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*Editor: Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Ph. 615, 482-2153
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Dear Senator Doe,

Sincerely yours,

The Hon. John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman/woman Doe,

Sincerely yours,

Governor Ned McWherter
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37219

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. **BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED PROTECTION ISSUES**

A. **Huge dam is proposed for major Obed tributary**

According to a March 20 notice, the State's Division of Water Pollution Control has received an application from Mr. Steve Stone for a permit to construct a gigantic earthen dam on Otter Creek, a major southern tributary that enters the Obed upstream from its confluence with Daddys Creek within the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. The dam, located about 1.5 miles north of the Peavine Road, and south of the Catoosa boundary, would be 90 ft (17 meters) high, 25 ft wide at the top, and 385 ft wide at the bottom (the last figure was calculated by us from data provided about slopes of the dam faces -- is almost as staggering as is the height of the dam). The lake will be used for recreation, fishing, wildlife habitat, and as a source of water for the Crab Orchard Utility District.

TCWP responded to the public notice on April 1, and again on April 12, voicing major concerns and requesting a public hearing. Other organizations have likewise asked for a hearing and a site visit. The National Park Service has requested that an Environmental Assessment (and if necessary an Environmental Impact Statement) be prepared to determine if there will be any adverse effects to the Obed Wild and Scenic River.

Among the major concerns are the following: (a) sediment from the movement of huge amounts of earth and exposure of large excavated areas; (b) acidic or other toxic pollution from strata-disturbed by excavation; (c) interruption of waterflow during the years it would take the lake to fill up; (d) changes in water temperature and dissolved oxygen; (e) impacts from all of the above on the aquatic and streamside ecology and on fisheries of Otter Creek and the Obed (Otter Creek is considered important for muskie spawning).

The Division of Water Pollution Control has granted our request for a public hearing. It will be held Tuesday, June 4 at 7 pm Central Daylight Time (note: that's 8 pm EDT) at City Hall (104 Henry Street), Crossville. Comments must be relevant to water-quality issues (e.g., the concerns raised in the preceding paragraph).

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Come to the hearing and express your views on the proposal (or, at least support those of us who do). Call us (482-2153) for car-pooling arrangements. If you can't possibly come, write; written testimony will be accepted at the hearing and for 10 days thereafter (send to Sherry Wang, Div. of Water Pollution Control, 150 - 9th Ave North, Nashville, TN 37247-3001; refer to hearing No. 91-003). With your help, this project can be stopped, or at least made less damaging to Obed resources.

B. **Sens. Sasser and Gore, and Rep. Cooper, working for Obed and BSF acquisition funds**

After fact-finding and consultation, TCWP recommended that the following sums for land acquisition be appropriated for FY1992: $610,000 for the Obed Wild & Scenic River (WSR), and $6 million for the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area (NSR). The $610,000 for the Obed should be sufficient (if added to money "in the bank") to complete acquisition within presently set boundaries and to help protect the resource against oil & gas drilling, timber cutting, and construction. The $6 million for the BSFNRRCA could buy some of the large tracts in the pristine, but badly threatened, North Whiteoak Creek/Laurel Fork area (see NL 181 §3B).

Responding to requests by TCWP and by members of the Big South Fork Action Network (which is coordinated by TCWP), Senators Sasser and Gore and Congressman Jim Cooper recently wrote to the respective chairmen of the Senate and House Interior Appropriations Subcommittees, urging that $610,000 for the Obed WSR and $6 million for the BSFNRRCA (i.e., exactly the amounts that had been recommended by TCWP and the Network) be appropriated for FY1992 for land acquisition under the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Sens. Sasser and Gore, and to Rep. Cooper (addresses on p.2), and express your sincere thanks for their efforts on behalf of Obed and BSF land acquisition. Urge them, also, to persevere and try to keep the funding amounts intact through subcommittee and full committee deliberations.

C. **Boundary changes are needed for Obed resource protection**

Political pressure can go a long way toward determining priorities within administrative offices. Perhaps because we havenot clamored as loudly as have others, the Obed WSR has become a stepchild of the NPS Regional Office. Almost 15 years after the WSR was authorized, acquisition is still very far from complete (see NL 1B, above), the General Management Plan remains to be written, and -- very important -- the authorized boundaries remain to be critically examined.

The boundary currently shown for the Obed Wild & Scenic River is dangerously flawed in several places. For lengthy stretches, there is no protected area on the northside of the gorge; and elsewhere, too, the boundary is totally insufficient for resource protection and thus not in keeping with the intent of Congress. There are also reasons to think that the boundary was drawn at variance with the
government's own recommendations. Addition of certain river segments could greatly enhance resource protection and visitor enjoyment. Eventor segments that are currently included, the boundary takes in only about 1/3 of the acreage that is permitted under the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Sen. Gore, Sen. Sasser, Rep. Jim Cooper, and your own Rep. (addresses on p.2) and ask them to urge NPS to proceed expeditiously with a boundary study for the Obed. Inform them that there are severe threats to the resource from incompatible developments (logging, oil extraction, building construction) unless boundary changes are quickly made in a number of places. Send copies to James M. Ridenour, Director, NPS, US Dept of the Interior, Interior Bldg., Washington, DC 20240.

**D. Obed and Big South Fork capsules**

- When The Tennessee Nature Conservancy finally pre-acquires the Kopper's property for the state of Tennessee, the deal will include a few "detached" parcels within the North Whiteoak Creek/Laurel Fork portion of the BSFNRA. Incidentally, the Tennessee Conservancy, a member of the BSF Action Network, has done some elegant DC lobbying for Obed and BSF acquisition funds. Beautiful color brochures were prepared for this purpose.

- TCWP's $1153 contribution to the BSFNRA from moneys collected in last year's March-for-Parks (see NL177 §10B) has been used by NPS for purchase of water-quality monitoring equipment, specifically, a digital temperature/conductivity meter with a 150' sensor cable and water-tight case. This equipment will simplify data collection, especially on river trips. The balance of the money was applied toward purchase of a text on lab analysis methods.

- The NPS is inviting interested groups to participate in a Trail Inspection/Cleanup weekend for the Big South Fork NRRA, with the objectives of arousing public concern, gathering information about trail conditions, and getting needed cleanup performed. TCWP has volunteered to do the Honey Creek Trail on June 9 (see §9A, this NL, for details).

- NPS coordinated its second Obed River cleanup May 3-5. During the 1990 cleanup, over 26 tons of litter were removed from the riverbanks and approaches by canoe clubs, scouts, local groups, etc., etc. We haven't had reports on the outcome yet, but indications were that another big volunteer effort would be mounted.

- NPS is negotiating an agreement with the US Geological Survey that will result in improving the accuracy of the Leatherwood Ford river gauge. Experienced river users have complained the the existing gauge may underestimate river flow by as much as 30%.

**2. GILLS ENACTED BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE INCLUDE SOME MAJOR VICTORIES**

**A. We win on funding for park-land acquisition (SB.571/HB.774)!**

On May 7, Gov. McWherter signed into law the State and Local Parks and Recreation Partnership Act, which provides a permanent source of funding for park-land acquisition and trail development from a 4¢ per $100 increase in the recordation tax on the transfer of real property (of which 3.25¢ goes into the park fund). About $4 million are expected to be generated annually.

As originally introduced, SB.571 (Crutchfield)/HB.774 (Odom, Knight, Cross) would have imposed a 4¢ park tax, and split the sum equally between state and local governments (2¢ each). Under a House amendment that was supported by the Farm Bureau, the State portion was reduced to 1.5¢, and the local-government portion to 1.75¢, with 0.75¢ (along with an equal amount taken out of the existing Wetlands fund) going into a special account for the cleanup of sources of non-point pollution (e.g., agricultural run-off). Other amendments were passed that, (a) forbid use of the fund to acquire lands by condemnation, and (b) require the heads of Conservation, Agriculture, and TWRA to administer the expenditure of the funds.

The State portion of the fund is dedicated 100% to land acquisition and trail development for state parks, forests, and natural areas, and for boundary areas for scenic rivers and trails. The local-governments' portion is available to county and municipal governments that apply to the Dept. of Envt and Conservation (DoEC) for grants. Such grants have to be matched with an equal amount of local money, or with a donation of land from a third party. Allowed purposes for the local-government portion are land acquisition, trail development, or capital improvements (e.g., picnic shelters) on acquired land or on land already owned (the latter provision resulted from an amendment in the Senate). In addition to creating the parklands-acquisition fund, the new law extends indefinitely the wetlands acquisition fund, which was created several years ago but had been scheduled to end in 1996.

Passage of this important bill was due to the unflagging efforts of EAF lobbyist, John Williams, and to support by several groups, including EAF member organizations (TCWP among them), the Tenn. Recreation and Parks Assoc., and even the Farm
Bureau (after we agreed to the 1.5¢ set-aside for agricultural-pollution abatement). The bill would not have passed without the efforts of many of you who called key legislators at our suggestion; your efforts have been well rewarded! As it turned out, every single vote was important, because the margin in the House was only 50:39. Among those voting for the bill were Reps. Coffey, and Sens. McNally and O'Brien. These legislators deserve our sincere thanks. We hope to bring you a more complete voting record next time.

The real-estate lobby was the bill's chief opponent, even though the tax amounts to only $40 on the transfer of a $100,000 home -- a tiny sum when compared to the $6,000 commission collected by the real-estate agent. As a recent Knoxville News-Sentinel editorial noted: "The funding method is apropos: Tennessee's lands have always been its chief asset, and preserving a portion of the terrain by taxing people who are trading in land seems especially appropriate."

The major importance of the new Act in providing an assured, permanent (even though not very large) source of funding is well appreciated in the context of the recent State Comptroller's "Special Report: Protecting Tennessee's Natural and Cultural Resources," summarized in NL181 §6B.

B. We lose on Wetlands (SB.359/HB.793)

The forces that are determined to drain the remaining 30% of Tennessee's original 2.3 million acres of wetlands won a victory when the General Assembly recently passed a Farm Bureau-supported bill, SB.359/HB.793. The new law, (a) makes virtually all lands eligible for draining (instead of only those that have been in production since 1985), and (b) substitutes a general for an individual permit, thus doing away with on-site inspection and subsequent monitoring by regulatory authorities. Thanks to Sen. Kyle, a mitigating amendment was added to the bill that would require the landowner to bear the expenses of reclamation or rehabilitation if drainage procedures under the general permit exceeded permitted bounds.

C. Funding for the Environment & Conservation Dept seems assured (SB.631/HB.1089)

The Senate bill (introduced by Ronnie Greer, R-Greeneville) has already passed, and the House bill (Bill Purcell, D-Nashville) is expected to pass as we go to press. When this law takes effect, those who apply for and receive permits from the State under different environmental statutes (air, water, solid waste, etc) must pay permit fees that will considerably augment the funding for the enforcement and permitting of regulatory programs. It is expected that $18 million annually will be generated, and that the DoEC will be able to add 350 new positions over the next 4 years. Currently, there is a tremendous shortage of personnel, and the issuance of permits has typically involved a long-drawn-out process. Those who were not too eager to pay the new fees (e.g., municipalities and businesses) nevertheless supported the bill in order to abolish the costs to them of long permit delays. Because the bill will also mean more effective enforcement of regulations, it had the support of environmental groups.

D. The "Tennessee Flora 2001" project

The sponsors of the Tennessee Flora 2001 project, which would provide funds for three important reference works on native plants, have decided to delay the measure by one year in order to decrease the amount of funds asked for. It was deemed likely that the sum currently requested (about $100,000) was too high as to doom the bill.

3. TENNESSEE RIVERS

A. More State interest in rivers assessment

Recognizing that a state-wide rivers assessment was needed to provide a factual basis for assessing opportunities, needs, and problems in river protection, and despairing of the State's willingness/resources to undertake such a project, TCWP's exec director, Jenny Freeman, conceived the idea of moving the process forward with private funding at the level of $80,000 (NL179 ¶3B). The Lyndhurst Foundation of Chattanooga agreed to provide a grant of $30,000 to TCWP and TSRA, pending our securing (by 6/30/92) commitments for an additional $50,000, at least half of which must be from public sources (federal, state, or local governments) (NL180 ¶2).

Following numerous contacts with state and federal officials, and the submission of a TCWP/TSRA proposal on project execution and coordination (NL181 ¶5A), the State may finally have come alive. Indications are that the DoEC will create a state-funded position for a person to carry out the assessment (our proposal had suggested one project manager plus one technical assistant). It is not yet clear to what extent this meets Lyndhurst conditions, and how the project oversight and public-participation aspects (which we consider to be important) will be handled.

B. A quarry is despoiling Crooked Fork

Many of you have undoubtedly enjoyed Potters Falls, southeast of Wartburg. The river that makes these falls, Crooked Fork, originates above Petros and eventually joins the Emory R., downstream from Nemo Bridge. Paddlers report that in the Crooked Fork gorge, downstream from Potters Falls, someone has started a sizeable sandstone quarry in the banks and is forcing the river with bulldozers to transport...
the rocks. No measures have been taken by the quarry operator to protect the river against pollution, and it appears that no permit application has even been filed with the Water Pollution Control Division. TCWP, along with others, will attempt to get some State action on this matter.

C. Nolichucky Cleanup

The beautiful Nolichucky, which has been rather a stepchild as regards river protection efforts, is getting a little help this summer. Several groups and individuals are organizing the Second Annual Nolichucky Cleanup, June 22-25. Canoeists and rafters, and even hikers, can assist, particularly during the June 22-23 weekend. TCWP member Teresa Gryder is one of the organizers. If you can help, get in touch with her at PO Box 8185, Knoxville, TN 37996-0002, Ph. 573-6347.

4. DoEC REORGANIZATION AND OTHER STATE NEWS

A. We win on Parks; can the Forestry loss be mitigated?

The good news is that the State Parks Division will remain in the new Dept of Environment and Conservation (DoEC) (NL181 ¶1), at least until 7/1/92 (and probably indefinitely). The bad news is that we were unable to stop, or even delay, transfer of the Forestry Division to the Dept of Agriculture (DoA). In major part, this was due to the Forestry staff themselves being very gung-ho for the transfer, and vocal about it in Agriculture Committee hearings.

Much credit goes to Ram Uppuluri, TCWP’s representative to the Environmental Action Fund, for lobbying on these issues. Recently (after the battle had been lost), Ram met with Deputy Commissioner Mike Countess to discuss what could still be done to address some of our concerns about the Forestry Division transfer. One strategy is for us to request input into the document defining the relationship between DoEC and DoA on forestry issues, particularly on matters relating to areas where state parks are juxtaposed with state forests, and on retention of the “multiple-use” philosophy (which states that Forestry Division objectives should include not only timber production but also watershed protection, wildlife management, recreation, forestry research and demonstration).

The other strategy is to have input into the Management Plans of individual state forests. The next Plan concerns Pickett State Forest; a draft is expected in the fall of 1991. (Note that, in Pickett, the trails and woods and gorges that most of us think of as park are actually in the state forest; park designation is confined primarily to the area of the cottages and the lake). TCWP hopes to take an active interest in this plan, and would welcome help from individual members (call 482-2153).

B. Budget cuts threaten Cumberland Trail and other DoEC functions

As you have undoubtedly read in the papers, the McWherter administration is implementing budget cuts for many state programs. Imminently threatened by these cuts is the Cumberland Trail, the only operating Tennessee Scenic Trail (in a system authorized, 20 years ago, to contain 8 state scenic trails).

We are beginning to get other glimpses of how the budget cuts may affect the DoEC. The following jobs/functions appear to have been eliminated: the planning position for the Hatchie State Scenic River; a conservation crew that has been snagging West Tenn rivers to avert pressures for channelization; the Cumberland Trail construction crew; the Forestry Division education program for private woodlot owners. This is undoubtedly a very incomplete list.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Commissioner J.W. Luna (Dept of Environment & Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37219) and urge him not to reduce funds for the Cumberland Trail. It is Tennessee’s only operating State Scenic Trail, and a great source of pride to those who conceived the idea, supported the legislation, and helped develop the trail.

C. Frozen Head visitor center

On May 11, Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area dedicated a new visitor center at the entrance to the Park. The 3,750-square-foot building (with cedar-lap siding and a large front porch) contains the Park HQ offices, information services, a conference room, fireplace, a reception/lobby area, a small theater, and restrooms. The building was funded by the legislature in 1988 and budgeted at $296,000. There are still many needs for furnishing the building, e.g., audio-visual equipment. For info, call the park office, 346-3318.

D. Oppose use of exotics in landscaping

Most of us are aware of what kudzu can do; but kudzu is only one of dozens of exotic plant species that destroy natural biodiversity by competing with native plants for space, sunlight, water, and nutrients. TCWP recently became a signatory on a resolution endorsing the use of native plant species in landscaping. It is hoped that this resolution will change landscaping practices at the local, state, and federal-agency level, i.e., on private properties. If your landscapes cannot be entirely native, at least avoid the following invasive exotics: kudzu, honeysuckle (vine or bush), vinca, common privet, multiflora rose, terepedea, autumn olive, purple loosestrife, burning bush, creeping euonymus, tree of heaven, and sawtooth oak.
E. Zip-code changes for same legislators

Before you forget, make the following changes in the State Legislator listing of your Political Guide. ZIP codes are now 37243, followed by a dash and a four-digit number designating chamber and district. For representatives, the four-digit suffix is 01+district, e.g., 0133 for Rep. David Coffey, 0116 for Rep. Severance. For senators in districts 1-20, the four-digit suffix is 02+district (e.g., 0205 for Sen. Randy McNally); for senators in districts 21-33, the four-digit suffix is 00+district (e.g., 0021 for Sen. Doug Henry).

5. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

A. Senators Sasser and Gore are rebuffed by Forest Service and USDA

As we have reported (NL181 12B), Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson rejected the appeal of the Cherokee National Forest Plan that was filed by the Wilderness Society and four other groups (including TCWP). Our appeal had challenged three major flaws in the Plan: (a) the practice of selling timber below cost (at an annual loss of $1 million); (b) the fragmentation of wildlife habitat by clearcuts and new roads; and (c) the zoning of over 60% of the forest to be degraded by "(maximum) modification" of its visual beauty. Rejecting our appeal, Chief Robertson ruled that the Plan was fully consistent with the policies of the Forest Service.

We have recently learned that, prior to this ruling, Senators Sasser and Gore had asked Chief Robertson to modify the Plan so as to eliminate below-cost timber sales, preserve natural biological diversity, and protect visual beauty. Following Robertson's ruling, the two senators asked the Secretary of Agriculture (then, Clayton Yeutter) to review the case; their request was denied. Senators Sasser and Gore deserve our sincere thanks for their efforts.

B. Damaging road proposed by TDoT could become a pork-barrel project

Almost three months ago, a letter co-signed by 6 organization (TCWP -- which originated it, TSRA, TEC, TCL, TAC, and TSC) was sent to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), protesting against the mechanism by which the Tennessee Dept of Transportation (TDoT) had chosen its "preferred alternative" for improving State Route 40 (US 64), which currently runs along the Ocoee River in Polk County. TDoT's "preferred alternative," A-1, would move the road up, out of the valley, and fragment a large tract of the Cherokee National Forest with 9.4 miles of a high-speed 4-lane highway. Severe environmental consequences of this road construction include unremediable pollution of high-quality streams by disturbed pyritic soils, fragmentation of wildlife habitat, and pressures on wildlife resulting from the opening up of hitherto undisturbed areas.

The letter by the six organizations pointed out that TDoT's Environmental Assessment (EA) had failed to provide a fair evaluation or cost estimate for Alternative B, or modified B, the "reduced-design" alternative that would improve traffic flow and safety by creating passing lanes and pull-off areas on the existing road. Because of this deficiency in the EA, and because of the severe environmental impacts of Alternatives A and A-1, the organizations requested that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared, and that public input be obtained through a formal hearing process.

The letter was sent to the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration) on February 22. It has not been answered or even acknowledged. Should the FHWA hand down a finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), the State would be in a position to seek Congressional funding, and this over-designed project could become a pork barrel. Sen. Sasser, to whom a copy of the organizations' letter was forwarded, responded by citing the economic plight of Polk County as a rationale for the proposed road. It would be sad. Indeed, it destruction of a prime natural resource were the way to address economic needs! We hope you will express your views to Sen. Sasser, as well as to Sen. Gore and Rep. Marilyn Lloyd (addresses on p.2).

C. Off-road vehicles invade Cherokee NF, as well as State lands

The US Forest Service and the Tenn Wildlife Resources Agency are jointly trying to address what they describe as a widespread abuse of public lands by off-road vehicles (ORVs). This practice causes major erosion, loss of sensitive plant species, stream pollution, and harmful impacts on wildlife as well as on public safety. The Cherokee NF has designated areas where ORVs and ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) may legally be used. However, people knowingly violate these boundaries and invade the remaining public lands. The maximum fine in the Cherokee NF for illegal use of a vehicle is $5,000 and 6 months in jail. According to spokesmen, the fines don't begin to approach the cost of repairing the damage caused by ORVs.

6. TVA NEWS

A. TVA points out benefits of undeveloped floodplains

TVA has come a long way from the days when it proposed damming the Obed River in order to protect a smoldering sawdust pile and a car junkyard in Harriman's floodplain from the effects of an occasional flood! The agency has just issued a line

Leaving floodplains undeveloped can provide substantial benefits to the community and to landowners. Among social and environmental benefits are open-space and natural areas, parks and recreation, wildlife habitat protection, aesthetics, outdoor education, and water quality. But there are also economic benefits. They include higher property values for adjacent land, lower costs for stormwater management, reductions in flood damages, reduced water-treatment costs and increased groundwater supplies, and, sometimes, the sustainable use of floodplains for food, timber, and other products.

The pamphlet also summarizes local protection techniques (e.g., amending floodplain regs, acquiring the land, tax incentives, etc.), and discusses steps that can be taken by concerned individuals, local officials, and state or natural-resource managers to protect floodplain resources.

We recommend that you request a copy of the pamphlet (James M. Wright, TVA, Flood Protection Section, Evans Bldg, Rm 1A, Knoxville, TN 37902), and that you take whatever steps you can to protect floodplains -- and, thus, river shores and valleys -- in your area.

**B. Environmental Impact Statement on Chipmill**

After merely doing a site-specific Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Korean-owned Donghae chipmill, which is already engaged in site preparations in northern Alabama (NL181 42A), it appears that TVA has been pressured by EPA into doing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for chipmill developments in general.

TVA is selling property along reservoirs to the siting of paper plants and chipmills, and is providing permits for barge-loading facilities. The earlier EA had indicated that over 1 million acres in TN, AL, and GA would be clearcut within the next 20 years as a result of the development of the wood-fiber industry, which is being promoted by TVA and the Corps. partly to demonstrate the usefulness of the waterway system -- the multiply-impounded Tennessee River and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Canal.

It is the off-site impacts of the chipmills that have primarily concerned us, and it is for this reason that a site-specific EA is insufficient. By contrast, a proper EIS would have to study and evaluate the numerous significant impacts of massive clear-cutting, such as soil erosion and resultant stream siltation, loss of soil fertility, flooding due to elimination of the water-retention capacity of forest floors, destruction of ecosystems and biodiversity, loss of wildlife habitat, diminution of fish habitat (due to siltation), increases in air pollution (due to bark burning), augmentation of the greenhouse effect (due to bark burning and the destruction of CO2-consuming trees), and decreases in the opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Though it is encouraging that TVA has initiated the EIS process, there are some disturbing signs. First, there appears not to have been a scoping hearing, and it is therefore unclear how comprehensive the scope of the EIS will be. Secondly, TVA seems to be doing a rush-rush job. The draft is planned for early July, and the final EIS for October. TVA staff who have been assigned portions of the EIS are complaining of woefully inadequate time for doing a proper study.

In the meantime, Donghae Company lawyers appear to be engaging in some environmental blackmail. According to an AP story of 4/28/91, they are complaining that the delay is costing jobs, that companies cannot put up with delays and uncertainties, and that prospective industries will regard TVA as "difficult to do business with."

We will keep you informed as things develop. In the meantime, refer to NL181 42A for action suggestions.

**C. Erratum on TVA Board nominee**

In a paragraph about William H. Kenney, nominee for the TVA Board (NL181 47C), we stated that a financial-disclosure statement had revealed his (or his firm's?) asset to be over $1, though he drew no salary last year. That should, of course, have read $1 million.

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**7. ENERGY POLICY AND THE FATE OF ANWR**

**A. Arctic Refuge (ANWR) is a pawn in energy policy**

The oil industry, building on the recent Gulf war, is equating oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) with "national security" (it's going to be downright un-American to want to protect this last remaining ecosystem of its kind). A fund of $11.12 million has reportedly been set up by the industry for lobbying Congress on this issue alone; they don't have to waste any money on lobbying the Administration, since opening up ANWR is an integral part of Pres. Bush's so-called National Energy Strategy. In fact, DOE Secretary Watkins told a Congressional committee in March that Pres. Bush would be inclined to veto any national energy
strategy bill that does not contain a go-ahead for oil leasing in ANWR.

ANWR is the last big wilderness we have, and it's an incredibly rich and varied ecosystem (though industry tries to focus on the caribou, and how well they like Prudhoe Bay). Industry propaganda notwithstanding, this ecosystem is bound to be destroyed by oil exploitation (and even exploration). [Consider contamination of the tundra by toxic drilling wastes, roads, air pollution, noise.] In quite a few recent Newsletters (e.g., NL79 ¶6A, NL81 ¶8B), we've given you facts about ANWR's oil; that there is only a 20-30% chance of finding appreciable amounts (although USDI now claims an almost 50% chance of finding 400 million barrels), that, even if oil is found, it would take 7-10 years for it to be in significant production, that the most optimistically estimated amount (3.2 billion barrels) is insufficient to reduce demand on foreign oil by more than 5%, that ANWR's average production would probably never amount to more than 1.8% of U.S. daily oil consumption.

Can our voices be strong enough to counteract an $11-12 million lobbying effort by the industry and the power of the Administration? We must try because too much is at stake. We must oppose S.109/H.R.759 (sponsored by the Alaskadlegation), as well as Sen. Bennett Johnston's omnibus energy bill (S.341), all of which would open ANWR's Coastal Plain to oil & gas leasing (the Johnston bill is particularly insidious because revenues from ANWR oil leases would be earmarked to fund energy conservation and renewable-fuels programs). The only good bills are HR.39 ( Udall)/S.39 (Roth, Baucus), which would designate the entire 1.5 million-acre Coastal Plain as wilderness, a designation already held by the remainder of ANWR. Sen. Roth has, in addition, introduced S.344, calling for the designation of an international wildlife refuge between the U.S. and Canada.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Out of the entire Tennessee delegation, only Sen. Gore has come out in favor of ANWR protection and deserves our sincere thanks. Sen. Sasser has not yet committed himself to any of the bills. Several Representatives who co-sponsored HR.39 last year (Cooper, Gordon, Ford) have not (yet?) done so this year. The Tennessee delegation needs to hear from you! Urge them to co-sponsor HR.39/S.39. Let them know that there is an alternative to the destruction of ANWR: conserving oil consumption. Automobile fuel efficiency is a good start---see ¶7C, this NL. [To get the latest info on the status of ANWR bills, as well as action suggestions, call the Alaska Coalition hotline, 202-675-2391.]

B. The Wirth bill: an energy package (S.741)

Unlike Pres. Bush's National Energy Policy (HR.1301/S.570) and the Johnston bill (S.341), both of which rely almost entirely on new energy production---including the drilling of ANWR, a comprehensive bill by Sen. Tim Wirth (D-Colo), S.741, emphasizes energy conservation and efficiency, and the use of alternative fuels. (Although it also provides incentives for increasing production, it would not open up ANWR.) The main objectives of the Wirth bill are to address the nation's energy problems in a comprehensive manner, and to reduce global warming.

A major component of S.741 (the "National Energy Efficiency and Development Act") is an increase in the fuel efficiency of cars and trucks, namely a 20% increase by 1996, and a 40% increase by 2001, i.e., the same standards as those contained in Sen. Bryan's Motor Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Act, S.279 (¶7C, this NL). Other provisions include increased energy-efficiency standards for commercial buildings, minimum efficiency standards for electrical appliances and lighting, increased funding for R&D, and promotion of commercial uses for solar energy.

During the markup of the Johnston bill (S.341), major portions of the Wirth bill were adopted as amendments---but not the auto fuel efficiency standards and the CO2-reduction target. Besides, the Johnston bill still contains provisions for opening up ANWR.


C. Auto-fuel efficiency is a must

Sen. Bryan's Motor Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Act, S.279, passed the Senate Commerce Committee last month and has thus progressed the lastest of all dozen proposals that are before the Congress for increasing automobile/truck fuel efficiency. The Bryan bill would require the "Corporate Average Fuel Economy" (CAFE) to be increased by 20% in 1996, and another 20% in the year 2001. This means that the current 27.5 mpg standard for cars would increase to about 40 mpg over the next 10 years, an achievement that is technologically feasible even now. It is estimated that, by the year 2005, the Bryan bill would save the country 2.5 million barrels (mb) of oil per day, roughly equivalent to almost 40% of the oil we now import (namely, 7 mb/day), and 10 times as much as ANWR could yield under the most optimistic estimates (NL81 ¶8C). The provisions of the bill would also reduce CO2 emissions by 440 million tons per year, thus reducing global warming.
A similar House bill, HR.446, has been introduced by Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-CA). It would raise CAFE standards to 44 mpg by 2001.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Last year, Sen. Jim Sasser, while supporting the Bryan bill initially, abandoned it during the crucial floor action. Your letters and phone calls are needed NOW to convince him that this bill is truly deserving of his support. Ask him to co-sponsor S.279. Sen. Gore, who is already a supporter of the bill, should be urged to support two strengthening amendments: (a) raising the CAFE standard to 45 (instead of 40) mpg; and (b) correcting the inaccuracies of the testing procedure which currently exaggerate a car’s fuel efficiency by 15%. Urge you Rep. to support HR.446. Addresses on p.2

8. OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

A. **Two bills address ancient forest protection**

Current logging practices are destroying the rainforests of the Pacific Northwest at a rate exceeding forest destruction in most third-world countries. Two bills to address this problem are now before the Interior Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands.

Rep. Jim Jontz’ Ancient Forest Protection Act (HR.842), similar to a bill that made considerable progress last year, would establish a reserve system of “ancient forests” and contiguous “associated forests” on Forest Service and BLM lands. The “associated forests” are needed as buffers and corridors to aid species survival in the ancient forests. Both types of forests would be managed like wilderness-study areas, with road building, logging, and mining prohibited. The USFS and BLM are required to designate boundary areas for both types of forests using definitions in cited publications (no specific areas are named in the bill).

Subcommittee chairman, Bruce Vento (D-MN), has introduced HR.1590, which would establish a reserve system of 6.3 million acres in 17 national forests and six BLM districts within which commercial logging (including salvage sales) would be prohibited. Specific boundaries would be recommended by a scientific committee set up by the bill, but there would be interim protection until these boundaries are drawn. Old-growth forests not designated as part of the reserve system would have to be managed according to “new forestry” methods, designed to regenerate old-growth characteristics (e.g., leaving behind more standing and dead trees). The Vento bill also contains a package of economic assistance for the region, and sets minimum timber-sales levels which are, however, significantly lower than current levels.

Timber interests are drafting what they hope will be a compromise with protectionist interests. They will probably accept a reserve system but insist on a minimum mandated timber harvest, and on limiting court/administrative appeals of timber sales. The “compromise plan” also calls for re-opening lands that are currently excluded from timber sales -- including Congressionally designated wilderness areas -- to compensate for forests that would be “locked up” by the reserve system. Obviously, this type of compromise will not.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Tell your representative that the endangered ecosystem of the Pacific Northwest forests is a vital part of America’s natural heritage, and urge him/her to become a co-sponsor of Jontz’s Ancient Forest Protection Act, HR.842.

B. **Canadian rainforests need help too**

The forest that carpets British Columbia’s 500-mile-long coast is the richest and most productive rainforest system on earth. Yet, these forests are being destroyed at a rate even exceeding that for US rainforests. You can express your concern by writing to British Columbia Premier Bill Vander Zalm, Parliament Bldg, Victoria, BC, Canada V8V 1X4, and/or to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6.

C. **Budgets and appropriations**

**National Park Service**

The Bush Administration’s proposed FY1992 budget for the National Park Service is $1.3 billion, up from $1 billion requested for FY1991, and $900 million for FY1990. However, the request is $86 million less than the FY1991 money appropriated by Congress, which, recogning the enormous shortfalls facing the parks, usually boosts administration requests.

The priorities in the NPS budget appear to be in the right places. As compared with the FY1991 request, the proposed FY1992 budget increases resource management (conservation, research, preservation) by 21% (from $140 million to $170 million). This is good news, though many programs remain underfunded or unfunded (e.g., a study on park air quality mandated by the 1990 Clean Air Act). To make up for the increase in resource management, there was a $155 M decrease in construction funds, appropriate in a time of limited funds.

One really bad feature of the NPS budget, however, is the total elimination of the rivers and trails program, which provides advice to local governments and citizens groups (e.g., to TCWP in connection with our state rivers assessment efforts (NL.181 §5A)). Citizen groups will lobby Congress to have this funding restored.
Land & Water Conservation Fund

The Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is the only fund earmarked for acquiring land for federal, state, and local parks, forests, refuges, etc. Though money in the bank for the LWCF now totals $7 billion, the President’s FY1992 budget proposes to release only $350 million. Subsequent to the Carter presidency, appropriations under the LWCF have nowhere near approached available amounts, even though Congress has consistently boosted the administration requests (which, during the Reagan years, were virtually zero). The FY1992 request does have a good feature: $30 M for state programs -- the first time since the Carter years that state programs have been included in a president’s budget.

The Park Service (NPS) portion of the President’s LWCF request is $84 M -- $14 M less than last year. It should be noted that NPS has a $2 billion backlog for acquisition; i.e., there is $2 billion worth of land that Congress has designated as part of the National Park System but has never given NPS the money to purchase. In Tennessee, this includes lands needed to complete the Obed WSR and the BSFNRA (see ¶11B, this NL). The FY1992 acquisition funds requested for the US Fish & Wildlife Service are $63 M, which is $38 M less than the FY1991 appropriation. For the US Forest Service and BLM, however, proposed FY1992 land-acquisition budgets are somewhat higher than FY1991 appropriations.

Endangered Species programs

The President’s FY1992 budget earmarks $50 M for endangered species programs, up $11 M from FY1991. In view of the tremendous backlog in the listing of species for endangered status (3,600 candidates are awaiting study), national conservation groups support an appropriation of $79-80 M. The groups are also supporting a $5 M appropriation for federal non-game species programs (virtually no money for such programs is included in the Administration’s budget).

D. The air over national parks must be cleaned up

In the past, an outstanding feature of the “Golden Circle” parks (Grand Canyon, Arches, Zion, Bryce, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, Mesa Verde, Petrified Forest) has been the clarity of the air. Now, the massive, coal-fired Navajo steam plant in Arizona, partly owned by the federal government, fouls the air with SO2 and particulate emissions.

In response to a 1984 court order, EPA has generated a proposal for reducing air pollution. Unfortunately, the proposal focuses primarily on Grand Canyon NP, virtually ignoring the other seven. While state-of-the-art technology could reduce SO2 emissions to 5,000 tons a year, the proposal calls for a reduction to only 21,000 tons/yr. The greater reduction would add only 15¢ more to the average homeowners monthly electric bill than would the EPA proposal. [Note that EPA originally drafted a stronger proposal, but OMB pressured them to decrease the recommended level of protection.]

* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Pres. Bush and ask for his support for reducing Navajo SO2 emissions to 5,000 tons/year. Time is of the essence.

E. The Wildlife Refuge system is in trouble

A very recent US Fish & Wildlife Service report on the state of the nation’s wildlife refuges confirms the highly critical 1989 report by the General Accounting Office. The 90-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System, home to 1,000 species of birds and mammals alone, is an unparalleled part of our national heritage. But the Refuges are in bad trouble as a result of a 1960s Act that allows the Secretary of the Interior to permit activity he finds “compatible with [a refuge’s] primary purpose.” Over 60% of the Refuges are subject to economic and/or recreational uses that damage the resources that those areas were set up to protect. Harmful uses include power-boating, overgrazing, off-road vehicles, oil & gas drilling, and even bombing maneuvers. Military exercises were rated harmful in 73% of the instances reported, and oil & gas extraction in 71% of the instances (there is a lesson here for ANWR).

For more information, and action suggestions, contact Defenders of Wildlife, 202-659-9510.

F. Population control is essential for saving the Earth’s environment

In the thousands of years from the time of man’s appearance on Earth until the year 1830, the human population grew to one billion. Only 160 years later, there are 5.3 billion of us: and it took just 13 years (between 1974 and 1987) to add one billion people. It is estimated that by the year 2050, the population will be 10 billion, and still growing. Limits to population growth will come from famines, wars, and disease, and the natural destruction of populated areas that are unfit for habitation (such as Bangladesh) -- unless people TODAY are wise enough to take more humane measures for stabilizing the population.

Overpopulaton is a major factor in global warming, destruction of habitat, and headlong extinction of species. An interesting analysis of energy use (J.P. Holdren in Population and Environment, Spring 1991, Plenum Press) states that “...if the United States still had the population with which it fought WWll -- 135 million people -- the 1990 level of per capita energy use for this country could be met from its 1990 array of energy sources minus all the imported oil and all the coal.” The implications for environmental values saved, trade deficits decreased, and wars fought over oil avoided are staggering.
In 1989, 80 nations (including the USA) signed the Amsterdam Declaration, which sets out a formula for stabilizing world population growth by the year 2000. Industrialized nations agreed to specify 4% of their foreign-aid expenditures for population stabilization measures. The USA has not yet done so. However, HR.1110 (Kostmayer/Morello) would meet the commitment by appropriating $570 M for FY 1992 to the Agency for International Development (AID) for population stabilization: the funds may not be used for abortions. Tennessee's Rep. Jim Cooper is a co-sponsor of HR.1110 and is very knowledgeable on the subject.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (a) Thank Rep. Jim Cooper. (2) Urge your own Rep to co-sponsor HR.1110 and to sign the Congressional (Beilenson-Kostmayer) letter to Rep. Obey which recommends full funding for HR.1110. (3) Ask Sen. Sasser to include the $570 M in the budget resolution. Addresses are on p. 2.

G. "Dolphin-safe" labeling on canned tuna: another bill to support

The 1990 Dolphin Protection and Consumer Information Act (which was spearheaded by Sen. Biden and Rep. Boxer) provides that "dolphin-safe" labels may not be applied to tuna caught by vessels that use purse-seine nets set on dolphins (see NL177 18C; NL179 17F, NL181 19E). The law will also ban the importation of tuna caught in a high-seas driftnet in the South Pacific (as of 7/1/91) and elsewhere (as of 7/1/92).

This year, Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) has introduced HR.261, which would ban the practice of fishing for tuna by encircling dolphins, and would authorize funding to research and develop an alternative, dolphin-friendly, method of fishing for tuna. Urge your Rep. to support this bill.

H. Sen. Gore is president of GLOBE

Legislators from the US, Europe, and Japan have formed the Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment, GLOBE, to cooperate on international environmental issues. Our own Sen. Gore is GLOBE's International President. He deserves our appreciation for assuming this task.

One of the issues GLOBE has considered to date are toxic waste exports to Third World countries. The European Community last year adopted a ban on such exports. GLOBE members from the USA and Japan have agreed to work for such a ban for their countries.

9. TCWP NEWS

A. Our 26th Anniversary Events

Red Wolf talk, May 22

The second one of our numerous anniversary events will be a talk by Gt. Smoky Mtns Natl. Park Management Assistant Bob Miller about the Park's plan to reintroduce the red wolf. The total world population of red wolves was less than 10 in 1973, and even captive breeding during the past 20 years has increased the population to only 140. In January of this year, the Park received two pairs which are now living in acclimation pens in preparation for later experimental release.

Mr. Miller's presentation, "Back in the Wild," will describe the red wolf's history, biology, and habits, and will discuss the Park's effort to restore the wolf and other lost or endangered species. This should be a fascinating talk, and we hope you will bring along family and friends.

The presentation will begin at 6:45 pm, Wednesday, May 22, in the auditorium of the Oak Ridge Public Library. Refreshments will be served after the program.

Report on Event No. 1: Frozen Head April 27

Despite a long-lasting, and, at times, violent downpour, about a dozen hardy souls assembled for a hike to Emory Falls Gap, followed by a scrumptious potluck supper in one of the picnic shelters. Electric outlets in the shelter allowed us to plug in crockpots (soup and main dish) and hot coffee -- all most welcome to hikers who returned in a soaked and somewhat chilled state. Thanks to Bob Luxmoore for making all the arrangements.

Big South Fork Trails Day June 9

TCWP is participating in the NPS' Trail Inspection/Cleanup weekend for the Big South Fork NRRA, and has volunteered to do the Honey Creek Trail on June 9 (see NL 11/91). In addition to enjoying this lovely trail, we will gather information about trail conditions for transmission to NPS, and we'll perform whatever minor cleanup is required.

Several years prior to the establishment of the BSFN RRA, the Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness was set aside by its former owner, the Bowaters Paper Co., at the suggestion of TCWP. The trail was developed by Bowaters, with volunteer help.

We hope many of you can join us for this beautiful hike. For details about times, car-pooling, or driving directions call Martha Ketelle (522-2443) or Dave Adler (482-1274).
B. News about TCWP members

Karen Finkel and Dave Adler (the latter, a member of our Board) on May 9 became the happy parents of Lillian, weight 8 lbs. 12 oz. She'll be included in their TCWP family membership!

Director Dick Ambrose is going to Memphis this week for removal of a benign growth on the inside of his temporal bone. Though it isn't strictly speaking brain surgery, it will still be a delicate operation, and Dick will have a fairly lengthy period of convalescence. Our very best wishes are with him, and we'll be in touch.

Our very first executive director, Bill Chandler, now living in the Washington DC area, has become well known internationally in energy-conservation circles. After a few years spent with EPI, he moved on to World Watch Inst., and is now a senior scientist with Battelle Memorial Inst. of Pacific NW Labs in D.C. Bill was recently involved in the creation of the Polish Foundation for Energy Efficiency. The foundation was established with funding from the World Wildlife Fund, the Conservation Foundation, EPA, DOE, AID, and the Polish government. Poland is one of the world's largest coal producers, one of the world's worst CO2 polluters, and one of the least energy-efficient countries. The work of the foundation is directed toward making Poland a cleaner, as well as richer, country through energy efficiency.

Past-TCWP president and Board member Don Todd is serving on the board of Historic Rugby, but will retire when the new board is selected in June.

C. We thank our volunteers

We are grateful to the following who assembled NL 181 on March 13: Dick Ambrose, the Frank Hensleys, Charlie Klabunde, Henri and Bettie Levi, and Dick Raridon.

Our sincere thanks also to Marion Roesel who has taken on the job of organizing assembly of NL 182 while Dick Ambrose is off for his operation (¶9B, above)

10. JOB OPENINGS: ACTIVITIES: READING MATTER

- JOB OPENING: River Network is looking for a Project Negotiator to protect critical riverbank. Must have experience in real estate and a commitment to environmental and river protection. (Linda Walsh, River Network, PO Box 8787, Portland, OR 97207: 503-236-8011)

- JOB OPENING: The Nantahala Outdoor Center has an opening for an Art Director/Designer. Strong design and mechanical skills are a must. (Ashley Sharp, NOC Marketing Dept, 41 Hwy 19W, Bryson City, NC 28713: 704-488-2175)

- May 18-19, "Historic Rugby Spring Music & Craft Festival." 10 to 6 EDT on both days, admission $5. For info, call 615-628-2430.

- May 21, The State Trails Council of Tennessee will meet with Commissioner Luna at 7 pm. DoEC, 701 Broadway, Nashville. This will be a good time to discuss the Cumberland Trail (¶14B, this NL) and other state trails matters.

- May 24-27, Fifth Annual National Forest Reform Powwow, Angel Fire, NM. A working conference focusing on the opportunity to reform our entire national forest system. Sponsored by Lighthawk, PO Box 8163, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

- June 2, Hike on North Chickamauga Creek, (north of Chattanooga), starting at Baylor School, 9 am. Spectacular gorge scenery. Call the Tenn Nature Conservancy, 615-242-1787.

- June 7, 8, and 9, "Saving the Southern Appalachian Forests," Appalachian Region Workshop at Hollins College, Roanoke, VA. Sponsored by the Sierra Club's Appal. Regional Conservation Committee. Contact Hugh Irwin, Knoxville, 615-522-3093.

- June 11-13, Oak Ridge, "Technologies for a Greenhouse-Constrained Society," a conference organized by Oak Ridge National Lab, will explore the role that three technologies -- energy conservation, biomass, and nuclear energy -- can play in reducing "greenhouse gases." Limited to 250 participants. For info, call Mike Kulash, 615-574-0330.

- June 19-22, Third National Rails-to-Trails Conference, Baltimore, MD. Contact Marianne Fowler, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 1400 Sixteenth St, NW, #300, Wash., DC 20036: 202-797-5400.

• The Federal Highway Adm. can fund greenways and bike-trails. The project must be included in the state transportation department's request for federal aid, but no matching state funds are required. Contact John Fegan, FHWA Bicycle Program Manager, 202-366-5007.

• The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) has established the Stanley A. Murray Memorial Fund to honor Stan for his dedication in saving the Highlands of Roan. The Fund will be used to purchase a 377-acre tract on Houston Ridge. Contact SAHC, PO Box 4092 CRS, Johnson City, TN 37602.

• A series of six correspondence-study courses on wilderness management has been developed by Colorado State University, in conjunction with federal agencies. The courses are related, but separable, and can be taken for credit, or for Continuing Education Units. Cost ranges from $330-430 per course. Contact Dave Porter, Colorado State U., Div. of Continuing Ed., Spruce Hall, Fort Collins, CO 80523. 303-491-5608.

• Conserving Your Valuable Floodplain Resources is an excellent 25-page pamphlet just published by TVA. For contents, and how to order, see 64A, this NL.

• Looking for Oil in All the Wrong Places: Facts About Oil, Natural Gas and Efficiency Resources is a 40-page report by Rob Watson, energy-resource specialist, which collects in one place the factual foundation for a sane energy policy. ($7 from Natural Resources Defense Council Publications, 40 W 20th St, New York, NY 10011; 212-727-4400)

• Tracking Arctic Oil: The Environmental Price of Drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a recent report by NRDC, NWF, and Trustees for Alaska. For info on how to order, contact Natural Resources Defense Council Publications, 40 W 20th St, New York, NY 10011; 212-727-4400.

• Energy Legislation Update ($45) is available from the Environment and Energy Study Inst. 122 C Street, NW, Suite 700, Wash., DC 20001. Orders must be prepaid.

• Saving Our Ancient Forests is a richly illustrated, family-oriented book about the need to save our endangered forests. $5.95 from The Wilderness Soc., PO Box 296, Federalsburg, MD 21632-0296. Proceeds from sale of book are used for forest-protection efforts.

• Several new publications on environmental law, both in the USA and internationally, are available from Oceana Publications, Inc, 75 Main St, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Among the titles: Environmental Costs of Electricity; Antarctica and International Law; Wildlife and Habitat Law; and many others.

• The 1991 Chevron Conservation Award honors 20 individuals and 5 organizations from 14 states (not including Tennessee). The awards reflect a growing interest in water resources.