

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 154

February 18, 1987



1.	Reintroduction of Smokies Wilderness Bill is imminent	p . 3	
	A. Wilderness bill	B. New superintendent	
2.	The Cherokee and other national forests	p . 3	
	A. Status of appeal	B. Timber road	
3.	Rivers in Tennessee and in the nation	p . 4	
	A. Conasauga: a WSR?	D. Qualifying rivers not added to WSR System	
	B. Clinch and Powell study	E. Rivers in national forests	
	C. Columbia Dam alternatives	F. The "top 200" rivers	
4.	Critical times for TVA	p . 5	
	A. A nomination to oppose	D. LBL threats	G. Floodplain Mngt
	B. Budget cut again	E. Whites Creek	H. Capsules
	C. Rep. Lloyd heads caucus	F. Reclamation	
5.	Commission on Tennesseans Outdoors: it's up to you now!	p . 8	
6.	Around the State	p . 8	
	A. New faces	C. No stripmine bill?	E. Capsules
	B. EAF Lobbyists	D. Frozen Head	
7.	Big South Fork and Obed	p . 9	
	A. Cost-sharing for BSFNRRRA?	C. BSFNRRRA moves HQ	
	B. Obed WSR gets new HQ	D. Twin Arches overuse?	
8.	Oak Ridge issues	p . 10	
	A. Cedar barren saved	C. Stop EQAB-bashing	
	B. NERP Natural areas	D. Haw Ridge proposal loses	
9.	The National Park Service and the National Park System	p . 11	
	A. NPS Reorganization plan	C. Park entrance fees	
	B. Possible park bills	D. National Park Trust	
10.	The Congress: action and outlook	p . 12	
	A. New committee assignments	C. Arctic Refuge: Wildlife or oil?	
	B. Clean Air; Endangered Species	D. Wetlands: good news	
11.	The international environment	p . 14	
	A. World Bank influence	C. Funding for envtl protection	
	B. Atmospheric changes	D. Wetlands worldwide	
12.	TCWP News.	p . 14	
	(Exec. director -- we need one; volunteers; Political Guide; new members)		
13.	Things to do and things to read.	p . 15	
14.	ACTION SUMMARY	p . 2	

*Editor: Liane B. (Lee) Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Ph. 615, 482-2153
Star in margin means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY!

14. ACTION SUMMARY

P No.	ISSUE	CONTACT	"MESSAGE!" or ACTION
1A	Smokies wilderness	Sasser, Gore, Duncan Other U.S. Reps.	"Thank you!" "Co-sponsor Duncan/Glark bill!"
2B	Natl Forest roads	US Rep. and Sens.	"Cut road appropriations!"
3A	Conasauga River	US Rep. and Sens.	"Add Conasauga to WSR System!"
*4A	TVA Board appt.	US Sens. and Rep., copy to White House	"Oppose anti-environmentalist nomination to Board!"
4B	TVA budget	US Rep and Sens.	"Restore non-power funds!"
4D	LBL Area	US Rep. and Sens.	"Do not commercialize or sell LBL!"
5	Tennesseans Outdoors	Gov. McWherther; Secs. Gill and Word	"Follow up on report recommendations!"
8C	EQAB	O.R. Councilman/woman	"Appreciate EQAB role!"
10C	Arctic Refuge	US Rep. and Sens.	"Whole Refuge should be wilderness!"
11A	World Bank	Pres. of World Bank	"Fund only environmentally benign projects!"
12	TCWP business	TCWP	Suggest exec director candidates; Volunteer for filing; PAY DUES!

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Governor Ned McWherter
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37219

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman/woman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Gov. McWherter
Respectfully yours,

To call a Representative or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, (202) 224-3121
To find out about the status of a federal bill, call (202) 225-1772

* On Feb. 20 Mr. Hendon withdrew his name from consideration;
therefore, no need for you to write.

1. REINTRODUCTION OF SMOKIES WILDERNESS BILL IS IMMINENT

A. Your support for wilderness bill needed

With the political climate greatly improved by the election of Rep. James Clark and Sen. Terry Sanford in N.C. and by the diminution of Sen. Helms' influence (he is no longer a committee chairman) (NL 153 ¶3A), wilderness advocates (including TCWP) have urged speedy re-introduction of the Smokies wilderness bill. This bill, which would include 467,000 of the park's 520,000 acres in the National Wilderness Preservation System, will be introduced in both Houses of Congress during the last week of February. The Senate bill will be co-sponsored by Senators Sasser (D-TN, who has faithfully sponsored the bill during several past sessions), Gore (D-TN), and Sanford (D-NC), the House bill by Congressmen Duncan (R-TN3), Clark (D-NC11) and (probably) Quillen (R-TN1). Thus, for the first time, the sponsorship includes North Carolinians as well as Tennesseans; it is also bipartisan.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Sens. Sasser and Gore, and Rep. Duncan (or Quillen) if you live in his district, and urge them to push for hearings as soon as possible. If your Rep is not already a sponsor, urge him/her to co-sponsor the bill. (For addresses, see p.2).

B. New GSMNP Superintendent

On January 18, Randall R. Pope became superintendent of the Gt. Smoky Mtns NP, succeeding John Cook who, several months earlier, was named SW Regional Director. Pope, 54 and a native of Kansas, is a 27-year career NPS employee who, for the past 10 years, served as Midwest Region deputy director. In between several tours of duty at the midwest regional office, Pope has served as landscape architect at Grand Teton, superintendent of Herbert Hoover Natl Historic Site, and superintendent of Ozark Natl Scenic Riverways. In the smokies, he will be in charge of 200+ permanent and 200+ seasonal employees and an annual budget of \$7 million; it is considered one of the top NPS jobs in the country. The area is not only a national park (and, hopefully, soon a wilderness) but also an International Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site. -- According to a recent AP article, Pope's priorities include repair of backcountry trails, a new Oconaluftee Visitor Center, and control of wild boars.

2. THE CHEROKEE AND OTHER NATIONAL FORESTS

A. Status of our appeal of the Cherokee Plan: the negotiation stage

Five organizations, including TCWP, appealed the Final Land Resource Management Plan for the Cherokee National Forest and filed their Statement of Reasons last July (see NL 149 4A for a summary). In October, the Regional Forester, Donald Rollens, filed his Responsive Statement. Late in December, our attorneys made an extensive reply to this, showing that the USFS had failed to address the issues raised in our Statement of Reasons.

The USFS is now prepared to begin negotiations on our appeal. On January 14, Cherokee staff met with representatives of the appellants (TCWP was represented by Will Skelton) to reach agreement on procedure for the upcoming negotiation process. It is hoped that these discussions will produce accord on a number of key points. Certain issues of national significance will require input at the level of the USFS Chief. Topics for discussion include: recreation, off-road vehicles, trails, roads, wildlife and fisheries, special lands, and timber (the biggest issue of all, since the Plan proposes to clearcut eventually 61% of the Cherokee's 623,565 acres).

B. Timber road construction in national forests promises to be big issue in 100th Congress

For the past 5-6 years, the USFS has vastly overreached its road-construction targets while neglecting resources. Appropriations requests for forest roads have been in the neighborhood of \$200 million, and while the House has, year after year, attempted to make major cuts, appropriations remained vast because key Senate committee chairmanships were in the hands of western timber-state Republicans, e.g., Sen. McClure (NL 151 ¶1C). The current USFS road system totals 343,000 miles (enough to girdle the Earth 14 times),

and an additional 40,000 miles are projected for the next 10 years -- mostly into remote and fragile areas. Many observers believe that the agency's road-building activity is a device for disqualifying areas from future wilderness considerations. With the change in leadership of key Senate committees, there is now hope that the enormous USFS road budget can be trimmed this year. And while the USFS has been madly building roads, it has been neglecting trails -- there are 3.4 miles of road for every mile of trail. In fact, there are now only about 2/3 as many trail miles as there were in the 1940s, even though the total USFS area has grown by millions of acres since then.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to your US Rep and both Senators (addresses on p.2) and urge them to make major cuts in USFS road appropriations. Some of the money requested for roads should instead be used to construct new trails and maintain existing ones.

3. RIVERS IN TENNESSEE AND IN THE NATION

A. Conasauga should be a National Wild and Scenic River!

The Cherokee NF Plan did not evaluate the Conasauga as a possible National Wild and Scenic River (WSR); yet the USFS has contracted for timber clearcuts in the area that may greatly detract from the valley's qualities, though they probably would not jeopardize the river's chances of becoming a WSR (see ¶3E, below, for discussion of this general problem). We earlier expressed our concern about these clearcuts and were told that the timber stands in question are outside the river corridor (NL 153 ¶4B). Some of the cuts would, however, be within 1000 ft of the river on a steep ridge and would be visible from the river. The Conasauga is a State Scenic River, which testifies to its qualities; but (sad to say) we all know that this does not give it much protection. It deserves to be a National WSR. We hope you will write to Sens. Sasser and Gore and to your Representative (addresses on p.2) and urge them to introduce legislation to add the Conasauga to the WSR system.

B. Protection strategy for Clinch and Powell Rivers

In August 1985, Governors Alexander of TN and Robb of VA jointly announced a two-state Clinch/Powell initiative to improve and protect these rivers. State agency representatives during the past several months developed a joint protection strategy, with a report sent to the two governors in January. In Tennessee, the effort was coordinated by the Safe Growth Team, which recently organized a meeting to discuss plans for announcing the progress of the initiative to the public. Eric Morgan represented TCWP. A slide/tape show promoting the values of the rivers and watersheds has been developed, and a promotional poster printed; a symposium is planned for June.

The combined watershed of the rivers, above Norris Lake, is about 3000 square miles and covers 9 counties in the two states (Caiborne, Hancock, Hawkins, and Grainger in TN). The Clinch and Powell harbor 15 endangered or threatened mussel and fish species. The two rivers provide one of the most productive mussel habitats in the country, between them containing over 50 species of mussels. The greatest threats are siltation and other mining-related pollution, the bulk coming from Virginia. The Task Force is compiling a data base on water-quality parameters, biological resources, and non-point-source pollution problems. If you wish to help with the public education effort or need more info, contact Ben Smith at the Safe Growth offices, 615, 741-5782.

C. The Duck River: brainstorming alternatives to Columbia Dam

The TVA Task Force on Duck River Project Alternatives was formed at the November 13 meeting between TVA staff and environmentalists. TVA had earlier notified OMB that the agency would make a study of alternative development of lands acquired for the Columbia Dam project, since the economically unjustified dam had little chance of every being completed (NL 153 ¶2). TVA hopes that the task force will "identify reasonable alternatives that could provide immediate benefits to the area at relatively low cost, and that would have vigorous local support." In addition to local leaders, three representatives of the environmental community serve on the task force. They are Ed Young, Tony Campbell, and Doug Cameron. Some alternatives identified at the November 13 meeting were a river and trail "greenway" corridor from Henry Horton to Columbia, an environmental

education center, an agricultural demonstration project, an artificial 1-mile whitewater run below Columbia, a new water-treatment system for Columbia, and inclusion of the Duck R. in cross-country trails and waterway systems.

D. GAO studies fate of rivers that (though they qualified) were not added to the National WSR System -- including our Buffalo

At the request of the House Interior Committee's Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation, the General Accounting Office (GAO) recently produced a report on the fate of 13 rivers that had been found eligible for inclusion in the National Wild Scenic River System but had been recommended for state or local protection. One of them is the Buffalo in Tennessee. On 4 of the 13 rivers, developments have since greatly threatened wild, scenic, and/or recreational values; the Buffalo is viewed as having retained its values. The GAO report also reviewed 27 rivers with regard to whether or not the federal agency studying them had included the required estimate of the cost of acquiring the land. Nine of the studies -- all of them completed during the Reagan administration -- failed to include such estimates. Interior Dept. officials said the reason they omitted cost figures was that they believed that strong local opposition made it highly unlikely that the rivers under study would ever be added to the national system (in other words, the administration prejudged Congressional action and kept facts from Congress). The GAO report recommends that USDI include specific cost estimates in future river studies.

E. Campaign to protect rivers in National Forests

The fate of over 500 outstanding rivers (all of which are identified in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory) will be determined by the current U.S. Forest Service planning process. Many of these rivers may be opened for "multiple-use management" and thus dammed for hydropower, silted by timber operations, or polluted by mining. They will then no longer be eligible for Wild and Scenic designation. That the danger is acute may be seen from the Forest Plans completed to date: 80% of them are simply not considering rivers adequately -- even by the criteria of the USFS' own procedures. American Rivers (formerly, The American Rivers Conservation Council) has therefore embarked on a campaign to (a) work with USFS officials to develop a clear policy for analyzing river protection options, (b) review and improve Forest Plans, and (c) appeal those plans that provide inadequate protection for rivers.

F. "Top 200" list of rivers being compiled

American Rivers has initiated a compilation of rivers most in need of protection. The two questions being asked are "which are the most worthy?" and "which are the most threatened?" The process will draw on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory prepared during the Carter administration, on state rivers assessments, on information brought forth by various agencies, and last but not least, on citizen input. Various protection strategies will be considered, such as National Wild & Scenic River status, state river programs, land conservancies, etc. If you have any candidate river for the list of "top 200," contact Kevin Coyle, American Rivers, 801 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Suite 303, Washington, DC 20003.

4. CRITICAL TIMES FOR TVA

A. The TVA Board: potential disaster

Former N.C. Congressman Bill Hendon claims to be the front runner, not only for filling the vacancy left by Richard Freeman but also to bump Chili Dean as chairman. Hendon appears to have an "in" with Donald Regan and is a friend of James Watt's. While Hendon represented the 11th District of N.C., he actively opposed the environmentalists' proposal for Smokies wilderness [and it was his recent defeat by James McClure Clark that has helped to raise new hopes for a wilderness bill (H1A, this NL). John Seiberling, a leader on the House Interior Committee until he retired 2 months ago, said this of Hendon's performance on Interior: "He almost automatically voted against the environmental legislation of the committee." Tennessee Congressman Jim Cooper said: "If his [Hendon's] past record is any indication, it [his appointment] would be a disaster for

the valley." Hendon asserts he finds environmentalists "impossible to please. They don't want rivers dammed up for hydroelectric power. They don't want coal-fired generation because of the acid-rain concern. They don't want nuclear power because they're scared of it." Not only Hendon's insensitivity to environmental concerns but his lack of experience in the utility field have been cited as arguments against him. It seems clear that if he were to rule TVA for a 9-year term, the agency would revert to its bad old ways, and worse.

* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Without delay, write to both your Senators (remember, the Senate can refuse to ratify nominations!). Write also to your Representative. Marilyn Lloyd is particularly important (see C below); and, hopefully, we can keep John Duncan from joining his Republican colleagues Quillen and Sundquist, who have come out in favor of Hendon. But, whoever your Rep is, write! Send a copy of your letter to Robert H. Tuttle, Dir. of Presidential Personnel, The White House, Wash. DC 20500.

B. TVA's non-power budget under Administration attack -- again

In FY 1980, TVA received \$162 million for its non-power programs; by FY 1987, this was down to \$100 million -- and even that amount had to be fought for by Congress, the Administration having asked for only \$55M. For FY 1988, the President's budget requests only \$72.7M of non-power funds. This represents a 70% cut (allowing for inflation) from the 1980 level. It is obvious that the Administration wants TVA to be nothing but a utility (and, sometimes, not even that -- but that's another story). Here are only a few of the resource-management, recreation, and research activities that would be eliminated: development and/or implementation of water-quality management plans for reservoirs, non-structural flood-damage reduction (e.g., at Gatlinburg and Rockwood), reclamation of eroded lands in the Ocoee basin (see ¶4F, below), technical assistance for groundwater protection, operation of all recreational areas (including small wild areas, trails, habitat protection areas -- see ¶4E, below), all educational and natural-resource-interpretation programs at LBL (see ¶4D, below). We cannot let this happen; many of these programs have already been cut to the bone.

* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to your U.S. Rep and to both Senators (addresses on p.2) in support of TVA's vital non-power programs. At least the FY 1987 levels (+ cost of living) should be retained.

C. Marilyn Lloyd elected head of the House TVA caucus; Cooper on Energy & Commerce

Representatives from the TVA area constitute a caucus that has a great deal of clout with Congressional committees that have jurisdiction over TVA affairs (e.g., Public Works and Appropriations). Rep. Lloyd has recently replaced Rep Ronnie Flippo (D-AL) as head of this caucus, which has a potential membership of 26. Lloyd plans for the group to be more structured and more active, to hold hearings on certain issues, interview TVA Board candidates, and meet with the TVA Board and the NRC. We urge you to include a copy to Rep. Lloyd whenever you write any letters about TVA to anybody (see, e.g., 4A,B,D, this NL).

Rep. Jim Cooper (D-4) has just been named to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, a seat he has sought for some time. This committee, chaired by John Dingell (D-MI), has been investigating TVA for the past several months.

D. Do not allow TVA to commercialize land between the lakes

In the 1960s, TVA repeatedly justified the funds it was seeking for LBL by promising Congress that the area would be kept free of commercial and industrial developments. Now, one of the TVA Board members is proposing to open the LBL to commercial ventures (theme parks?!) and to sell off blocks of land beginning at the North and South ends. Congress must not allow this to happen! A leader of the organization of former landowners has alerted us to this threat to the area they all love and that they relinquished with the idea that it would be kept forever natural. We agree with her that Congress should take the following actions.

- a. Require TVA to abandon any efforts to commercialize or sell portions of LBL, and to reaffirm the agency's original purpose of keeping the land in a wooded, natural state for the education of environment-related skills and the appreciation of the natural beauty of the area.
- b. If TVA can no longer operate LBL, turn the area over to the National Park Service or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and provide the appropriate operating funds.
- c. If everything else fails (which would be a great loss to the people of the U.S.), give the former owners a chance to buy back their holdings at the price they were paid by TVA.

* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to your U.S. Representative and both Senators (addresses on p.2), urging them to take these actions.

E. TVA effort on Whites Creek Small Wild Area

According to our contract with TVA, TCWP maintains the trail and TVA erects signs barring motorized vehicles. Both of these requirements have been met. We have had several trail-maintenance hikes -- two in 1986 -- and TVA has recently put up a number of signs at the entrance to and inside the area. An additional sign will be erected at the turn-off from US 27. -- TVA crews also removed the rotted wooden bridges which an earlier overenthusiastic TVA crew had installed over little ditches that can be traversed with stepping stones. We appreciate all of these activities, particularly the dedicated efforts of Judith Bartlow.

F. TVA studies cost-effective reclamation methods

TVA's Land Reclamation staff recently completed two important studies. "A Plan for Revegetation Completion of Tennessee's Copper Basin" outlines how to control erosion, improve water quality, and restore watershed-protection benefits. Copper Basin is a man-made desert in the extreme SE corner of Tennessee which contributes high loads of mineralized sediment to the Ocoee River. Of 32,000 acres disturbed starting in the 1850s, almost 12,000 remain in need of some form of treatment, including 1,421 acres that are still totally denuded. The TVA study finds that complete reclamation could be achieved in 10 years at a cost of \$642,000 per year.

The Land Reclamation staff has also issued a brochure on "Aerial Seeding and Fertilization," a technique that can be used not only at Copper Hill but even in remote and steep locations when helicopters are utilized. Costs for combined treatments that result in ground-cover establishment range from \$173 to 224 per acre. Both publications are available from TVA, Norris, TN 37828

G. TVA to direct national study on floodplain management

An alternative to structural "solutions" (dams, channelization, etc.) that environmentalists have advocated for years is floodplain management. Now, 10 federal agencies, including TVA, have constituted a Floodplain Management Task Force which will conduct a nationwide study on the planning, implementation, and assessment of floodplain management. TVA will direct the study and is hiring a contractor to complete a status report by March 1988. After that, (funds permitting), evaluations will be sought. TVA is hosting the 12th Annual conference of the Assoc. of State Floodplain Managers in Nashville, May 1988.

H. Capsules

- o TVA's present environmental research addresses 6 broad categories of problems in the protection and enhancement of regional environmental quality: acid deposition, outdoor and indoor air quality (including wood stoves), waste management, groundwater quality, surface water quality and ecology, and forest and wildlife management. These are summarized in the Dec. 86 issue of IMPACT (order from TVA ONRED Info Services, 293 Haney Bldg, Chattanooga, TN 37401).
- o In a recent book, the history of the Tellico Dam project is used as a window through which to examine the inner workings of TVA. "Tellico Dam, 1936-1979" (U.T. Press) is the work of Michael McDonald and William Bruce Wheeler, professors of history at U.T.
- o TVA plans to sell mineral rights under 2,400 acres of Giles County farmland which the

agency acquired in 1938 for national emergency purposes. Rep Jim Cooper has warned that phosphate mining will turn this south Tennessee area into a "lunar landscape" unless TVA sets stricter reclamation standards than those required by the state.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON TENNESSEANS OUTDOORS:
IT'S UP TO YOU NOW!

The report of Tennesseans Outdoors was presented to Gov. Alexander on November 26. Three weeks earlier, at our TCWP Annual Meeting, Doug Cameron, the GCTO's exec. director, gave many of us a preview of the recommendations, and we subsequently summarized them for the rest of our members in NL 153 ¶7. If you've mislaid that summary, request a copy of the report from the GCTO at 300 Citizens Plaza, 400 Deaderick, Nashville, TN 37219.

In the light of the major population and industrial growth being experienced by our beautiful state, the commission's main questions of "What do we keep?" and "How do we keep it?" are very timely indeed, and it would be a disaster for us to let this report gather dust instead of availing ourselves of the momentum it could be generating. How exciting it would be to add the 100,000 acres of undeveloped forest lands of Carter Mountain to the National Forest System, or to complete the Roan Mountain Highlands protection! How important to revitalize our state scenic rivers program, expand the state trails system, set aside floodplains and riverfronts as part of an urban open space program, enhance water quality, fund abandoned mine lands reclamation, and control nonpoint-source pollution! And, to make it all possible, how essential for the state to make a substantial financial commitment by appropriating \$15 million/year for a 10-year period, with a portion to be invested in the existing Natural Resources Trust Fund! There are many more recommendations (41 in all), all of them specific. But it's up to us to get them translated into action.

* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Gov. McWherter, attn. Billy Stair (address on p.2), to Commissioner of Conservation E. Gill (701 Broadway Ave., Nashville, TN 37203) and to Commissioner of Health and Environment Jim Word (344 Cordell Hull Bldg, Nashville, TN 37219). Let them know that you care about these recommendations and would appreciate it if they took a leadership role in getting them implemented. Write also to your state senator and representative (Legislative Plaza/War Memorial Bldg, Nashville, TN 37219) and ask for their support when any of the items finally make it to the floor of the General Assembly.

6. AROUND THE STATE

A. New faces in important places

Elbert Gill, Jr. is our new Commissioner of Conservation. Gill, a Memphis chiropractor, served in the Tennessee House for 20 years. During that time, he chaired the House Conservation Committee (12 years in the 1970s) and the legislature's Reelfoot Lake Task Force, which is concerned about siltation of the lake. He is said to have been helpful with last year's wetlands acquisition bill. Impressions to date: Gill is a good listener. At least two assistant commissioners have been retained, to date: Tom Ripley and Ann Toplovich. So have Division Heads Dan Eagar (Ecological Services), Roy Ashley (Forestry), and Bill Hill (Geology). [Incidentally, as of November, there is a new Natural Areas Administrator, Earl Cunningham.] All Divisions have been asked to come up with proposals for cutting budgets.

James Word, Commissioner of Health and Environment, was one of three members of Alexander's cabinet retained by Gov. McWherter. Another was Adjutant General Carl D. Wallace, head of the Tenn. National Guard (whom many of you will remember in connection with the Spenser Range proposal).

McWherter's former position of Speaker of the House has been filled by Ed Murray, an attorney from Winchester. Billy Stair, a key member of McWherter's staff, will be the governor's environmental advisor.

B. Environmental issues for the legislators; environmental lobbyists

The Environmental Action Fund (of which TCWP is a member organization) has hired two recently retired state representatives as lobbyists for this session of the General Assembly. They are Steve Cobb and Mike Murphy. Cobb will work exclusively on getting good legislation to regulate the surface effects of oil and gas drilling. By vote of EAF's member organizations, this will be a very high-priority issue this session. The interagency task force report released last fall (NL 153 ¶6D) has laid the groundwork for such legislation. Mike Murphy will concern himself with all other issues, specifically, funding for natural areas acquisition, hazardous waste, and tort reform (which is opposed by several groups). Stripmine primacy will probably not come up this year (see 6C, below).

C. Stripmine bill unlikely this year

Several people who have met with McWherter staff concerning stripmine issues have gained the impression that the Governor's major objective in regaining state primacy is to again become eligible for the state share of the Abandoned Mine Lands Fund. At the same time, the staff has come to realize that to have a good state program requires a fair amount of state funding. Consequently, it seems unlikely that the administration will rush in with a primacy bill. Instead, a stripmine task force will probably be set up to look at the issues and draft a bill in time for next year's session. Billy Stair on the Governor's staff will presumably be the administration's liaison person in this effort.

D. Frozen Head visitor center requested

The Dept. of Conservation capital improvement budget submitted to the Governor includes a \$300,000 item for construction of a visitor center in the open field near the park entrance. This rustic building would house (in addition to office, custodial, and storage space) a classroom/lab to be used by local schools for environmental education, a museum with interpretive exhibits on the Cumberland Mtns, and an auditorium to seat 50. Frozen Head visitation has increased 5-fold since 1980 and the center would undoubtedly receive much use.

E. Capsules

- o The FY 1988 appropriations request for the Corps of Engineers' Civil Works program includes about \$30 million for Tennessee. Projects covered are Cheatham, Old Hickory, Cordell Hull, Dale Hollow, Center Hill, and Percy Priest Dams, the Tennessee River, and Wolf River Harbor. Virtually all the funds are for operations and maintenance.
- o Which of you are old enough to remember the Overton Park fight over the proposal to replace most of a tree-filled Memphis park by an interstate highway? Now, years after the park was saved through the dedicated effort of environmentalists, a large portion of the midtown property that had been bought for the highway will become city land and used for a zoo.
- o An ad hoc committee for the protection of Radnor Lake State Natural Area (which is threatened by adjacent land development) has urged Gov. McWherter and Conservation Commissioner Gill to acquire selected properties in fee simple and/or to purchase scenic easements. Stronger land development controls by local government are also being sought.

7. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED

A. Cost-sharing complications on future appropriations for BSNRRA

The \$52.6 million increase in authorized funding for the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (BSFNRRRA) -- which raises the ceiling to \$156,122,000 -- was Sec. 1110 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (NL 153 ¶1A). This Act, as you may recall (NL 153 ¶10H), contains some major cost-sharing provisions which specify that non-federal funds must pay for portions of projects, the percentage varying according to the type of project. For recreation, the non-federal share is 50%. It now appears that the cost-sharing provisions apply not only to new projects, but also to any "separable element" of any project "on which physical construction is initiated after April 30,

1986, as determined by the Secretary". A "separable element" is defined as being "physically separable from other portions of the project, and which...produces physical or economic benefits, which are separately identifiable from those produced by other portions of the project".

This would seem to apply to such proposed BSNRRA developments as the Bear Creek Lodge and a rubber-tired tram on the O&W railbed. At least, it seems to have been thus interpreted by the District Engineer who called a meeting of the area county executives to inform them of the problem. A second meeting (minus Corps and NPS) was to have been held at Oneida, and TCWP was to have been represented by Don Todd, but icy roads on the scheduled date prevented his going. It is highly unlikely that completion of land acquisition could possibly be identified as a "separable element" and should therefore require only a straightforward federal appropriation. On the other hand, local support for any appropriations request by the Corps, would be stronger if money for some development project was also included.

B. Obed National Wild and Scenic River to get new headquarters

The Obed WSR offices will move out of the federal building in Wartburg and into spacious quarters leased in a bank building across from the back corner of the Morgan Country courthouse. Target date is March 1. The new location will allow big signs outside, plenty of display space inside, and the possibility of staying open weekends in order to better serve visitors. The Obed WSR project will also become more "visible" to local folks and give them a feeling that an interest is being taken in their area. -- As of mid-January, over 2400 acres have been acquired in fee or scenic easement.

C. BSNRRRA also moves headquarters

The NPS is moving most of their operations and the visitor center from the building on the Leatherwood Ford Road to The Bandy Creek campground. The Bandy Creek "campstore" building, and the "activities" building opposite to it, will be used for this purpose, the latter to house exhibits about the area. Since the concessionaire left, NPS is operating Bandy Creek at a modest profit.

D. Twin Arches: will they be overused?

A newly built road, about 2/3 finished, will stop 1 mile short of the twin arches east of Pickett. NPS is concerned about too much wear and tear by feet walking atop the arches. Alternatives are to remove the trail from the top, keeping only ladders in place, or to place a wooden treadway on top of the sandstone surface. The trail from Charit Creek to the Twin Arches will be dedicated as a National Recreation Trail.

8. OAK RIDGE ISSUES

A. A cedar barren saved within City limits

Only 4 days before City Council was scheduled to approve the option, Oak Ridgers learned of a proposed large new residential development that would obliterate an area only a few weeks earlier identified by the State's Protection Planning Committee as a potential State Natural Area. The scientific value of this cedar barren (a rare ecological community) is that it is a remnant of the prairie which 5000 years ago covered major sections of our state; among other things, it contains an endangered plant species. Coincidentally, the area is located behind one of Oak Ridge's two junior high schools and has served this school for nature study. To start with, the outlook for saving the cedar barren didn't look too good. Despite highly pertinent oral testimony by several people (including Lee Russell, on behalf of TCWP), and despite packages of documentation provided by us and others to each Council person, City Council voted 10:1 to sell the option to the developer (thanks to Elaine Tranger for the minority vote). Subsequently, however, Maureen Cunningham did a superb job of working with the state and with the O.R. Planning Commission, which, in turn, was in contact with the developer. The final outcome: the developer, G. W. Kesler, will omit the best part of the cedar barren (about 7 of 22 acres) from the acreage he purchases for the residential development; and citizens groups will work with state and city on mechanisms for protecting the barren

which may be placed on the State Natural Areas Registry. In addition to Maureen, people who were prominent in helping on this issue were Larry Pounds, Elizabeth Peelle, and Michael Houston.

B. NERP sites on the Tennessee Natural Areas Registry

The staff of the Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park is charged, among other things, with providing a protected area for research, with identifying endangered species and other unique biotic features, and with preserving areas representative of the Southern Appalachian region. Pat Parr, NERP manager, has recently added 8 NERP sites to the Tennessee Natural Areas Registry, a device for giving some protection to special lands that are not in state ownership. Among the sites: a cedar barren, stands of Canada hemlock with rhododendron understory, and relic stands of northern white cedar and swamp forest. More than half a dozen rare or threatened plants are found on these sites.

C. Let's put an end to EQAB-bashing

The city staff as well as the local paper have recently accused the Environmental Quality Advisory Board of "sending an anti-business message to new developers and waste management businesses." In a recent letter to the Oak Ridger, Elizabeth and Bob Peelle point out that EQAB's role is not to be a cheerleader for economic growth (a function currently performed by lots of groups) but to help us understand how Oak Ridge can be developed without further loss of the qualities that have brought and kept our citizens here. The city has already suffered from the outside perception that we have environmental problems; it will not be helped by being seen to berate a skilled body of people whose charge it is to watch out for environmental quality. It behooves all of us to tell our City Councilperson that EQAB-bashing should stop and that a courageous EQAB performs a great service for all of us!

D. Environmental education camp in the Haw Ridge area defeated

Last night, City Council turned down Friends of Camp Friendship, whom they had earlier encouraged. FCF had asked to lease about 82 acres of Haw Ridge land from the City for an environmental center for youth. The center would have been used by school systems in Oak Ridge and the surrounding area, by community and church youth groups, and by an Outward Bound program. The proposal stirred up loud opposition from dirt-bike and other ORV enthusiasts, who have for years been criss-crossing the Haw Ridge area with a dense network of rutted and eroding trails. (It should be noted however, that the FCF proposal would have affected only one-tenth of the area; almost 700 acres would have remained for public use.) Another unexpected objection was voiced in a recent Oak Ridger editorial, which expressed the fear that the presence of the FCF center might exert an inhibitory influence on future industry sitings.

One complicating question that concerned some of us was: should private groups be allowed to lease public land? What precedent would be created? The real worry is that Council won't think twice about leasing public land if the request comes from industry instead of from a group interested in environmental education.

9. THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

A. Administration attempts to bend Park Service to its will

Shades of James Watt: during the recent holiday season (while Congress was out of town and the press occupied with Iran-Nicaragua-gate) Bill Horn, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, proposed a drastic National Park Service reorganization. Horn's plan calls for transfer or forced resignation of several senior NPS personnel who have disagreed with the administration on issues such as clean air in the parks and purchase of inholdings; it ignores NPS Director Mott's choices for certain appointments. Mott has protested against most of Horn's reorganization plans, and the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee is examining the plan's merits and legality.

B. Possible park bills for the 100th Congress

In the past 6 years, a number of House-passed bills were killed in the Senate. With the Senate now under Democratic leadership, a renewed attempt will be made to get some of this legislation through. High on the list is some type of parks protection bill that would restrict development on federal lands adjacent to national parks. Other bills to be reintroduced would expand Big Cypress Natl Preserve (Florida), establish the El Malpais Natl Monument (NM), restrict low-level flights over parks, and prohibit construction of new dams in parks (NL 153 ¶10E). In addition, there are proposals to establish a Tall Grass Prairie National Park (Kansas, Okla) and a park unit in the California desert.

C. Park entrance-fee increases go into effect: to benefit parks

The temporary (one-year) increase in park entrance fees voted by Congress last October (NL 153 ¶9C) went into effect Feb. 1. Of the money collected, \$15 million is earmarked for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance related to these activities; so, for the first time, the parks will benefit directly from entrance fees instead of just contributing to the general treasury. In the Southeast Region, 20 areas will be affected, while 33 (including the Smokies) will remain free to visitors; affected areas in Tennessee are National Military Parks or Battlefields (Shiloh, Chickamauga and Chattanooga, Ft. Donelson, Stones River) and the Andrew Johnson Natl. Historic Site. The new entrance fees are very modest, \$1-2 per person, or \$3-5 per visitor. The Golden Eagle passport has however more than doubled, from the past \$10 to \$25. The budget recently submitted to Congress by the Interior Dept. contains another (this time permanent) increase in entrance fees which is expected to generate \$75 million for park operations in FY 1988.

D. National Park Trust aids NPS in acquiring threatened lands

The National Parks & Conservation Assoc. (NPCA) has established the National Park Trust which assists NPS with land acquisition, using donated funds. The Trust can purchase critical private lands within designated park unit boundaries and sell them -- at cost -- to NPS when appropriated funds become available. Anyone aware of such types of property that are in danger of development should contact Frances Kennedy at NPCA (1,800, 362-3682).

10. THE CONGRESS: ACTION AND OUTLOOK

A. Election outcome affects Congressional committee assignment

One change in Senate Committee chairmanships should have profound effects on the prospects for environmental legislation: Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) replaces his antithesis, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), on Agriculture (where Helms' primary interest had been protection of tobacco subsidies). Leahy will focus the committee on environmental concerns. Also on this committee, Sen. Mark Andrews (R-ND), a foe of wetlands protection, has been replaced by Sen. Tom Daschle (D-SD), a strong wetlands proponent.

On the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA) has taken over chairmanship from James A. McClure (R-ID). McClure is a proponent of western timber and mineral interests and ardently opposed to new wilderness designations. Johnston, a conservative, is expected to pay close attention to oil development. However, three new appointees to the committee, Sens. Tim Wirth (D-CO), Kent Conrad (D-ND), and Wyche Fowler (D-GA), have very good environmental credentials. On Environment and Public Works, Quentin Burdick (D-ND) has replaced Robert Stafford (R-VT) as chairman. While Stafford is a tough act to follow, he and John Chafee (R-RI) will be allowed to have continued influence, since the approach in this committee has traditionally been bipartisan. The outlook for the Clean Air and Endangered Species bills is improved by the addition to the committee of 3 new Senators all of whom are seasoned environmentalists: Harry Reid (D-NV), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), and Bob Graham (D-FL). In the House, Rep.

Morris Udall (D-AZ) will remain chairman of the Interior Committee and Rep. Bruce Vento (D-MN) will preside over a new National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee that will combine the responsibilities of two former subcommittees -- Vento's National Parks and Seiberling's Public Lands.

B. Clean Water enacted already; outlook for Clean Air and Endangered Species is mixed

As everyone knows by now, the Clean Water Act was the first bill introduced in the House (HR1), passed overwhelmingly by both Houses, and repassed over Pres. Reagan's veto. In addition to authorizing sewage treatment construction over the next 9 years (Tennessee will receive \$35 M for this), the Act initiates a \$400 M program to reduce nonpoint-source pollution (farm, mine, city-street run off), tightens control over toxic pollutants, and funds activities to clean up lakes, streams, and estuaries. -- Acid rain control and other clean air issues will be a top priority in this session, and Senate hearings will begin shortly on several bills. The major obstacle for acid rain legislation is opposition by the Administration, utilities, and high-sulfur coal interests. The last of these now have a powerful ally in the new Senate Majority Leader, Robert Byrd (D-WV). Tennesseans this year have a member on the House Energy Committee which deals with acid rain legislation; we hope Jim Cooper (D-TN) hears from you on this issue. -- The Endangered Species Act reauthorization will be priority issue, at least in the Senate, where a straight 5-year reauthorization bill is likely to be introduced. Controversial issues likely to surface during hearings are predator control, Western water rights, endangered plants protection, and increases in funding to catch up on the huge backlog of candidate species.

To find out about the current status of any federal bill, call 202, 225-1772, a congressional reference service (free). It's helpful (but not essential) to know the bill number or official title.

C. Administration wants Alaska Wildlife Refuge turned over to oil industry

When the Alaska National Interest Lands Act (ANILCA) was finally passed in 1980, 8 million of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's mountainous acres were protected as wilderness, but the 1.5-million-acre coastal plain became the subject of a Dept. of Interior study (though the House had twice voted wilderness status for it). This plain lies along Alaska's Arctic Ocean coast, to the east of Prudhoe Bay, and the oil industry has suspected the area to be rich in oil. In a compromise, USDI was charged by ANILCA to study oil potential as well as to evaluate the likely ecological effects of oil exploration and development. The draft study was released on Nov. 24, and seems to have taken the former part of the charge more serious than the latter. In the report, the Administration calls the coastal plain "The most outstanding oil and gas frontier remaining in the US" and recommends that the entire area be leased for exploration and development. A careful reading has however, shown that only 600 million barrels are virtually certain to be discovered; that's an amount equivalent to what the country consumes in just one month. The chance that 9 billion barrels would be recovered (an amount equivalent to the Prudhoe Bay oil field) is only 5%.

The Arctic Refuge is the only place left on this continent where the vast sweep from high mountains through foothills and plain all the way to the sea is unmarked by man. Its diverse wild landscapes provide habitat for huge numbers of water birds, polar and grizzly bears, wolves, and peregrine falcons. The coastal plain is the calving ground for the 180,000-head Porcupine caribou herd and for a growing herd of musk oxen, a species previously extirpated and subsequently reintroduced. Endangered gray and bowhead whales are found offshore. It is truly an area worth keeping wild, but there will be tremendous pressure on the Congress to allow oil leasing. By Sec. 1003 of ANILCA, it would require legislative action to bring this about; as long as the Congress does nothing, the status quo remains.

* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Your Representative and both Senators will be hearing plenty from the oil industry. They must hear from you too (addresses on p.2).

D. Wetlands: two pieces of good news

A bill that finally passed in the last Congress (S.740) should step up the pace of wetlands preservation by providing several additional sources of revenue for wetlands acquisition. Thus, it authorizes the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund money for this purpose, and increase the Migratory Bird Conservation Account by doubling the price of Duck Stamps over the next 5 years, authorizing entrance fees at some wildlife refuges, and paying into the account an amount equal to the duties collected on imported arms and ammunition.

A second piece of good news comes from a change in the tax law which removes tax subsidies that previously existed for draining wetlands and plowing up erodible farmlands.

11. THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

A. World Bank -- a force for environmental destruction?

With \$15 billion in annual loans, the World Bank is the most significant institution affecting the environment in the Third World. Five particularly disastrous projects are: Botswana cattle ranching, the Narmada Basin Dam (India), the three Gorges Dam (China), the Amazon colonization schemes (massive tropical forest destruction in Brazil), and Indonesian Transmigration. Write for the brochure "Fatal Five" (EPI, 218 D Street, SE, Wash. DC 20003); with that information in hand, you may wish to write to President Barber Conable of the World Bank (1818 H St. NW, Wash. DC 20433), urging him to fund reforestation and energy conservation projects, instead of projects that have such vast environmental costs. Also write to Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Del. Walter Fauntroy (D-DC) (addresses on p.2) who chair Senate and House committees that scrutinize World Bank activities.

B. Potentially disastrous atmospheric changes

Because of a growing scientific concensus on the "greenhouse effect" and the depletion of the protective ozone layer, Congress is paying attention. Sen. Gore was instrumental last year in adding an amendment to the Natl Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1987 which requires the president to report to Congress by 8/1/87 on efforts to establish an "International Year of the Greenhouse Effect," a program of international missions, research, and education. We appreciate Sen. Gore's intelligent involvement. Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI), new chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, is a long-time advocate of international environmental protection. Hearings on both issues have been planned for his committee, as well as for certain others.

C. Funding for international environmental protection

The Reagan administration has requested only \$4.8 million as the U.S. share of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Environmentalists are expected to press for a restoration of the former funding level of \$10 million. -- There will also be an effort to increase the authorization for the biological diversity protection program of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) from the \$2.5 million appropriated by the last Congress to \$10 million. Two bills passed in 1986 outline detailed programs through which AID will be required to assist developing countries in conserving tropical forests and protecting against further loss of species.

D. A step toward worldwide protection of wetlands

The Senate has ratified an interntional treaty that urges member nations to promote protection of wetlands, both nationally and internationally. Four refuges in the USA, including Okefenokee NWR, have been named as part of this international wetland system, named RAMSAR (after the city in Iran where the treaty was drawn up). Recommendations for other U.S. sites that should be added to the list of Wetlands of International Importance will be made at the next RAMSAR meeting, to be held in Canada, June 1987.

12. TCWP NEWS

- Don't miss the enclosed dues statement.

- Help, we need a new part-time executive director! Craig Walker took a job as OSM inspector. Liz Singley's contract came through, as all along we knew it might. We are now totally without paid staff. What we need is someone who doesn't have to have a job but who wouldn't mind making money for something he/she is enthusiastic about doing anyway. The person must be a self-starter and must enjoy getting into varied activities. We would greatly appreciate applications or suggestions.
- We need volunteers who can spend a couple of hours a month doing easy filing at the TCWP office. This includes magazines, organization newsletters, books, and reports. (The hard filing is done by the NEWSLETTER editor). Please call 482-2153 (evenings) if you can help, even once.
- We apologize for being late in distributing the Political Guide. Ramona Pennington (Cookeville), at the request of Eric Morgan, has done a great job compiling the information. However, the appointments for the brand-new state administration have been slow coming in, and so have committee assignments for the new legislature. We plan a separate mailing of the Guide before long.
- In 1986, TCWP attracted about twice as many new members as in 1985. Only 4% of the old members failed to renew. That's good news, but we could still use a lot more members. Any recruitment you can do will be a big help.

13. THINGS TO DO AND THINGS TO READ

- March 14 Wildlife Photography Workshop at Ijams. Instructor, Ken Jenkins; fee \$15 (\$12.59 for Audubon members). Pre-registration required. Call 577-4717.
- March 16-18 "Beyond the President's Commission: Preparing for the Future of Parks and Conservation" Conference sponsored by the National Parks & Conservation Assoc. in Wash. DC. Call Ellen Barclay, NPCA, 202, 944-8550.
- April 5,10,13,18 An Audubon TV Special, focusing on environmentally benign ways of farming; on WTBS (check local listings for times).
- April 5-7 National Cave Management Training Seminar, sponsored by the Amer. Cave Conservation Assoc. at Fall Creek Falls. Registration, \$130 (including lodging). Registration due 3/1/87 (call 502, 786-1466).
- April 11 8th Annual Envir. Educ. Workshop, sponsored by Warriors' Path State Park. Free, but pre-registration required (call Marty Silver, 615, 239-8531).
- April 24-26 Nature Photography Workshop, sponsored by Gt. Smoky Mtns Inst at Tremont. Registration, \$165 (including lodging, meals, materials) (call 615,448-6709).
- May 3-9 Tennessee Clean Water Week. For information on how to participate in activities, call Karen Grubbs, 615, 741-0638.
- The Smoky Mountain Field School has announced 31 courses for 1987. The Park staff and U.T. participate, jointly, in the curriculum, which covers many natural history and geology subjects, as well as hikes and backpacks. This year, the School also sponsors 6 trips to other areas (including Tahiti!). (Call 615, 974-6688 for brochure.)
- Audubon Ecology Camps are held in various parts of the U.S. as well as on Trinidad. Write Natl. Envntl. Educ. Ctr., 613 Riversville Rd, Greenwich, CT 06831-9990.
- The 1987 Conservation Directory lists environmental agencies and offices of the U.S. and Canadian governments, State agencies, citizens groups, and much more. \$15 + 2.50 (postage, regardless of number ordered) from Natl. Wildlife Feder., 1412-16th St. NW, Wash. DC 20036-9967.
- The Nature Book Soc is a book club that shares its revenues with 8 major environmental organizations and offers buyers savings of 15% (P. O. Box 10875, Des Moines, IA 50380-0875).

