

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 37, January 20, 1971

Much of this issue of the NEWSLETTER is devoted to our annual POLITICAL GUIDE and to matters of state government which are timely and urgent. Because, for reasons of space limitation, various items of regional and national importance cannot be included, the next issue of the NEWSLETTER will be distributed after a shorter than-usual interval. The present issue, more than most others, asks you to DO things. Please start the New Year by devoting a little of your time to some of the items we suggest. Only through action can we get results. Also, don't forget to return the enclosed dues slip with payment.

CONTENTS

1. Big Stripmine Meeting, Feb. 9 p. 1
2. Prime time to talk to your state legislator (stripmine amendments, natural areas bill, trails bill, scenic rivers)..... p. 1-3
3. New Leadership in the Tennessee Dept. of Conservation..... p. 3
4. Smoky Mountains letters needed again..... p. 3-4
5. Appeal for help with National Rivers studies..... p. 4
6. Calendar..... p. 4
7. A POLITICAL GUIDE (Save this page!)..... p. 5-6


1. BIG STRIPMINE MEETING FEBRUARY 9

To bring to the public attention what we consider to be one of the major issues of this legislative session (see item 2A) we are sponsoring a big public meeting on stripmine control (co-sponsored by U. T. Graduate Program in Ecology).


Time: Tuesday, February 9, 7:30 p.m.

Place: U.T. Student Center Auditorium, Cumberland Avenue, Knoxville

Program: (1) Narrated slide show by Don Todd, Chmn, TCWP Stripmine Committee, contrasting and illustrating the provisions of our present law with the observed practices. (2) Reclamation expert Grant Davis, Berea, U.S. Forest Service project leader in charge of all stripmining research, and chmn of the Soc. of Amer. Foresters' national committee on Reclamation of Surface-Mined Areas. (3) A representative of the Tennessee Dept. of Conservation. (4) A prominent citizen conservationist long active in stripmine matters.

 Be sure to bring as many interested friends as you can. Convey a personal invitation to your legislator!

2. PRIME TIME TO TALK TO YOUR STATE LEGISLATOR

 Between the recent end of the organizing session and the time the Legislature reconvenes on February 23, most state legislators are going to be in their home districts, hopefully willing and anxious to hear from their constituents. We should like to urge each TCWP member to make a special effort to see or phone his/ her representative (s) and senator(s) and talk to them about some of the environmental matters that will come up before the Legislature. In this Newsletter we shall try to inform you about four state-level items that we consider to have the highest importance.

A. Strengthening of our strip-mine law.

As you know, coal demands for power production are constantly rising and we are told that the already disturbing amounts of strip mining that we now see constitute but a beginning. Coal prices have more than doubled in the very recent past, but none of the increased revenue accruing to the operators has been used for more adequate law enforcement, or for increased reclamation or revegetation procedures. The TCWP Committee on Surface Mining, with the helpful advice of many experts, has written an amended version of the 1967 Strip Mine Law, which will be introduced in this session. The amendments would eliminate the following weaknesses of the present law: (a) The inadequate revenue provided to the Division of Stripmining for the required inspection and enforcement of existing rules and regulations. (The amendments increase this revenue by increasing the fees paid by mine operators and by introducing a "reclamation fee" of 10¢ per ton for reclaiming orphan mines.) (b) The Commissioner of Conservation's lack of authority to deny or suspend a permit. (Amendments would allow permit-denial when it is obvious, by certain stated criteria., that an operation would be unduly damaging.) (c) The administrative difficulties of the Division with regard to permit amendments and unusable bonds. (d) The inadequacy of the reclamation requirements for control of erosion, landslides, and silt runoff. (Amendments require certain procedures of proven practicability to be followed.) (e) The inadequacy of the revegetation plan for soil stabilization. (Amendments require soil preparation, a two-step revegetation, and shorter deadlines.) (f) Failure to take care of orphan mines or of prospect holes. (g) The possibility that the Board of Reclamation Revue could be biased in favor of operators.



When you speak to your legislator, remind him that **UNLESS WE ACT NOW TO IMPROVE OUR LAW**, vast quantities of Tennessee's scenic, agricultural: recreational and water resources will fall victim to the short-term exploitation of the singles resource -- coal.

B. The Natural Areas Preservation Act

As you may recall, we almost got such an act last year -- it passed the House and. failed by only one vote to attain constitutional majority in the Senate. The bill to be introduced this year is a more streamlined one and. should have less grounds for opposition. Its aim is to protect areas of unique natural, scientific, scenic, or recreational value that are not extensive enough for state park status. The bill calls for designation by the legislature of such areas, following recommendations to be made in one year (and annually thereafter) by the Department of Conservation and Game & Fish Commission. Once designated as part of the system, an area -- or, preferably, a scenic easement for it -- is then to be acquired by the State of Tennessee. Class-I, or Scenic-Recreation Areas, such as waterfalls, natural bridges, caverns, and small scenic streams, may be developed with vistas, foot trails, picnic areas, and educational materials. Class-II; or Natural-Scientific Areas may have limitations placed on their use) if it is determined that over-use might damage them.



When you speak to your legislator, remind him that Tennessee is blessed with natural features, but that these unique assets are being destroyed at a frightening rate by adverse land uses. The legislature can put a halt to this <

C. A state system of trails

Legislation will be introduced that would create a system consisting of State Scenic Trails, (extended trails passing through natural areas), limited. to foot or horse use, State Recreation Trails (trails in or accessible to urban areas),

limited to foot, horse, or non-motorized bicycle use, and Connecting Trails. The Appalachian Trail and the Cumberland Trail (in process of being routed and cleared by TTA) would be initial components of the system; and five other State Scenic Trails are proposed to be studied for inclusion. The bill prescribes the method for adding other trails, locating or relocating routes of trails, acquisition by the state of lands or of scenic easements, and administration of the system.

X When you speak to your legislator, remind him that a state trails system would not only provide for an ever-increasing outdoor recreation need, but would increase people's appreciation of Tennessee's natural areas) which would thus be assured of more public sentiment for their protection.

D. Our scenic rivers system

X Our legislators must be constantly reminded that Tennessee is nationally renowned for having the first and most comprehensive scenic rivers system in the country. All measures that would lead to better implementation of this system must be encouraged, such as appropriations for easement acquisition, and addition of special staff to the Department of Conservation. All threats to the system from misinformed local interests (as, e, g. in the case of the Buffalo removal) must be resisted,

When you speak to your legislator, remind him that state scenic rivers belong to all the people of Tennessee, not to local interests.

3. NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE TENNESSEE DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

Ever since the election, TCWP has made repeated efforts to arrange a meeting with Governor Dunn in order to acquaint him with what we believe to be the major conservation needs of our state, and especially to present to him our views on top-position appointments for the Dept. of Conservation. Seven other statewide organizations and many individuals joined with us in this endeavor. We were particularly hopeful because candidate Dunn had promised to consult groups such as ours before making the appointments for Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner.

As most of you know by now, the appointee for Commissioner is William Jenkins, who ran against Gov. Dunn in the primary and subsequently gave him his fullest support in the campaign. Mr. Jenkins, an attorney, was Speaker of the House in the last session. According to a Knoxville News-Sentinel article of 1/17/71, he opposed the Stripmine Law of 1967, removed the Upper Clinch River from the then proposed Scenic Rivers bill of 1968, and voted for removal of the Buffalo in 1969. We hope very much that, in spite of this record, Mr. Jenkins new responsibility as Commissioner will inspire him to gain the confidence of conservationists. Deputy Commissioner is William Russell (no relation to our TCWP president), also an attorney from East Tennessee.

As for the meeting with the governor, we have finally been promised one, but it has been arranged that we first meet with a member of the governor's staff to inform him on what we wish to talk to the governor about.

4. SMOKY MOUNTAINS LETTERS NEEDED AGAIN

We have learned that NPS Director George Hartzog, in accordance with instructions received on the day of our delegation's visit, 6/23/69, has forwarded to Acting

* Secretary of the Interior, Fred Russell, a report suggesting one or more ways of settling the 1943 agreement. We do not know the nature of the recommendations. When, within a week or two, Roger B. Morton becomes the new Secretary of the Interior, he will inherit this controversy. All of us should let him know right away how we feel about the proposed trans-mountain road (see Item 7B for address). He should start his office equipped with this knowledge of conservationists' sentiment.

5. APPEAL FOR HELP WITH NATIONAL RIVERS STUDIES

* TCWP is contributing to the BOR studies on the Obed and Buffalo. The deadline will soon be upon us. We solicit any information you have, however fragmentary, on these rivers, or their tributaries, particularly with respect to special scenic features (waterfalls, caves, geological formations, etc.), vegetation, fish and wildlife, archeology, river uses, history. Please send without delay to TCWP, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 -- any form will do.

We have available for free distribution several copies of a new brochure "Wild and Scenic Rivers" containing information on the National System.

TCWP testified 1/19/71 at Stream Pollution Control Board hearings on the Clinch and Emory watersheds and urged the highest priority for ensuring prime water quality in the Obed and its tributaries. The Game and Fish Commission went on record opposing all mining on these rivers.

6. CALENDAR

February 6 Environment 2000, D.T. Student Center. Call Oak Ridge 483-1950
or Knoxville 974-2386.
February 9 TCWP Stripmine meeting. See Item 1.
February 13 Harpeth River Float, TSRA. Call Bill Mitchum, Nashville, 269-9759.
TV shows of interest: Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m., American Wilderness.
Jan. 27, 10 p.m., Man's Thumb on Nature's Balance.
Feb. 13, 8 p.m., The Great Mojave Desert.
Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m., Everglades National Park.

Lee Russell, Editor 130 Tabor
Road
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
615, 482-2153

LATE FLASH

The Cross-Florida Barge Canal has been permanently stopped by Executive order. Conservationists throughout the country, including TCWP, have strongly opposed this environmentally highly damaging Corps of Engineers project. Major credit for the victory goes to the Environmental Defense Fund and the Florida Defenders of the Environment, who last week obtained a court injunction halting the already one-third completed project. This prompted, a few days later, Pres. Nixon's order.

Jan. 20, 1971

7. A POLITICAL GUIDE (Save this in an easily accessible place)**A. STATE**

The enclosed sheet lists all state senators, and direct and federal representatives, by district and county. Check for your own legislators under all three classifications, copy down their name and address, look up their phone number, and note all these data in an easily accessible place. Go see your legislators, phone them! Find out if they will have regularly scheduled meetings with their constituents. On weekdays during the legislative session, you can write to your legislators at the State Capitol Bldg, Nashville, TN 37219; or you can get in direct touch with them by calling (for less than \$1) the Legislative Switchboard, Nashville, 615, 244-2394 and asking that your legislator call you back. They are very good about returning calls.

Governor Winfield Dunn
State Capitol Bldg
Nashville, TN 37219
615, 741-2001

Fred W. Stanberry, Director
Tennessee Game & Fish Commission
Ellington Agricultural Center
P. O. Box 9400
Nashville, TN 37220

Tenn. Dept. of Conservation
2611 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203
615, 741-2301

Commissioner of Conserv'n.: Wm. L. Jenkins
Deputy Commissioner: Wm. Russell
Chief, Div. of Planning: Walter L. Criley
Chief, Div. of Strip Mining & Reclamation: Chase Delony

B. FEDERAL

Your U.S. Senators are: Howard H. Baker, Jr. 202, 224-3121, ext. 4944

William E. Brock, III 202, 224-3121, ext. 3344

Your U.S. Representative is one of the following (find your county in list below)

1st Distr.: James H. Quillen (Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson,
6356* Johnson, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington)

2nd Distr.: John J. Duncan (Blount, Claiborne, Grainger, Hamblin, Loudon, Knox, Union)
5435*

3rd Dist.: Lamar Baker (Bledsoe, Bradley, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs,
3271* Monroe, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie)

4th Dist.: Joe L. Evins (Anderson, Campbell, Cannon, Clay, Coffee, Cumberland, Dekalb, Fentress,
4231* Grundy, Jackson, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Roane, Scott, Smith,
Van Buren, Warren, White, Wilson)

5th Dist.: Richard Fulton (Davidson)
4313*

6th Dist.: Wm. R. Andersen (Bedford, Cheatham, Dickson, Franklin, Humphreys, Lincoln, Macon,
2811* Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Moore, Robertson, Rutherford,
Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson)

7th Dist.: Ray B. Blanton (Carroll, Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Giles, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson,
7084* Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Madison, McNairy, Perry, part of Shelby, Wayne)

8th Dist.: Ed Jones* (Benton, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Haywood, Henry, Houston, Lake, Lauderdale,
Obion, Stewart, part .of Shelby, Tipton, Weakley)

9th Dist.: Dan Kuykendall (part .of Shelby)
3265*

*Extension number. Precede by: 202, 224-3121

When you write:

The Honorable John Doe
United States Senate
Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D. C. 20510
Dear Senator....
Sincerely yours,

The Honorable John Doe
U. S. House of Representatives
House Office Bldg
Washington, D. C. 20515
Dear Mr. (or Congressman)....
Sincerely yours,

Your senators and representative also maintain staffed offices in Tennessee. The Washington office will let you know the location of the home office nearest to you; and that office, in turn, will inform you when the senator or congressman is expected to be in Tennessee and how you can best contact him in person.

Other frequently required addresses:

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.
My dear Mr. President:
Very respectfully yours,

The Honorable Rogers B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240
Dear Mr. Secretary:
Sincerely yours,
Phone: 202, 343-6704

C. GENERAL HINTS

1. Being in touch with your elected representatives -- by letter, by wire, by phone, in person -- is infinitely more effective than the average person realizes. Often, even a few letters, wires, or calls can tip the balance.
2. When you write to your Congressman or to any other political figure,
 - a. your letter need not be long, and it may be handwritten;
 - b. be specific -- if you write about a bill, refer to it by name and, if at all possible, by number;
 - c. show that you have thought about the issue -- give at least one reason for your request.
3. When there is no time to write, you can send a Public Opinion Message wire through Western Union -- about \$1 for 15 words (not counting address or signature, but counting sender's street address). A nightletter to Washington costs \$1.80 and allows you 100 words of text.
4. For complete listing of membership of all Congressional Committees, and much other useful information, consult the current Congressional Directory in your public library.
5. For a two-way listing of all 132 members of the State legislature as well as list of Tennessee governmental agencies, request from South Central Bell a small directory entitled the "87th General Assembly".