

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING  
\*Newsletter No. 47, March 21, 1972

Contents

1. Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area bill is introduced ..	p. 1
2. Obed Study progresses smoothly; photos needed .....	p. 2
3. Tennessee Scenic Rivers System loses part of Harpeth .....	p. 3
4. Stripmine news: state administration bill passes with amendments; U. S. Senators view Tennessee stripmines .....	p. 4
5. Our National Forests: conflict and rapport (Joyce Kilmer Wilderness petition filed; public comment on de facto wilderness requested; Senate report on clear cutting needs support; Cherokee NF hearings) ...	p. 7
6. Important TCWP announcements (ad for paid part-time secretary; land-use-planning committee to be formed; TCWP NEWSLETTERS at public libraries; activities of members) .....	p. 8
7. Trail news .....	p. 9
8. Tellico suit; TVA and free-flowing rivers .....	p.10
9. Action required on national issues (WRC Standards, Alaska, channelization)	p.10
10. Department of Conservation falls behind .....	p.11
11. Calendar .....	p.11

1. BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA BILL IS INTRODUCED

Just prior to our last NEWSLETTER, TCWP jointly with many other conservation groups had submitted to Senators Baker and Cooper a position paper on Legislative protection for the Big South Fork watershed. Just prior to the present NEWSLETTER (on March 14) the Senators introduced their bill which in some respects is based on, but in others differs drastically from, the recommendations of the joint position paper. A House companion bill has been introduced by Congressmen Evins and Carter.

On January 28, representatives of several groups met with Senators Cooper and Baker and their aides for 12 hours in Washington. Groups represented in person were TCWP (Hal Smith and Lee Russell), the Wilderness Society, Sierra Club (incl. Cumberland Chapt. and Tenn. Group), and Trout Unlimited; however a total of 19 groups had signed the position paper. Much of the discussion concerned the boundaries of the area to be included, and the conservationists strongly urged the 180,000 acres proposed in the position paper, as opposed to the meager 80,000 acres contained, in the Senators' preliminary proposal. The Senators seemed receptive to the general management criteria proposed by us as far as the gorge areas were concerned, but wanted to permit oil and gas drilling in the rest of the area, as well as underground mineral extraction if the adit lay outside the area. In response to our question, Sen. Baker readily agreed that we could have an input in the drafting of the proposed bill and suggested that Lee Russell should be in contact with his assistant, Rick Herod, on this matter. February 14 was set as a tentative date for introduction of the bill. The conservationists spent the remainder of their time in Washington visiting their own Congressmen and consulting with officials of the BOR and National Park Service. BOR had drawn up the outline of the Senators' 80,000-acre proposal and our contacts with them particularly stressed the outstanding

areas that this proposal had omitted. NPS was consulted primarily on the question of National Park vs. NRA vs. National River designations, all of them possibilities under the NPS administration called for by the position paper.

On February 6, we mailed to the Senators a bill drafted by us (after consultation with several of the other groups and modelled after recently passed bills creating various NPS units) such as a National River and an NRA). In subsequent contacts with Sen. Baker's office we expressed the hope that most of our draft could be used and that we would be able to comment on the bill that was finally drawn up in that office before it was introduced. Unfortunately we were not allowed that privilege, found out about the bill's imminent introduction only from a news release, and were able to secure a copy (not the final one) just hours before the bill was placed in the hopper.

The bill's major stunner is that administration is placed in the Army Corps of Engineers, rather than the NPS as our position paper had requested. Sen. Baker had almost jokingly raised this alternative at our January 28 meeting, and Rick Herod again later raised it as a vague possibility when talking to Ernie Dickerman. The reasons cited by them are (a) the bill could then go through Public Works (instead of Interior) Committees, with a possibility of passage this year (since Sen. Cooper is ranking Republican member); (b) the Corps could get the money more easily than NPS could; and (c) the Corps "wants a new image." We are trying to determine whether (a) is correct and, if so, whether this would outweigh the record of the Corps' insensitivity to natural values. Conservationists feel that Corps administration could be thought about only if the legislation were written stringently enough to give absolute assurance to the protection of natural values. As of now, it is not written thus. The bill's good and bad features will briefly be listed. Good features are as follows. The area has been increased to 125,000 acres -- better than the original 80,000 but still far short of the needed 180,000. (The Sec. of the Army is to determine actual boundaries). Water resource projects that would have a direct and adverse effect on the river values are prohibited. In the gorge portion of the area, the following are prohibited: extraction of minerals, oil and gas; removal of timber and construction of structures (both with unfortunate exceptions, see below); construction of new roads or improvement of existing ones except Tenn, 52, Ky 92, Leatherwood Ford, Blue Heron Mine, O & W railbed (we oppose the last named, preferring railroad or bridle path). In the "adjacent areas" (i.e. non-gorge portions), timber harvest and surface mining are not permitted, and mineral extraction is permitted only where the adit lies outside the boundary. Some of the bad features are as follows. No references are made to Clear Fork, lower New River and other tributaries and "The Gorge" area does not specifically include these rivers. "The Gorge" area is defined as "lying below the gorge rim", and no buffer zone on top is included. References to "natural" values have been deleted from our draft and many references to "recreational" use and to "maximizing of public use" have been inserted. The language of the bill permits the gorge area to be invaded by the following: motorized vehicles (the Secretary of the Army shall promulgate rules governing their use in the gorge; presumably this means trail bikes and motorboats, since the gorge is defined as lying between road accesses); timber removal ("as necessary for the maintenance of public recreational use"); and construction of structures ("as necessary for use and enjoyment of this .... resource"). In the "adjacent areas", prospecting and drilling for oil and gas is permitted under regulations prescribed by the Secretary (which may however exempt certain zones). The coalition of 19 conservation groups is now working on a joint position to be taken on the bill.

## 2. OBED STUDY PROGRESSES SMOOTHLY; PHOTOS NEEDED

Officials of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) Southeast Regional Office have been in the Obed area a number of times during the past 2-3 months to put the finishing

March 21, 1972

touches to the draft report that will soon go to the remainder of the Task Force for official approval. In addition to completing the field studies, the BOR staff also consulted with local residents of Morgan, Cumberland, and Roane Counties, the Directors of ERWDA, and officials of the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area and of TVA. BOR reports the overall local response to be quite favorable to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers concept for the Obed and its tributaries.

BOR's Bob Harrison, chief person in charge of preparing the report, still needs black-and-white photographs. While some areas of the rivers are photographically well documented, he needs shots of Clear Creek between US 127 and Hegler Ford, shots of the Obed-Daddys Creek and Obed-Clear Creek confluences, and particularly action shots (e.g. canoeing, rafting; hiking, swimming, fishing) for any of the rivers. Please contact him at BOR, 810 New Walton Bldg., Atlanta, Ga. 30303, Phone: 404, 526-6928. All pictures will be returned.

### 3. TENNESSEE SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM LOSES PART OF HARPETH

In a travesty of the democratic process, the Tennessee Legislature voted (House 2/29/72; Senate 3/13/72) to remove from the protection of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act major portions of the Harpeth River (where it flows through Williamson, Dickson, and Cheatham Counties; the Davidson County portion remains in the Act). Leadership and political power in the fight to remove the river were provided by Sen. Peeler of Waverly, who three years ago also succeeded in removing the Buffalo, and who again presented the case to the Legislature as a "local" issue. The practice of "local legislative courtesy" (mutual backscratching) presents an almost sure-fire path to success in the General Assembly. That the matter was, however, one of vivid state-wide interest was made abundantly clear to the legislators. Thousands of members of at least five organizations (TCWP, TSRA, Sierra Club, Memphis Environmental Action Council, TCL -- the latter alone has 16,000 members) officially opposed removal of the river, at least three editorials were published in major newspapers (Knoxville, Chattanooga), and at least 24 of the state's 33 senators are known to have received numerous phone calls from TCWP, TSRA, EACOM and SC members in their own district during the week before the Senate vote (the effort, unfortunately, was not started in time for the House action in which the removal bill carried by only 2 votes). For the river's removal was only a small group of wealthy river-shore landowners whose stated arguments against the Scenic Rivers Act bore little resemblance to the actual contents of the Act. It is rumored that some of these landowners are planning real-estate developments along the river. Peeler, who is rated as one of the most powerful Senators in the state, had obtained commitments from his colleagues weeks before these senators were approached by their own constituents in the opposite direction. A revealing comment frequently obtained by constituents from senators was: "I wish you had approached me sooner: I have already promised Sen. Peeler to vote for his bill!" Is this democracy? Here is the final line-up for the Senate vote:

For removal of the Harpeth, (21): Agee, Ayres, Wm. Baird, Blank, Cannon, Crouch, Davis, Dugger, Garland, Hamilton, Harvill, Motlow, Nave, Oehmig, Patterson, Peeler, Roberson, Shadden, Thomas, Wilder, Williams.

Against removal of the Harpeth, (6): Ray Baird, Baker, Bruce, Gillock, Henry, Stanton. (Bruce, Henry, and Baird made fine speeches on the floor).

Not voting (same effect as voting against removal), (6): Albright, Berry, Goddard, Neal, Person, Talarico.

Voting against removal in the House were: Ashe, Bible, Bissell, Bradley, Davis, Doyle, Edgar, Elkins, Jensen, Krieg, Love, M. Murphy, Pruitt, Robinson, Sterling, Ed Williams. We hope you will express your thanks to those legislators who acted to retain the Harpeth in the Act, and your disapproval to those who acted to remove it. Unless the latter group realizes the statewide support for our scenic rivers system, we shall always be in danger of losing particular rivers to "local courtesy".

Gov. Dunn received requests from TCWP and several other groups and individuals to veto the bill, but his office stated today that he had allowed the bill to become law without his signature. "The Governor was opposed to it, but residents had such strong views that he decided not to veto it."

Although the Department of Conservation was said to have been opposed to removal of the Harpeth, administration floor leaders made no effort to prevent this removal during the legislative debate. Pro and con votes were distributed in about the same ratio between parties. Neither was there any evidence of effort by administration officials to line up votes ahead of time. This was doubly disappointing in view of the extensive and obvious efforts made by high Dept. of Conservation officials to secure votes against the citizen attempts to strengthen the strip-mine bill (see Item 4).

Some members of the Department, however, had been very much aware for some time of the possibility of the Harpeth loss and did their best to prevent it. Walter Criley, Doug Erdman, and Bob Miller worked diligently with Sen. Douglas Henry and with representatives of conservation groups to prepare amendments to the scenic rivers act which they hoped would eliminate the expressed fears of Harpeth landowners (one fear being that the sale of a scenic easement would give the public access to their land). Although Sen. Henry passed these amendments the strength of the anti-Harpeth forces continued unabated. Messrs. Criley, Erdman, and Miller deserve our sincere thanks.

#### 4. STRIPMINE NEWS: STATE ADMINISTRATION BILL PASSES WITH AMENDMENTS; U.S. SENATORS VIEW TENNESSEE STRIPMINES

##### A. State level

By the time you receive this, Governor Dunn will have just signed the administration stripmine bill into law. Our efforts resulted in the addition of a few strengthening amendments; but the most important strengthening amendments failed as a result of a concerted lobbying effort by certain administration forces. We shall give you, first, some short listings of what the new bill does and does not contain, following which we shall summarize its legislative history. This account will be lengthier than the usual NEWSLETTER item, but we wish to record a unified and accurate story for our members who have been exposed to numerous separate and occasionally confusing newspaper accounts during the past several weeks. The state stripmine battle represents a tremendous effort by TCWP, only a very small part of which is recorded in the subsequent account (the effort starts with the research that went into the drafting of the Citizens' Bills, and includes numerous personal contacts with many legislators, numerous press releases and other contacts with the news media, numerous mailings to legislators concerning analyses of bills, various public meetings, and talks given to a variety of citizen groups.) Although we failed to get as strong a bill as we would have liked, we feel that had it not been for our 18-month effort and the publicity it generated, even the administration bill would not have been written, promoted, and passed (--and that bill does borrow heavily from our 1971 Citizens Bill). We do regret that the drafters of the administration bill did not respond to our attempts at cooperation during the drafting stages: such cooperation might have saved a lot of work and avoided subsequent hard feelings (e.g. a newspaper account quotes Commissioner Jenkins as referring to environmentalists as follows: "We feel like we've got a real good bill if the neurotics and psychotics will just trust us"). A standard administration response to any criticism of the bill's omissions has been that the omitted items will be dealt with in the rules and regulations that are to be drafted. We shall be watching for these and their implementation.

March 21, 1972

The administration bill as originally written offered the following improvements over the 1967 law: good enforcement features (largely copied from the model water pollution bill written last year by Prof. Frank Maloney); a 28° slope limitation (as in the 1971 Citizens Bill); specific enumeration of several grounds for permit denial (largely copied from the 1971 Citizens Bill); a higher bond, \$600/acre minimum for coal, and elimination of self-surety bond; somewhat strengthened reclamation requirements for minerals other than coal; and regulation of prospecting (as proposed in the Citizens Bills). The House passed seven amendments making a total of 12 changes: none strengthened the bill and some weakened it. Thus, "hazard to scenic areas", originally grounds for permit denial, was amended by the administration itself to "hazard to especially designated scenic areas". Regulations for steep-slope mining, which originally were to prohibit overburden from later cuts from being placed beyond the solid bench, now must only prevent it from being "permanently placed beyond etc." --another admin. amendment. The \$200 portion of the bond which was to be retained until satisfactory revegetation survival had been accomplished may now be returned to the operator "if it becomes apparent that further efforts at revegetation will be of no avail": in other words, land can now be left barren, with no bond money available to the state to accomplish revegetation -- contradicting, we believe, Sec. 5d which requires permit denial if "revegetation of the affected area cannot be carried out in a manner consistent with the purpose of this act." Further weakening amendments decrease revenue from permit fees, restore the self-surety bond in certain cases (the latter added in the Senate), etc.

As a result of TCWP efforts, the following strengthening amendments were added in the Senate and concurred in by the House: (a) in the case of coal, reclamation grading must be completed within 6 months of initiation of soil disturbance on a given acre (probably our most important amendment: the administration timing started from removal of mineral, which can be claimed to be incomplete for long periods); (b) the state is allowed to acquire for restoration purposes orphan-mine land which "in its present state is damaging to off-site property or to the water quality of streams"; (c) notice of permit application, together with pertinent descriptions, must be published by the operator within 5 days; (d) notice of hearings of the Board of Reclamation Review must be published and these hearings must be public; (e) permits must be denied to applicants who were partners or stockholders in another operation for which permit has been revoked.

The following sorely needed strengthening amendments were not added, either because they were defeated in the House as a result of administration opposition [symbol \*], or because they could not be brought up in the House due to cutting off of debate [symbol +], or because they were defeated in the Senate [symbol Ø], or because they were non-concurred in in the House following passage in the Senate [symbol †]; (a) slope limitation to an angle less than 28° [4]; (b) limitation of allowable distance of coal stripmines from streams, lakes, or public property [\*, †]; (c) requirement for a two-step revegetation, the first step -- planting of groundcover -- to be completed within 10 days of final grading, and establishment of survival standards for revegetation; seeding of haul roads [+]; (d) additional reclamation and mining requirements pertaining to control of explosives, covering of toxic materials, and construction of haul roads [if]; (e) provision for a 10¢/ton reclamation fee, part of which was to be used for restoration of Tennessee's 30,000 acres of orphan mines [Lj ; (f) addition of more specific language to grounds for permit denial [\*, Ø]; (g) provision for citizen suits against the Commissioner [Ø]; (h) provision for opportunity for hearings on permit applications and bond release [+]; and (j) provisions for a damage bond [+]. These amendments, if passed, would have taken care of only the most striking needs and did not address themselves to many of the more minor deficiencies of the administration bill.

Legislative history: Both the 1972 Citizens Bill and the administration bill came before the House Conservation Committee on 2/15. Rep. Murphy raised some questions concerning the latter but it was voted out without difficulty. Rep. Bissell's attempt to have the Citizens' Bill voted out of Committee was countered by Rep. Bowman's impassioned statement on how much time and money had been spent on writing the administration bill, and how all of this "would be wasted." "Why can't the citizens be happy with a good bill?" he asked. A motion carried 8:5 to defer action on the Citizens' Bill until the administration bill's fate on the floor was determined. TCWP had already drafted amendments in readiness for this contingency; and members who had attended the Committee hearing subsequently discussed these with the several able legislators who had offered to sponsor the amendments, namely Representatives Davis, Bragg, Murphy, Elkins, Ashe, Edgar, and Dunavant. The administration bill first came before the House on 2/24 and the weakening amendments mentioned above were added by McWilliams and Bible. Rep. Bob Davis, aided by Reps. Edgar and Ashe, then did a fine job of trying to pass a strengthening amendment on slope limitation, distance limitation, and grounds for permit denial. This was strongly opposed by administration forces and was tabled 45:16 (voting against tabling were Ashe, Bissell, Bradley, Briley, Comer, Copeland, Darnell, Davis, De Fries, Edgar, Elkins, Jensen, Love, Martin, Mike Murphy, Neese). Further House action was then deferred until 2/29 when a strengthening amendment on reclamation requirements was most ably handled by Rep. Bragg but again failed because of opposition by administration forces. (The tabling motion carried 32:27 with the following voting against tabling: Ashe, Bible, Bissell, Bradley, Bragg, Briley, Burks, Campbell, Comer, Copeland, Crowell, Cummings, Darnell, Davis, Doyle, Edgar, Elkins, Hicks, Jensen, Krieg, Langley, M. Murphy, Neese, Pickering, Powell, Roberts, West). An apparently prearranged motion by Rep. Crocker to cut off all further amendments then carried, and the bill itself carried 77:3. (Reps. Ashe and Edgar voted against it in protest against the way in which it was railroaded through). When the bill came up in the Senate on 3/9, Senators Ray Baird, Bruce, Albright, and Garland passed the various strengthening amendments listed above, with Senators Bruce and Baird doing an especially masterful job of handling the difficult ones. When the Senate amendments went to the House for concurrence on 3/14, Rep. Bowman and administration forces strongly opposed the 10¢/ton fee and the distance limitation from streams and public property. Both of these amendments failed to get House concurrence and the Senate receded from them on 3/15, ending any further legislative activity. (Voting in favor of concurrence on both amendments were Reps. Ashe, Bissell, Booker, Bradley, Byrd, Darnell, Doyle, Edgar, Elkins, Jensen, Krieg, and M. Murphy. In addition, Coffey, Dunavant, Engstrom, Martin, Rogers, and Ed Williams voted to concur in the 100/ fee; and Anderson, Bomar, and Copeland voted to concur in the distance limitation.

X

TCWP members who were present as observers on 2/15, 2/24, 2/29, 3/7, 3/9 and 3/14 urge you to express your sincere gratitude to the men who so courageously handled the strengthening amendments in House and Senate. These legislators spent a great deal of time and effort acquainting themselves with background material and were much impressed by the merits of the case. Observers also reported on the frequent presence in the legislative offices and on the House floor of Commissioner Jenkins and/or Dr. Thackston who apparently expended an extensive lobbying effort for the administration bill and against the strengthening amendments.

The bill to ban stripmining, supported by SOCM, was introduced by Sen. Bruce and Rep. Neese but has not moved out of Committee. A busload of 45 SOCM members, residents of 5 coal counties, spent the day of March 7 in Nashville, talked to Gov. Dunn and presented impressive testimony at a Senate hearing at which Sen. Bruce pointed out that stripmining in Tennessee was a minimum industry which was doing maximum damage to the land and its people.

March 21, 1972

B. National level

Senators Moss (D-Utah) and Bellmon (R-Okla) of the Subcommittee on Minerals, Materials, and Fuels visited Tennessee stripmines on a TVA-conducted helicopter tour on Feb. 14. An effort was made to keep the field trip and preceding briefing clear of what were considered to be the two opposing points of view: stripmine operators on the one hand, and conservationists and local residents on the other. Stripmine operators, however, "crashed the party", waiting with coffee and donuts at one of the mine sites visited. Quite apart from this, however, the Senators were exposed to points of view on only one side of the controversy, namely to those of TVA and the State, both of which have taken the official position that mountain stripping should continue. A TOWP letter to this effect (which was submitted for the hearings record) also protested the fact that two of the three helicopter stops were arranged to be at TVA model reclamation jobs not typical of Tennessee stripmining, and that the Senators were not taken below the benches to see stream siltation and witness the special problems of area residents. The TCWP protest received considerable newspaper publicity.

The House Subcommittee has begun to mark up stripmine legislation and the Senate sub-committee will shortly do so. Outgoing TVA Director Frank Smith testified as to "some personal differences with the official TVA statement." He advocated a slope limitation of 24° (instead of TVA's 28°), and strong federal regulation (instead of TVA's advocacy of state regulations under federal standards). The Appalachian Regional Commission's testimony asked for prohibition of spoil deposition on outslopes greater than 13° (cf. TCWP's 15°).

Sen. Fred Harris (D., Okla.) spent a day touring Tennessee's stripmines and addressing a group of operators. He was SOCM's guest at a supper at Petros and we were greatly impressed by his real desire to "listen" and by his genuine interest in the local people's point of view. At an evening talk at U.T. he expressed his shock at the evils of stripmining and at TVA's role in it, and told of his support of the abolition movement.

5. OUR NATIONAL FOREST: CONFLICT AND RAPPORTA. Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Creek Wilderness petition filed

TCWP was one of 18 organizations that on March 13 filed an administrative petition with the USFS Regional Forester in Atlanta. The petition asks that Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest and the adjacent Slickrock Creek drainage, a total of 14,540 acres (partly within Tennessee), be designated as a Wilderness Study Area and that a temporary stay on logging and road construction be granted (until the petition has been heard). The petition contends that the area is both suitable and available for wilderness designation under the terms of the Wilderness Act. If Wilderness designation were made, the Robbinsville-Tellico Plains road would have to be relocated outside the area. Information received by us indicates that the USFS feels it had not sufficiently studied road alternatives for the environmental impact statement, and that an alternate route has now been found.

B. USFS requests public comment on de facto wilderness in eastern and southern forests

USFS Chief Cliff has stated: "Although the criteria of the Wilderness Act do not appear to fit eastern conditions because of the obvious evidence of past land use by man, some proposals have been made that the classification of wild lands could be achieved under the Wilderness Act." The USFS has long shown resistance to designation of de facto wilderness, while conservationists have pointed out that certain past land

use by man in eastern forests should not bar designation under the Wilderness Act. Mr. Cliff requests public comment on the question of designation under the Act versus other alternatives. This should be sent to Regional Forester, USFS, Southern Region, 50 - 7th Street, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30323.

#### C. Senate subcommittee report on clear-cutting needs support

A report of Sen. Church's subcommittee on Public Lands summarizes the findings of last year's lengthy hearings and concludes that the USFS should be less timber-oriented and more responsive to the broader public needs for wilderness and beauty. The report sets forth a series of guidelines to control damages from clearcutting and to limit the practice to circumstances where no other alternatives exist. Timber industry forces which recently caused a Presidential Order restricting clearcutting to be dropped (see NL #46), are now making strenuous efforts to kill the Senate subcommittee report. Conservationists are urged to express their views to Senators Hatfield, Allott, Fannin, and Belimon, who have prevented issuance of the report. For scientific evidence on the effect of clearcutting we refer you to a paper by geologist R. R. Curry (ASB Bulletin 18: 117-128, July 1971; and "Not Man Apart", Sept. 1971) which indicates that chemical reactions in the soil following clear cutting cause the soils to be stripped of their nutrients so rapidly that sterility in many areas is virtually assured to occur within 200 years.

#### D. Cherokee National Forest hearings

Under the newly developed "Guide for Managing the National Forests in the Appalachians" (into the drafting of which TCWP and other organizations had an input), the USFS has been holding hearings on the management of various units of The Cherokee National Forest. TCWP was represented at hearings on the Hiwassee Unit and the Cohutta Mountain Unit and will again be represented (by Eliz. Peelle and others) at the 3/21 and 3/25/72 hearings on Ocoee Unit 2 which includes the Conosauga River. We commend the USFS for providing these opportunities.

### 6. IMPORTANT TCWP ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### A. Can you qualify for paid part-time secretarial work for TCWP?

We want to give our membership first choice of this job which will require a person vitally interested in TCWP's work. We need someone to work slightly irregular hours (at least partly evenings), probably averaging about 10 hours per week. The job will entail much filing, answering of routine mail, phoning, duplicating and distributing material -- only a very minimum of typing. Our present "office" is in an Oak Ridge home, but we hope to get more official office space soon, probably also in Oak Ridge. Therefore applicant should be from this vicinity. If interested and qualified, please write (TCWP, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830) or call (482-2153).

#### B. Land-use-planning committee to be formed

The TCWP Board has authorized a working group on Land Use Planning. The group, which is being organized by Bob Farmer, will initially study broad problems of planning for wild lands and waters and will gather information and ideas essential to influencing legislative and administrative actions. Members with interest and/or experience in planning and related problems (e.g. zoning, taxation) should contact Bob Farmer (Box 21, Norris, TN 37828; phone 494-7908).

#### C. TCWP sponsors McCloskey talk

TCWP is sponsoring an evening lecture by Mike McCloskey, executive director of the Sierra Club on "Power and the Environment" on March 23, 8:00 p.m., auditorium, Student Center, U.T. Knoxville. All members should a week ago have received a post-card announcement of this meeting.



March 21, 1972

D. TCWP NEWSLETTERS now at major public libraries

Public libraries at Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Oak Ridge have expressed willingness to carry our NEWSLETTER. Fred Sweeton has assembled complete sets of back numbers for these libraries, and we are placing them on the current mailing list. Inform anyone (e.g. teachers) who you think could make use of these library files.

E. Activities of members

In the March 1972 number of Kiplinger Magazine Changing Times, Bill and Lee Russell's Achievements were cited in an article "What can you do to clean up the environment? Plenty!" Bob Farmer is now chairman of the natural areas committee of the Society of American Foresters. Marjorie Collier is president of the Tenn. Archeological Soc. Don Todd was returned as president of Tenn. Trails Assoc. Several members have recently, given talks to groups of young people: Tom Hebble to a number of classes at O.R. High School and Central High in Knoxville, Bill Searle to scouts, Lee Russell to Webb senior school students.

Members have participated in a series of environmental seminars sponsored by the Tenn-Environmental Council in Nashville: Don Todd and Ed Clebsch on stripmining; Bob Miller and Bill Russell on rivers. Bill also addressed a group at the Civil Service Seminar Center, O.R.

Our newest IBM printout has 14 entries for life members: Baggenstoss, Broome, Campbell, Clebsch,\* Ben Coffey,\* Comer, Gibbons,\* Goodman,\* Gryder, Mason, Mayfield, C. Nader, Pleasonton, Whiting.\* (\* = Mr. and Mrs.). By the way, have you ordinary members paid your 1972 dues (see enclosed slip)? Our treasurer lists 305 individuals paid up to date. This must mean at least an equal number still delinquent.

7. TRAIL NEWS

- A. Mr. Joe Gaines began work on March 1 as administrator of the State Trails Program. Mr. Gaines, who was introduced at the Trails Symposium on Feb. 19, has a Forestry degree from U.T., and for the past two years worked as W. Tenn. district naturalist for State Parks. (Max Young left the Planning Division of the Dept. of Conservation to be appointed State Forester.) The Division has requested \$75,000 in the Governor's Budget to initiate planning and development of the Tenn. Trails System.
- B. Volunteers are needed to develop two trails segments in the state system. TCWP has taken on responsibility for a section of the Cumberland Trail north of Cove Lake. Please call Charles Klabunde, Oak Ridge 483-8055 if you can help. The Sierra Club is looking for people to work on the Rugby-to-Frozen Head segments of the John Muir Trail. Call Bob Brandt, Nashville, (615) 244-6670.
- C. The March 12 hike on Oak Ridge's TCWP-made North Ridge Trail attracted well over 100 people.
- D. Representatives of various trail-related interests met in Woodstock, Ill. Feb. 25-27 and formed an umbrella and service organization called the National Trails Council. National Trails symposium is planned for later this year. For further information, contact Clarence Streetman, 336-2211.
- E. Two trail books of interest: (i) "Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee and North Carolina" (new edition): \$4.75 from The Appalachian Trail Conference, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. (ii) "Hiking and Hiking Trails, a Trails and Trail-based Activities Bibliography" (USDI). \$3.00 from National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Va. 22151.

## 8. TELlico SUIT; TVA AND FREEFLOWING RIVERS

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, sitting in Cincinnati, about 3 weeks ago denied TVA's motion to suspend or stay the temporary injunction against the Tellico Dam that was secured by ED F' in January. The Circuit Court of Appeals also ordered that the parties submit briefs by April 5. Oral arguments were scheduled for the third week in April.

TVA's Environmental Impact Statement on Tellico, filed in February, contains a section purporting to show that 80% of the primary stream-miles in the Tennessee Valley are still free-flowing or open streams. In a recent speech at a TEC Seminar, which was reported in the Knoxville Journal, Bill Russell pointed out that this high percentage was concocted by including the mileage of all tiny streams down to those with only 25 sq. miles of drainage. The size of the rivers dammed by TVA, even when the main Tennessee river with its nine dams as excluded, comes out to an average drainage area of 2473 square miles per river. This is 99 times larger than that of the streams with 25-square-miles drainage. The smallest river in Tennessee dammed by TVA in the Ocoee, This has a 639-square-mile drainage, which is still more than 25 times the size of the streams included in TVA's computation. The only free-flowing river left in the Tennessee Valley that is as large in drainage area as the average of the tributary rivers dammed by TVA is the Duck River, and TVA has already obtained funds to start construction of dams on that.

## 9. ACTION REQUIRED ON NATIONAL ISSUES

### A. National Water Resources Standards

Public comment is requested on these proposed new standards which could have a major effect, on restricting pork-barrel projects (see NL #46, or call 482-2153 for info). There is still time for you to meet the deadline of March 31, 1972. TCWP has sent in its comment as an organization and has invited about 25 other Tennessee organizations to do likewise. However, it would be very useful for you to comment as an individual also.

### B. Alaska needs our help

The new environmental impact study on the Alaska pipeline proposal was released yesterday by the Interior Dept. (Preliminary newspaper reports indicate that the findings may point to a trans-Canada, rather than a trans-Alaska, route; but conservationists have not yet had a chance to analyse the study.) Conservationists public study and comment. Letters and wires should be sent to Pres. Nixon asking that hearings be held on the report after the public has had a chance to study it. TCWP has written as an organization, with copies to our entire Congressional delegation. Last year's hearings must be considered irrelevant, since the so-called "draft environmental impact statement" on which they were based was so inadequate that scientists could only point to the glaring omissions of pertinent facts on which a judgement could have been based.

### C. Channelization evils

A comprehensive folder on stream channelization, authored by Tom Barlow (NRDC) and Brent Blackwelder (FOE), has been issued under the auspices of 5 major national conservation groups. The folder concisely describes the environmental effects of channelization, how the SOS operates, and what the individual can do to block channelization. We hope to distribute this fodder to our members at some later date. If you need it sooner or know of some other distribution channels, write to Tom Barlow, Natural Resources Defense Council, 1600 20th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. The NRDC on 11/30/71 filed the first environmental suit attacking SOS channelization.

March 21, 1972

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This suit has become a major test case, and NRDC is appealing for needed funds. Send contributions to Tom Barlow at the above address.

#### 10. DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION FALLS BEHIND

Due to lack of personnel, the Department has failed to complete two important jobs. (a) Updating of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan was not accomplished in time to qualify the State for receipt of federal Land & Water Conservation Funds. Continuation of these funds would be essential to the proper implementation of our scenic rivers, trails, and natural areas programs; and their lack already has affected development of some Knoxville parks.

(b) The State Natural Areas Act, passed in 1971, required the Department to inventory natural areas and to make recommendations to the Legislature in a year. This has not been accomplished. A recently passed Senate Joint Resolution (SJR 109 by Bruce and Crouch) instructs the Department to report its study recommendations by 3/28/72.

We regret that the priorities of the Department could not have been better ordered, and we appeal to the Commissioner of Conservation to remedy this situation by securing adequate staffing and funding for these important Departmental functions.

#### 11. CALENDAR

3/25/72 Red River Lower Gorge canoe trip (Cumberland Chapt.Sierra Club). Call  
O. Geraldts, Jr., Lexington 606,299-6851

3/30 4/2 Whitewater Camp, Obed-Emory (TSRA\*)

3/30 - 4/1 Okefenokee Swamp canoe trip (TVCC), .W. D. Hixson,Jr., Hixson 615,877-9051

4/1 - 4/2 Smoky Mts. backpack (Cumb.Ch.S.C.), W.Holstein, Louisville 502,425-2908

4/4/72 Audubon Wildlife Theater, 7:30 p.m., McClung Museum, Knoxville

4/8/72 Natchez Trace State Park hike (TN.S.C.), Gonsoulin, Nashville 615,292-0959

4/8 - 4/9 Clear Fork float (TSRA\*)

4/9/72 Frozen Head State Park hike (SMHC), Ken Warren, Oak Ridge 615,483-3572

4/11/72 NBC-TV special in celebration of NPS' 100th anniversary

4/15/72 Stream and pond field trip (TN.S.C.), R. Coleman, Nashville 615,262-9721

4/15/72 Governor's Conference on Natural. Beauty, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tennessee  
Botanical. Hall, Cheekwood, Nashville

4/15/72 Red River Gorge hike (Cumb.Ch.S.C.), Carl Clark, Lexington 606,254-9531

4/22 & 4/23 Wildflower hikes, Frozen Head State Park (TTA), Don Todd, Wartburg  
615,346-3113

4/22 - 4/23 Duck River float (TSRA), P.Hollenbeck, Huntsville,Ala. 205,881-6645

4/22 - 4/23 Slickrock Creek backpack (SMHC), C.Coffey, Knoxville 615,573-5701

4/22 - 4/23 Big S. Fork float (Cumb.Ch.S.C.), P.Harbour, Lexington 606,277-2891

4/23/72 Slickrock Creek day-hike (SMHC), C.DuBois, Kingston 615,376-9813

4/29/72? Roaring River System, float (TSRA-)

4/29 -4/30 Obed River float (Cumb.Ch.S.C.), T.Brizendine, Greenville, Ky.  
502,338-1395

5/2/72 Audubon Wildlife Theater, 7:30 p.m., McClung Museum, Knoxville

5/4 - 5/6 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

5/6 or 5/7 McCreary County arches, hike (Cumb.Ch.S.C.), Carl Clark, Lexington  
606,254-9531

5/13 - 5/14 Roan Mountain backpack (TN.S.C.). Leader to be announced

5/13 5/14 Big S. Fork float (Cumb.Ch.S.C.), P.Harbour, Lexington 606,277-2891

5/20 - 5/21 Obed River float (TSRA°)

\*Where no leader is listed for TSRA trips, call Bill Mitcham, Nashville 269-9759