

# TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 170

May 25, 1989

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

**15. ACTION SUMMARY**

<b>No</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>"Message" or Action</b>
1A	Obed	Park Service, US Rep & Sens	"Speed up land acquisition!"
3	Highlands of Roan	Rep. Quillen Sens. Sasser & Gore	"Support National Scenic Area bill!"
6B	Tennessee Trails	Two State agencies	"There is interest in trails brochure!"
7	Stripmining	Sens. Gore & Sasser	"Thanks for opposing re-definition of VER!"
8B	TVA	Director Waters	"Thanks for interest in nonpoint-source pollution!"
9A	O.R. Cedar Barrens	TCWP	Contribute for fence.
9B	Northridge Trail	O.R. City Staff	"Take actions to bar ORVs from trail!"
9C	O.R. Greenbelts	TCWP	Offer help for inventorying greenbelts
10C	Roads in Natl Forests	Sens. Sasser	"Cut USFS funds for needless roads!"
11	Alaskan oil spill	US Rep & Sens	"Co-sponsor wilderness bill for ANWR!" "Buy back oil leases for Bristol Bay!" "Sponsor bills to increase auto gas mileage!"
		Sec. Lujan	"Approve Natl Acad of Sciences study!"
12A	Biological diversity	US Rep & Sens	"Support HR 1268 and companion bills!"
12B	Earth Day 1990	Earth Day 1990	Offer help.
13A	TCWP Annual Meeting		Mark your calendar.

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 federal bills, call (202) 225-1772

## 1. OBED WILD & SCENIC RIVER STATUS

### A. Summary of acquisition status

Current ownership and planned acquisitions are as follows (in acres):

Federal (NPS) ownership, fee	1,977
Federal (NPS) ownership, easement	1,066
State ownership (Catoosa WMA)	326
To be acquired by NPS, in fee	1,585
To be acquired, in easements	110
TOTAL	5,064

Almost 13 years after passage of the authorizing legislation, nearly one-third of the area still needs to be acquired. Currently \$575,409 are "in the bank" for this purpose, and while this may not be sufficient for the entire acreage, it would buy most of it. But, the longer NPS waits, the higher will land prices escalate, and the more chance there is for adverse developments (such as timber cutting and residential development) on the as yet unacquired lands.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to R.M. Baker, Director, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 75 Spring St, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303. Ask why land acquisition has proceeded at such a snail's pace, and urge that it be speeded up. Send copies to your U.S. Rep and to both Senators [showing this on your letter to Baker] and ask them also to urge NPS to speed up acquisition.

### B. Update of the Land Protection Plan

When Interior Secretary James Watt was in office, he required all as yet incomplete units of the National Park System to replace their Land Acquisition Plans with so-called Land Protection Plans. His objective was to prevent federal land acquisition by substituting such measures as zoning or cooperative land-owner agreements, or to replace fee-simple acquisition with easements. In the case of the Obed, a large number of tracts that were originally to be acquired in fee were, as a result of the Watt pressure, converted to easement acquisition. No one is enamored of easements: they save the Park Service very little in acquisition costs but are a headache to enforce, and landowners don't like them because they have to continue paying county property taxes on the tracts though they no longer have any development rights to them.

The Land Protection Plan is updated every two years. In the latest update (approved March 1989), justification to acquire fee (as opposed to easement) has been strengthened in a number of instances. This change is partly the result of a GAO (General Accounting Office) review of the Land Protection Plan.

## C. A hazardous-waste incinerator in Obed headwaters?

A company wanting to construct a hazardous-waste incinerator is apparently investigating the possibility of locating this facility near Clarkrange in Fentress or Morgan Counties. The location is close to Clear Creek, one of the two stems of the Obed River. Important details, such as the name of the company, are being kept secret, but it seems that Jim Word, former Commissioner of Health and Environment, may be involved. Hazardous wastes that might be handled would include toxic solvents, residue from pesticide manufacture, laboratory waste, batteries, etc. TCWP and other groups will keep an eye on this situation.

## 2. BIG SOUTH FORK NEWS

### A. Proposal for privately-built lodge

In view of the absence of federal funds to build the two "Adjacent Area" lodges authorized in the legislation that created the BSF National River and Recreation Area, there has been considerable pressure from Kentucky Congressman Hal Rodgers to allow private interests to finance a lodge which would be run as a concession. Since sites other than the ones covered in the original Master Plan are being considered, the Corps of Engineers must produce a *supplement* to the original BSFNRRRA Master Plan. The Corps' first step was to send out a "scoping letter" to presumably interested parties. In response, TCWP commented that our first preference was for a lodge to be built *outside* the BSFNRRRA; if the lodge were to be built within the Area, it must under no circumstances be visible or audible from within the gorge.

Now, we're in round #2 of the proceedings. The Corps published the responses it received to the scoping letter (though omitting several, including one from TCWP's executive director), along with a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) discussing location of a privately-financed lodge at the so-called Blue Heron site (on the plateau back of the Blue Heron and Devils Jump overlooks).

In responding, TCWP makes the point that if a lodge at the Blue Heron site were to be a clear *substitute* for a lodge at Bear Creek (the original Master Plan site), we might agree that its impacts would probably be no greater than those of the Bear Creek lodge, which have already been considered in an EIS. We recommend that the EA be amended to state that the Blue Heron lodge will be the Kentucky lodge in the BSFNRRRA and will replace the Bear Creek lodge. If, however, Blue Heron lodge is to be *additional* to the Bear Creek lodge, there would certainly be a strong possibility of environmental impact from this *double* load of development, and this requires a full-fledged EIS. TCWP, further expressed itself in full agreement

with the statement (in National Park Service correspondence and in the Draft Master Plan supplement) that Blue Heron lodge developments must be invisible from the gorge.

Now comes round #3, a public meeting organized by the Corps, to be held June 1 at Whitley City for the discussion of the alternative lodge developments.

#### B. *Blue Heron Mining Community restoration*

The \$14.5 million Blue Heron development in the BSNFRRRA includes an overlook from the gorge rim, a camp ground back from the rim, and restoration of the old mining community. The first two have been in placeter some time; the last was officially dedicated on May 20.

The mining camp at the Blue Heron site was occupied between 1937 and 1962, but all homes, stores, etc., had disappeared. Instead of reconstructing exact replicates of these buildings, the designers of the "reconstruction" opted for open-sided "ghost structures" that represent the company store, church, homes, etc. Tape recordings of some of the people who lived and worked in the community can be listened to in these structures. The original coal tipples, mine entrance, and river-crossing tram have been restored.

#### C. *BSFNRRRA trail map now available*

A large trail map of the entire Area may now be purchased through the Bandy Creek Visitor Center. When ordering by mail, make out check for \$2.50 + 0.56 postage to Eastern National Park and Monument Association, and send to Big South Fork NRRRA, P.O. Drawer 630, Oneida, TN 37841. (If you order more than one, postage for additional maps is \$0.34).

### 3. PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE HIGHLANDS OF ROAN

The Highlands of Roan, with their grassy balds, rhododendron "gardens," rugged rock outcrops, and spectacular vistas, offer mountain scenery unequalled in the eastern US. The Highlands are also blessed with an extraordinary diversity of plants and animals, many of them rare and endangered. Unfortunately, of the 24,000 acres that constitute the Highlands, only 14,000 are protected; possible development of the remaining 10,000 is a constant threat. Consequently, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and other groups are proposing federal legislation to designate the Highlands as a National Forest Scenic Area.

The proposed boundaries of this Scenic Area exclude most residential and agricultural tracts, and the few that are included will not be acquired by condemnation unless there is a material change in land use that threatens the character of the Scenic Area. No existing roads or trails would be closed as a result of the

designation. The goal of management guidelines for the Area is to maintain the Highlands as they now exist. The bill authorizes an appropriation of up to \$10 million to acquire the presently unprotected portion of the Highlands, with at least 10% of the cost to be shared by local and state governments, and/or private groups.

**★ WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Congressman Jimmy Quillen and urge him to support National Scenic Area legislation for the Highlands of Roan. Send copies of your letter to Senators Sasser and Gore. (All addresses are on p.2). For further info, contact Will Skelton, Knoxville, 523-2272 (H) or 549-7000 (W).

### 4. SMOKIES CAPSULES

#### A. *Status of Wilderness Bill*

No bill is currently in the works. However, members of the Great Smoky Mountains Wilderness Coalition met on April 30 to discuss strategies. A bill incorporating the original compromise will be drafted by Coalition members, and a senator will be asked to review and introduce it.

In the meantime, anti-wilderness forces in Swain County appear to be more militant than ever in demanding a road to the North Shore cemeteries. At the same time, the *Asheville Citizen-Times* writes: "If having cemeteries on public land gave someone the right to demand a road, many of us could demand that roads be cut all through the Smokies [and could claim] the right to override public wishes on how that land is managed... It is only the north shore folks who insist that the taxpayer build them a road or let them decide how their piece of the park will be managed."

#### B. *Slow-down in control of wild boars*

Efforts to eradicate the highly destructive wild boars in the Park will be at least temporarily slowed because of a decrease in available funding. Money from a discretionary fund within the Park Service budget, the Natural Resource Preservation Program, was made available for the boar-control effort during the past three years.

### 5. OUTCOME OF BILLS IN THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE

With the General Assembly about to pack up for the session, the following are near-final reports on legislation promoted by the Environmental Action Fund, EAF (of which TCWP is a member organization). We are grateful to John Williams for this information.

A. **Septic tanks.** The EAF-sponsored bill overwhelmingly passed in both Houses on May 24. It requires that perforated pipe in the drainage field of a tank must be at least 10 feet away from areas where bedrock has been blasted, and must be underlain by at least one foot of soil above rock.

- B. Oil & Gas Reclamation.** An amendment was passed to the O&G Reclamation Act of 1987 whereby 1/3 of the bond will be returned to the operator after initial revegetation has been completed. This amendment represents a compromise worked out by EAF between the oil industry and the Dept of Conservation (see NL169 ¶4A).
- C. Wetlands.** The Wetlands Acquisition Act of 1986 was strengthened by (a) allowing any unused monies to stay in the Acquisition Fund when the tax ends in 1996, (b) allowing money in the Fund to be used to acquire lands immediately adjacent to wetlands if this is deemed appropriate by TWRA, and (c) allowing the Fund to be used to acquire the 40,000-acre Koppers property in East Tennessee.
- D. Golf courses in state parks.** As of this writing, it is still clear whether the golf courses are still in the budget, that was passed this week, with numerous confusing amendments. Since on the floor, the budget is voted up or down as a single package, it appears that (barring a successful amendment from the floor) the only place to attack individual items like golf courses is in the Finance, Ways and Means Committee, which is a rather inaccessible body. However, the committee's chairman, Sen. Douglas Henry, responded to a recent TCWP letter about golf courses by saying: "I tend to agree with you, particularly in view of the State's fiscal situation."
- E. Solid-waste management.** A bill has passed that requires the State Planning Office to prepare a plan for solid waste management, to provide formulas for calculating the costs of various alternatives of handling solid waste, and to inventory the existing solid-waste facilities of all Tennessee counties. Implementation will be left up to local governments. Solid-waste reduction is decreed to be a priority. State government agencies are required to phase in purchases of recycled materials, especially paper products.
- F. Water Quality Act.** Last year's General Assembly passed a weakening amendment to the Act that allowed variances to be granted to industries that discharge pollutants (NL164 ¶3A). This year, the weakening amendment was repealed.

At its last meeting, the TCWP Board of Directors voted to support EAF with a \$300 organizational membership. The bulk of this support goes to pay for a lobbyist, the only environmental lobbyist on the Hill. For anyone wishing to contribute as an individual, the address is: EAF, P.O. Box 22421, Nashville, TN 37202.

## 6. OTHER NEWS FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

### A. New State Natural Area

The single addition to the State Natural Areas System made this year is Hick's Gap, a 350-acre tract in the Prentice Cooper State Forest. This tract encompasses a forested slope in the Tennessee River Gorge, and contains an endangered plant species.

### B. Trail news

Gov. McWherter did not this year reinstate the Trails Administrator position in the Department of Conservation. However, the State Trails Council hopes to have an opportunity to bring this need to the Governor's personal attention, for possible action next year.

The State Trails Council is working on a brochure, organized by regions, that will publicize hiking, backpacking, bike, horse, and ATV trails. The Council hopes that the Depts of Conservation and Tourist Development will be willing to mass-produce this brochure. To demonstrate that there is public interest, contact these two departments and ask for a trail brochure (DoC, 701 Broadway, Nashville 37219-5237; Dept of Tourist Dev., P.O. Box 23170, Nashville 37202).

There is a proposal to develop the Mountain Goat Trail on the abandoned CSX railroad bed between Cowan and Tracy City (passing through Sewanee, Monteagle, etc.). The general public, civic groups, and state legislators from the area are supportive. Obviously, funds will be needed to purchase the right-of-way. For info, contact Carrie Ashton, SPO 1269, Sewanee, TN 37375.

### C. Tennessee ranks high ... as polluter

By any of a number of criteria of environmental quality, our State is doing very badly indeed. A recent EPA report on quantities of toxics emitted into the air placed Tennessee sixth in pounds of airborne toxics emitted per square mile (third, in terms of total weight of airborne toxics per state -- 132.5 million pounds for Tennessee). The annual *State of the States* report by the Fund for Renewable Energy and Environment, a research group, ranked Tennessee next to lowest (only Louisiana was worse). We scored way below average in state programs for drinking water, solid-waste recycling, forest management, and growth and environment; and slightly below average in food safety. Our state government lacks leadership in developing new environmental protection programs, and does not even provide the support for maintaining existing ones.

### D. Tennessee Environmental Council

As should be evident from ¶6C. above, the job of policing environmental quality in the state is a

difficult one, and one that must improve. The Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) has been growing to try and meet the challenge. TEC, which has many organizational members (including TCWP) and about 1500 individual members, now has a staff of 5 (full- or part-time employees), and a budget of over \$200,000. At its annual meeting on May 20, specific recommendations were made to the TEC Board by groups caucusing on the subjects of water quality, protection of public lands, solid waste, and toxic waste.

to raise funds for a rehab center with hospital that could serve the whole state.

Students of the Oliver Springs Elementary School are inspired by their principal, Richard Davis, to donate money for wildlife or wildlife habitat each year. This year, they have contributed toward land acquisition for a migratory-bird sanctuary along the Platte River. Last year, their contribution went for land acquisition on Roan Mountain.

**7. STRIPMINE NEWS**

**E. The battle to save West Tennessee wetlands**

In attempting to save what wetlands remain after 40 years of Corps of Engineers' channelization of 73 river miles in the Obion-Forked Deer River basin, concerned citizens have advocated that the Corps use Stream Obstruction Removal Guidelines (SORG) instead of continued channelization (NL169 ¶3B). This modern, environmentally sensitive, alternative would provide cost-effective flood control with minimal disruption of river ecosystems. The Corps, however, has claimed that the law requires cost-sharing by the state if SORG are to be adopted -- and this has greatly reduced the state's enthusiasm for SORG. Now, a Washington law firm has determined that cost-sharing is not legally required for SORG.

**A. Response to OSM's proposal to redefine 'valid existing rights' (VER)**

The public outcry about OSM's proposed re-definition of VER has exceeded all expectations. This re-definition would allow stripmining in national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, etc.; in state and local parks; and in the currently enforced buffer zones around residences, roads, churches, etc. (NL168 ¶2 A). We have already reported on the huge turnout at the 2/16/89 Knoxville hearing, one of six in the country (NL169 ¶5A). By the time the comment period closed on 4/24/89, over 4200 pieces of mail had been received by OSM, virtually all of them opposing the rules change. In view of the public outcry, it seems unlikely that the proposal will be adopted; but will it simply linger as a perpetual proposal, or will it be withdrawn? The latter is clearly preferable.

**F. Pigeon River permit**

Comments on the draft permit issued by EPA for the Champion paper mill at Canton, NC were due April 29. A lengthy report by Champion, submitted just before the deadline, essentially threatens court action. EPA plans to issue its final permit on June 27. This permit may be appealed by either side in the dispute, so the fate of the Pigeon River appears far from settled yet.

In the meantime, members of Congress who wrote to OSM in response to constituent pressure have been soothed by the Dept of Interior with assurances that, despite the re-definition of VER, mining in national parks would not be permitted by USDI. What these Congress members are not being made aware of, however, is that, to prevent such mining, the US taxpayer would have to spend close to \$1 billion to buy out VER (as newly defined). Furthermore, even this buy-out would do nothing to prevent the elimination of the buffer zones that are currently enforced around various properties.

**G. Management of Roan Mountain balds**

The balds on the Roan Mountain massif were originally kept open by native bison, elk, and deer, later replaced by domestic grazers. Recently, as lands have been acquired for protection against development, vegetation is closing in on the balds, eliminating significant flora and fauna that depend on the open environment. Based on recommendations by a team of biologists, the US Forest Service is developing a bald management plan and has awarded a challenge grant to two citizens groups for implementing part of the plan. If you wish to volunteer for a week or for a day of cutting back blackberry bushes, call Judy Murray, 615,323-4993.

Tennessee's senators were not as readily soothed by USDI as were other members of Congress. Sen. Gore has promised to "pursue every possible avenue to prevent this rule change from occurring, both through regulatory and legislative means." He, as well as Sen. Sasser (who was instrumental in having one of the VER hearings held in Knoxville), joined several other senators in writing to Sec. Lujan to ask that the management of OSM be reformed (see also ¶7B, below). Senators Gore and Sasser deserve our thanks.



**H. Tennessee groups help wildlife**

The Cumberland Wildlife Foundation (P.O.Box 811, Mt. Juliet, TN; Director, Kevin Schutt, 615, 885-7000) rehabilitates injured wild animals and releases them back to nature. Currently operating out of a leased church, the Foundation is attempting

**B. OSM leadership**

It is generally agreed that a major moving force in generating the dangerous proposal to re-define VER was Bob Gentile, Acting Director of OSM, and a former stripmine operator. The Reagan Administra-

tion, which had twice unsuccessfully tried to get the Gentile nomination confirmed by the Senate, finally resorted to appointing him while the Congress was not in session (between terms). Such a "recess appointee" may stay in his post for a year, unless the Congress objects or someone else is nominated. It now appears that there will be a Bush nominee for the OSM Directorship, Harry Snyder of Harlan, Kentucky, formerly associated with the CSX Railroad. He will probably not be opposed by the environmental community, which is taking a wait-and-see attitude.

## B. TVA CAPSULES

### A. TVA drops conservation, expands power consumption

A far-sighted TVA, under David Freeman, 12 years ago pioneered the nation's biggest energy-conservation program. Now, under Runyon, TVA has changed its philosophy by 180 degrees and is trying to expand the use of electricity. In April, TVA announced that it will no longer offer free home energy audits; nor will it provide loans for weatherization and insulation improvements. Instead, the agency will focus on attracting new business customers for electric power.

### B. One TVA Director supports pollution control

At a recent Knoxville conference, TVA Director John Waters announced that he would devote his remaining 4 years on the Board to improving water quality in the Tennessee River system. He is particularly concerned about nonpoint-source pollution and has proposed specific new approaches to dealing with this problem. You may wish to write to John Waters, Director, TVA, (400 W. Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902), applauding his initiative and encouraging him to exert leadership on this important issue.

## 9. OAK RIDGE NEWS

### A. The Cedar Barrens is dedicated

The thunderstorms and torrential rains that started the day on May 6 miraculously ceased just minutes before the dedication was scheduled, and over 50 people (including City Council candidates, Ed Nephew and Bob Spore) showed up despite the threatening weather. The large, natural wood, sign proclaiming the Oak Ridge Barrens Registered State Natural Area had been furnished by the Department of Conservation, painted by Bill Russell, and put in place by a City crew. Standing before the sign, each of the several speakers celebrated the event: Martha Kettle (TCWP president), Tom Ripley (Deputy Commissioner of Conservation), Fiona Simmons (president of the Oak Ridge High School Biology Club), Maureen Cunningham (TCWP's prime mover in last year's Cedar Barrens battle), and Oak Ridge Mayor Roy Pruett. Refreshments were consumed, and part of the

crowd followed Maureen into the Barrens for a demonstration of some of its ecological features.

There was a fine response to our call for contributions for the fence we plan to install along Fairbanks Road. The \$180 we collected on the spot, and \$100 from the Oak Ridge Schools, now brings the total contributions to \$400. We'll need close to another \$400, so welcome additional contributions (make out the check to TCWP, mark it "for Cedar Barrens," and mail it to C. Klabunde, 219 E. Vanderbilt, Oak Ridge, TN 37830). -- A good summary (by Maureen Cunningham) of the battle for the Cedar Barrens appeared in the Gardens Supplement of the April 6 Oak Ridger.

### B. TCWP reroutes sections of Northridge Trail

Despite very short notice and initially bad weather, a work party of 7 energetic TCWP members on April 1 rerouted excessively steep sections of the access trail from N. Walker Lane, and of the main Northridge Trail just west of Highland Trail. Subsequently, the Warrens rebalanced the rerouted segments, thus completing their re-blazing of the entire trail system. They drew the City staff's attention to the fact (also noticed by several of us) that portions of the trails have become a playground for motor cycles and ORVs. Such use of the Northridge Trail, which is designated a National as well as State Recreation Trail, is illegal. Every one of us who is concerned about this destructive use of our greenbelts should call Josh Collins, Director of Recreation & Parks (482-8450), and urge that entry trails into the greenbelt be effectively barricaded against ORVs. It may eventually be necessary to contact our City Council members as well.

### C. City greenbelts being catalogued

The Environmental Quality Advisory Board has initiated a data base on the City's greenbelts that will include information on their special features as well as on any existing problems. The Beautification Committee and TCWP have offered to furnish data for this survey. If you are willing to help with this task, please get in touch with us (Chuck Coutant, 483-5976).

### D. A biosphere reserve for the Oak Ridge area

The 12,400-acre Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park (NERP) on the DOE Reservation has been designated a third unit of the Southern Appalachian Biosphere Reserve (the other two are the Smokies and Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, NC). Designation of biosphere reserves is made by UNESCO. The Southern Appalachian reserves are representatives of the "temperate broadleaf forest biogeographical region."

## 10. U. S. PUBLIC LANDS

A. *New National Parks Director*

National Park Service Director William Penn Mott, "the only Reagan appointee with a touch of green" (Audubon Activist), has been asked to make way for James M. Ridenour, who has served as fundraiser for Vice President Dan Quayle. Ridenour headed Indiana's Division of Natural Resources from 1981-1989, in which capacity he managed the state park system and other state areas. Recently, he has also worked as research program coordinator with the Purdue Univ Natural Resources Research Institute. One national conservation group (NPCA) applauds Ridenour's expressed support for research aimed at improving park management; another group (Audubon) reports that, in Indiana, Ridenour was known as the "best friend park concessionaires ever had."

B. *Other Administration nominees*

Aside from William Reilly, EPA Administrator, other appointees to important natural-resource and environment positions appear to be "James Watt clones," according to knowledgeable persons. James Cason, nominated as Assistant USDA Secretary in charge of the Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service, was formerly in the US Dept of the Interior (USDI), where he authorized the infamous proposed change in the definition of VER (see ¶7A, this NL), and exerted pressure against having the spotted owl listed as endangered (see ¶10D, this NL). -- The new USDI Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife & Parks is Constance Harrington, whose father is a major Republican fundraiser. -- The man nominated as Deputy Administrator of EPA (the No.2 spot in the agency) is F. Henry Habicht II, who, in his former job in the Justice Dept, developed the policy that forbade EPA to order other government agencies to cease polluting; time-consuming negotiations had to be entered into, instead.

C. *National Forest roads alert*

Every year, the US Forest Service spends millions of dollars to construct thousands of miles of logging roads in our national forests. This unnecessary and expensive road building has degraded areas that would otherwise have qualified as wilderness. Our Sen. Sasser is on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee and will soon cast a key vote on this issue. A communication from you can help to save irreplaceable and magnificent national forest areas (address on p.2).

D. *Our remaining old-growth forests are in extreme jeopardy*

Virtually all remaining virgin forest stands in our country are on public lands, most of them in 12 national forests west of the Cascades. These 500- to 1000-year-old trees are being logged at an unprecedented rate -- 170 acres per day. At this rate, all sizable tracts of old growth will be gone in

another 15 years. Much of the timber is being cut to build houses in Japan (logs equivalent to a 600,000-acre forest were shipped overseas in the past 10 years), and the US government is liquidating the public forests to help offset the federal deficit.

The timber industry in the Pacific Northwest is using wild statistics on what the job losses would be, should logging be slowed. There has, in fact, been a 15% decline in employment in the wood-products industry in the past decade, but this occurred despite the fact that logging actually increased by almost 20%. The decline in employment can be 100% accounted for by technological improvements in mill equipment, changes in timber and-use, and geographical shifts by the wood-products industry.

The northern spotted owl is an indicator species for old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest. The species is in danger of extinction, but (as the General Accounting Office recently discovered) the Reagan Administration managed to prevent the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) from listing the owl as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Not too long ago, Pres. Bush's Interior Secretary, Lujan, suggested the unspeakable: that the Endangered Species Act be amended to take into account the economic impact of listing a species. In late April, the FWS did propose protection of the owl as a threatened species.

E. *The threat to the Chattooga National Wild & Scenic River may be ended*

The proposal to build a county airport virtually on the banks of a National Wild & Scenic River in a national forest (NL 169 ¶3G) drew massive protest from several groups (including TCWP) concerned about the precedent that would be set. A local hearing on March 15 drew about 300 persons, over 90% of whom opposed the proposed airport location. On the following morning, two county commissioners (of a board of three) announced that the Chattooga River site was not a viable option.

F. *25th anniversary of the Wilderness Act to be celebrated*

The Wilderness Act was signed 9/3/64; this September, a number of groups will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Congress has been asked to designate the first full week of September as National Wilderness Week. Conferences and media events are planned. Local groups are urged to plan commemorative hikes or other events in designated wilderness areas. In Tennessee, the only such areas are within the Cherokee National Forest; thanks to Sen. Helms, we still have no designated wilderness in the Smokies, even though wilderness hearings for the park were held less than 2 years after passage of the Act.



## 11. THE ALASKA OILSPILL: ITS SIGNIFICANCE TO FUTURE POLICY

Perhaps we can add one or two items of information to what you have already read in the papers and seen on TV. Certainly, we can suggest some appropriate actions

The spill, coming just prior to the season when sea birds and mammals in large quantities migrate into Prince Williams Sound, could not have been timed worse. The geography, too, was unfavorable: elsewhere in the world, the sea has purged itself of larger spills; but this one occurred in an enclosed ecosystem, with numerous sheltered coves where oil collects, rather than washing out.

Past decisions by government bodies and by the oil industry bear a more scrutiny than the drunks thrown by the captain of the Exxon Valdez. The Associated Press calls it "a course charted by greed, neglect, [and] complacency." Some specifics: rejection by Alyeska (the oil-industry consortium), and by the Coastguard, of a 1976 state study that forecast tanker accidents and urged such requirements as double-hulled tankers and tug-boat escorts; disbandment in 1982 of Alyeska's Emergency Response Team; abandonment, in the past 10 years, of provisions for keeping harbor pilots onboard and for keeping staff at radar screens that watch over Prince Williams Sound. And, though 85% of Alaska's income comes from oil, the state's Dept of Environmental Conservation has seen its budget cut to 40% below the 1985 level. Coastguard budgets, too, have been cut, and the Coastguard has been intimidated by the oil industry. One thing that has certainly been learned from the disaster is how poor is the reliability of industry as surances.

But the bottom line is that "environmentally sound oil development" is a contradiction in terms for sensitive environments. There were, in fact, 3000(!) recorded spills in Alaskan waters last year alone -- only this gigantic one has made it into the news.

Let's look at some of the politics at play. Last year, EPA was pressured by the Reagan Administration to withdraw the statement that "current technology cannot effectively clean up a spill." Also suppressed were other government reports documenting environmental problems related to oil development. USDI has apparently shown a continuing pattern of deceit on this subject, culminating in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on oil leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Because of this, the Alaska Coalition (representing more than 250 environmental and civic groups) had requested that the President direct the National Academy of Sciences to review USDI's EIS. Just 3 days before

the big spill, Sec. Lujan rejected this request; it has now been repeated.

Pres. Bush sounded much like an oil-industry spokesman when he said that there was "no connection" between this spill and Arctic oil exploration. He has reaffirmed his support for opening up ANWR to "prudent" oil development. Alaska's two senators, who have denounced Exxon for negligence, until recently characterized environmental activists as tree-huggers who want to turn back the clock. Just 2 days before the spill, Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) stated: "Alarmists say Alaska's environment would be destroyed if the refuge [ANWR] is explored [for oil]. Twenty years ago, they sounded the same alarm against the Alaska pipeline -- and they were proved wrong." Sen. Stevens (R-AK) in 1973 led the successful fight for the Prudhoe Bay-Valdez pipeline, and "guaranteed" apprehensive Alaska fishermen that not a drop of oil would stain Prince Williams Sound. Alaska's Congressman, Young, ridiculed environmentalists for identifying as "fragile environments" what was once called "hostile environment."

Legislation that would open the ANWR to oil exploration (S.406) cleared a Senate committee just 8 days before the spill. Backers of the leasing bill are now biding their time until the furor abates, and then will try again to push it through.



**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Write to your Senators and your Rep. (addresses on p. 2) to express your outrage with the oil industry's disdain for environmental safeguards, and your conviction that oil drilling must be kept out of the ANWR. Urge your Congresspersons to co-sponsor bills (HR 39 and S 39) that would designate the ANWR's Coastal Plain as wilderness. Only Rep. Harold Ford has done this, so far, and he needs to be thanked. (Rep. Cooper co-sponsored last year but not, so far, this year.)

(2) The leases to Alaska's Bristol Bay (North America's greatest concentration of marine mammals) have just recently been sold to the oil industry. Urge Congress to buy these leases back (addresses on p.2)

(3) Write to Sec. Manuel J. Lujan, Jr. (Dept of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240), and urge him to grant the petition request by the Alaska Coalition for a National Academy of Sciences review and complete overhaul of USDI's two-year old "1002 report" (on ANWR).

(4) A sane path to energy efficiency would render a lot of oil drilling unnecessary. Urge your Congresspersons to sponsor bills that would increase automobile gas mileage to 40 mile per gallon over the next 20 years, as well as other energy-efficiency measures. (Addresses on p.2).

**12. OTHER NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CAPSULES**

**A. Biological Diversity bill needs support**

Rep. James Scheuer (D-NY) has introduced HR 1268, which would establish a national policy to protect biological diversity. In addition, the bill would require every EIS to focus on this issue, would require federal agencies to develop a coordinated strategy for the protection of biological diversity, and would provide support for research and training in the protection of biological diversity. Though there is no specific companion bill in the Senate, Gore's World Environmental Policy Act, S.201, contains a similar section.

\* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your Rep to support HR1268; urge your Senators to introduce a companion bill, or to support S.201. (Addresses on p.2).

**B. Earth Day 1990**

A new coalition, Earth Day 1990, has been formed to organize an entire week of events, around the world, marking the 20th anniversary of the original Earth Day. The coalition's goal is to evoke a world-wide demonstration of concern for the global environment, and to foster a new international environmental activism. Heading Earth Day 1990 is Dennis Hayes, who organized the first Earth Day in April 1970, and who hopes to involve not environmentalists alone but a wide cross-section of society, including many young people. For information, or to volunteer your help, write **Earth Day 1990**, P.O.Box AA, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305.

\* **C. Will US take the lead on global warming?**

During the campaign, candidate George Bush promised to convene a global conference on the environment during his first year in office, to address problems like global warming, ozone depletion, and acid rain. Six months after the election, Pres. Bush's White House Chief of Staff rebuffed officials who wanted the US to propose an international conference to draft a treaty on global warming. At about the same time, the Office of Management & Budget changed Congressional testimony by Dr. J. E. Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, to make prospects for global warming appear more uncertain. Afterwards, Hansen was quoted as saying: "It distresses me that they put words in my mouth; they even put it in the first person ... I should be allowed to say what is my scientific position." Hansen's original testimony stated that, while there are still many uncertainties, enough is known *already* about the general, and even regional, effects of the global warming trend to take major steps now to curb harmful emissions.

Sen. Al Gore, Jr., made public the OMB censorship, and said: "I think they [the Bush Administration] are scared that Hansen and the

other scientists are right and that some dramatic policy changes are going to be needed, and they don't want to face up to it because they prefer to do nothing." Such a firestorm was raised by Gore and others that the Administration decided to take a very preliminary step toward an international agreement. Specifically, EPA Administrator, Reilly, announced that a multinational "workshop" would be held in Washington in October (step 1), which *might* result in formal negotiations (step 2) on the establishment of a "framework convention" on global climate (step 3), later to be fleshed out with specific agreements (step 4). While senators active on the climate issue welcomed this first step, they criticized Bush's unwillingness to propose more specific action. "He's done as little as possible to say he's on the right track," said Sen. Gore, "but it's not political leadership."

And, speaking of Sen. Gore: have you read his excellent short article "What is Wrong With Us?" in TIME magazine's special issue (1/2/89) on *Planet of the Year?* If not, you may request a copy from us (send a self-addressed, stamped [25c] envelope).

**13. TCWP NEWS**

**A. Annual meeting plans progress**

Our annual meeting has been set for the weekend of Sept. 22-24 at the Pickett State Park Group Camp. We are looking into ways of getting our meals catered (this was very successful at Bandy Creek, last year). Speakers are now being lined up for what we expect to be an excellent program. **Please be sure to mark your calendar NOW.**

\* **B. Report on recent group and individual activities**

- The successful Cedar Barrens dedication on May 6 is reported in ¶9A, this NL.
- For a report on our recent Northridge Trail maintenance efforts, see ¶9B, this NL.
- Despite weather that promised to be poor, 16 people showed up for our Whites Creek hike on April 15. The weather improved greatly, the pinkster azaleas, paw paws, and many other plants were in bloom, and everyone had a great time. Our gratitude to Judy Bartlow for interpreting a lot of plant life for us.
- Board member David Adler organized a highly successful Cherokee Forest Voices training session on April 1-2. Four weeks later, he and Karin Finkelgot married in a highly successful celebration. Karin had volunteered for many of the TCWP executive director jobs while Jenny was in China.
- A feature article on Jenny, husband Ken Johnson, and their adopted Chinese baby Mei

Elizabeth (Mei-mei), appeared in the April 2 Knoxville News-Sentinel.

- TCWP president, Martha Kettle, was elected to the Board of the Tennessee Environmental Council as an at-large member.
- Lee Russell talked to the Anderson County Republican Womens Club about environmental issues in Tennessee and the nation.

**C. TCWP policy on mailing lists**

Since we have recently received numerous requests for the TCWP mailing list, the Board, at its 4/24/89 meeting, formulated the following policy in order to protect the privacy of our members. The mailing list will not be given to any individual or group that has a commercial interest. The list may be given for one-time use only to non-profit groups having compatible goals; this decision will be made on a case-by case basis. The Board voted to allow the Tennessee Environmental Council to use our list on one occasion. Similarly, U.T. Press may use our list to send notices about a book on Big South Fork trails. We would like to hear our members' reaction to these decisions.

**14. JOBS; ACTIVITIES; READING MATTER**

- Job openings  
NRDC: Hiring an assistant to work to conserve tropical forests. Masters or law degree required. Contact Thomas Stoel, NRDC, Washington, 202-783-7800, by June 5.

AMC: Conservation Director for the Appalachian Mountain Club. Graduate degree not necessary, but applicant must have experience in conservation. Contact AMC, Boston, 617-523-0636

- For a free sample of the Environmental Job Opportunities Bulletin, write EJO, Inst. for Envtl. Studies, Univ of Wisconsin, 550 N.Park St, Madison, WI 53706. Tennessee, \$10
- The Gt Smoky Mtns Institute at Tremont is looking for a few people (particularly those with a love for the mountains and experience with children) who would like to work with the Institute for a week or two this summer. A stipend is offered.
- June is American Rivers Month, and numerous floats and other events are planned for Tennessee and other states. Contact Bob Allen, 615-742-6685.
- A workshop in Environmental Education (3 hours credit, graduate or undergraduate) will be offered by Memphis State Univ in June. Contact Ron Cleminson/Jackie Palmer, 901-678-2365.
- June 14-16, Southeastern Regional Workshop on Lake and Reservoir Management, Chattanooga. Contact Don Anderson 615-751-7329, or Linda Oxendine 615-632-7564, both at TVA.
- October 20-22. National Citizens' Conference on Groundwater, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact Jean

DeStefano, Environmental Policy Inst, 218 D Street, SE, Wash., DC 20003.

- The Smoky Mountain Field School, a cooperative venture by the Gt Smoky Mtns Natl Park and the Univ of Tennessee, offers numerous weekend and 5-day field courses (complemented by classroom activities) emphasizing outdoor exploration of the Smokies. Courses are offered until December 10. Call Dr. Gayle D. Cooper, 615-974-8688
- "Environment Under Fire" is a 28-minute video, produced by the Environmental Project on Central America, which explores the issues behind the Central American environmental crisis, along with potential solutions. Sale \$75, rental \$35. Contact Educational Film & Video Project, Oakland, CA 415-655-9050.
- Michael Frome's newest book, *Conscience of a Conservationist*, is a collection of his best essays from the 1960s and 1970s. Frome has fought many good fights, and his essays give the reader a broad perspective as well as a feel for the immediacy of each situation. \$24.50 from Univ of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.
- *Endangered Species UPDATE*, one of the few periodicals dedicated to endangered species protection and conservation, also regularly reprints the USFWS' *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*. (10 issues for \$15 from School of Natural Resources, The Univ of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1115).
- Park publications in great numbers and diversity are available from the National Parks & Conservation Assoc, 1015 - 31st St, NW, Washington, DC 20007. Write for their 24-page catalog.
- *Saving Endangered Wildlife* explains how the Endangered Species Act works, what it has accomplished, etc. (\$5 [\$3 for members] from Defenders of Wildlife, 1244 - 19th St, NW, Washington, DC 20036).
- *Shopping for a Better World* rates 139 companies that make 1,300 brand-name products to help consumers buy with an environmental and social conscience. (\$4.95 + \$1 postage from Council on Economic Priorities, 30 Irving Pl, New York, NY 10003).
- *Chickamauga Reservoir Lands Planning, March 1989: Public Comments and TVA Staff Responses*. This publication is available in the TCWP office.
- *Saving America's Countryside: A Guide to Rural Conservation*, by S. N. Stokes et al., is a publication by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (\$16.95, paperback, from The Johns Hopkins Univ Press, 701 W 40th St, Suite 275, Baltimore, MD 21211).
- The Nature Book Society publishes useful, beautiful, and often difficult-to-find books about our environment. Nine national environmental groups receive donations from the NBS from the sale of every book (P. O. Box 10875, Des Moines, IA 50380-0875).

