

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 121, July 5, 1982

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

1. A-1 PRIORITY: REVERSE THE FOREST-SERVICE'S NEGATIVE DECISION ON CHEROKEE WILDERNESSES!

Forest Service study teams have issued Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS's) on two areas in the southern Cherokee National Forest that were on earlier occasions recommended for possible wilderness status. The team has recommended that only one-tenth of the total acreage of the two areas be designated as wilderness. We have an opportunity to comment at a hearing and in writing (details below) and must do so. The following table provides a summary for your information.

Area	Acres	Earlier Actions		Present study			
		Eastern Wilderness Act, 1975	RARE II,* 1979	Findings		Recommendation	
				suitable, available, manageable as wilderness	Need for wilderness	wilder-ness (acres)	non-wilderness (acres)
Big Frog, Polk Cy.	5,055	Wilderness Study Area	Further study	yes	no ^Δ	2,373	2,682
Citico Creek, Monroe Cy.	16,576	Wilderness Study Area	Further study	yes	no ^Δ	0	16,576

* Roadless Area Review and Evaluation

^Δ"Need cannot be clearly established"

Hearing: Tuesday, August 24, 7:30 p.m. EDT, McMinn Cy. Courthouse, Athens. (Contact TCWP for carpooling)

Written comments: by Sept. 25 to Forest Supervisor, P. O. Box 2010, Cleveland, TN 37311

DEIS: Call USFS at Cleveland (615, 476-9700); they will send you a copy or tell you where one is available (e.g., at a variety of public libraries, including Oak Ridge, Knox Cy. branches U.T., etc. etc.).

Final EIS's will be issued after the public comment period has ended, and these documents will undoubtedly be influential in any Congressional action on whether to add the areas to the Natl. Wilderness Preservation System.

Reasons for the decisions stated in the Draft EIS's are extremely flimsy (see second footnote to above table). The real reasons may be found (a) in the general philosophy of this Administration, (b) in plans for oil and gas exploration (see ¶2, this NL), and (c) in what the Forest Service considers to be overwhelming public sentiment expressed against these wildernesses on earlier occasions. Most of the "anti" response came, however, in the form of form letters and coupons

	Big Frog Wilderness		Citico Creek Wilderness	
	Pro	Con	Pro	Con
Form letters (generated by SORE, Monroe & Bradley Cy)	0	4,210	0	4,210
Response coupons from SORE newspaper ad	0	95	0	95
Non-form letters	116	103	115	116

* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Since the Forest Service obviously counts names, rather than weighing thoughts and data, you need only send a single-sentence postcard; but do it before you forget. Or, put your sentence at the top of a piece of paper and get a bunch of friends and associates to sign it (be sure they add their address). Suggested sentence: "Wilderness is badly needed in the eastern USA: we (I) urge you to recommend 16,576 acres of Citico Creek and 5,055 acres of Big Frog for wilderness designation." Come to the hearing -- bodies needed! Act on the enclosed ALERT contributed by Will Skelton.

2. OIL AND GAS DRILLING IN WILDERNESS; OTHER USFS MATTERS

A. A bill to ban new leases in wilderness and wilderness study areas

On June 24, the House Interior Committee overwhelmingly (34:7) approved a bipartisan bill (HR. 6542; Lujan, Clausen, Seiberling, Udall) that would rule the following areas permanently off limits to any new oil and gas leasing: all wilderness areas; areas recommended for wilderness or designated for further study in the Forest Service's 1979 RARE-II process (see ¶1); areas designated for wilderness study by an Act of Congress. The prohibition for all of these areas, except for existing wilderness, has time limits on it. Further, in the event of an overriding national need for oil or gas, the president could recommend exploration in wilderness, but his recommendation would have to be approved by both Houses of Congress (in contrast to Watt's bill--see NL 118 ¶1--in which the president could do it on his own). The Interior Committee bill does not apply to exploration for hardrock minerals, neither does it apply to the 24 million acres of BLM lands that have been identified for wilderness study.

The reason for the bill was the flood of oil and gas lease applications that have come in as the 12/31/83 deadline imposed by the 1964 Wilderness Act approaches, and Sec. Watt's bias in granting these applications. Recently, e.g., he approved drilling and associated road building for the Gros Ventre area in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, an area that the Forest Service has been strongly recommending as wilderness ever since 1974. There are other examples of the burgeoning of lease applications closer to home. In the Cherokee Natl. Forest of Tennessee, 30% of the area is already under lease, and applications are pending for another 60-65%. In the Chattahoochee National Forest of Georgia, 148,000 acres have been leased (including >100,000 acres by Amoco) and only 87,000 acres are as yet without lease applications. In the Cherokee NF, lease applications include areas designated for wilderness study, which may be a reason for the Forest Service's recent recommendations to keep these areas as non-wilderness (see ¶1, this NL).

* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to your Representative (House Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20515) and urge him/her to support the ban on new oil and gas leasing in wilderness, as stated in HR.6542. Recommend that hardrock-mineral mining be added to the prohibition, and that BLM wilderness study areas be included. Oppose any addition of "release" language to the bill (i.e. releasing Forest lands from future wilderness review, or setting deadlines for enacting new wilderness -- see NL 118 ¶1). Remind him/her that only 1.2% of the lower 48 states is wilderness; and that there are 118 million acres of federal lands (an area equivalent to that of 4 large states) that have been leased but not yet explored.

B. A potentially disastrous change in Forest Service regs

* Less than 3 years after conclusion of the long process by which conservation and production interests finally compromised to produce the National Forest and Resource Management Planning regulations, the Reagan Administration has proposed rule changes that would seriously damage the planning and management process. The changes would inhibit wilderness planning, reduce protection for fish and wildlife, reduce safeguards against excessive logging (by allowing departures from the sustained-yield principle), and inhibit public participation. Although the Forest Service will not count public comments received after July 6 (TCWP sent comments, see NL 120 ¶7E), it would be helpful if you expressed your outrage to the Congress. Write to Hon. James Weaver, Chmn, House Forest Subcommittee, U.S. House of Representatives, Wash. DC 20515.

3. PARKLANDS: ACQUISITION, PROTECTION, REGS

A. Efforts to include Obed funds in LWCF appropriation

* TCWP urged Tennessee's congressional delegation to request that \$1 million for Obed land acquisition be included in the Land & Water Conservation Fund appropriation (see NL 120 ¶4). We have had fine responses from Representatives Bouquard and Duncan. Both have contacted Congressman Yates, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations and requested that \$1 million be included. Rep. Duncan also contacted Rep. McDade, the ranking Republican on the Subcommittee. We hope you will drop a line to Reps. Bouquard and Duncan, thanking them for their efforts (House Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20515). Other members of the Tenn. delegation need to be urged to follow Reps. Bouquard's and Duncan's lead. In addition, Sen. Sasser a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee needs to hear from you (Senate Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20510).

B. Park protection bill needs continuing support

As we informed you earlier (NL 120 ¶7D, NL 118 ¶2), there are two similar bills (Seiberling's HR 5552 and Bereuter's HR 5976) which would protect park resources from external threats (strip-mining outside Bryce and Glacier, water diversion from Everglades, etc.). Both bills would prevent federal projects on nearby lands from degrading any park values, and both provide for continuous monitoring of natural resources in the park system. At June 22 hearings, an Interior Subcommittee listened to much supporting testimony, including some by Nat Reed, Asst. Sec. of the Interior under Nixon and Ford. [Reed also accused his former employee, James Watt, of acting "with malice" in attempting to cut land acquisition funds for parklands.] Reed's testimony, and the fact that one of the pending bills is by a Democrat and the other by a Republican, illustrate the bipartisan nature of support for parklands. Please urge your Rep. to support one of the pending bills (House Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20515).

C. National Park Service proposes changed regs

Many of the proposed changes affect the fundamental management of the parks in an adverse manner. The potentially most dangerous of these is Sec. 1.6 which gives park superintendents a great deal of flexibility in allowing exceptions to restricted or prohibited activities. This opens the way to pressure groups, e.g., ORV riders. We believe that exceptions should be granted only in emergency situations, and all permits should be recorded in writing. Another adverse change defines trapping as equivalent to hunting and would thus allow trapping in all of about 34 units of the park system in which hunting is presently allowed, including Wild and Scenic Rivers (e.g., the Obed) and Recreation Areas (e.g. part of the Big S. Fork NRR). It should be pointed out that trapping is a commercial activity, and that animal skins are sold for profit. Comments should be sent by July 19 to Assoc. Director, Management and Operations, National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240. There are several other proposed regulatory changes for the worse, concerning snowmobiles, hang-gliders, picnicking (allowed anywhere), weapons, etc. If you are interested, call us (see p. 1) or NPCA, Washington 202, 265-2717.

D. Carrying capacity of parks

An amendment to the 1978 NPS General Authorities Act mandated the establishment of carrying capacities for individual park units, but the Park Service has not implemented this provision. The National Parks and Conservation Assoc. (NPCA) has commissioned a team from the Univ. of Maryland to develop a method for estimating a park's carrying capacity, based on environmental, physical, and social impacts of visitation. The team's findings will be reviewed by a 30-person panel including NPS employees. You can help in the NPCA work by reviewing visitation records and visitor "use" permits for your favorite park. If interested, contact NPCA's Laura Loomis for further instructions (NPCA, 1701-18th Street, NW, Wash. DC 20009).

4. FROZEN HEAD: GOOD NEWS

Your letters do make a difference! On June 29, Commissioner Howell wrote: "We received many letters and petitions with sentiments similar to yours: in opposition to dog training, hunting, four wheel drive vehicular use, and plant digging at Frozen Head." The Commissioner announced the following policies:

- No dog training, and no dogs within the area, except on leash
- 4-wheel drive vehicles only on established park roads where regular types of vehicles are permitted
- No digging or removal of ginseng or any other plants

Copies of the regs are available from the Frozen Head office (Rt. 2, Box 192, Wartburg 37887) or from the DoC (701 Broadway, Nashville 37203).

You may also wish to request the "Frozen Head State Natural Area Program Catalog" which describes the Area and its facilities and lists 18 programs available to schools or organized groups.

5. TENNESSEE'S RIVERS

A. Obed

See ¶3A

B. The Duck River: we lose on water quality, but continue the fight

Columbia Dam had been held up by a temporary injunction while a lawsuit was pending in Davidson County Chancery Court. The lawsuit (brought by the Environmental Defense Fund and four Tennessee organizations, including TCWP) challenged last year's Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) decision to uphold the Tenn. Dept of Health's decision to grant a state water quality permit (which, in turn, was required for the Corps of Engineers' 404 permit). A few weeks ago, the Davidson County Court ruled against us by upholding the WQCB. According to the court memorandum, "the [WQC] board considered those deviations [from the state water quality standards] and exercised its discretion to find that the deviations would not constitute a violation."--Frank Fly, the leader of the fight against Columbia Dam, points out that water quality is only one of many issues on which the dam can be fought. The project (which would cost \$203 million if completed in 4 years) is a gigantic boondoggle and should be vulnerable on economic grounds. Even by TVA standards, and even before the great cost escalation, it never had a benefit/cost ratio greater than 1.0. It is, in fact, one of the 6 worst boondoggles in the nation (see ¶8A)! Write your U.S. Rep and both Senators that here is one good way in which they could help reduce the national debt. Remember, also, that the dam would inundate almost 13,000 acres of prime farm land and would leave about 8,000 acres of mudflats during winter draw down.

C. Ocoee: ORC loses another lawsuit, but is gaining public support

Another adverse court decision--the second adverse one for the Ocoee. U.S. District Judge Frank Wilson recently dismissed the suit filed in March 1981 by the Ocoee River Council which had charged that TVA violated NEPA by not considering recreational benefits. In Judge Wilson's opinion, TVA renovation of the Ocoee No. 2 power station was not "arbitrary, capricious, and unlawful," as claimed in the suit. Earlier (see NL 120 ¶8A), Federal Judge L. Clure Morton had ruled that TVA did not need a state water-quality permit, as claimed by the Tenn. Commissioner of Health.--As you know, TVA is restoring the Ocoee hydro plant, at a cost of \$26 million, on the claim that this power is needed. However, a recent film distributed by TVA manager Hugh Parris explains to TVA employees that the Watts Bar steamplant and part of Widow's Creek are being shut down because power is not needed.--The Ocoee River Council is sponsoring an Ocoee River Festival on August 14 (bluegrass music, barbecue, boat raffles, exhibits). Proceeds go toward continuation of ORC's efforts to keep the river open. For further info, write ORC, Box 238, Ocoee, TN 37361, or phone 615, 338-8619.

D. Collins: potential good news

In response to a suggestion by the Safe Growth Team, the Tenn. Dept. of Conservation has developed a Collins River Protection Plan (CRPP) which may later be used as a model for protecting other State Scenic Rivers. The Tenn. Environmental Council has been offered a \$25,000 contract to implement the CRPP, which supports coordination with local governing bodies. TSRA has undertaken the development of a slide show which will promote the concept of protecting the river corridor. The next plan to be developed will probably be for the Roaring River. We hope you will write to Commissioner C. Howell (Tenn. Dept. of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville 37203) and encourage him in his efforts to implement the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act.

6. OTHER TENNESSEE CAPSULES

A. Koppers still trying. After the Koppers Corporation's Oak Ridge proposal failed to be selected for funding by the Synthetic Fuel Corp, SFC (NL 120 ¶14), the company reapplied on May 31 and is attempting to find another partner. On June 17, SFC announced another round of decision-making: The Koppers proposal remained as one of 31 still under review, while six others were rejected. The Group Against Synfuel Pollution (GASP) has compiled extensive information about the economic and environmental adverse effects of the proposal plant, and is sending this to SFC as well as to companies Koppers is attempting to enlist as partners. (For info, contact Frances Pleasonton, 111 Pleasant Rd, Oak Ridge 37830).

B. The Dept. of Conservation's capital budget is lower than ever.

The proposed budget contained only a pittance for trails and rivers (\$25,000 for work on the Cumberland Trail, \$45,000 for the Hatchie Scenic River), but the General Assembly deleted even this small amount on the final day of the budget debate. They appropriated \$450,000 for

renovation of buildings and swimming pools at various state parks. The only additional items were \$60,000 for purchase of a conservation easement at Ripshin Bog in upper East Tennessee, and \$1,072,000 for land acquisition required to build silt-detention dams on Reelfoot Lake tributaries.

C. More about the recent legislative session. In NL 120 ¶12D, we gave you a brief post mortem on four bills. Two others may be of interest. (i) Both Houses overwhelmingly passed a bill authorizing a \$1-million bond issue for energy-conservation improvements. Governor Alexander line-vetoed it in the budget. The Senate overrode the veto, but the House did not. (ii) Both Houses unanimously passed the Governor's Parkway System bill which slightly limits billboards: all those in place can remain, and businesses can place new ones within 100 ft of their premises.

D. State Forester resigns. Max Young, who had been in this position for many years, resigned suddenly at the end of May, probably as a result of disputes over Natchez Trace State Forest. Rumors are that Young had defied DoC and TWRA policy by ordering large-scale timber sales for the Forest, which is also a wildlife management area. A few years ago, TCWP tried in vain to convince Young not to clear-cut certain virgin-forest coves within Pickett State Forest.

7. STRIPMINE CAPSULES

A. We lose one of the best law enforcers

When the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) had a flourishing Region-II office in Knoxville Bruce Boyens was its Director of Inspection and Enforcement. Some of you may remember his informative talk at the 1981 TCWP Annual Meeting. Region-II OSM repeatedly stepped in when there was a lack of enforcement by Tennessee's Division of Surface Mining (DSM). This spring, when it became clear that OSM would grant Tennessee primacy in enforcing the federal stripmine Act, Mr. Boyens was named as OSM's State Director for Tennessee. In March, he wrote to DSM enumerating, in some detail, several serious failings in the State's enforcement procedures. Two months later, Bruce Boyens was reassigned to the Washington office of OSM. In response, he resigned, effective July 10. Are OSM and DSM unable to tolerate a person with integrity in this job? The next appointment will tell.

B. Announcements of OSM regulatory changes are deceptive

Among OSM's frequent news releases on proposed changes in regulations, there was one about how OSM was going to "improve" environmental protection by re-writing the regs on stream buffer zones and on fish and wildlife values. Some of us smelled a rat, and further research proved us to be right. As a result 16 national, and state organizations, TCWP among them, recently submitted 11 pages of detailed comments on the proposed change.

C. Many operators are delinquent in paying fees and fines

Operators of over 1600 mines nationwide owe about \$19 million in reclamation fees (a 35¢/ton fee for stripped coal, used for abandoned mine reclamation). In addition, there are at least 3165 cases of unpaid civil penalty fines, the total amount being \$13.4 million.

8. WATER-PROJECT BOONDOGGLES

A. The "Senseless Six" include two with a Tennessee connection

If the Congress is serious about budget cuts, it can start with a group of water projects selected by a coalition of conservation groups as the worst boondoggles of all. Included in the "Senseless Six" are the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway and the Columbia Dam on the Duck River (see ¶5B). Last year, the \$3 billion Tenn-Tom came very close to being terminated by Congressional action: it would have taken only 10 more votes in the House, and 2 more votes in the Senate to do so; but the President has budgeted \$186 million for Tenn-Tom for FY 1983. Let's see if we can't swing a few more votes in the Congress to kill Tenn-Tom this year and to prevent any appropriation for Columbia Dam. The other four projects in the "Senseless Six" are in North Dakota, Nebraska, Louisiana, and W. Virginia. Write your U.S. Rep. and both Senators (House or Senate Office Bldg., respectively, Wash. DC 20515 or 20510).

B. The Water Resource Council's Principals & Standards: half won?

In our last issue (NL 120 19A) we asked you to oppose Sec. Watt's attempt to repeal the Principals & Standards (P&S) for water projects, since these are the only federal regs requiring strict benefit-cost analysis. As in September 1981, when Watt tried once before to repeal the P&S, public comment ran overwhelmingly against repeal: this time, it was 606 to 61, i.e. 90.1% (omitting water developers and federal agencies, the vote was 599 to 8, i.e., 98.7%). Despite this clear expression of opinion, Watt, as chairman of the Water Resource Council, may still proceed with his plan unless there is a public outcry. In addition to a repeal of the P&S, his plan includes elimination of environmental quality as a planning objective, and dropping the requirement to consider nonstructural approaches (e.g., floodplain zoning) as well as structural ones (e.g., dams). A public outcry could thwart Watt's plan. Try a letter to the editor of your paper, or attempt to get media coverage.

C. "Water votes" of Tennessee Congressmen

Members of the Tennessee Congressional delegation perform much more poorly in votes dealing with water projects than they do on environmental issues in general. Perhaps this is because they come from a state that has both TVA and Corps of Engineers dams? The list below shows the score based on 17 water-project-related votes (only 10 such votes for Boner, who joined the Congress more recently), and the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) overall scores averaged for 3 years (1979, 1980, 1981).

	<u>Water project Score</u>	<u>Overall LCV</u>		<u>Water project Score</u>	<u>Overall LCV</u>
Rep. Quillen	0	22	Rep. Boner	10	51
Rep. Duncan	0	19	Rep. Beard	0	16
Rep. Bouquard	0	24	Rep. Jones	0	28
Rep. Gore	0	57	Rep. Ford	35	68

D. No more TVA water projects?

In his March 27 address to the Tenn. Conservation League, TVA Director Dave Freeman said: "TVA has now established a policy of not building any new dams or carrying out any more stream channelization on the Tennessee River and its tributaries." TVA is "preserving our remaining free-flowing streams." This is good news. Columbia is not a new dam, of course -- it was started long before the present Board came in. Too bad TVA can't bite the bullet on this economically unjustifiable project, as they did on the nuclear plants!

E. Our North Carolina neighbors are fighting a Corps proposal

Does this sound familiar: 4000 acres to be inundated, an additional 6000 acres to be taken, 600 residents to be displaced, 50 farms to be flooded, \$159 million to build the dam? That's the Corps' proposal for the Randleman Dam on Deep River in Randolph County, N.C. Several years ago, citizens in Western N.C. defeated a 14-dam TVA project for the French Broad, and some of those who originally favored that project now say that its defeat was the best thing that could have happened to the area. We wish the citizens of Randolph County an equal degree of success. For further info, write Miss Thelma Adams, Rt. #1, Box 344, Randleman, N.C. 27317.

9. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

A. Endangered Species Act

Both the House and the Senate overwhelmingly passed a 3-year re-authorization of the Endangered Species Act (HR.6133 on 6/8/82, and S.2309 on 6/9/82). After resolution of relatively minor differences by a conference committee, the bill will be sent to both floors for a final vote, and then to the President for his signature. Not only was the Act re-authorized for 3 years (instead of 1 year, as Watt had recommended), but many of the major threats to its integrity were averted. Thus, there is continued protection for plants and "lower life forms," and economic considerations are not to enter into the listing of a species (though economics will continue to be considered in determining the critical habitat). In at least one aspect, the Act has actually been strengthened: it sets time limits which will speed up the listing procedure-- this became necessary in light of the fact that the listing of species came to a virtual standstill under the Reagan Administration.

The great victory was achieved by a coalition of 25 environmental groups which had to take on not only the various industry lobbies (mining, forest products, utilities, etc.) but also the Administration. The coalition was successful in mobilizing grassroots support, you and me -- in some districts, mail ran 100:1 in favor of reauthorization. The coalition was also successful in convincing Congress that the Act had not stopped economic development, and that destruction of species could preclude future discoveries of useful plant or animal products. We owe thanks to the coalition staff. We also owe a great deal of gratitude to the sponsors and co-sponsors of the bills in both Houses. Tennessee's Sen. Baker was a co-sponsor. We urge you to express your thanks to him (Senate Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20510).

B. Other good news

We all can use good news once in a while, so here are some capsules. Some show the power of letter writing.

- Bald eagles: in 1970, there were fewer than 1000 in the 48 contiguous states. Now there are 4000-5000. Major factors: the banning of DDT, preservation of habitat, stricter enforcement of protective laws.
- Black-footed ferret, the country's rarest mammal: last seen in the wild 10 years ago, and thought to be possibly extinct (the last captive one died in 1978), it has now been found in a small Wyoming population. No thanks to the Fish & Wildlife Service, which didn't budget a cent for ferret conservation this year.
- Commercial fishing in the Everglades: Cecil Andrus wanted it phased out by 1985 because of its adverse effects on alligators, birds, and other parts of the ecosystem; but Watt's Asst. Secretary Arnett wanted to cancel the Andrus ruling. Comments ran 9,000:2,000 against commercial fishing. What'll Watt do now?
- Oil shale development in the Rockies -- an environmental disaster: in May, Exxon withdrew from its \$5 billion project in Colorado, ending the biggest undertaking in the field. Bills pending in both Houses (S.2362 and HR.5404) would kill the Synthetic Fuels Corp's loan and price guarantee program which is presently out of balance with the poor funding allotted to more promising energy programs.
- Bottle Bills: New York has just become the 9th state to pass such a bill, and 4 states are having referenda this fall.
- Off-road vehicles in refuges and parks: There were ominous signs that Sec. Watt would allow expanded use. However, when beachbuggy organizations petitioned the Interior Dept. to open most of the Chincoteague Natl. Wildlife Refuge to ORV's, USDI received over 8,000 letters, most of them opposing the ORV's. The petition was rejected.

10. THREE IMPORTANT NATIONAL ISSUES CONTINUE TO NEED YOUR EFFORT

A. The Administration wants to sell our natural heritage for a quick buck

(1) The 1983 Reagan budget proposes to raise \$17 billion from the sale of federal property, half of that to come from Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. Memos have gone out from Washington to USFS and BLM field offices, directing them to identify lands for sale, and instructing them not to give out any information to the public. A White House report calls for the sale of 155,000,000 acres of BLM lands to ranchers who are currently leasing them for grazing, at an estimated sale price of \$20 per acre!

(2) The Administration is pushing a bill that would change federal property law, which presently requires that receipts from sales of surplus federal property be credited to the Land & Water Conservation Fund to support parkland acquisition. The Administration wants receipts from such sales used to reduce the national debt. Sen. Percy may support this Administration bill instead of his earlier S.Res.231 (NL 120 ¶5).

(3) The Administration is also halting a procedure by which, up till now, state and local governments could create urban parks and recreation lands. Under this procedure, these governments had first rights to acquire excess open-space property (such as abandoned defense sites) at no cost, or at a discount. Now, they would have to bid against private developers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Sen. Sasser, a member of the Government Affairs Committee (Senate Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20510) and send similar letters to Sen. Baker, your Rep. (House Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20515), and to the editor of your paper. Points you can make: (a) public lands are part of our national heritage. (b) We must not sell the store -- only manage it better. Thus, federal revenues could be increased to a greater degree if we ensured fair market prices for commercial resource extraction from public lands than if we sold these lands

for a quick buck. What happened to the \$7.2 million for which Czar Alexander sold Alaska to the U.S.A.? (c) "Discounted transfers" of surplus federal property is an essential program by which state and local governments acquire open space lands for park use; it should be continued.

B. The Clean Air Act continues to need your support

Just before the July 4 recess, the Senate Environment Committee was tackling acid-rain amendments and the question of pollution control at coal-fired power plants. The House Energy Committee was waiting for Chairman Dingell to strike with another "moderate" package in his attempt to undo the slight victory clean-air forces had achieved with the Wyden PSD amendment (NL 120 ¶10). If you want the latest info, call the 24-hour Clean Air Hotline (202, 547-5551). However, you don't need to know details to be able to convey these simple messages (postcards will do):

- (1) Tell your Rep. to oppose Rep. Dingell's so-called "moderate" amendments which would weaken the Clean Air Act. Ask him/her to support Rep. Waxman's efforts to keep the Act strong.
- (2) Write to both of your Senators and ask them to support Sen. Stafford's Clean Air efforts.

Here are some interesting stories on acid rain. (1) The EPA now calls it "non-buffered precipitation;" and Energy Secretary Edwards says a little acid rain is good for crops.

(2) The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on acid rain (NL 116 ¶10B) so angered the Administration that (a) EPA refused to fund any more acid-rain data analysis by the Academy, and (b) the White House rejected a plan by which the NAS and the Royal Academy of Canada would have jointly reviewed scientific info to be used in devising a treaty on acid rain. Instead, the President's Science Advisor will select the scientists to do the review. (Source: New York Times, 6/8/82)

(3) TVA Director Dave Freeman, after attending an international conference on global environmental policy, said that acid rain, caused by emissions from coal-fired steam plants, may be even more serious than we fear at the moment, and that it is a real threat to the planet's environment.

C. Battle looms over Clean Water Act re-authorization

Subcommittee hearings will soon begin on re-authorization of the 1972 Clean Water Act, which expires in September. The Administration (through EPA's Gorsuch) has proposed 15 amendments which would severely weaken the Act. Instead of the current uniform national standards, EPA would make discretionary decisions on which industry needed to remove pollutants before making discharges into the nation's waters; deadlines for compliance would be greatly extended; dams would be exempted from clean-water requirements; etc. Wetlands protection, which is currently being accomplished through Sec. 404 of the Act (requiring dredge-and-fill permits through the Corps of Engineers) would be severely weakened if the Administration and several members of Congress have their way.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to support a simple 5-year extension of the Act -- no amendments. Your letters or postcards should be addressed to the Hon. Robert A. Roe, Chmn, Subcommittee on Water Resources, House of Representatives, Wash. DC 20515 and to Senator John H. Chafee, Chmn, Subcomm. on Environmental Pollution, U.S. Senate, Wash. DC 20510.

11. PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- "Acid Rain" is a 12-page booklet available free from Educational Servicing, Natl. Wildlife Federation, 1412-16th Street NW, Wash. DC 20036.
- "Toxic Wastewater Control in Tennessee: a Citizens Guide to the NPDES Permit System," by Bill Painter (NRDC) and Ruth Neff (TEC). Contains descriptions of the permitting process, compliance monitoring requirements, and enforcement options. Available at cost from Tennessee Envntl. Council (P.O. Box 1422, Nashville, 37202)
- A "Policy and Information Bulletin" is now published by the Tenn. Division of Surface Mining. If you wish to be placed on the distribution list, send a 3 x 5" card with your printed name and address to Mr. Bob Schuhr, Div. of Surface Mining, Tenn. Dept. of Conservation, 305 West Springdale Ave., Knoxville 37917.
- An up-to-date map of the 61 components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is available free of charge from National Park Service, USDI, Wash. DC 20240. In addition to already designated river segments, the map also shows study rivers.

- "National Parks in Crisis" edited by E. H. Connally. Problems afflicting the Park system and recommendations, how people can have an impact in planning for the future of the parks (\$20 from Information Dynamics, 111 Claybrook Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902)
- "The Fight to Save Wild Alaska," by Robert Cahn, details the 10-year effort that won the Alaska public lands act, and the battle over implementation that is still to come. Free from Info. Serv., Natl. Audubon Soc., 950-3rd Ave., New York, NY. 10022
- The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping: Home Landscaping with Food-Bearing Plants and Resource-Saving Techniques" [\$14.95 (\$11.95 for members) plus \$2 shipping, from Sierra Club Books, Box 3886, Rincon Annex, San Francisco, CA 94119]
- Lexington Books publishes an extensive series of books on environmental policy, water resources, pollution regulation, wilderness etc. D. C. Heath and Co., 125 Spring St., Lexington, MA 02173 will supply catalog.

12. CALENDAR

- July 24 TCWP Obed Fun Day -- see ¶13 and send in your slip
- Aug. 14 Ocoee River Festival -- see ¶5C for details
- Aug. 24-27 "Southeastern Connections: Energy and the Environment in the Eighties," Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville (Morrill Hall). Sponsored by SUNREP to focus on bioregional issues, conservation/preservation strategies, building skills (Contact Southeastern Connections, P.O. Box 10121, Knoxville 37919; or call David Pate, 971-4606 or 525-9945)
- Oct. 29-31 TCWP Annual Meeting, Pickett State Park group camp. The fall colors should be at their peak, and we will combine an interesting program of speakers and discussions with some hikes and good times. (If you can help with meals, get in touch with Miriam Guthrie, 615, 482-2111.)
- Nov. 12-14 Intergroup Conference, sponsored by TEC

See the colored sheet for
Obed picnic ; Action Summary

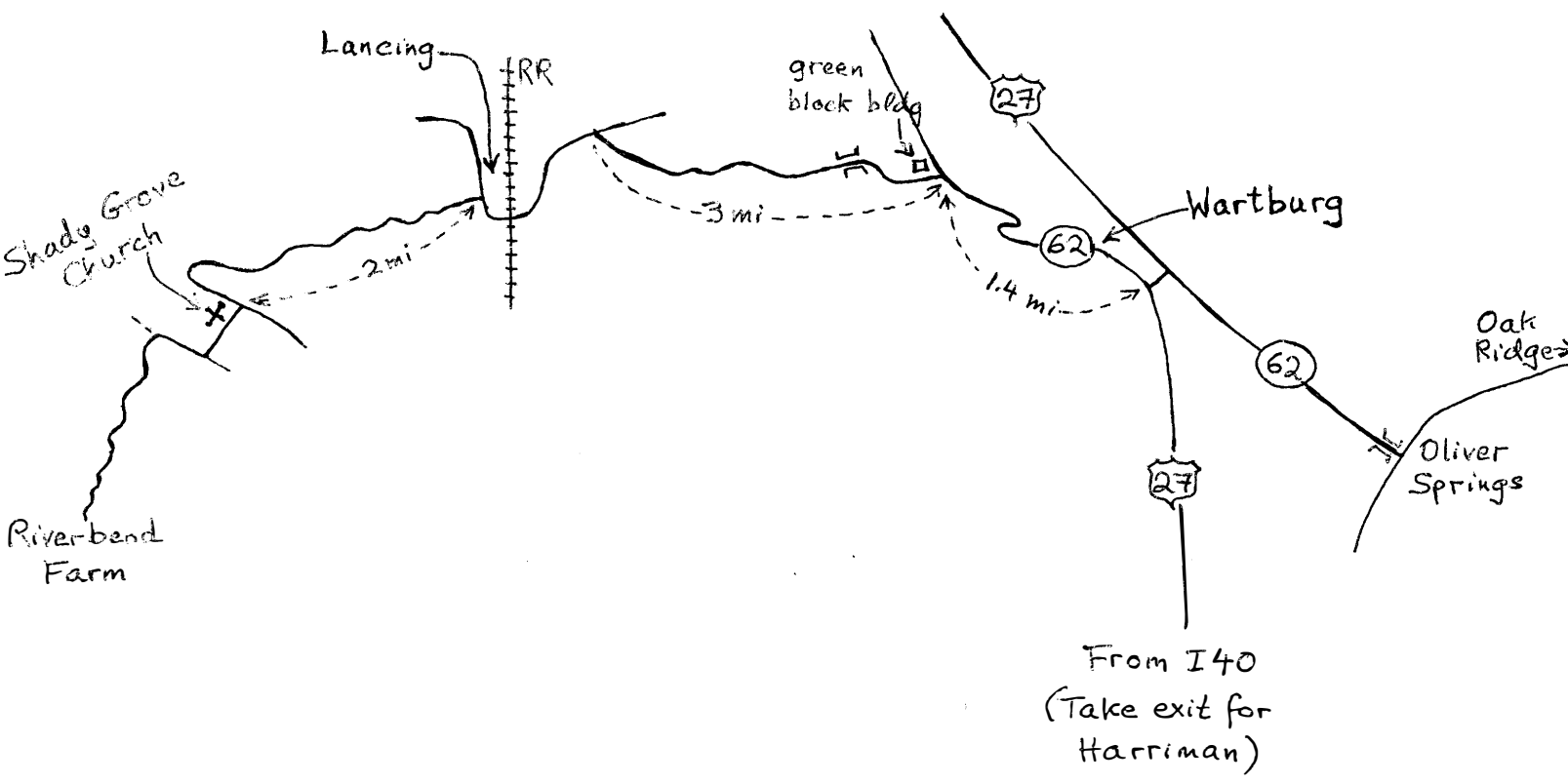
See you July 24!

13. LET'S GET TOGETHER: OBED FUN DAY PICNIC

Saturday, July 24 is the day, and John and Mary Ann Gibbons are loaning us their beautiful 450-acre Riverbend Farm on the Obed. Come with your family and friends and enjoy the incredibly beautiful scenery and a total feeling of peace. We'll take the short walk down into the deep gorge and cool off in one of the swimming holes, or sunbathe atop the huge sandstone boulders. From the farmhouse, you can also take a short hike to a bluff high above the river. Bring a picnic lunch (we'll provide cool watermelon). For those who can also stay the evening, we'll have a potluck, so be sure to bring a dish (there's a cooler and an oven at the farm; also outdoor fireplaces). If you want to spend Saturday night in one of the cabins, bring sheets or sleeping bags and \$10 per person. See map and route description below, and be sure to return the tear-off slip.

Route description. From intersection of U.S. 27 and TN62, SE of Wartburg, proceed through Wartburg on 62 (the courthouse will be on your right) and down the hill. Take first left at a green cinderblock store and go ca. 3 miles (crossing a one-lane bridge) to a stop sign where road enters from right. About 0.5 mi downhill from there, you swing right, crossing the RR track at Lancing. Almost immediately, turn left just past the R&L Trading Store* and go steep up the hill, then on a winding road for ca. 2 mi. Near a big barn, silo and pond, there is a sharp curve left. Shortly after curve take first right, past the little Shady Grove Baptist Church. Immediately turn right again. Narrow, bumpy dirt road makes left curve, then winds, up and down, all the way to Riverbend Farm, where it ends.

* Recently burnt down



Return to Jenny Freeman, 3411 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

No. of people who plan to attend Obed fun day _____ (this does not obligate you)

Do you plan to stay for supper? _____ If so type of dish you'll bring? _____
(e.g. vegetable, meat, etc.)

Do you plan to spend the night? _____

14. ACTION SUMMARY

¶ No.	Issue	Contact	"Message" or Action
1	Cherokee Wilderness	Forest Service Also see enclosed Alert	"Citico and Big Frog should be wilderness!"
2A	Leasing in wilderness	US Rep	"Support HR6542 and strengthen it!"
2B	Forest Serv. regs	Rep. Jim Weaver	"Proposed changes are disastrous!"
3A	Obed Appopr.	Reps. Bouquard, Duncan Other US Reps	"Thank you!" "Follow Bouquard & Duncan lead!"
3B	Park protection	US Rep	"Support HR5552 or 5976!"
3C	Natl. Park regs	Natl Park Service	"Most proposed changes are harmful!"
5B	Duck River	US Sens and Rep	" <u>No</u> funding for Columbia Dam!"
5C	State Scenic Rivers	Comm. Howell	"Implement TN Scenic Rivers Act!"
8A	"Senseless Six"	US Sens and Rep	" <u>No</u> funding for these boondoggles, especially Tenn-Tom!"
8B	Water Resources	Your local paper	Letter to editor re Watt repeal of P&S
9A	Endangered Species Act	Sen. Baker.	"Thank you!"
10A	Sale of federal lands	Sen. Sasser, etc.	"Don't sell our natural heritage!"
10B	Clean Air	US Rep US Sens	"Oppose Dingell, support Waxman!" "Support Stafford!"
10C	Clean Water	Rep. Roe & Sen. Chafee	"Extend Act 5 yrs with <u>no</u> amendments!"

HOW TO ADDRESS YOUR LETTERS

Honorable (Rep's name)
House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congress^{man}_{woman} Smith:
Sincerely yours,
Phone: 202, 224-3121 (switchboard)

Honorable (Senator's name)
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jones:
Sincerely yours,
Phone: 202, 224-3121 (switchboard)

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:
Respectfully yours,
Phone: 202, 456-1414

CITICO CREEK AND BIG FROG MOUNTAIN
THREATENED BY FOREST SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

The best of Tennessee's National Forest wilderness, with a heavy push from the Forest Service, is going down the tubes unless we act now. Citico Creek and most of Big Frog Mountain have just been recommended for non-wilderness by the Forest Service--a grossly erroneous action that ignores the wilderness attributes of Tennessee's two very best candidates for national forest wilderness designation. SO, IF YOU EVER CONSIDERED WRITING A LETTER FOR WILDERNESS, or attending a wilderness hearing, THE TIME IS NOW. We need as many letters as possible (numbers will count most) to the Forest Service and Congressman John Duncan (whose district will include these areas) between now and September 25, 1982, and as many people as possible attending a hearing scheduled for August 24, 1982, at 7:30 p.m. at the Courthouse in Athens, Tennessee. Only concerted opposition to this action will save Citico and Big Frog from clearcutting, roads, oil and gas leasing, and other development.

BACKGROUND:

Congress recognized the outstanding wilderness qualities of Citico and Big Frog by designating them Wilderness Study Areas in 1974 and requesting the Forest Service to study the areas. The Forest Service has taken 8 years to accomplish the study, and the result is flawed and shortsighted. Draft Environmental Impact Statements and Wilderness Study Reports (EISs) for both areas were released on June 14, 1982 (copies can be obtained by calling or writing the Forest Service in Cleveland, Tennessee). The draft EISs are, in short, anti-wilderness justifications for the destruction of the Cherokee's most outstanding proposed wilderness areas.

CITICO CREEK DRAFT EIS:

Three alternatives are presented and reviewed in the EIS:

- Alternative I is 16,576 acres of wilderness
- Alternative II is 16,576 acres of non-wilderness
- Alternative III is 11,223 acres of wilderness and 5,353 acres of non-wilderness (note typographical error in EIS).

The Forest Service chose Alternative II--absolutely no wilderness. The Cherokee National Forest Wilderness Coalition recommends, instead, Alternative I, all wilderness, plus 1,800 acres constituting the Flats Mountain Addition. The reasons why Citico should become wilderness are perhaps best reflected by the descriptions of the area in the Forest Service's own words from the EIS itself: "Visually appealing, rugged terrain, 99% forest cover, seven threatened plant species, areas of virgin and old growth timber, interesting waterfalls with 75 and 80 foot drops, rainbow and brook trout streams, animal species of special concern, extensive trail system, and excellent water quality."

BIG FROG MOUNTAIN DRAFT EIS:

Again, three alternatives are presented and reviewed in the EIS:

- Alternative I is 5,055 acres of wilderness
- Alternative II is 5,055 acres of non-wilderness
- Alternative III is 2,373 acres of wilderness and 2,682 acres of non-wilderness.

The Forest Service chose Alternative II--only a token amount of wilderness. INSTEAD, the Coalition recommends Alternative I, all wilderness, plus 3,565 acres constituting the Perimeter Roads Addition. The reasons why Big Frog should become wilderness are again reflected in the Forest Service's own words from the EIS: "Most prominent landform in surrounding area, highest roadless area rating in Cherokee National Forest, hiking is most important recreational activity in area, most extensive trail system in Cherokee, continuous vegetation cover, rainbow trout streams, high water quality."

WHY THE ANTI-WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION:

The unstated basis for the anti-wilderness bias of the draft EISs is undoubtedly the current administration in Washington, together with the Forest Service's longstanding reluctance to support wilderness. The stated reason is, however, that Big Frog and Citico meet the "criteria for Availability, Suitability, and Manageability, but that Need cannot be clearly established" i.e., we don't need a Big Frog or Citico Wilderness. The Forest Service position is therefore that ALL OBJECTIVE CRITERIA (Availability, Suitability, and Manageability) ARE MET but that the SUBJECTIVE CRITERIA (Need) IS NOT MET. The Forest Service then exercises their own subjective anti-wilderness bias and recommends essentially no wilderness.

Even the Forest Service admits that there will soon be a "slight overuse problem" in Citico and Big Frog. However, they gloss this admission over by stating that "those areas already recommended for wilderness during RARE II will probably be sufficient to meet growing demands until 1990." The problem is, of course, that RARE II resulted in essentially no wilderness recommendations in the Cherokee National Forest (one small area, Bald River Gorge, 3,887 acres) and, if the Forest Service has its way, 1990 will simply be too late for wilderness recommendations--Wilderness cannot be created, it is or it isn't, and once it is gone, it is gone for a long time, if not forever.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Two things can change the Forest Service action:

1. Write a letter PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 25, 1982, to the Forest Service (Forest Supervisor, P. O. Box 2010, Cleveland, Tennessee 37311) WITH A COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN DUNCAN (U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515). This copy to Congressman Duncan is JUST AS IMPORTANT since Congress will make the ultimate decision. If you can, also send copies to your congressperson and Senators Baker and Sasser.
2. Attend the public hearing and make a brief statement (August 24, 1982, 7:30 p.m., at the Courthouse in Athens, Tennessee--note there is also to be a hearing at 7:30 p.m., on August 23, 1982, at the Courthouse in Chatsworth, Georgia, for those who can't make the Tennessee hearing; however, the Tennessee hearing is most important).

WHAT TO TELL THE FOREST SERVICE AND CONGRESSMAN DUNCAN:

1. You don't like the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Wilderness Study Reports for Citico Creek and Big Frog Mountain because of their anti-wilderness recommendations.
2. Urge the Forest Service to change their recommendations in the final EISs and to support wilderness designation for all of the Big Frog and Citico acreage PLUS the Flats Mountain Addition to Citico and the Perimeter Roads Addition to Big Frog.
3. Tell the Forest Service there is a clear need for more wilderness in the vicinity of Big Frog and Citico--use any personal experiences of overcrowding.
4. Tell the Forest Service why you feel Citico and Big Frog should be wilderness--use any personal knowledge.
5. Urge the Forest Service to also conduct public hearings in Knoxville and Chattanooga, where the bulk of the users of these areas live, in addition to Athens and Chatsworth.
6. Ask that your comments be made a part of the public record of the hearing.
7. MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE IS SIMPLY TO WRITE, SAY YOU SUPPORT WILDERNESS FOR THESE AREAS, AND SEND A COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN DUNCAN.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Will Skelton, Coordinator, Cherokee National Forest Wilderness Coalition, 4058 Kingston Park Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee, Home 523-2272, Office 546-2800;
Jim Price, Regional Representative, Sierra Club, Southeast Office, Post Office Box 11248, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919, Office 588-1892;
Randy Brown, Regional Director, Trout Unlimited, 722 Garden Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37409, Home 821-1227, Office 821-1160;
Jenny Freeman, Executive Director, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, 3411 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919, Home 524-5673;
Jim Desrosiers, Chairman, Chattanooga Sierra Club Group, 502 Tremont Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37405, Home 267-0288;
Richard Bolen, President, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, 8001 Bennington Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919, Home 690-0658, Office 588-7529.