

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 155*

March 18, 1987

1. THREE STATE BILLS DESERVE YOUR SUPPORT

Here is your first chance to use the enclosed legislator list and Political Guide. Contact your state senator and rep about these bills. If we don't, who will?

A. To repair ravages of oil/gas drilling: HB 817, 818, 819/SB 141, 142, 178

These bills, based on recommendations of last year's task-force study (NL153 ¶6D), would authorize the Dept. of Conservation to promulgate rules and regs to (a) deal with abandoned wells, and (b) insure reclamation of present and future drill sites.

B. To prohibit blasting of bedrock: HB 348 (Yelton)/SB 725 (Moore)

Such blasting, done for septic-tank/septic-field construction, very frequently leads to contamination of valuable ground-water supplies.

C. To implement State Natural Area designation for House Mountain, Knoxville (bill No. not yet known): This 2100 ft mountain NE of Knoxville has been authorized as a State Natural Area, but the Dept. of Conservation has not moved to acquire land because of some local opposition. Last year, the legislature ordered DoC to do a House Mtn study. Knox Cy. residents, in particular, should contact their legislators about the implementation bill.

2. SMOKIES WILDERNESS BILL INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 10

Thank Senator Sasser and Gore, Reps. Lloyd, Cooper, Boner, and Sundquist. Urge other Reps to co-sponsor. For more information, see NL 154, ¶1).

3. TWO TCWP EVENTS IN MAY

A. Whites Creek Trail to be officially opened May 2

A few years ago, TCWP talked TVA into setting aside a "Small Wild Area" along the Whites Creek embayment of Watts Bar Lake. Part of the bargain is that we maintain the trail. We had two trail building/blazing/maintenance hikes in 1986; TVA has recently put up signs, and the trail will be officially opened on Saturday, May 2. Everyone can enjoy the varied 4-mile (round-trip) hike through hardwood coves, along crests of ridges, and down to the shores. A short portion of the route traverses a Bowaters pine plantation. Bring family and friends for this outing; pack a lunch and beverage, wear sturdy shoes.

To carpool from Oak Ridge, meet 9 a.m. at Big Turtle Park (off Tpke, W of town). Or, meet at the trailhead at 10 a.m. Directions via Rockwood: take I-40 exit #347 and go S on US 27; 4.5 mi beyond where US 70 takes off, US 27 passes over two bridges in tandem; 2 mi S of there, look for TVA sign marking turn to left; proceed 1 mi to lake. If you're coming from the south: go north on US 27; about 7 mi N of Spring City, look for TVA sign and turn right; proceed 1 mi to lake.

B. Slide show, May 12: Falkland Islands and Antarctic Peninsula

Though geographically outside the sphere of TCWP's efforts, this area has a beauty that we believe some of you will admire (and, like the rest of the world, Antarctica is subject to environmental threats). Bill and Lee Russell recently spent two weeks near the bottom of the world and will share some of their pictures and information. American Museum of Science and Energy, Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 p.m. Bring family and friends, and spread the word.



ISSUES COMMITTEES. For the issues listed below, please indicate your interest level in the box provided, using numbers as follows:

- 1 = you are willing to serve on a committee concerned with this issue
- 2 = you are willing to write letters on the issue, when asked
- 3 = you would provide financial support to help TCWP work on the issue
- 4 = you think this is an important issue for TCWP, but cannot help personally
- 5 = you take no interest in this issue and think TCWP should drop it

INTEREST
LEVEL

ISSUE

	OBED NATIONAL WILD & SCENIC RIVER (Work to speed up federal land acquisition and implementation of a protective plan. Guard against damages to the watershed.)
	BIG SOUTH FORK NRRA (Work for rapid acquisition of "deferred" areas; monitor implementation process; guard against overdevelopment and adverse influences.)
	OTHER RIVER ISSUES (Work for implementation of State Scenic Rivers and National Wild & Scenic Rivers Acts. Seek alternatives for wasteful and harmful water projects, such as Columbia Dam.)
	REGULATION OF STRIPMINING, OIL & GAS DRILLING (Examine adequacy of laws and regulations and their enforcement; work for needed improvements.)
	CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST (Input in forest-planning effort. Monitor implementation of protected areas within Forest)
	SMOKIES (Promote Smokies wilderness bill. Support protective management plan. Maintain vigilance against harmful influences.)
	STATE NATURAL AREAS (Support continued funding for program. Help in the selection and designation process for new areas. Monitor designated areas.)
	LOCAL AREA ISSUES (Watch over environmental protection in your community and inform other local groups re threats and opportunities. Example: greenbelts.)
	NATIONAL ISSUES (Provide grass-roots support for environmental issues such as protection of public lands, endangered species, water and air quality.)
	MISCELLANEOUS: List issue(s) within TCWP's sphere of interest that you would like to get involved in.

Do you have any suggestions on how TCWP can improve its effectiveness?