

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 214

January 19, 1997



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14. ACTION SUMMARY

# No	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1B	Bear Creek landfill	Div. of Solid Waste (by 12/6)	"Permit should <u>not</u> be granted!"
2B	Obed flow meter maintenance	Paddling clubs	Ask if they'll contribute to maintenance cost
3B	Fall Creek Falls watershed	Sec. Babbitt; Gov. Sundquist	Send the preprinted postcards
5A	Scotts Gulf	Gov. Sundquist	"State should help acquire and protect area!"
6B	Cochran Creek acquisition	Foothills Conservancy	Send contribution (\$330 buys one acre)!"
7A	Proposed Ocoee Natl Recr. Area	Rep. Wamp's Office	"Please take lead in this project!"
8A	Fate of Columbia lands	TVA (by March 7)	"Chose Alternative D (resource-management area)"
11A	Knoxville Beltway proposals	Tn Dept. of Transportation	Attend Jan. 28 hearing (we recommend "orange" route)
11B	Turkey Creek wetland	(1) TDEC (by 2/15) (2) Michelle Neal	Comment on proposed permit issuance Add your name to petition to City
12A	TCWP's 1997 Annual Mig		Mark your calendar for Oct. 1 - Nov. 2
12B	1998 Political Guide	TCWP	Volunteer to help

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Pres. Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111
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Governor Don Sundquist
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Nashville, TN 37243-9872
615-741-2001; Fax 615-741-9711

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Sundquist
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist:
Phone: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-1264
e-mail: senator_frist.senate.gov
Local: 423-602-7977

Sen. Fred Thompson:
Phone: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3679
Local: 423-545-4253

Rep. Zach Wamp:
Phone: 202-225-3271
Local: 423-483-3366.

To call any other Representative or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121.

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

1. BIG SOUTH FORK

A. Big South Fork General Management Plan under way

Work on the General Management Plan for the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (BSFNRRRA) has got under way and will be under the direction of John Fisher from NPS Southeast Region. A couple of years ago, John did an outstanding job on the Obed GMP. Another piece of good news is that Don Forester, who was then Unit Manager at the Obed and is now Natural Resources chief at the BSFNRRRA, will be devoting much time to the new GMP. As was the case with the Obed, TCWP hopes to be able to contribute to the important process, which will begin to involve the public in mid-spring. The Management Objectives generated during a big two-day meeting in the summer of 1994 (where TCWP was among the participants), will be one of the basic documents for the GMP.

B. Oppose permit for landfill near Bear Creek

The Division of Solid Waste Management (DSWM), within the TN Dept of Environment & Conservation) is about to act on an application for a landfill in the watershed, and very close to, Bear Creek, a major tributary of the Big South Fork. The tract is in the Roberta locality in the Winfield area, where underground coal mines were operated in the early 1900s; some local residents still remember working in these mines. Thus, the landfill (which would accept industrial, construction, institutional, and farming wastes, among others, as well as dead animals) would be situated on top of abandoned mine shafts that could be subject to subsidence and/or contribute to the problem of landfill drainage getting into Bear Creek, and thus the Big South Fork. The engineering firm that has written the permit has however assured the state that the situation is "stable," and in view of this assurance the state has made a "preliminary determination that the proposal meets the applicable requirements."

There are quite a few questions about what is behind this. Neither the person who would operate the fill nor the man from whom the land would be bought seem to have the funds to pay a half-million dollars to the high-powered engineering firm that has done all the studies required for permit application. Who has financed the project, and why? Who has paid for the law suits that have already occurred?

The local community, the Scott County Commission and the National Park Service have all been in opposition, and so is an interagency group that has already obtained some state funds to cleanup acid mine waste in Bear Creek and is now trying to get additional federal funds for this purpose. McCreary County, north of Scott, is developing a drinking-water supply from the Big South Fork, just 10-15 miles downstream from where the polluted Bear Creek joins it. This water would probably be sold to Scott County (and, in turn, to the Park). Despite all of these considerations, the State (DSWM) at this time sees no grounds for denying the landfill permit.

There will, however, be a hearing on January 30, 6 p.m., at the Oneida Elementary School cafeteria. Written comments will be accepted until February 6. The following points need making: (a) Ask DSWM to demand an Environmental Impact Statement or (if this cannot be required of a private applicant) request that the applicant furnish at least the type and quality of information that would otherwise be contained in an EIS. (b) Ask DSWM whether it is considering the engineering firm, hired by the applicant, as unbiased in its statement that the situation vis a vis the old mineshafts is indeed "stable." (c) Ask that information concerning the financing of the engineering report and other permit-related activities be disclosed to the public.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Provide oral or written comments to Tom Tiesler, Director, Division of Solid Waste Management (5th Floor, L&C Tower, 401 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37243-1535; phone 615-532-0780). The deadline is Feb. 6, 4:30 p.m. You may indicate how much the Big South Fork means to you. Additionally, see the preceding paragraph for points that need making. Data pertaining to the proposal may be viewed at DSWM's Knoxville field office (call 423-594-6035 for details).

C. Black Bear reintroduction progress

In December, NPS solicited comments on a proposal to release three additional bears (fitted with radio collars) and their cubs in the BSFNRRRA. These will partially offset losses to the experimental population that occurred during 1996 (of the original 12 adults and 11 cubs, 6 trackable adults and 5 cubs remained). Among the useful information that has already been gained is the finding that all of the bears that were introduced in the winter remained in and around the park, while almost all those introduced in the

summer moved a significant distance out of the park, possibly in an attempt to return to their original home ranges.

2. OBED WATER NEWS

A. Clear Creek Dam study

It's about 4 years since the Catoosa Utility District proposed to build a water-supply dam on the Clear Creek, one of the major stems of the Obed Wild & Scenic River. Since then, largely as a result of efforts by TCWP members, the Rural Utility Service (RUS, former Farmers Home Administration), which would fund this project, agreed to do an Environmental Impact Statement, and contracted with TVA to do so (NL207 ¶1B). This evolved into the Catoosa Utility District Regional Water Supply Project to address the entire region's more long-term water needs (NL208 ¶1A; NL209 ¶1A; NL210 ¶3A).

In December, TVA sent its preliminary findings to RUS. After RUS responds, the gist of the findings will become available.

B. Obed selected for National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA)

The US Geological Survey (USGS) monitors and studies water quality of selected streams nationwide under its NAWQA program. Following National Park Service contacts with the USGS to determine park sites that could be included in this program, the Obed National Wild & Scenic River was selected. Currently, the USGS is preparing its scope of the Obed work, which includes long-term monitoring station(s) augmented by periodic sampling at various points within the river system. Water-flow analysis could be accomplished, in part, by adding a flow meter to one of the monitoring stations, probably at Lilly Bridge. Readings from such a meter would add invaluable data to support our efforts to halt construction of upstream dams and preserve natural flow in the river system.

Unfortunately, the maintenance cost of a flow meter comes to \$9,000 annually. USGS would match non-federal contributions toward this cost, i.e., the latter would have to total \$4,500. Current flow readings would become available upon phone inquiry — an advantage to the paddling community which might, therefore, be willing to contribute to the maintenance costs. Any of you who have contacts with paddling clubs may be able to help toward raising these funds. Any expressions of

intent to help should be communicated to Monika Mayr, Unit Manager, Obed WSR (POBox 429, Wartburg, TN 37887, phone 423-346-6294), who will communicate them to USGS.

C. Objective: Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) designation

The state's Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) designation provides the highest level of protection in the Antidegradation Statement of the state's "General Water Quality Criteria" under which the 1977 Tennessee Water Pollution Control Act is implemented (NL200 ¶3A; NL201 ¶3). It is our objective to work toward this state designation for the Obed and Big South Fork to help protect the rivers from various insults.

Every three years, Tennessee's Clean Water standards and regulations drafted by the state's Division of Water Pollution Control, must undergo review and approval by the Water Quality Control Board (WQCB). For the last triennial review, the Division had proposed an actual listing of streams to be designated as ONRWs. This process of designation was opposed by the Farm Bureau, TN Municipal League and TN Assoc. of Businesses. The WQCB subsequently removed the specific listings but agreed to retain the category (ONRW) so that the actual designations would be made on a case-by-case basis by the Board rather than the Division (NL200 ¶2B).

In December, the WQCB instructed the Division to initiate their new triennial review. This will entail a formal rule-making process for the draft proposal, including public hearings, responses to comments, etc. It will be very important for the National Park Service to support ONRW designation for the Obed and for the Big South Fork.

The TN Dept. of Env't. and Conservation (TDEC) has initiated a new Watershed Approach for water quality protection and aquatic-resource management. Early in its first round of meetings, TDEC considered the Emory Watershed, of which the Obed is a component. Three TCWP members (Chuck Estes, Frank Hensley, Lee Russell) attended the September 12 information meeting at Crossville. Such meetings are designed to encourage coordination with water users and with other water-related agencies, and to identify issues important for each watershed. The standards that will be promulgated after the triennial review will become the basis for watershed plans.

D. **Obed Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP)**

- * The National Park Service's WRMP for the Obed is now about 60% complete. NPS contracted with TVA to compile the data for this Plan and drafts will shortly undergo internal review. We hope very much that the plan includes the recommendation that the state confer ONRW designation on the Obed (see ¶2C, above).

3. STATE PARKS AND OTHER STATE LANDS

A. **TCWP backs State Parks reform initiative**

(Contributed by Jenny Freeman)

Numerous issues concerning Tennessee state parks are illustrated by some of TCWP's activities over the past several years:

- * No protective land acquisition. In 1994, we joined forces with hundreds of individuals and organizations to ensure that ~6,000 acres of privately-owned land in Pickett and Fentress counties adjacent to Pickett State Park/Forest were not sold to a Florida land developer. We worked hard and, thanks to a purchase by the Mellon Foundation, were successful at placing that land into state ownership.
- * Development of golf courses. In 1994, we joined forces with citizens of Morristown to fight a golf course proposed for Panther Creek State Park. The golf course was defeated for that location but was moved to Tims Ford State Park. We then initiated a lawsuit against the state of Tennessee to prevent issuance of a \$20 million bond to construct that course along with three others (Cumberland Mountain, Natchez Trace, and Chickasaw State Parks). We lost the suit.
- * Political pressure. We watched, in 1995, as civil service protection was stripped from park managers, making them vulnerable to political pressure.
- * Funding for inappropriate purposes. We learned that a \$66 million bond issue to build convention centers in six state parks was approved, and that an additional \$70 million was slated to be spent to construct the Bicentennial Mall in Nashville. Twelve rangers were assigned to staff the Mall.
- * Diversion of funds. We learned that TDEC commissioner, Don Dills, before leaving office in April 1996, budgeted \$1.14 million out of the \$5.01 million state parks-maintenance budget to go to the West Tennessee River (formerly, Obion-Forked Deer) Basin Authority, which had promoted the damaging and unneeded

channelization of numerous streams. Dills told the *Nashville Tennessean* that his former membership on the Authority board (1980-86 and 1990-95) had not been a factor in his decision.

- * Parks in jeopardy. In December 1996, we learned that in the light of a projected \$300 million shortfall, TDEC staff were asked to rank the 51 state parks in order in which they should be closed.

Because we have questioned these and other issues impacting state parks, TCWP, along with TRPA (the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association), began in 1995 to promote the idea of a state parks forum. It took the Tennessee Environmental Council's leadership to finally make it happen. On November 16, TEC, in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), sponsored the forum at Cumberland Mountain State Park. TCWP was represented by Jenny Freeman and Ken Warren.

The forum drew over 100 people with a diversity of interests, including environmental and conservation organizations, horseback riding and camping enthusiasts, RV owners, various Friends (of parks) groups, mountain-biking clubs, and TDEC staff. The University of Tennessee Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries was also represented. Then-TDEC Commissioner, Justin Wilson, and newly appointed Director of State Parks, Walter Butler, actively participated, as did Senator Bud Gilbert (R-Blount Co.).

The purpose of the forum was to provide the opportunity for people to create a vision for how we want state parks to be in the 21st century. In preparing for the forum, TCWP developed the following list of 8 reforms that we believe would strengthen the Division of State Parks and would take state parks out of the political arena in which they have existed for the past 60 years

1. **Management:** * Establish a bipartisan commission, selected by a special committee and jointly managed by the legislature and administration, to govern the Division of State Parks. The director of this State Parks Commission needs to be a resource-management professional.
2. **Hiring:** - All state park managers and staffs should be hired on a statewide, competitive basis, and should meet at least minimum qualifications.

3. Civil Service Registers: - Loopholes allowing political manipulation of civil service positions should be closed, and area registers should be abolished.
4. Land Acquisition: - The lands acquisition process should be more public and more flexible.
5. TDEC Special Funds: - TDEC should produce regular reports accounting for the income from several public funds, including the Iris License Plate Fund and the Natural Resources Trust Fund. It is not generally known on what projects the monies raised through these funds have been spent. Public procedures for allocating the funds are needed.
6. State Parks Foundation: - The present Foundation has an executive director and an administrative staff person, both appointed without a competitive process. In 1996, the state allocated about \$150,000 to support the Foundation, which has raised only \$7,200 (in three years). The Foundation needs to be a bipartisan, independent organization, with the state subsidy of the director's position limited to two years, beyond which the Foundation should generate enough funding to support this position.
7. Budgets, Revenues, and Development: - Tennessee state parks should not pursue the construction or development of additional resort facilities, including golf courses, convention centers, or swimming pools. An objective EIS should be required for projects that would destroy park landscape. Public hearings and an objective economic analysis should be mandated for projects requiring a public investment or risk of millions of dollars.
8. Planning - A Tennessee State Parks System Plan should be developed that values the statewide significance of a park area and recognizes the essential difference between the state-park mission and the need for city and county recreation facilities. Capital projects in parks should be initiated by the planning process and by needs assessment, rather than by legislative action independent of the Systems Plan. The state should recognize the language of the Organic Act of 1937, meant to protect state-park sites from the inappropriate developments of recent years.

TEC will issue a parks mission statement, a vision statement, and action steps developed by consensus of five working groups at the forum. Sen. Bud Gilbert's draft bill on state parks (see ¶4B, this NL) will also be included with TEC's mailing, as will the roster of forum attendees. TEC and TDEC should be congratulated for

organizing the forum -- a day that generated so much enthusiasm and energy that attendees want to convene again to work even harder on state parks issues. Never let it be said that the people of Tennessee don't care about their parks!

B. An easy way for you to support protection of Fall Creek Falls

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Fall Creek Falls "Lands Unsuitable" petition is still in preparation (the contractor preparing it may be replaced). The petition (filed by SOCM, TCWP, and LWV) seeks to have the entire watershed of Fall Creek Falls (FCF) State Park and Natural Area declared off-limits for coal mining under Sec. 522 of the stripmine law. The highly compelling case for the petition, and some of the support that exists for it, have been outlined in earlier Newsletters (NL211 ¶2C; NL212 ¶2B); however, as always, politics might be a factor in the final decision. In fact, there are indications that the State of Tennessee may be supporting the Skylines mining company in opposing our petition. For this reason, it is of major importance that decision makers become aware of grassroots sentiments.

We recently sent you (enclosed with our annual contributions appeal) postcards addressed to Secretary Bruce Babbitt and to Governor Sundquist. If you have not done so already, please add your signature and a 20-cent stamp to each one and mail it before you forget. It's an easy way to try help save a beautiful park and natural area. (Should you have lost the postcards -- or if you could use additional ones -- call Maureen O'Connell or Cheryl Brown at SOCM, 423-426-9455.)

C. OSM grants permit for stripmine adjacent to Frozen Head State Natural Area

[Based on a contribution by Jenny Freeman]

Along with TCWP, SOCM, and area residents, the Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) voiced objections last July (NL212 ¶2A) to a "Successor-in-Interest" permit application by Addition Enterprises to re-mine Fork Mountain Area #2 (NL210 ¶1). The permit area is adjacent to Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area and near the community of Moores Camp on land owned by the Champion Paper Co. It is drained locally by Indian Fork and Lick Branch in the New River watershed.

Addington subsequently submitted a scaled-back proposal, and on December 19 OSM conducted

an informal meeting at Wartburg on this revised application. TCWP's Board member Tom Thornburgh presented our concerns about possible adverse impacts on the water quality and quantity in Frozen Head's Class-II Natural Area. Such areas "are unique in scientific value and are worthy of perpetual preservation" (TCA 11-14-105). The revised Addington proposal covers ~10% less area than the original one, and there is no surface drainage into Frozen Head. However, groundwater patterns have not been studied, and it is conceivable that the mining could adversely affect springs in the Natural Area. In addition to Tom, numerous other participants in the meeting also expressed grave concerns.

To our consternation, OSM issued the permit to Addington on January 2. TCWP and SOCM will appeal the decision.

D. Recent acquisitions of state lands

[Contributed by Jenny Freeman]

From the web site of the state of Tennessee's homepage (<http://www.state.tn.us/>), we have obtained the following information on land-acquisition projects completed between April and October 1996.

- Fall Creek Falls State Park in Van Buren County - 453 acres for \$206,225, acquired on 7/8/96.
- Narrows of the Harpeth Historic Area in Cheatham County - 31.8 acres for \$60,000 on 10/22/96.
- Ozone Falls Natural Area in Cumberland County - 28.7 acres for \$28,730 on 5/7/96.
- Ropers Knob Historic Area in Williamson County - 22.1 acres for \$265,764 on 10/22/96.

4. THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE

A. Makeup of the new General Assembly

In the November election, the Sierra Club endorsed incumbent Sens. Crutchfield and Haynes, and incumbent Reps. Givens, Bittle, Ritchie, Brown, Garrett, Odum, Jones, Williams, McMillan, Jackson, Chumney, and Kemell. All were reelected. In the House, Democrats gained 2 seats and now hold a majority of 61 : 38. Of the 99 members, 17 are new, including Dr. Gene Caldwell who represents a large number of TCWP members. Among those who retired were the effective Majority Leader, Bill Purcell, and Conservation Committee Chair J.B. Napier. In the Senate, Democrats won 3 seats and lost 1, putting them in the majority by 18 : 15. Party

affiliation has not been a reliable indicator of environmental concerns.

As soon as it becomes available, we'll send you Part 2 of our Political Guide, which provides information of how to get in touch with all the members of the General Assembly (see ¶12B, this NL). We urge you to keep it in an accessible place. In the meantime, 33rd Distr residents should be aware of Rep. Dr. Gene Caldwell's numbers: in Nashville, Mondays through Thursdays, 615-741-4400 (probably temporary); in Anderson County, 423-497-0499 (permanent).

B. Gilbert's State Parks bill

[Contributed by Jenny Freeman]

Senator Bud Gilbert has drafted a bill, to be introduced to the General Assembly this month, which will establish an independent, bipartisan commission to manage state parks (see ¶3A). The commission is charged in its first year with analyzing the state parks budget and to explore methods for independent funding. The management change-over will be phased in over three years.

C. Forestry legislation

SOCM has been working on a forestry bill that may get introduced during this session. The bill will address Best Management Practices (with loopholes removed), incentives for good forestry practices, size limits, funding mechanisms, etc.

D. Beverage-container deposit law

We all know the problems with beverage containers: waste of resources (oil, energy, etc.), overflowing landfills, roadside litter. The moral approach and the legal approach (e.g., fines for littering) have been only partially successful. Recycling opportunities provided by local governments have helped quite a bit, but even where they exist, only about one-third of containers have been recycled. Nine states now have container-deposit laws. Based on their experience, 85% and 80% of aluminum and plastic containers, respectively, get recycled (versus 42% and 31% in non-deposit states).

A refundable container deposit is opposed by bottlers, distributors, and container manufacturers. It is also opposed by retailers because it requires extra labor and storage space. To have a prayer of passing, any proposed container-deposit legislation must address these concerns. It must also have a strong base of support from the public and the media in order to weather an opposition campaign expect-

ed to be funded by several millions of dollars. For these reasons, it is likely that bills may simply be introduced by capitol this year, and then worked out in detail for action next year or later. To keep updated, contact Dr. Arthur Smith, Kingsport, 423-247-7895.

5. OTHER STATE NEWS

A. Scotts Gulf update

[Contributed by Chuck Estes]

The Scott's Gulf area near Sparta has been of great concern to a coalition of conservation groups including TCWP because of a contract to sell the 15,000 acre property of magnificent Cumberland plateau canyonlands to a developer. In November 1996, Bridgestone Tire Company, the owner of the Scott's Gulf property, announced that they had terminated the contract with the developer and were taking the property off the market. The Scott's Gulf Committee, of which TCWP is a member, is interpreting this as a positive step in that the property will not be purchased for development as had been feared. The Committee now hopes to work with state officials and Bridgestone to develop a strategy for acquiring the property as a state park. The Scott's Gulf Committee is also reviewing other potential tracts of land available for purchase in the Gulf. Several additional presentations of the Scott's Gulf slide show are planned for East Tennessee clubs and civic groups to continue the campaign to acquire the Gulf. In addition, fund-raising efforts are under way, including Scotts Gulf T shirts and a Mystery Dinner Theater planned for Oak Ridge in March (this original, entertaining play is a fun way to raise money).

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Governor Don Sundquist (address on p.2) to urge the state to participate in acquiring and protecting Scotts Gulf. If you have questions, want to help, or would like to schedule the slide show for a group or organization in East Tennessee, please contact Chuck Estes at 423-482-7374.

B. Sequatchie Valley pump storage: plans modified but still threatening

Of the two pump-storage projects that had been proposed for the Sequatchie Valley, one has been withdrawn. The one that remains is the Laurel Branch Project (Laurel Branch and McWilliams Creek Reservoirs), NE of Dunlap. The proposal is for a private Pennsylvania company, Armstrong Energy Resources (AER), to construct and

operate the facility and sell electricity to TVA. AER has no prior experience in building such facilities. Water would be pumped to the upper reservoir during times of day when there is less power consumption, then allowed to drop to the lower reservoir to generate electricity during times of peak power demand. Pumped storage facilities do NOT create electricity; on the contrary, they are major net consumers of electricity.

Concurrent with announcing the elimination of one of the two pairs of reservoirs, Armstrong Energy Resources proposed changing the location of transmission lines. The newly preferred route, which is 9.3 miles long is said to be least disruptive to residents of Lewis Chapel Mountain and to the scenic and ecologically significant North Chickamauga Creek watershed.

Agencies involved in the pump-storage project are TVA (the lead agency), FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), and the Corps of Engineers. The draft EIS is expected by late 1997 or early 1998. When the time comes for you to comment, we suggest you refer to NL212 ¶2C, where several attributes of the project are discussed (e.g., no net power production, available alternative strategies for addressing peak power demand, destruction of large amounts of valuable land, unsuitability of the reservoirs for recreation). It seems unlikely that the reduction in scope of the project and the changed routing of the powerline have made the project acceptable.

A group called "Save Our Sequatchie (SOS)" (phone, 423-756-1133) was originally concerned only about the location of the power lines; but as they have learned more about the project they have opposed it in its entirety. Similarly, the Sequatchie County Commission, which originally passed a resolution favoring the project, subsequently suspended its resolution until more information becomes available. Has Armstrong made a deal with TVA to sell their power at a certain rate? TVA says that it has made "no commitments ... to Armstrong until the EIS is completed." If this is so, the economic feasibility of the project may be open to serious questions. Is this a case of a private company making a profit from selling cheap electricity out of state?

The State of Tennessee says it is not taking a position until all studies relating to potential environmental, economic, cultural, and historical impacts are completed and documented in a Draft EIS. A comprehensive biological survey should be

particularly important in view of the fact that numerous threatened and/or endangered species have been recorded within a 4-mile radius of the proposed projects.

C. Change in Administration

In December, Justin Wilson became special environmental advisor to Gov. Sundquist, and Milton Hamilton Jr. became Commissioner of Environment and Conservation. Mr. Hamilton was a Democratic Senator from West Tennessee, who switched parties.

D. Creating Greenways and Trails

(Contributed by Karen Peterson)

In May 1966, Gov. Sundquist announced a challenge to communities to create 200 new miles of greenways and trails in celebration of Tennessee's 200th birthday, and suggested development of an interconnected system across Tennessee. Workshops are now being conducted to provide information and tools necessary to launch new greenway initiatives in local communities. The workshops are co-hosted by the Tennessee Department of the Environment and Conservation's Recreation Services Division, the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, and the Conservation Fund's Tennessee Greenways Program. There is no fee for attending the workshops or for the materials provided.

The first two workshops, in Nashville and Jackson, will be over by the time you read this. The third will, fortuitously, be held in Knoxville on February 6, 1:00-4:00 pm, at the City/County Building. Will Skelton, Chair of the Knoxville Greenways Commission will be a guest speaker. For more information, call Kathleen Williams, Tennessee Greenways Program, the Conservation Fund, 615-386-3171.

E. Oh-so-slow cleanup of past strip-mine damages

According to the 1995 annual report of the Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP), 1,000 acres of the most hazardous sites have been reclaimed in Tennessee, but about 40,000 acres of abandoned mine lands in the state remain to be treated.

The Office of Surface Mining's Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative, launched in 1994, has received a \$4 million appropriation for 13 projects nationwide, and will be assisted by EPA, the Corps of Engineers and state wildlife agencies. In Tennessee, \$300,000 will be spent through TWRA on cleaning up Big Laurel Creek in Fentress County.

F. Conservation efforts on Upper Clinch

The Upper Clinch River is home to more federally listed endangered and threatened aquatic species (especially mussels) than any other river in the nation. Mussels are prime indicators of good water quality and have been heavily impacted elsewhere by dams, and by chemical and agricultural pollution. Soil erosion resulting from agriculture is now threatening mussel survival in the Upper Clinch. In a new venture, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) began supplementing its program of land acquisition in the area with a novel approach to people contacts. A TNC employee living in Hancock County has managed to overcome the area's initial distrust of outsiders to the point where she is able to help and advise farmers on how to prevent erosion (fencing cattle out of streams, planting bank-stabilizing vegetation) and at the same time to improve their property and income. Another TNC employee is helping to develop products that can be made locally from wood harvested in environmentally-sensitive ways. On a recent TNC raft trip on the upper Clinch, Bill and Lee Russell were able to appreciate the tremendous beauty of the river valley.

G. A Tennessee plant added to federally endangered list

The Spring Creek bladderpod was added to the Federal endangered species list in December. The species is found near Lebanon, TN, in four small populations, all on private land, thus giving the plants no greater protection than they already receive under state law. Voluntary conservation efforts will be encouraged, and designation makes the species eligible for recovery activities.

6. SMOKIES

A. Hearings on development concepts for Cataloochee

(Contributed by Jenny Freeman)

Approximately 200 citizens attended a public hearing in Waynesville, NC, on November 21, to participate in devising development plans for the Cataloochee entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The crowd, which overwhelmingly supported keeping Cataloochee development low-key and minimal, applauded Assistant Park Superintendent Phillip Francis when he said that the park had "no plans whatsoever to turn Cataloochee into another

Cades Cove." Cataloochee is one of the few areas of the park that do not have a completed Development Concept Plan. Such plans are used to guide activities in specific areas to support the General Management Plan (developed in 1982).

The most discussed issue revolved around regulations that prohibit the use of machinery to clear trails in backcountry. For areas of the park that could potentially be designated as wilderness, there are differing philosophies on this question. The 1964 Wilderness Act requires the use of a "minimum tool," a phrase that can be defined in different ways. The suggestion was made to use tools and equipment on a one-time basis for bringing trails in Cataloochee back to a minimal standard, and thereafter maintain the trails with hand tools. Only two members of the audience objected to this use of mechanical tools.

Other issues explored were the preservation and highlighting of the cultural resources of Cataloochee, improvement of the campground, provision for horse-trailer parking, and the need for more trail maintenance. A second public meeting was held in Maggie Valley on November 22.

NOTE: for other matters pertaining to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, see report of our 1996 Annual Meeting (T12F, below)

B. Cochran Creek acquisition

In an effort to create a buffer zone between the Gt. Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park and the rapidly developing Tennessee Valley, the Foothills Land Conservancy (FLC) is attempting to purchase a 1,516-acre tract on the SE slope of Chilhowee Mtn., west of, and contiguous with, the previously acquired Abrams Creek tract. The total purchase price is ~\$500,000 (i.e., ~\$330 per acre), but since only \$350,000 have so far been collected, interest payments on the loan have kicked in, driving up the total contributions needed. The total must be raised by 6/13/97.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Donations may be sent to FLC, 307 S. Washington St., Maryville, TN 37804. In addition, proceeds from the sale of a striking topographical poster of the Smoky Mountains will go to the FLC. The poster is available for \$20 at various locations at Knoxville, Maryville, and Gatlinburg (call 423-681-8326 for info), or for \$25 directly from the FLC.

7. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

A. Proposed Ocoee National Recreation Area

Kirk Johnson of Chattanooga has been in contact with Congressman Wamp's office concerning possible legislation to create an Ocoee National Recreation Area, which would include all National Forest lands in Polk County. Within these boundaries, the proposal would include two National Recreation Rivers (Ocoee and Hiwassee) a National Wild River (Conasauga), expansions of the designated Big Frog, Little Frog, and Gee Creek Wilderness areas, major expansion of the Chilhowee and Coker Creek Scenic Areas, and designation of Smith Mountain and Buck Bald Primitive Areas to provide habitat corridors for old-growth-dependent species. Logging would be banned in the Conasauga River watershed. In the remainder of the Polk County Forest Service lands, logging would be by selection harvest, removing no more than 50% of the canopy for hardwood and mixed stands; in pure pine stands, there would be natural regeneration using shelterwood techniques.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact Bob Castro in Rep. Zach Wamp's office (202-225-3271), or call the Congressman's local offices (Oak Ridge, Chattanooga) to express support for this proposal that would -- with little expenditure of funds -- protect an immensely scenic area that was brought to public attention by the 1996 Olympics

B. TCWP Joins appeal against Forest Service

[Based on contributions by Jenny Freeman and Karen Peterson]

In December 1996, TCWP joined four other organizations and two individuals in appealing a recent decision by the Regional Forester of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Southern Region affecting the Coker Creek area in the Polk County portion of the Cherokee National Forest. The area is located in on the upper reaches of the Hiwassee River near the North Carolina state line, south of Tellico Plains. The Decision adopted Alternative B, which provides for timber harvest on several hundred acres of mature forest, and associated road construction and reconstruction. The area, whose scenic and recreational qualities would thus be adversely affected, is very near to, and very likely visible from, the Hiwassee State Scenic River and the John Muir Trail. It has been supported as one of Tennessee Mountain Treasures.

Also in question is the incomplete and inaccurate inventory conducted by the Forest Service on sensitive plant and animal species. For instance, the Biological Examination (BE) for the Coker Creek project was conducted during seasons (December and September) when many threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species would not be identifiable (no flowers or fruit in evidence). For these and other reasons, we argue in our appeal that the Forest Service's FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) on sensitive plant and animal species is arbitrary and capricious. We also charge that the Forest Plan fails to provide for biological diversity and to protect the forest's visual resources, both in violation of the National Forest Management Act and its regulations. Another objection is that, in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, no provisions are made to mitigate logging activities during the nesting season of neotropical and other migratory birds. And finally, by failing to accurately disclose the effects on endangered species, the EA violates the Endangered Species Act.

TCWP is grateful to people like Hugh Irwin and Will Skelton and to organizations like the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, and the Tennessee Audubon Council (all of whom we join in this appeal) for watchdogging the U.S. Forest Service with such vigilance. A decision is expected within 30 days.

C. Is the Forest Service performing its mission?

The National Forest System comprises 155 National Forests and 20 National Grasslands. The altogether 192 million acres comprise over 1/4 of our national lands. The Wilderness Society has compiled a report, similar to a corporate annual report to shareholders, on the financial and (where available) ecological condition of USFS lands. How much "natural capital" (trees, plants, wildlife, soil, and water) has been lost? What has been the flow (receipts and expenditures) of economic and ecological resources? The report has been compiled in tabular form for the year ending September 30, 1995, both for the entire system and for separate regions (ours is the Southeast). For a copy, or further info, call Rindy O'Brien at 202-833-2300.

B. TVA's DUCK RIVER EIS and OTHER MATTERS

A. Fate of lands acquired for defeated Columbia Reservoir

Not long after its formation, TCWP became deeply involved in opposition to TVA's environmentally damaging and economically unjustifiable plan to construct two dams on the scenic Duck River. We lost the fight against the upper dam, Normandy (near Tullahoma), which was constructed between 1972 and 1976 at a cost of \$37.4 million. Construction of the lower Reservoir (to be impounded by Columbia Dam), which was to have 4 times the surface area of Normandy, was begun in 1973, but was held up by various legal battles and finally discontinued in 1983. TVA acquired large acreages of land for the contemplated Columbia Reservoir. Since the project cannot be completed as a reservoir, the agency has now issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for use of these lands. It will be important for us to comment on this (details below).

Four alternatives are presented for possible uses of the land:

- A, continuation of current uses;
- B and C, making the land available for private developments (more development under B than C);
- D, turning virtually all of the land into a resource-management area.

TCWP rejects alternatives B and C, and strongly supports alternative D. This land was purchased with public funds, and should belong to the public. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is strongly interested in managing the lands, and is committed to protecting natural and cultural resources and to enhancing outdoor-recreational use of the area. -- Alternative A is not in itself harmful but does not provide any long-term protection since future proposals for piecemeal sales are likely to be approved.

Alternative B (maximum development) is pushed by the Duck River Development Agency (DRDA), which has an interesting history. It was originally created to lobby in every conceivable way for the dams, and even now is pushing for an alternative reservoir. Fountain Creek, on the grounds of water-supply needs, which are unjustifiable. Under a strange arrangement made long ago with TVA, DRDA has been receiving a fee paid by water users (5 cents per 1,000 gallons) from which they are said to have accumulated many

millions of dollars in the bank. This money is used to pay salaries and extensive travel for DRDA's small staff and to carry out extensive lobbying efforts.

One of three options for handling the dam structure itself could be combined with anyone of the above four alternatives for the fate of the lands. The least costly would be Option #1 (leave the incomplete dam more or less "as is"). Obliteration of this ugly reminder may, however, be desirable, and this would be accomplished by either one of Options #2 or #3, with #2 being less costly.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: You can comment either at a public meeting on January 27, 6:30 pm CST (at Columbia, Central High School), or by sending a written statement before March 7 (mail to Linda Oxendine, Environmental Management, TVA, WT 8C, 400 Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902). This project involves public property that was paid for by all US taxpayers. Therefore it behooves all of us -- and not just DRDA -- to express our opinion. Your comments will count, even if very brief and simple.

B. State thinks TVA recommending too much shoreline development

TCWP's comments on TVA's controversial Shoreline Management Initiative (SMI) objected to the developments sanctioned under TVA's preferred Alternative C1. We strongly supported Alternative D (minimum development), provided any new developments be restricted to existing private residential lands and not be allowed in TVA-owned shoreline, including buffer strips (NL21214).

The State of Tennessee submitted a large package of comments collected from different state agencies. Several of these agencies (e.g., the Dept. of Agriculture, the Dept. of Environment & Conservation's (TDEC's) Planning and Standards Section, TDEC's Division of Natural Heritage) favored Alternative D; others (e.g., TDEC's Recreation Planning) favored D or C2. Yet others made comments equivalent to the above, and/or expressed concerns with TVA's "preferred" alternative C1. The cover letter recommended "that TVA restrict residential development on all TVA owned and managed or jointly managed shorelines."

C. Law forbids dock fees

The draft of TVA's Shoreline Management Initiative (SMI) proposed a modest deposit to be paid on new docks and other water structures to make possible the removal or repair of such structures should the owner fail to keep them in good and safe condition. Several residential owners (including many who did not realize that existing structures would be grandfathered) raised great objections to this proposed fee. Freshman Rep. Van Hilleary (R, TN4) subsequently passed legislation that would bar TVA until 9/30/97 from imposing deposits on lake structures.

D. Wamp heads caucus

Rep. Zach Wamp (R, TN3) was elected chairman of the TVA caucus -- a group of representatives and senators from the 7 states in the Tennessee Valley. The caucus has in the past been a voice of support for the agency. Wamp is quoted as saying: "I can't defend TVA on every single thing that they do, but I try not to be a bomb thrower."

9. PROSPECTS FOR THE NEW CONGRESS

A. Environmental considerations had a role in many election outcomes

As stated by pollster Stan Greenberg, the environment was "an issue that elected, and even more, one that defeated." Of the 'Dirty Dozen' list developed by the non-partisan League of Conservation Voters (LCV), 7 were defeated, including Larry Pressler (R, SD), the only incumbent senator defeated in this election (exit polls showed that the environment was a top issue). Every one of LCV's 10 EarthList candidates (namely, those especially endangered among the total of 107 LCV-endorsed candidates) won election. About 70% of over 200 candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club were elected. LCV hopes that the Congressional leadership will get the message that "voters have rejected anti-environment extremism, they want stronger environmental laws, not weaker ones, and they want Republicans and Democrats to work together to achieve better environmental protection."

B. The face of the new Congress

With Republican majorities returned to both Houses of Congress, even though the margins have changed (considerably decreased in the House, increased by one in the Senate), most committee chairmanships will remain unchanged. Things may actually get worse due to an even greater dominance

of the intensely anti-environment Alaska delegation; thus, in addition to having Frank Murkowski and Don Young chair the Senate Energy and House Resources Committees, respectively, we will now also have Ted Stevens, a champion of oil and timber companies, as chair of the Senate Appropriation Committee (replacing Mark Hatfield, who retired). With control over budget legislation, Stevens will have the power to demand that ANWR be opened to oil drilling.

Jim Hansen (R, UT), who, during the past Congress, attempted to pass the national park closure bill as well as a measure to disembowel wilderness protection nationwide, will be back as chair of the House Subcommittee on National Parks. Slade Gorton (R, WA), a good friend of the timber industry, will again chair the important subcommittee on Interior Appropriations. Larry Craig (R, ID) returns to chair the Senate subcommittee on Forests and Public Lands, and Don Nickles, a close friend of the oil & gas industry, will probably retain his chairmanship of the Senate subcommittee on Energy Production.

A national petition campaign is under way to oust Young and Murkowski from their chairmanship positions. Young's record includes leadership of the fight to gut the Endangered Species Act, and sponsorship of a bill to give away the 17-million acre Tongass National Forest. Murkowski was intensely anti-Park, as well as bringing about major clearcuts in Alaska's rainforests.

Damage Report: Environment and the 104th Congress, a new report by the National Resources Defense Council, offers a sobering assessment of the damage done to the nation's environment (especially our national forests) during the past two years. It also analyzes the disturbing array of backdoor tactics that were used. NRDC suspects that the new Congress, now made aware of the public's strong pro-environmental sentiments, may become even more clever about hiding anti-environmental effects of proposed legislation; many proposals that may not even mention the environment could have a devastating effect on laws that protect parks, wilderness, wetlands, etc.

C. Preview of environmental legislation

Several environmental laws are up for reauthorization or review. These and others are expected to provide battlegrounds.

- The Clean Air Act (CAA), which must be reauthorized by Sept. 1998) currently provides for especially stringent protection for Class-I areas, including 48 parks and park wildernesses. Industry groups have geared up a major effort to weaken the CAA, while environmental groups will seek to extend Class-I protection to additional areas.
- The Antiquities Act of 1906 was used by President Clinton in designating the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah on Sept. 18 (NL213 ¶3A). Several members of Congress will seek to amend the Act to restrict the President's authority. In addition, two Wise Use groups have filed a federal lawsuit to overturn the National Monument designation, calling the area nothing but "a barren wasteland [with] tremendous coal, oil, and gas reserves beneath it," and some counties in southern Utah are engaging in a bulldozer spree to damage wilderness-study areas within the Monument.
- The Clean Water Act (CWA) barely escaped being incredibly weakened during the 104th Congress. Renewed attempts to weaken the Act are expected.
- The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was under serious attack during the 104th Congress. Its chief attacker, Don Young, is back in the saddle (¶9B above) and plans to move his legislation very early -- before Congressmen start thinking about reelection again. On the other side, a broad coalition of ESA experts and environmental groups has drafted the Endangered Natural Heritage Act (ENHA), which would close ESA loopholes, ensure the recovery of listed species, provide incentives for species protection by private land owners, etc.
- Reform of the 1872 Mining Law, which currently allows mining claims on public lands to be privatized ("patented") for a mere \$5 per acre, does not provide for royalties to be paid to the federal treasury (these could bring in \$500 million annually), and does not include any environmental performance standards or restoration requirements. At this time, a moratorium is in effect on new mining claims, and industry advocates in Congress will probably attempt to lift this ban.
- The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) tunnels money to the National Park Service for road repairs, promotes bike trails and historic preservation, etc. Highway promotion groups have targeted this law for termination.

10. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

A. Changes in sub-cabinet positions affecting public lands

- Director of the National Park Service, Roger Kennedy, resigned on January 13. A provision in the recently passed Omnibus Parks bill (NL213 ¶36) makes the position of NPS director subject to Senate confirmation. Kennedy did not wish to subject himself to this.
- Kennedy's immediate superior, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife & Parks, George Frampton, is also gone (or going). Frampton originally joined the Administration from the Wilderness Society.
- US Forest Service Chief, Jack Ward Thomas, the first wildlife biologist ever to head the agency, resigned in November, acknowledging frustrations with political quarrels over logging policy. During his tenure (starting in Dec. 1993) Thomas reduced the timber harvested from national forests by 25% below the 1980s level. During his last year in office, he had to preside over the cuts mandated by the infamous "salvage" timber rider. (Writing to us last August, Thomas informed us of the Forest Service's decision not to advertise "salvage" timber sales for inventoried roadless areas. That helped some.)
- Director of the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM), Robert Uram, resigned during the summer and was replaced by Acting Director Kay Henry, who had considerably more rapport with coalfield citizens. A new permanent director is now about to be named, possibly Kathy Karpen from Wyoming.

B. Pilot program on park fees

Under a pilot program authorized by Congress last year, the National Park Service (NPS) will increase, or (in some cases) for the first time collect, entrance fees for about 50 units of the National Park System. What's more important, is that, for the first time ever, the additional revenue will be applied directly to the park that collects it, where it will be used to improve visitor services. In the past, unbeknownst to most people, park entrance fees have gone into the general U.S. Treasury, and they will continue to do so, except for the additional amounts collected at the ~50 units.

Regardless of the outcome of this pilot program, national park advocates believe, (a) that increased entrance fees should not be used as an excuse for lowering appropriations, and, (b) that more comprehensive park-funding reform is needed, especially with regard to concessionaire policy. Thus, franchise fees in the National Park System

constitute less than 3% of the money grossed by concessionaires, in contrast to 10-12% in state parks.

C. Result of election initiatives in various states

New York and California voters led the pack Nov. 5 by approving huge environmental bond measures. On the other hand, Florida voters rejected a 1 cent/pound fee on raw sugar, intended to raise \$35 million per year to repair damages from sugar-cane farming to the Everglades. And, only 30% of Maine voters backed a proposal to ban clearcutting.

11. OAK RIDGE & KNOXVILLE ISSUES

A. Oak Ridge and the proposed Knoxville Beltway

Location of the Greater Knoxville Beltway (to connect I-75 north of Knoxville with I-40 and I-75 west of the city) is likely to have a major impact on the future of Oak Ridge. [We recommend your reading the 1/7/97 Oak Ridge column by R. Cathey Daniels]. Currently, the meaningful decisions are between the "blue" and the "orange" routes (the other three alternatives are very likely to be nonviable). The "blue" route -- the longest and most expensive -- would locate 35 miles of highway down the very pretty valley behind (roughly north of) Black Oak Ridge, i.e., between us and the Cumberlands and thus included in our view of the mountains. Interchanges would be constructed at ~3-mile intervals -- conducive to strip developments, especially since Oak Ridge would not have any zoning jurisdiction over most of the route. The "orange" route cuts south of Haw Ridge through Knox County, outside Oak Ridge City limits. This is the most cost-effective route -- shortest, least expensive, and supporting significantly more of the traffic flow. With the "blue" route, Oak Ridge would be within the area enclosed by the Knoxville Beltway; with the "orange" route, outside of it.

The Oak Ridge Regional Planning Commission on January 14 voted to recommend the "blue" route to City Council for action on January 21. Pro-development interests and DOE favor the "blue" route, largely because it runs by K-25 where industrial redevelopment is anticipated. This "blue" route would encourage development of heavy industry. On the other hand, varied small, clean, high-tech industry within the city or immediate region would be served just as well, or even better, by the "orange" route, which would allow Oak Ridge to retain its unique residential and cultural

qualities and its wonderful school system, all of which attract people that cause clean high-tech industries to locate in an area.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Come to the public hearing held by the Tennessee Department of Transportation on Tuesday, January 28, 4:00-8:00 pm, at the Civic Center Shep Lauter Room, to express your opinion. The shape of our future lives will be significantly affected by the decision about the Beltway.

B. Turkey Creek Wetlands

[Based on contribution by Karen Peterson]

A consortium of private developers is proposing to build a 251-acre commercial park in West Knoxville (southwest of Lovell Road interchange at I-40/I-75). This parcel includes the 22-acre spring-fed Turkey Creek Wetland. The city of Knoxville has allocated \$4.1 million for construction of an access road for the development, and asserts that the road will benefit the public through relieving traffic congestion in the area.

TCWP is a member of a coalition of several local groups (collectively called the Turkey Creek Wetland Alliance) opposing the road project on the basis that it is not in the public interest to use tax dollars to subsidize private development that destroys some of our most valuable natural assets. The project has also called into question the lack of adequate long-term land-use planning, urban development issues, and decision-making by local authorities.

Responsibility for issuing the permit for the road's construction rests eventually with the Army Corps of Engineers under Sec. 404 of the Clean Water Act. A "404" permit must be preceded by a "401" certification from the state. On 1/15/97, the TN Division of Water Pollution Control issued Public Notice #97-002, which determined "that certification can be issued with appropriate conditions to protect Tennessee's waters." The proposed mitigating conditions are based on large numbers of pro-wetland comments received at (and following) a well-attended public hearing on Dec. 10. The comment period on Notice #97-002 expires 2/15/97 (write Division of Water Pollution Control, TN Dept of Environment & Conservation, 401 Church St., 7th Fl. L&C Annex, Nashville, TN 37243-0046).

In the meantime, the Turkey Creek Wetland Alliance is proceeding with an effort to have the city reconsider its road-construction funds. 6700 valid voters signatures are needed in

order to request that the decision to fund the road be sent back to the City Council. If the required number of signatures is gathered, and the request goes forth, the City Council will have two choices: (1) to rescind its decision to pay for the road extension (using tax dollars); or, (2) to place the question on a ballot initiative (which would perhaps require a special election later this spring).

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Before 2/15/97, comment on Notice #97-002 by writing to the Division of Water Pollution Control, TN Dept of Environment & Conservation. (2) If you wish to add your signature to the petition to the City, contact Michelle Neal at 534-4771.

12. TCWP NEWS

A. Next Annual Meeting at Fall Creek Falls

We have reserved a wonderful weekend, Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, at one of the group camps in Fall Creek Falls State Park. Those of you familiar with the Park/Natural Area know what a great place it is, especially at that time of year; and those of you who have never been there have a great experience awaiting you. Our Saturday morning program may focus on state-park issues, and there will be a choice of outings, plus evening activities. Be sure to mark your calendar now. It should be less expensive than last year (lodging is less than half the cost), and closer to more people (Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville areas), so we hope to have a better attendance.

B. Political Guide

✱ We had held up this Newsletter to be able to enclose our annual Political Guide, but now find that the list of addresses and phone numbers of the members of the General Assembly will not be out for another 2 weeks. As a result, we are enclosing only Page #1. For federal contacts (legislative and administrative), this page has all the information we usually include; for the state, it lists administrative contacts only. Page #2, the list of state legislators, will be sent to you as soon as it becomes available. Please keep both pages in a year-round accessible place and use them often.

✱ After many years of preparing the Guide, Lynn Wright (to whom we are deeply grateful) finally ran out of time. This year, the job was done by Karen Peterson, our executive director. We urge you

of our members to come forward and volunteer for 1998.

C. Many thanks for everyone's generosity

In the fall, TCWP received a \$500 donation from the Chota Canoe Club. Our subsequent appeal for end-of-year contributions has to date brought in close to an additional \$4,000 from 78 donors. In lieu of cash, Frank Hensley donated a new, first-class answering machine to the TCWP office. Our deep gratitude to all of you. We pledge to do our best to keep your faith in us.

D. LNES grant application unsuccessful

On the other hand .. Lockheed Martin Energy System's Gifts & Grants Program failed to come through on our application for a \$10,000 grant (NL212 ¶12B). We had requested financial support for computer equipment, and for expanding the Executive Director's position from 10 hours/week to 20 hours/week to provide her the opportunity to build membership and to work on March for Parks. LNES's rejection letter invited us to try again next year. The TCWP Board will soon work on a strategy for allowing us to spend more concentrated effort going after foundation support.

E. Numerous thank-yous

We sincerely thank the volunteers who "stuffed" NL212 and NL213 -- Melinda Compton, Maion Garber, Bob and Ruth Kernahan, Miriam Kertesz, Henri and Bettie Levy, and Louise Makiel. As always, Frank Hensley organized and supervised the Newsletter assembly and mailing.

A very special thanks to the many members who played key roles in recent events:

- Jenny Freeman and Ken Warren, who in November took part in the important State Parks Forum at Crossville (¶3A, this NL).
- Chuck Estes, who has made several public slide presentations on Scotts Gulf preservation (including a fine one on October 15 at Oak Ridge), and a number of trips to Cookeville to meet with the Scotts Gulf Committee (¶5A, this NL).
- Tom Thornburgh, who recently presented testimony in Wartburg on the Addington application for a permit to strip mine adjacent to Frozen Head (¶3C, this NL).
- Frank Hensley, Chuck Estes, and Lee Russell, who attended TN Dept. of Env't. and Conservation's aquatic-resource management meeting on the Emory watershed at Crossville (¶2C, this NL).

- Karen Peterson, who represented TCWP at a meeting with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt about the Fall Creek Falls "lands unsuitable" petition (¶3B, this NL) on the occasion of Babbitt's visit to Cumberland Gap to sign the order designating the Fern Lake watershed as unsuitable for surface coal mining (NL212 ¶3A).
- Don Barger, and Lee Russell, who recently met with Dodd Galbreath of the TDEC Environmental Policy Office to discuss the State's position on various issues of importance to TCWP.

F. Report on 1996 Annual Meeting

We had a wonderful program but very poor attendance and unseasonably cold weather. As we met at Wesley Woods, our focus was on the Smokies, and we learned a great deal indeed. Jim Renfro, the GSMNP Air Resource Specialist gave a highly informative talk on the air-quality status of the Park and the reasons for increasing concern about it. You may want to ask him for a copy of his fact-packed 30-page handout. Kristine Brown, the Park's Vegetation Management Specialist, was just as informative in the area of exotic plants and plant pests that plague the GSMNP. She, too, provided highly instructive handouts on these subjects. Susan Andrew of the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition talked about the objectives of this 15-member alliance, which is working toward a network of biospheres throughout the region and is inventorying old growth, forest birds, rare species, land ownership, etc., i.e. data needed for the delineation of conservation areas.

The program was introduced by GSMNP superintendent Karen Wade, who talked about public and political interactions that have impacted the Park during the past 2-3 years. Through meetings, hearings, and other means, she tries to get people involved in Park issues because she feels that citizen action is the only thing that really counts in the long run. Already, the Friends of GSMNP have raised over \$400,000, but the main side benefit comes from concerned people interacting with their legislators. There have been and continue to be unfortunate political pressures, such as those against the closing of the Parsons Branch Road (NL212 ¶6B), and attacks from those who want to take control of the Newfound Gap Road away from the Park Service. (Our side is clearly not being vocal enough!) She is continuing to work for public transportation in the Park, and has involved the U.T. Transportation Department and is exploring the possibility of state and federal funds. The protected resources of national parks are

money-makers for an area -- a fact some people seem not to have fully grasped. This year, the GSMNP is one of the model projects that may charge fees for use by the Park (instead of the general treasury, ¶10B, this NL), and since there can't be an entrance fee for the Smokies, other options are being explored, e.g., hayrides in Cades Cove.

There was a choice of fine outings on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, an evening movie show on a trek and raft trip in Nepal, and, because 1996 was TCWP's 30th anniversary, some reminiscing on a few issues we had won and a few we had lost. We also made available a list of all TCWP Boards of Directors and Nominating Committees, 1966-1996 (send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a copy).

It was only sad that we had such a poor attendance. Let's try to remedy this in 1997, when our meeting promises to be even better (¶12A, above).

13. JOBS, ACTIVITIES, and READING MATTER

- Job opening: The Wolf River Conservancy is looking for someone with experience in fund raising as well as directing the organization's land stewardship and other programs. Call 901-942-4939, or fax 901-942-5131.
- Job opening: SOCM is looking for a community organizer. Must be willing to travel extensively and own a car (mileage reimbursed). Contact Maureen O'Connell, 423-426-9455; e-mail socm@tdsnet.com
- Job openings: The Nantahala Outdoor Center, a diverse, employee-owned outdoor-recreation company, has three openings: (a) operations and technical support staff member; (b) software developer; (c) store manager. Call 704-488-2175, or fax 704-488-2498. Contact for positions (a) and (b) is Lynn Franz; for position (c), John Barbour.
- Crimes hotline: If you suspect any business or person of violating environmental laws, report this to the environmental crimes hotline and the FBI office in Knoxville, 423-544-0751. You can call anonymously.
- Voting hotline: Project Vote Smart has a toll-free research hotline, 1-800-622-SMART, on incumbents and candidates in elections at many levels of government. You can also order a free *Voter's Self-Defense Manual*. This Project was founded by former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford and several other past office holders and candidates. You can send a contribution to Project Vote Smart/Center for National Independence in Politics, 129 NW 4th St., Suite 204, Corvallis, OR 97330.
- Friends of Norris Dam State Park invites membership from persons interested in the park. Call Bill Thompson, Park Manager, 423-426-7461.
- Interested in protecting Alaska's public lands, e.g., ANWR? On what to do, check the Wilderness Society's Alaska web page at http://www.wilderness.org/wild_alaska; or call, toll-free, 1-888-737-4897.
- January 27, TVA hearing on fate of Columbia Dam lands, Columbia, Central High School 6:30 pm CST. March 7 is deadline for comments (¶8A, this NL).
- January 28, TDOT's hearing on Knoxville Beltway route, Oak Ridge Civic Center, 4-8 pm (¶11A, this NL).
- January 30, DSWM's hearing on landfill near Big South Fork, Oneida, 6 pm. February 6 is deadline for comments (¶1B, this NL).
- February 6, "Creating Greenways & Trails" workshop, Knoxville City/County Building, 1:00-4:00 pm. (¶5D, this NL).
- February 7-10, "Saving Biodiversity in the United States," a conference sponsored by several organizations in conjunction with the Endangered Species Coalition. Washington, DC at Catholic University. Free registration. Contact Rina Rodriguez, phone 202-682-9400, fax 202-682-1331, e-mail rrodriguez@defenders.org
- April 8-10, "Exotic Pests of the Eastern Forest," a conference sponsored by the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council and the US Forest Service, Nashville, Club House Inn. Contact Lee Patrick 615-352-6299 or Rick Ledbetter 404-347-7193.
- Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, TCWP Annual Meeting, Fall Creek Falls State Park (¶12A, this NL).
- *Betrayal of Science and Reason: How Anti-Environmental Rhetoric Threatens Our Future*, by Paul and Anne Ehrlich, debunks pseudo-science and the myths advanced by the backlash against

environmental policies. Island Press, 320 pp, hardcover, \$24.95.

- *Greening the Grassroots: How Wildlife and Habitat Organizations Can Write Winning Grants*. Order from The Wildlife Network/Earth Island Institute, 401 San Miguel Way, Sacramento, CA 95819 (\$16 for book + \$5 for foundation list).
- *How to Save a River: A Handbook for Citizen Action*, by David M. Bolling, River Network, 286 pp., photos, index (\$17.95 paperback from Island Press, Box 7, Dept. 3K4, Covelo, CA 95428).
- *The Wild and Scenic Rivers of America*, by Tim Palmer, is the first compendium of nationally protected rivers, 338 pp., photos, index (\$24.95 paperback from Island Press, Box 7, Dept. 3K4, Covelo, CA 95428).

"Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell." -- Edward Abbey

WHAT IS TCWP?

TCWP is dedicated to achieving and perpetuating protection of natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. While our first focus is on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of East Tennessee, our efforts may extend to the rest of the state and the nation.

TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to an issue, informing and educating our membership and the public, interacting with groups having similar objectives, and working through the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government on the federal, state, and local levels.

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