

# TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 149\*

May 29, 1986



- 1. Private development threatens Highlands of the Roan .....p. 3
- 2. Big South Fork and Obed .....p. 3
  - A. BSFNRRRA land acquisition      C. Oil and gas damage
  - B. Lavender Bridge hearing      D. Rugby plan
- 3. TVA Board appointment: your voice can count .....p. 4
- 4. Problems with the Cherokee National Forest Plan .....p. 5
  - A. Notice of appeal filed      B. Reaction by our Senators
- 5. Stripmine news: focus on AML fund; 522 .....p. 6
  - A. Christensen confirmed for OSM      C. Tennessee sues feds
  - B. Discretionary funds released      D. Lands Unsuitable petitions
- 6. State news: legislation and other matters .....p. 7
  - A. Legislative update      C. Amnicola Marsh
  - B. Spencer Range      D. Charter Doyle Park
- 7. Rivers and Wetlands capsules .....p. 8
  - Wild & Scenic Rivers bill; no new dams in parks; water projects bill;
  - Wild River NP; technical assistance; wetlands; Everglades; Penobscot
- 8. National news .....p. 9
  - A. NPS funding and fees      E. Outdoor Commission      J. Acid rain bills
  - B. Park protection bills      F. BLM lands      K. Nuke waste & parks
  - C. Raid on the LWCF      G. New FWS head      L. Billboard control
  - D. Poll on natural areas      H. Reagan Natl. Forest?
- 9. TCWP news .....p. 11
  - A. TCWP shares in Mike Frome award      D. Thanks to volunteers
  - B. Annual meeting, Nov. 7-9      E. TCWP exhibit
  - C. New exec. director
- 10. Things to do and things to read .....p. 12
- 11. ACTION SUMMARY .....p. 2

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

11. ACTION SUMMARY

¶ No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1	Roan Highlands	US Rep & Sens.	"Urge USFS to buy entire 200 acre tract!"
2A	BSFNRRRA	Sens. Sasser, Gore	"Tell Corps that land acquisition is 1st priority!"
3	TVA Board	Tuttle; Phillips	Support/oppose specific candidates
4A	Cherokee NF	TCWP	Offer assistance
4B	Cherokee NF	Sens. Sasser, Gore	"Thank you!"
5B	AML Fund \$\$	Sen. Sasser	"Thanks for courageous action!"
7	Tech assistance on rivers	US Rep and Sens	"Restore funds!"
8B	Park protection	US Senators	"Cosponsor S.2092 and S.2130!"
8F	Critical public lands	Sec. Hodel	" <b>Give</b> high priority to ACEC process!"
8J	Acid rain	US Rep, Sens	"Support HR 4567/S2203"
8L	Billboard control	US Senators	"Support SB.1494!"

Senator John Doe  
United States Senate

The Hon. John Doe  
U.S. House of Representatives

Governor Lamar Alexander  
State Capitol

Dear Senator Doe ..  
Sincerely yours,  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman/woman Doe  
Sincerely yours,  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Gov. Alexander  
Respectfully yours,  
Nashville, TN 37219

To call, dial Congressional switchboard, 202, 224-3121

10. THINGS TO DO AND THINGS TO READ - Continued (from p. 12)

- The nonprofit Mammal Slide Library has 850 slides of over 600 species of mammals from around the world. Slides can be grouped by subject areas and are also available individually for \$1 each. You can obtain a slide list (free), or a catalog giving additional information (\$2), from Mammal Slide Library, Dept. of Zoology, State Univ. of New York, Oswego, NY 13126
- "State of the World 1986", by Lester R. Brown et al, is a Worldwatch Institute Report on Progress Toward a Sustainable Society. Among the 7 authors is William U. Chandler, formerly TCWP executive director. (\$8.95, paperback, from Worldwatch Inst., 1776 Mass. Ave, NW, Wash. DC 20036) You may also ask for a list of Worldwatch Papers, several of which are authored by Bill.
- The TVA 1985 Annual Report is available for \$1.80 from TVA, Knoxville, TN 37902
- "Restoring the Earth, How Americans are Working to Restore Our Damaged Environment," by John Berger, is billed as a "profiles in courage about committed people who made a difference." Published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 201 E 50th St, New York, NY 10022
- A six-minute USDI video tape (1/2 or 3/4" Beta), "Take Pride in America," designed "to foster a recognition by all Americans that they are the owners of the nation's lands and natural resources," can be borrowed from the Knoxville OSM office. Call Evelyn Prater, 615, 673-4504. We have not viewed this tape.

1. PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT THREATENS VERY HEART OF HIGHLANDS OF THE ROAN

Grassy Ridge, the long high (6,189 ft) ridge that dominates the view as you drive down from the Rhododendron Gardens, has been desecrated by the bulldozing of two roads that may be followed by the sale of lots. One of the bulldozer scars switchbacks up the western slope of the beautiful, grass- and rhododendron-covered mountain, the other, also highly visible from a 2-mile-long stretch of the balds, roughly parallels a state highway, NC 261, down below.

This recent destruction has occurred in a 200-acre tract belonging to the heirs of C. Rex Peake (a man who dearly loved this land). For about 8 years, the Forest Service (USFS) has diligently tried to acquire the tract (which is traversed by the Appalachian Trail); 4 years ago, the Peake heirs indicated they would not sell for less than \$8000/acre, which is 7x the going price for comparable land. The USFS then initiated condemnation of the 54-acre portion of the tract that is closest to the AT, but, because of the policies of the Reagan administration, the Sec. of Agriculture would not file a Declaration of Taking.

\* WHAT CAN BE DONE: The entire tract must be protected by immediate USFS acquisition. Only strong political pressure can bring this about. Therefore, please write to your Congressman/woman and both Senators asking them to request the USFS to bring the west side of Grassy Ridge into the public domain without delay. It is important that the Declaration of Taking be issued for the entire 200 acres; if it is for only the 54 nearest the AT, protection of the remainder will become exceedingly difficult. And development of these 146 acres would be devastating. Copies of your letter should be sent to the Secretary of Agriculture (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 14th St. and Jefferson Dr. SW, Wash. DC 20250) and to Sen. Jesse Helms, Chmn, Senate Agriculture Committee, U.S. Senate, Wash. DC 20510.

Additional background: (a) A U.S. Dept. of Interior study recommended that most of the land within the Highlands of the Roan project boundary -- including the entire Peake tract -- be designated as a National Natural Landmark. (b) Grassy Ridge, at the apex of what many consider to be the most beautiful of our high mountain ranges of the East, is a common destination not only for hikers but for people wishing to walk only a short distance to see and photograph the uncommon beauty. (c) The entire 200 acres of the Peake tract are within the AT's foreground zone in all seasons. The Optimal Location Re-view for the AT recommended this acquisition. (d) The 200 acres contain several rare plant species, including Grays lily and other candidates for the federally endangered list, and are habitat for an endangered subspecies of flying squirrel.

2. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED

A. Great need to complete BSFNRRRA land acquisition

The raising of the authorized spending limit for the Big South Fork NRRRA is imminent: it is one of the numerous provisions of the omnibus water projects authorization bill that is awaiting conference committee action (¶7, this NL). The ceiling will probably be raised by \$52 million, and appropriations under the new authorization will probably be spread over several years. The big question is what they'll be used for. At the dedication ceremony for Bandy Creek, on April 19, several of the dignitaries who spoke looked forward to other developments, particularly the Bear Creek Lodge. Some of the TCWP members who were there (Lee & Bill Russell, Don Todd) talked to Congressman Cooper and to high Corps and Park Service officials about the great importance of making the completion of land acquisition the highest priority. Particularly important is the acquisition of the 9452-acre North Whiteoak area, a beautiful, fragile wilderness that is threatened by coal and oil extraction. We also pointed out that even after land acquisition is completed, there should still be \$35 to \$40 million left under the new ceiling -- enough to proceed with other developments.

Congressman Cooper has since written: "If Congress acts to appropriate this money, I'll do whatever I can to see that a good portion of it goes for land acquisition." He

- \* deserves our thanks. Col. Kirkpatrick, District Engineer, has promised that the Corps will initiate public discussions, so that, through "meetings and workshops, a consensus of priorities will emerge to determine the correct path for future spending in the BSFNRRRA."
- \* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Sens. Sasser and Gore (in addition to Rep. Cooper) need to impress on the Corps that completion of land acquisition must be the first priority. Time will not run out on developments, but the values of fragile lands may quickly and irrevocably be destroyed if left unprotected. For addresses, see p. 2 . If you can, send a copy to Col. Wm. T. Kirkpatrick, District Engineer (Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070).

#### B. Lavender Bridge hearing assumes broader significance

A date (July 16) has finally been set by the Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) to hold a hearing on the formal complaint filed by 3 parties (TCWP, TSRA, and Victor Ashe) in connection with water-quality damages caused by construction of the new Lavender Bridge on White Creek (see NL 147 ¶5B). White Creek drains into Clear Creek, which drains into the Obed. There have been several postponements of this hearing due to the circumstance that the Department of Transportation (under whose jurisdiction the bridge was built) is taking the complaint very seriously, spending a great deal of money and effort in lining up numerous witnesses on their side and deposing witnesses on ours. Three of the latter recently received a peremptory subpoena to appear in Nashville on a certain date to give depositions, and it was strongly implied that nobody would be permitted to testify before the WQCB who had not been deposed by DoT first. When we called DoT to point out that none of our three was available on the date for which he/she was commanded (one was, in fact, in Mexico), and that two would lose at least a day's salary by having to go to Nashville, we were told that since we had chosen to inconvenience DoT by filing the complaint, we would have to bear some inconveniences ourselves. We subsequently filed a motion with an Administrative Law Judge to have the place and time for the depositions changed. Judge Stovall's response was to excuse our witnesses from honoring the DoT subpoenas on the grounds that "a person cannot be required to give his deposition outside the county in which they reside or are employed."

This case is turning out to have implications that are broader than the issue of water pollution by bridge construction. The basic question that will be addressed is whether or not the policy that one Department of State (in this case, Health and Environment) must not take action against another Department of State (Transportation) -- even when the latter is recognized to be doing wrong -- is a legitimate one.

#### C. Clear Fork is recipient of oil-well-generated pollutants

The problems of unregulated oil and gas wells in Tennessee are very serious ones which we have addressed in the past (NL 145 ¶4A, NL 147 ¶1A). One of the worst examples of these problems is the Stowers Field in Morgan County, which lies in the watershed of the Clear Fork (a major component of the Big S Fork NRRRA). Broken pipelines there have been left unprotected on the surface and have gushed oil and brine that wash into the streams. In addition, groundwater (in waterwells) has been found polluted at the site.

#### D. Rugby planning wins award

The Master Plan for the Development, Management and Protection of the Rugby Colony Historic Area has won first prize in the 33rd annual awards program sponsored by Progressive Architecture magazine. Because Rugby is a major access to the Big S. Fork NRRRA, it will experience ever increasing tourism pressure. The Plan was commended for giving the citizens of Rugby the tools to help their community "defend itself against what is happening to many of our nice small towns that have become completely overrun by tourists and growth."

### 3. TVA BOARD APPOINTMENT: YOUR VOICE CAN COUNT

The opening in the TVA Board left by Richard Freeman's resignation in February still exists. The TVA Board Appointment Coalition, of which TCWP is a member, has done exhaustive

research on, and conducted interviews with, most of the people who have been mentioned as possible Board candidates. The information has been sent to the 43 organizations that make up the Coalition, and these organizations have returned ballots to indicate which candidates they would support and which they would oppose. Bill Chandler, who was TCWP's first executive director and now works with World Watch, is supported by 100% of the organizations. Also supported by over 3/4 of the groups are Charles A. Howell, Tennessee Commissioner of Conservation, and Robert Potts, General Counsel for the Univ. of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. On the other hand, there is strong opposition (96%) to Darlene Scoggin, a high official with the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority, who has said: "I'm all for the environment so long as it doesn't stand in the way of progress."

It is important that the TVA Board represent a balance of interests and expertise. Utility management is represented by Chmn Charles Deane, industrial development by John Waters. What is needed is someone sensitive to environmental quality.

\* WHAT YOU CAN DO: It is important that individuals as well as groups be heard from. The person to call to support/oppose specific candidates and/or express a general view on the type of candidate needed is Robert H. Tuttle, Deputy Asst Sec. to the President and Dir. of Presidential Personnel, 202, 456-7060 (or speak to Susan Phillips, his assistant).

#### 4. PROBLEMS WITH THE CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST PLAN

##### A. Notice of appeal is filed

On April 29, TCWP was one of a coalition of 5 groups that filed a notice of appeal of the Cherokee National Forest Final Land Resource Management Plan and Final Env'tl Impact Statement (FEIS) which had been released by the USFS on April 1. The appellants believe that the Plan and the FEIS violate provisions of a number of federal laws and should be remanded, then resubmitted in draft form for further public comment or changes necessitated by the appeal.

The following issues will be addressed in the appeal.

- (a) Timber harvest levels. The Plan proposes in the next 50 years to more than double the current level of cutting (30-35 million board feet/year). Appellants believe that unprofitable timber sales should be phased out over a 10-year period. (The USFS in recent years has lost 62¢ for every \$1 spent for timber management in the Cherokee.)
- (b) Clearcutting. The USFS plans to continue to rely almost exclusively (98%) on this timber-harvest method in the Cherokee instead of on the more benign alternatives planned for some other national forests in the region.
- (c) Roads. Under the Plan, about 240 miles of new roads would be constructed in the Cherokee in the next 10 years, about 1000 in the next 5 decades.
- (d) Wilderness and scenic areas. Wilderness proposals in the final Plan are much improved over those in the draft plan: 25,935 and 7,800 acres for the northern and southern Cherokee, respectively, are contemplated. With the existing 32,902 acres in the southern portion, this brings the total to 66,637 acres. However, one prime area, Rogers Ridge (5,841 acres), has been omitted. The appeal will also urge addition of several small "scenic areas."
- (e) Wildlife and biological diversity. These are not adequately protected by the Plan. E.g., the majority (60%) of the 168,000 acres of cove hardwoods, a very diverse forest type unique to the Southern Appalachians, is zoned for clearcutting and even-age management under the Plan. This would greatly reduce cover and hard mast (food) for black bears and habitat for other species.
- (f) Recreation. The Cherokee ranks 3rd among 14 southeastern national forests in terms of recreation visitors (3 million per year in 1983). Wilderness recreation visits have increased 25% annually since 1979. Yet, the Plan fails to document the adverse impact that increased logging and road construction would have on backcountry recreation. Furthermore, foot-trail construction and maintenance would not be significantly expanded under the Plan; by contrast, ORV (off-road vehicle) trails would be

greatly increased in the forest, even though lots of roads are already available for ORV use.

(g) The plan should specify inholdings that have a high priority for acquisition.

\* Anyone willing to help in the analysis of any aspect of the voluminous Plan and in the preparation of a Statement of Reasons in support of the appeal should without delay call 615, 482-2153 (TCWP), 615, 483-4800 (TCWP), or 202, 828-2400 (Bill Bumpers at Kutak Rock & Campbell, the law firm handling the appeal).

#### B. Reaction by our Senators

Both Senators Sasser and Gore have stated that while the Final Plan is an improvement over the draft, they still have concerns. Sen. Sasser opposes the USFS's intention to rely on clearcutting, which "savages the pristine beauty of the forest, drives wildlife from their natural habitat, and [through erosion] chokes once sparkling streams." Sasser also opposes a forest policy that loses revenue through timber harvest (over \$1.8 million lost since 1979) yet spends virtually nothing on trail construction/maintenance and research programs. Sen. Gore on May 2 met with the Chief of the Forest Service to discuss the Plan and the appeals process. He endorses some aspects of the appeal and will provide details to the USFS. He also offers us any help in mediating any issues that might be resolvable by negotiation. Both senators deserve our gratitude (addresses on p. 2).

### 5. STRIPMINE NEWS: FOCUS ON AML FUND; 522

#### A. Jed Christensen confirmed as OSM director

Ever since April 1985, Christensen has been acting director of the federal Office of Surface Mining, an agency described as "leaderless and drifting, overwhelmed by its problems" (Natl. Wildlife Fed. report of Nov. 1985). Though the Senate Energy Committee approved his nomination two months ago, floor action was delayed by Sen. Metzenbaum, who wanted to know why OSM increased its public-relations and Congressional staff by 5 while failing to hire 6 of the 10 new enforcement and inspection personnel provided for in the FY 1986 Continuing Resolution. When floor action came on May 20, it was held up by a highly fruitful filibuster by Sen. Sasser (see B, below), after which Christensen was finally confirmed. OSM's poor performance in Tennessee since the state gave up primacy has been documented in earlier issues of this NL (see, e.g., NL 141 ¶8C, NL 148 ¶8E). The NWF report of Nov. 1985, cited above, also faults OSM for more far-reaching neglects, such as the failure to place the \$1.6 billion in severance fees that have been collected for the Abandoned Mine Lands fund into interest-bearing accounts (or, releasing AML monies where needed, see below), the failure to collect the great bulk of the penalties levied against operators who violate regulations, and the failure to stop widespread abuses of the "two-acre exemption" (the report cites four tricks that operators have used to circumvent any regulation by claiming this exemption).

#### B. Abandoned Mine Lands (AML): OSM finally releases some discretionary funds -- thanks to Sen. Sasser

Last week, when Jed Christensen's nomination as OSM director was up for Senate confirmation, Sen. Sasser threatened to hold up the appointment, and filibustered for 2½ hours, until he had assurance that Sen. McClure (Christensen's chief supporter and Senate Energy chairman) would get OSM to assign \$1 million in AML discretionary funds to Tennessee for this fiscal year. In addition, OSM will subsequently match any abandoned mine reclamation funds appropriated by the state. The General Assembly has only recently appropriated \$1 million for the state fiscal year that starts 7/1/86 (see 16A, this NL).

Background. When Tennessee gave up primacy in regulating stripmining, it also gave up its right to roughly half of the fees that are collected from current mining operations to pay for reclamation of sites abandoned before the federal law went into effect. The state was, however, still entitled to another major portion of the AML pot -- that portion which is distributed at the Secretary's discretion. Despite extensive documentation of the dire need for reclaiming specific orphan sites (documentation that was prepared by a coalition of citizens' groups led by SOCM and including TCWP), and despite repeated requests from

Tennessee's senators and from Rep. Cooper, Sec. Hodel refused to assign discretionary AML monies to Tennessee ("we can't reward states that don't have primacy," was his latest statement).

\* Senator Sasser deserves our sincere gratitude for his courageous and effective action. Rep. Jim Cooper also has been strong in his pressure on OSM. We should also not forget to be grateful to the citizens' groups leaders (Annetta Watson chief among them) whose fact gathering and persistence played a major part in this outcome. But let us remember that this is only a start: \$1-2 M per year will go only a very small way toward repairing serious damage to 40,000-50,000 acres.

#### C. Tennessee sues federal government on AML funds

Two weeks before Sen. Sasser's success in securing some AML money (see B, above), the state's attorney general, following up on a resolution by the General Assembly, filed a suit against the U.S. Dept. of the Interior. The suit seeks to secure all AML funds --both the 50% state share and the discretionary monies. The suit contends that Tennessee is not ineligible for the former since USDI has never given formal notice that it is withdrawing approval of the state reclamation plan. As for discretionary funds, the state has plenty of priority-1 and priority-2 sites. The suit states that Tennessee has about 42,500 acres of unreclaimed mine lands, 12 dangerous high walls, 9 dangerous slides, 8 clogged streams, 6 streams too polluted for any use, and many other horrors of coal mining. -- The only emergency funding that has come to Tennessee since Oct. 1984 (when primacy was lost) was approved a few weeks ago for the Smoky Slide near Norma in Scott County.

#### D. Another Lands Unsuitable petition is filed

On April 30, the Sierra Club and the Guardians of North Chickamauga Creek (NCC) filed a petition under Sec. 522 of the federal stripmine law, requesting that OSM designate the NCC watershed as unsuitable for coal mining. The creek starts high atop Walden Ridge and forms a deep gorge as it drops toward Chattanooga. During the next year, OSM will study the area and document the petition. In the meantime no coal-mining permits can be granted.

In connection with another "522"petition, that for the Rock Creek watershed (NL 148 ¶7B), a hearing was held May 8. A large group of citizens expressed outrage with OSM's tentative findings, which dismiss almost all allegations of adverse mining impacts that had been presented in the petition. Rock Creek is virtually the last unspoiled watershed in the area. (One problem with OSM's analysis is that it assumes that miners will operate strictly within the law. Not only is the truth far from this ideal, but, as the report cited in S5A documents, OSM has been ineffectual in doing much about it.)

### 6. STATE NEWS: LEGISLATION AND OTHER MATTERS

#### A. Legislative update

Since our last Newsletter went to press just as the General Assembly was about to adjourn, the resolution of a few issues had not become quite clear at the time. We bring you this information now, together with a summary of what we reported earlier (see NL 148 ¶4 and NL 147 ¶1 for details).

- a. Soil Conservation Committee duties (SB 1318/HB 1295) -- a good bill is signed. The major feature of this bill, the requirement that the Committee "develop and maintain a long-range comprehensive statewide plan for the conservation of Tennessee's soils," was restored by the conference committee after having been deleted in the Senate following lobbying by the Commissioner of Agriculture. The revised bill also requires the Committee to submit to the Commissioner of Ag (instead of to the legislature, as in the original version) "a budget request adequate to allow for the implementation of soil conservation programs in Tennessee"
- b. Natural Areas funding -- another \$2M for acquisition

The budget request, which we supported, was for \$2 Million (NL 147 ¶1B). Last time (NL ¶48 ¶4B), we reported that only half of this had been voted. Apparently, our information was wrong: \$2 M was, in fact, added to the acquisition fund -- \$1 M from general revenues and another \$1 M from State revenue bonds. This means that, for each of 3 years in a row now, the program has had a \$2 M appropriation. In addition, a Natural Areas Administrator position was funded, and this will give the program much more prominence and permanence. [This position is now being advertised (see also ¶10, this NL). Larry Smith having, unfortunately, left the Division.] -- A resolution was passed asking the Dept. of Conservation to study a House Mountain Natural Area proposal.

c. Reclamation of abandoned mines

A \$1 million budget item was approved (NL 147 ¶1H), to be administered by the Dept. of Conservation. For possible federal matching funds, see ¶5B, this NL

d. Wetlands acquisition (SB 433/HB 145): a winner

Raises the real-estate transfer tax (from 26 to 28¢ per \$100 valuation) and sets aside 4¢ of that tax for a Wetlands Acquisition Fund to be administered by TWRA.

e. The following good bills died:

Oil and gas regulation (SB95/HB303)

Surface Owner's Relief (SB1314/HB1589)

Cleaner Highways (billboard reduction) (SB1742/HB1618)

Eastern State Wildlife Management Area transfer to TWRA (HB1397/SB1691) Soil Conservation Committee Membership Expansion (SB1856/HB1780)

B. Spencer Range National Guard proposal: \_\_\_ death now admitted at state level

Tennessee's Adjutant General Carl Wallace has informed the Governor's office that the Tennessee Guard is not now pursuing this project, and the Governor's office is transmitting the information to interested persons. Gen. Wallace is explaining it all in terms of shortage of currently available funds, and he ignores the statement by his superiors in Washington that the Spencer training range is not needed.

There is now another threat on the horizon. Gen. Wallace is one of three nominees for head of the National Guard Bureau in Washington. The final recommendation to Pres. Reagan is being made by a committee of active and retired military people. If you wish to comment, you should contact the President or your Senators (the nomination will be subject to confirmation by the Senate).

Since the TCWP Annual Meeting will be held at Beersheba Springs this fall, we shall have an opportunity to rejoice in the lovely area that has been spared from the rolling tanks and the overflight of military planes and copters.

C. Amnicola Marsh becomes public land

This 52-acre wetland area near downtown Chattanooga has been donated by the Norfolk Southern Corp. to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, following a 12-year effort by members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and other groups to protect the marsh from being drained and industrialized.

D. Charter Doyle Park, Knoxville

A nature trail will become part of this 26-acre park in South Knoxville. The trail was designed by a TVA staffer and is being developed by the Knox Council of Garden Clubs and some military personnel.

7. RIVERS AND WETLANDS CAPSULES

- An omnibus Wild & Scenic Rivers bill, HR 4350, has just passed the House. It includes the first two southern blackwater streams to be added to the system -- Saline Bayou, Louisiana (19 mi) and Black Creek, Mississippi (21 mi). Three other river segments two in California, one in Colorado, 227 mi, total) are also added, and three (116 mi) are to be studied for possible inclusion. A generic amendment in the bill would protect rivers for 3 years after the end of the study. The bill now goes to the Senate.



- House hearings were recently held on (a) HR 2826, which would add 4 miles of the Horsepasture R., NC, to the Wild & Scenic Rivers System, and (b) HR 4089, which would prohibit future construction of water projects in national park system units [Source: ARCC River Conservation Update, 5/86]
- The omnibus water projects authorization bill, S 1567/HR 6, is still awaiting conference committee action (NL 148 ¶10G). Cost-sharing is a major feature of the bills, and this may weed out marginal projects. In the Senate version, local governments would bear 1/4 of the cost; in the House version, a smaller share.
- NPS director Mott is proposing a Wild River National Park which would preserve a total river system in its natural condition. A list of 40 candidates is being generated by NPS, and a blue-ribbon panel of experts will make the choice according to a number of criteria
- The technical assistance to States for rivers will be eliminated if the Administration budget proposal is accepted. About \$2 million worth of assessments, conservation strategies, and workshops are either ongoing or planned for FY 1987. These would be scrapped. Your senators and representative need to hear that you support the Park Service's rivers program and hope that funding for it is restored (Addresses on p. 2).
- According to an EARTHSCAN report by E. Maltby, about half the world's wetlands have been lost since 1900. The most rapid destruction continues to take place in the USA (500,000 acres lost annually), primarily in the south. The real value of wetlands (food production, flood protection, spawning areas, etc.) is about \$200,000/acre. In Third World countries, wetlands are being drained with the aid of large multinational lending institutions.
- When the Corps reduced the 95-mile-long Kissimee River in Central Florida to a 48-mile canal in the late 1960s, it not only drained 50,000 acres of marshes but disturbed the water system that nourishes the Everglades. The State of Florida and 22 national environmental groups now want the Corps to reverse what it has done in the past, and the Corps is balking. Passage of a law may be required.
- Plans for a dam on the West Branch of the Penobscot River (Maine) have been dropped. The Great Northern Paper Co, which had spent \$6M on promoting the project, cited regulatory roadblocks as a major factor in its decision.

## 8. NATIONAL NEWS

### A. National Park Service (NPS) funding: administration proposes cuts – and fees to offset them

The Reagan administration has proposed to cut the NPS FY 1987 budget by 25%, with land acquisition, as usual, being hit the hardest. (In the past few years, Congress has restored some of these cuts.) Also proposed is a \$52 million increase in fees (primarily entrance fees), strongly supported by NPS director Mott who has threatened that some parks may otherwise have to be closed in 1987. However, of the \$52 M, over \$10 M would go to the US Treasury as general revenues (i.e., not to NPS); \$38 M would be used to partially offset major reductions in appropriations for interpretation, resource management, visitor safety, etc. And while the Administration is trying to make park visitors pay for park functions, it is subsidizing ranchers in their use of public lands administered by an-other USDI agency, BLM; thus, grazing fees have been frozen at below fair market value. Because of this, and because of the proposed disposition of the park entrance fee revenue (see above), the Congress has been less than enthusiastic about the fee increases. In addition to park fees, Mr. Mott is proposing specific NPS actions in support of his good 12-point program: additions to the park system (e.g., a Tall Grass Prairie NP), minimizing aircraft and other motor -noise in parks, setting up a panel on natural/cultural re-sources. We have no problems with supporting these.

### B. Another park protection bill

A bill complementary to Chafee's S.2092 has been introduced by Sen. Durenberger (R-MN). While Chafee's bill focuses on problems created for park resources by federal actions outside park boundaries (see NL 148 110C), Durenberger's S.2130 concentrates on internal

park problems. The Park Service is authorized to develop resource management plans, to draw up a priority list of problems, to spend up to \$12 M/yr for the correction of 100+ high-priority resource problems and another \$12 M/yr for research and monitoring, and to establish a natural and cultural resources training center. Both your senators should be urged to co-sponsor both S.2092 and S.2130.

C. Another raid on the Land & Water Conservation Fund?

Proceeds from the sale of surplus federal lands go back into the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the fund used for acquisition of federal lands for parks etc. (The bulk of LWCF money comes from offshore oil royalties.) The General Services Administration (GSA) has now drafted a bill which revives an earlier Reagan administration proposal to have money from federal Land sales go into the Treasury, to become part of general revenues. In the past few years, federal surplus land sales have generated about \$100 million annually. While this amount is small compared to offshore oil revenues, it is large relative to the size of land acquisition appropriations over the recent past. Moreover, it's the principle of the thing: lands lost by sale should be replaced by new lands acquired.

D. Poll finds strong support for natural areas preservation

In a poll commissioned by the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (E., below), 81% of respondents "strongly agree" that governmental action is needed to preserve natural areas for use by future generations. Further, 82% are willing to be taxed to finance preservation of natural areas; but slightly over half feel that maintenance of existing park and recreation areas should be paid for by user fees. The most important criterion governing an individual's selection of a park was natural beauty; degree of crowding came second. The most popular outdoor recreation activities cited were walking and driving for pleasure, sightseeing, swimming, and picnicking.

E. President's Commission on Americans Outdoors

This Commission, headed by Gov. Alexander (exec. director, Victor Ashe), which has been holding hearings all over the country (last one, June 26 is now shifting from information gathering to issue identification/analysis. Informed observers are concerned that the PCAO may focus on institutional matters (e.g., recommend a new agency) instead of placing emphasis on the resources that are essential for outdoor recreation (natural lands, waters, clean air) and on the funding that is needed to preserve these resources. The outcome of the poll reported in D., above, should convince the PCAO that people are concerned about these issues.

F. Environmentally critical public lands not being protected by BLM

The greatest expanses of public lands, including some incredibly scenic ones, are under the jurisdiction of BLM (Bureau of Land Management), a USDI agency. Under the Federal Land Policy & Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, BLM is required not only to recommend wilderness areas but also to identify areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs). The latter classification can be considerably less restrictive in terms of allowed uses, as long as the items of concern are protected. Now, 10 years after the passage of FLPMA, it appears that BLM has largely failed to carry out its ACEC mandate: within 242,000,000 acres in 9 states, only 66 (mostly small) ACECs have been designated. BLM lands encompass a huge diversity of ecosystems, geological features, and historical values, and there is no doubt that some thousands of special areas are in need of protection. BLM staff has in recent years been working on mining and grazing permits, instead of on ACEC identification. If you feel that the latter deserve a higher priority, write to Donald Hodel, Secretary of the Interior, USDI, Washington, DC 20240

G. New head of Fish & Wildlife Service

The Senate voted on May 2 to confirm Frank Dunkle as the new FWS director. Dunkle, former head of the Montana Fish and Game department, said he would work hard on land acquisition but would seek alternatives to fee simple.

H. Ronald W. Reagan National Forest?

Should a man who once accused trees of being a major source of air pollution and who said of redwoods "once you've seen one, you've seen them all" have a national forest named after him? The proposal has been made by the Los Angeles County Supervisor. Fortunately, there is no precedent for renaming a national forest for a living president.

J. Acid rain: scientific consensus and a hopeful bill

"Is there Scientific Consensus on Acid Rain?" is the name of an October 1985 report by 7 well-known scientists who answer "yes" to their question. The group examined six major studies (three by the Natl. Academy of Sciences, one each by the Office of Technology Assessment, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and EPA) and concludes that there is "a scientific consensus that reducing the emissions of a large number of air pollutants, most notably sulfur dioxide, would benefit biological systems in North America significantly." Yet, the Administration is strongly opposing Waxman's acid rain control bill, HR 4567 (which has just been passed by a subcommittee), with the old story that not enough is known about environmental effects of acid deposition to warrant emission reductions. HR 4567 would result in 10- and 4-million-ton reductions, respectively, in annual SO2 and NOx emissions by 1997. States would be free to use any emission-control method(s) they wanted. A trust fund would be created by levying a nation-wide fee on electricity generation that would add 25-50c per month to the typical electric bill. This trust fund would subsidize the costs of installing pollution-control equipment on electric utilities. HR 4567 to date appears to enjoy bipartisan support, but your Congressman/woman needs to hear from you if you want the killing of lakes and forests to stop. (see p. 2 for address). A somewhat similar bill, S.2203 (Stafford), has been introduced in the Senate and also needs your support.

K. High-level nuclear waste: national parks seem off the hook for now

Will Canyonlands NP be among possible sites selected for a final high-level nuclear waste repository? As we go to press, this seems less likely since three other sites have just been named as possible first choices. But only if the Canyonland sites are disqualified outright will the park be protected from some lower-priority status that could some day bring the sights and sounds of enormous geological testing right to its borders. At least it sounds as if "second-round" sites have now been dropped from consideration. Among about 20 of these was an area 6 miles from the Gt. Smoky Mtns Natl. Park.

L. National billboard control legislation proposed

Most national environmental groups have written to Congress in support of the Highway Beautification Act, SB.1494 (Gorton), which would (a) ban all new billboards along federal highways, (b) ban tree-cutting done solely to make billboards more visible, (c) re-turn to state and local governments the power to regulate billboards. The bill is in the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee and can be supported via your Senators.

9. TCWP NEWS

A. Mike Frome shares award with us

Mike Frome, famous conservation author and long-term friend of TCWP, was last month the recipient of the prestigious Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award given by the Natl Parks & Conservation Assoc. With typical generosity, Mike said in his acceptance speech that he wanted "to share the gift to me of \$5000 with good men and women with the vision and conviction to fight for their parcels of earth." He named 10 groups, scattered over the country, each in honor of a person. TCWP will honor Mack Prichard, whose words and pictures have inspired many of us in the past, in a special ceremony at our annual meeting.

B. Annual Meeting, November 7-9, at Beersheba Springs

This will be our 20th anniversary, and we are quite excited about the place we have picked for our meeting: the historical hotel at Beersheba Springs, located in the South Cumberland Recreation Area which includes Tennessee's largest and wildest natural area,

\* Savage Gulf. Some of you will find an announcement included with the NL; others will get a separate mailing. In either case, we'd appreciate your returning the non-binding form, since we need to get a rough idea of the number of people to expect.

#### C. New TCWP executive director

The TCWP Board has chosen Sam Suffern to replace Pam Petko-Seus, who is now working full-time at IJAMS. Sam holds a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution from Yale. He has been a deputy director in the Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection, a research associate in the ORNL Environmental Sciences Division, and an environmental consultant. For some years, he has been active in the East Tenn. White Water Club.

#### D. We thank our wonderful volunteers

Newsletter assembly for NL 148: Dick Ambrose, Jean Bangham, Flossie Cosgrove, Ruth Moore, Helen Warren, Lee Russell.

Northridge Trail Maintenance, 5/3/86: Chuck and Nancy Coutant, Don Davis, Steward Dismuke, Reid and Dott Gryder, Charlie Klabunde, Helen Warren, Lee Russell.

Whites Creek Trail maintenance, 5/17/86: Jean Bangham, Chuck Coutant, Charlie Klabunde, Helen and Henry McKown, Bill & Lee Russell, Ed Sonder, Lynn, Paul, and Michele Wright, Thanks also to the 58 of you who returned questionnaires. It's great to have that information on hand and to know what your interests and capabilities might be. Some of you (who indicated a willingness to help with certain tasks) have been called, or shortly will be.

#### E. TCWP to have exhibit

Sam Suffern has arranged for TCWP to have an exhibit in the Knoxville Canoe and Kayak Festival Expo in June. If you can help either with assembly of the exhibit or with manning it for a few hours, call Sam at 483-4800.

### 10. THINGS TO DO AND THINGS TO READ

- Three job openings:
  - (a) Natural Areas Administrator (a newly created position, see 16A, this NL). Tenn. Dept. of Conservation. Call Dan Eagar, 615, 742-6545.
  - (b) Executive Director, Tenn. Environmental Council, starting 9/15/86; salary \$15,000-18,000. Call 615, 321-5075.
  - (c) Environmental Toxicologist (Ph.D.) with experience in risk assessment, for National Wildlife Federation; salary \$30,000+. Contact Norman Dean, NWF, 1412-16th St NW, Wash. DC 20036.
- Canoe School on the Hiwassee River, June 13-15. Sponsored by TSRA. Call Richard Manning, Nashville, 615, 385-0696.
- Homecoming/Birthday party for Warrior's Path State Park near Kingsport, June 14. Call Marty Silver, WPSP, 615, 239-8531.
- Tremont Inst., near Townsend, sponsors Appalachian Culture Week, June 15-21. Cost \$135/adult for room, board, program. Call 615, 448-6709.
- June 17, 22, 29: look for Audubon TV Special "Unmasking a Mystery of Extinction."
- Hearings on Tenn. Draft Groundwater Management Strategy (Tenn. Dept. of Health & Env't.). June 18, 7-9 pm at Knoxville State Tech Inst. (Louis Hall, Lake Shore House), 5907 Lyons View Rd. For info on locations and dates of hearings in other cities, or to get copy of draft, write Groundwater Protection, TERRA Bldg., 150-Ninth Ave, N, Nashville 37219
- Comments on proposed revisions to Tennessee's Water Quality Criteria and Stream Use Classifications will be received at a hearing on 6/26/86, 10 AM, TERRA Bldg, Nashville. For info, Call 615, 741-7883.

Continued on Page 2 below ACTION SUMMARY.