-III rapids. Participants for both trips on both days should assemble at Brewster Bridge, which is the Tenn. 52 crossing of the Clear Fork (12 mi. W of US 27 at Elgin, or 16 mi. E of US 127 at Jamestown). Those planning to take the whitewater trip should be ready to float at 11 a.m. Eastern time; those for the easy float should be ready at 11 a.m. to join the car caravan to Peters Bridge. No one will be permitted on either trip without a life jacket. For the whitewater trip no more than two persons per canoe are allowed. For further information, contact Tom Berg, 395 East Drive, or Reid Gryder, 116 Sanford Lane, both in Oak Ridge 37830; or Bill Mitchum, 1623 Otter Creek Road, Nashville 37215.

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E. Virgin Falls Hike, May 2 (alternate date, in case of rain, is May 22)
On April 19 of last year, we sponsored an outing to Virgin Falls in Scott's Gulf in order to stimulate interest in the preservation of this unique natural area. Since then, as reported in our last Newsletter, Bowaters Southern Paper Co. has set aside Virgin Falls as one of its "pocket wildernesses", and has developed a foot trail within the area. TCWP is participating in the dedication hike. Virgin Falls comes down the north slope of Scott's Gulf, a spectacular valley, almost 900 feet deep. The 120-ft high waterfall emerges from a cave and disappears into a hole in the ground. Several caves and sink holes are nearby. The trail to the falls is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, the last 1/3 being a loop route. It passes Sheeps Cave and at one point offers a scenic overlook over the Caney Fork River. The hike is an easy one but has a net elevation change of 860 feet. Because the trail is freshly cut and still largely bare, it could become slippery during and shortly after a rainfall. For this reason, we have provided an alternate date for this outing in case May 2 is rainy (rain on May 1 won't matter).

Meet 10:00 a.m. EDT (this is 9:00 a.m. CDT) in De Rossett, which is on US 70, 17 mi. W of Crossville. Meeting place is the junction with a blacktop road going south from US 70 about 1/4 mi. west of the De Rossett sign and the old railroad station. The corner bears signs "Scott's Gulf" and "Fire Tower". (From the US 127-Crossville exit of I-40 to meeting place, driving time is 35 minutes). Cars will be consolidated there before driving the additional 8 miles to the trail head. Wear sturdy shoes, bring lunch and a canteen. For further information, consult Charles Klabunde, 219 E. Vanderbilt Dr., Oak Ridge, 483-8055.

F. Audubon Wildlife Films coming to Knoxville
The Greater Knoxville Area Audubon Chapter will sponsor a 1970-71 series of Wildlife Films. Write to Wildlife Films, P.O. Box 1213, Knoxville, Tenn. 37901 for details.

G. Summarizing calendar
April 11 - Trails Seminar, Montgomery Bell State Park (see 11.A)
April 18, 19 - Upper Duck River float (easy) and camping. (Due to conservationists' appeals, funds are temporarily frozen for a dam that would destroy this river.) Sponsored by TSRA*
April 18, 19 - Morgan Forest Wildflower hikes (see 11.B).
April 19 - Oak Ridge trails, two hikes (see 11.C)
April 25, 26 - Clear Fork, two floats each day (see 11.D)
April 26 - Spring Creek float (difficult). This outing to one of the Class-I rivers of our state scenic rivers system is sponsored by TSRA*
April 26 - Oak Ridge trails, two hikes (see 11.C)
May 2 - Virgin Falls hike (rain date is May 22) (see 11.E).
May 16, 17 - Obed float (Class-III rapids). This outing to our most magnificent river is sponsored by TSRA*
May 16, 17 - Big South Fork float (mostly easy). Sponsored by Cumberland Chapter of Sierra Club. Contact Paul Harbour, 1545 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, Ky. 40504.
(Note: If possible, TCWP will co-sponsor the Obed and Big S. Fork floats, in which case you will receive more detailed information in the next Newsletter).
*For information on TSRA-sponsored trips, contact Bill Mitchum, 1623 Otter Creek Road, Nashville, Tenn. 37215.

REMINDER: Don't forget to write, wire, call concerning the issues discussed in this Newsletter (see stars in the margin)!

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