

# TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

*For The Preservation and Enjoyment of Our Wild Lands and Waters*

NEWSLETTER # 13  
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## HEARINGS TO BE HELD ON DEVIL'S JUMP DAM, BIG SOUTH FORK OF THE CUMBERLAND

The Army Corps of Engineers will hold public hearings on their Devil's Jump project on May 9, 7:30 p.m. (EDT) at the McCreary County High School Auditorium, Whitley City, Ky. This is just north of the Tennessee - Kentucky border on U.S. 27.

We urge you to come and present oral testimony (and a written statement) against this project that would inundate forever one of the most beautiful river gorge areas in the world. If you cannot come in person, send a written statement to

Col. Jesse L. Fishback, District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1070  
Nashville, Tennessee 37202,

to reach him by May 9. Whether or not you testify in person, copies of your written statement should be sent to your U.S. Representative and to both Senators Baker and Gore (House Office Bldg., or Senate Office Bldg., respectively, Washington, D.C. 20515). It may also be a good idea to send a copy to the Letters to the Editor column of your paper.

Here are some pertinent facts about the project.

Height of dam . . . . .	483 feet	Reservoir elevation (top). . .	1,220 feet
Extent of reservoir:		Power draw-down . . . . .	66 feet
along South Fork . . . . .	29 miles	Area, flood control pool . . .	36,990 acres
up New River . . . . .	37 miles	permanent pool . . . . .	18,260 acres
up Clear Fork . . . . .	16 miles	Estimated cost . . . . .	\$194,000,000

Here are a few arguments against the Corps' main justification claims of flood control, power, and recreation.

1. Flood control. The South Fork flows through an uninhabited gorge -- not by or near any community -- and empties into Lake Cumberland. Potential flood damage thus does not exist.
2. Power. When TVA completes the nuclear power plant at Brown's Ferry, Ala., and the steam plant at Cumberland City, Tenn., its power capacity will be 23,000,000 KW. The Devil's Jump project would produce 480,000 KW, i.e., it would add only 2.1% to the power already available to the region. (Note that this small increment would cost the tax payer \$194,000,000.) Proponents claim that hydroelectric power meets "peak power demands." But TVA alone already has a hydroelectric generating capacity of over 3,000,000 KW !
3. Recreation. Our big argument here, of course, is that the river gorge and its beautiful tributaries are incomparable and unique. They provide opportunities for white-water sports (note, also, annual canoe races), fishing, camping, hiking, and -- above all -- a real wilderness experience (this is one of the largest wilderness areas remaining in the East). The lake, on the other hand, would constitute but one more reservoir in a region already saturated with them. Besides, look at the Corps' specifications: maximum power draw-down would be 66 feet; and the difference between flood pool area and permanent pool area would be 18,730 acres of bare, ugly mud!

COME TO WHITLEY CITY AND/OR WRITE ! ! !

## PURPOSE

The TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING is an organization dedicated to the care of Tennessee's superb natural environment. In the Smoky Mountains, in the river gorges of the Cumberland Plateau, and in many other regions, incomparable scenery and unique areas for scientific research have so far survived unspoiled. However, we recognize with alarm the increasing man-made infringements on wilderness. Some of these are irreversible: the disappearance of a river gorge under a man-made reservoir is a loss for all time.

We are seriously concerned lest this and future generations be deprived of the opportunities that wild areas offer for replenishing man's mind and body, for observing life in balance, and for appreciating the beauty and meaning of our natural heritage. It is our conviction that social institutions and programs must show a sustained respect for long-time planning. A citizenry alert to the long-term issues can help in resisting pressures for those short-term goals which, although they may go under the label of immediate progress, will later be universally recognized as detrimental to our environment.

It is our purpose to act together with our governmental representatives to define the issues, to clarify the interrelation of aesthetic, economic, scientific, and other relevant factors, and to help in the comprehensive planning needed for the preservation of optimum areas of wild lands and waters.

## OBJECTIVES

To plan imaginatively for the safekeeping of wilderness areas for enjoyment, education, and scientific study;

To discuss, develop, review, and coordinate proposals and plans concerning wilderness in the context of sound and long-range regional, social, and economic planning and development;

To communicate the results of our deliberations to fellow citizens and government officials in local, state, and federal government;

To participate with governing bodies in the making of wilderness and other policies in the interest of managing wild land and water resources;

To nourish continuing and ever more sophisticated care for wild lands and waters for the benefit of individuals living today and in the future.