

## TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter #11, February 26, 1968

### YOUR LETTERS URGENTLY NEEDED ! ! !

The means for getting our scenic rivers preserved are tantalizingly within reach, and every member can help right now.

#### 1. State level.

At our February 1 meeting on "Needed State Legislation to Preserve the Esthetic Assets of Tennessee's Lands and Waters", a detailed proposal for a State scenic rivers system was presented by Robert A. Miller, President of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association. Rep. J. William Pope, Jr., author of last year's successful Stripmine Control Act, who spoke later in our program, thereupon promised that if the proposal could be drafted into a bill, he would introduce it into this session of the legislature. During the following three weeks, TCWP and TSRA officials worked very hard in cooperation with Mr. Pope on getting a bill written; and the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Bill was introduced into the House on February 21, and into the Senate the following day.

We feel that this bill is an excellent one. It incorporates some of the best features of various national scenic rivers bills and applies them to a State situation.

The bill designates 12 Tennessee rivers or segments of rivers and allows for the addition of others later. In the case of five, the entire river, or its entire Tennessee portion, would be included. These are the Buffalo, Harpeth, Hatchie, Obed (with major tributaries), and South Fork of the Cumberland (with Clear Fork). Segments would be included of the following seven rivers: Clinch, Collins, Duck, French Broad, Hiwassee, Nolichucky, and Roaring (with tributaries). There are three classifications of river areas -- natural, pastoral, and partially developed. Degree of protection depends on class. For instance, natural rivers would be administered in accordance with the concepts of the national Wilderness Act of 1964; but along pastoral rivers, continuation of usual farming practices would be allowed. We hope, in this way, to avoid opposition from the farmers -- an opposition that has killed scenic rivers bills in other States. The system would be administered by the Tennessee Department of Conservation, in cooperation with the Game and Fish Commission. Control over land uses would be by zoning, by State purchase of scenic easements, and, in a few spots, by acquisition in fee. Width of the strip would depend on river classification.

It is very important that the bill should pass in this session (apart from the obvious reason that the longer we wait, the more of our rivers we lose). If the bill becomes law now, we would be the first State with a State scenic rivers system, and should be in a good position to receive some federal funds. It would also help the cause of Tennessee rivers on a national bill, for which hearings are coming up very soon (see below). Finally, present acquisition costs are certain to be lower than future costs.

There are some potential hazards, one of which is that some legislators are under pressure from a few local special-interest pro-dam groups.

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This is where we need your support badly and need it now. Just a very short letter to your Senator(s) and Representative(s) (see enclosed sheets), Tennessee General Assembly, State Capitol, Nashville, Tennessee, will do. Ask them to vote for the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Bill. Give special support to your favorite rivers, especially if you know them to be threatened by the efforts of pro-dam groups. If you feel like writing more, remember all the positive things: that we would be the first State and probably would rate federal funds; that we need balanced recreation and are already amply blessed with reservoirs; that Tennessee's rivers are among the most beautiful ones in the United States.

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO WRITE! IT COULD BEAR TREMENDOUS DIVIDENDS.

## 2. National level.

House hearings on a national scenic rivers bill will be held in Washington early and mid-March. TCWP will present written and oral testimony. Two Tennessee Congressmen, William Anderson and Richard Fulton, have introduced bills that would place the Buffalo in a national system for immediate inclusion. We are also urging that the Obed (with its tributaries) and the Big South Fork of the Cumberland (with the Clear Fork) be included in at least a protected group.

With your help, we hope we can achieve these additions. Write to your U. S. Senators and Representatives about the Buffalo, Obed, Big South Fork.

### U. S. Representatives

	District
James H. Quillen	1st
John Duncan	2nd
William Brock III	3rd
Joe L. Evins	4th
Richard Fulton	5th
William R. Anderson	6th
Ray Blanton	7th
Robert A. Everett	8th
Dan Kuykendall	9th

### U. S. Senators

Albert Gore  
Howard H. Baker, Jr.

Address letters as follows:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U. S. House of Representatives (or U. S.  
Senate)  
House (or Senate) Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

### TO SUMMARIZE, PLEASE WRITE:

1. Your State Senators and Representatives, supporting State bill;
2. Your U. S. Senators and Representatives, urging inclusion of the three recommended Tennessee rivers in a national system.

For names of members of the State legislature, please see enclosed sheets.