

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING*

Newsletter No. 55, May 29, 1973

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1. OBED: HEARINGS HELD AND MORE TO COME

The SE Regional Office of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) had announced hearings for May 24 and 25 on the Wild and Scenic Rivers proposal for the Obed system. However, about a week before these dates, Washington BOR refused to give the go-ahead because a revised information brochure was not ready for distribution. Notices of postponement were sent out by BOR; but since we, as well as national conservation groups, protested that not everyone who was planning to come could be reached on time, BOR agreed to hold the May 24, 25 hearings anyway, as well as another set (probably early in July), after the new brochure is circulated. Almost 20 people turned up for the Crossville meeting May 24, and about 60 for the Wartburg hearing May 25 (including 8 who had also gone the night before). BOR Asst. Regional Director Paul Adams conducted both sessions, with the assistance of Jim Rousseau, BOR. The state was represented by Mike Countess, Dept. of Conservation (with Mr. Webb, Game & Fish, observing) on 5/24; and TVA was represented 5/25. At both sessions there was plenty of opportunity for questions and answers; and on 5/25 some formal statements were also presented.

BOR presented the following alternatives: (a) The task-force recommendation of including a total of ca 98 river miles in the system, namely, the entire Obed down from just above U.S. 127, the entire Clear Creek down from U.S. 127, and the entire Daddys Creek down from above the mill-site between U.S. 127 and TN 68. The total stream mileage would be in "wild" classification, except for the upper portion of Daddys Creek (above Center Bridge) which would be "scenic;" and a 2-mile portion, to be added on the Emory between mile 29 (just above the Obed confluence) and mile 27 (below Nemo Bridge), which would also be "scenic." Acreage would be 15,425 acres (plus 219 acres on the Emory), and total cost is estimated to be \$4.2 million for acquisition plus \$0.8 million for development. (Note: this is truly a bargain for 98 river miles; only 27 miles of the Lower St. Croix will cost \$7.6 million). -- (b) A cut-down alternative that includes only 71 rivermiles by lopping off the Obed above Adams Bridge (where the highly scenic Gould's Bend section is located) and lopping off the entire "scenic" portion of Daddys Creek. This would cost \$3.4 million for acquisition plus \$0.3 million for development. (Note: it is hard to imagine that this little saving would make a difference in OMB's decision, when the proposal as a whole is such a bargain.) -- (c) Cutting out either Clear Creek or Daddys Creek in their entirety. BOR says they won't recommend this, but must "consider" it. (Note: the study concluded that both of these tributaries highly qualify under

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the terms of the Act. What could be the rationale for excluding one?) -- (d) The alternative of "no federal action" required by NEPA, to see what that would do to the resource (presumably in terms of adverse development).

With regard to management, no recommendations have been made; but at the 5/24 meeting, BOR indicated that the task force was leaning toward total administration by the state, with acquisition and interim management by TVA (since the state has no funds). It was pointed out by TCWP that total state administration would be incompatible with the terms of the Act, which states in Sec. 4(a) that a river to be added to the National System must be "proposed to be administered, wholly or partially, by an agency of the United States." At the 5/25 hearing, BOR stated that NPS and TVA had expressed interest in managing the area and might do so alone or in cooperation with the state. On request, a poll was taken near the end of the hearing. Of about 49 persons still attending (about a dozen had left by then), 42 voted for NPS administration, 1 for state, and 0 (zero) for TVA.

Fourteen formal statements were made 5/25 (with many additional ones to be presented in writing); five of these were from Morgan County. All statements as well as the more informal remarks during the discussion period were unanimous in urging speedy inclusion of the rivers in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. There was overwhelming sentiment for the following additional points: (a) Not only should the task force proposal not be cut down, but additions should be considered. Whites Creek was most often mentioned. (b) A buffer zone of several hundred feet above the bluff rim should be acquired by scenic easement to protect against adverse developments, but to allow continuation of compatible farming practices. (c) The federal agency involved in management (alone, or in cooperation with the state) should be NPS which has tradition and expertise in managing wild areas (see above for poll).

We shall inform you as soon as possible of the dates of the next hearings. In the meantime, we urge you to express your support for inclusion of the Obed and tributaries in the National System and your recommendations for managing agency to the following: Senators Baker and Brock (Senate Office Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20510); Congressmen LaMar Baker and Joe L. Evins as well as your own Congressman (House Office Bldg, D.C. 20515); Gov. Winfield Dunn (State Capitol, Nashville TN 37219); and Mr. Nathaniel Reed, Asst Sec. for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, U.S. Dept. of Interior D.C. 20240.

2. SMOKIES: A NEW SET OF STUDIES UNDERWAY

A National Park Service (NPS) Team, headed by Dave Turello of the Denver NPS Center, spent two weeks in May in the GSMNP area for studies that will culminate in three documents: (a) an updated master plan; (b) an environmental impact statement on this master plan; (c) an administration recommendation for wilderness. Under the terms of the 1964 Wilderness Act, item (c) must be submitted to Congress by the fall of 1974; and, since all items are closely interrelated, the entire effort is expected to proceed at high pace.

At a discussion session organized by the NPS team on May 16, TCWP was represented by Bob Peelle and John Tansil; and on May 24 we informed NPS by letter that our more detailed recommendations would be forthcoming in 2-3 weeks. NPS will make its drafts available for comment and will subsequently come up with documents on the basis of which hearings will be held. We therefore shall have several opportunities for input. Volunteers are needed to form a committee that can work on this issue for the next several months. Please contact the editor if you can help.

Although Nat Reed, Asst. Sec. of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks stated in Knoxville, late April, that NPS never will build the transmountain road, the NPS team

encountered much pro-road sentiment when it held its discussion session in Cherokee, N.C. Much attention was focussed on the North Shore Road and relatively less on the transmountain road. In an April 14 article in the Knoxville News-Sentinel, N.C. Congressman Roy Taylor is said to have "drafted" a letter to OMB director Roy L. Ash asking for release of \$715,000 of impounded funds to extend by 2-1/2 miles the road that presently measures about 7 miles along the north shore of Fontana Reservoir. Conservationists consider this road as highly destructive and are asking that it be turned south across the reservoir.

3. STRIPMINE NEWS: THE LEGISLATURES, THE COURT, AND MORE FACTS

A. State: our bill passed Senate, suffocated pre-natally in House

The Citizens Amendments to the Tennessee Stripmine Act, SB 312/HB 390 (see Newsletter #54, Item 2A) sailed through the Senate with flying colors, 25:0, under the able sponsorship of Senator Baird, a couple of days after hearings were held in the legislature on 4/17/73 (Reid Gryder represented TCWP alongside a large number of SOCM people). We hope you will express your gratitude to Sen. Baird. Senators Ayres and Shadden were co-signers. Sen. Koella managed to get the SOCM-supported ban bill out of committee.

We heard of several efforts by Rep. Bowman, again in a position of power on the House Conservation Committee, to delay consideration of the bill. However, SOCM members were able to show the film "The Stripping of Appalachia" at the 4/19 session of that committee; and, during the weekend of 4/21,22, TCWP members throughout the state called their representatives who were committee members. Presumably as a result of these activities, the Committee brought the bill up for consideration on 4/26, with Lily Rose Claiborne and Charles DuBois observing for TCWP. On that occasion, for the third time in two weeks, Dr. Ed Thackston, the governor's environmental advisor spoke at great length to the legislators. He stated that the state was in complete control of the stripmine situation and was doing a fine job with an excellent existing law which did not require any changes; and that the Citizens Amendments, if passed, would in effect ban stripmining in Tennessee (Note: the actual truth is that they would have effectively banned stripping above 24" and thus tied up only 0.2% of Tennessee's coal reserves -- see item 3C). The House Conservation Committee, as a result, voted out an emasculated version of our bill, retaining only 2 of its original 6 Sections. (The SOCM ban bill was not even considered). Still, there was hope, since the Senate had passed our bill intact, and the conference committee would undoubtedly arrive at some intermediate version. All the House bill had to do now was to be put on the calendar; and Rep. Bissell had previously assured us on two occasions that he was in a good position on the Calendar Committee, so that this should be no problem. On 4/27, when the Calendar Committee met, Rep. Bissell did not, however, attend; and the bill was deferred for committee action to a date when it was too late to bring it to the floor this year. The main House sponsor of HB 390 was Mike Murphy; co-signers were Bissell, Elkins, Ashe, Williams, Sandra Clark, and Mann.

The House Conservation Committee on 4/26 passed a resolution to participate in stripmine field trips this summer. The original intent was to have 2 days guided by conservation interests and 2 days by stripmine interest. A recent rumor indicates that the committee now intends to spend 1 day in the field with conservationists, 1 with strippers, and 1 with the state. In view of Dr. Thackston's speeches to the legislature in favor of the status quo, we are wondering whether this would not make it a 1:2 proposition.

B. Federal: mark-up of bills imminent; your voice needed

In addition to testifying at Senate hearings 3/16, TCWP also gave oral (Lee Russell) and written testimony at House hearings 4/17. Both testimonies are available on request and contain detailed analyses of the major pending bills. TCWP's general recommendations

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were outlined in NL #54, Item 2B. [Note: We are tickled that the lead article in THE HIGHLAND VOICE, W. Va., in reporting on the Senate hearings states "The best written testimony was by TCWP: sophisticated, thorough and clear."]. In the House testimony, TCWP endorsed the Hechler bill's (H.R. 1000) provisions for terminating contour stripping in 6 months, endorsed the slope limitations in the Hays (H.R. 3) and Saylor (H.R. 5988) bills, and lauded the Saylor bill as the best of the regulatory bills proposed. We were impressed with Congresswoman Patsy Mink's intelligence and humanity in conducting part of the House hearings and with the astuteness and excellent attitudes of several other Representatives, particularly Seiberling (D, Ohio) and Ruppe (R., Michigan).

The full Senate Interior Committee will begin mark-up on May 29, and it is expected that Jackson's S.425 will be the starting point. Key Committee members are Jackson, Metcalfe, Abourezk, Haskell, McClure, Buckley, and Hansen. In the House, two subcommittees will jointly begin mark-up on June 18, probably using as their starting point either the bill that passed last year, Hays' H.R. 3, or Saylor's H.R. 5988. Key members are Mink and Udall, (Chairpersons of the 2 Subcommittees), Saylor, Ruppe, Melcher, Roncalio, Seiberling, Haley, Dellenback, Steelman, and Ketchum. Inclusion of a ban on contour stripping is a fairly good possibility in the House and not impossible in the Senate. We urge you to communicate without delay at least this major point to the chairmen (Sen. Jackson, Rep. Mink, Rep. Udall), with copies to other key members listed. In the case of the Senate, wires (Public Opinion Message costs only \$1.20) are in order. [As you may recall, the official TCWP position asks that no stripping with present technologies be done on slopes steeper than 15°, that spoil not be deposited on a downslope steeper than 15°, and that no man-made slope steeper than 24° remain after grading. See also Sec. 3C, below and the fact sheet in NL #54.]

C. More stripmine facts

Add these to the fact sheet we sent out with NL #54 (p. 11):

- (a) Table IV of the March 1973 Report by CEQ (President's Council on Environmental Quality) for the Senate Interior Committee indicates that there are 2230 million tons of coal reserves in Tennessee, i.e. strippable and deepminable under present technological and economic conditions. Of these, only 5 million tons -- or 0.2% -- are strippable at 25° and above; only 2.3% are strippable at above 15° (i.e., by "contour-stripping")
- (b) Every week, a new 4650 acres are torn open by stripmining: that's over 27 acres per hour (nationwide)
- (c) The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has prepared a summary of a Charles River Associates study. This summary, released 4/26/73 and entitled "The economic impact of public policy on the Appalachian coal industry and the regional economy," is available from ARC, 1666 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20235, or may be viewed in TCWP files. The ARC summary points out that a ban on contour stripping would have the least of several impacts that were considered (others were: relaxation of oil import quotas, requirements for low-sulphur coal). A ban on contour stripping in combination with acceleration of deepmining would raise direct employment by 8,842, indirect employment by 4,157 and induced employment by 4,157, for a total regional employment growth of 14,856. Even if cost production were to rise by 50¢/ton, regional employment growth would still be 11,449. In Appalachia there exists a large deep-mine labor force, and deep reserves outnumber strippable reserves (contour + area) 10:1.

D. Lawsuit against TVA

In broad terms, plaintiffs in this suit attempt to prove two contentions: (a) that TVA should be required to file individual environmental impact statements (EIS's) on major coal contracts; (b) that TVA's single, general impact statement is inadequate. Following a hearing on the first of these (see NL #54, Item 2D), Judge Taylor ruled in

mid-April that if NEPA is interpreted to require individual EIS's, then there is a conflict between it and Sec. 9(b) of the TVA Act that requires competitive bidding; and that there is, therefore, a rational basis for the TVA Board's decision that compliance with NEPA could be accomplished by filing a single statement. It should be noted that the Judge did not question plaintiffs' claim that the contracts cited in our suit represented major federal actions. About a week later, he granted plaintiffs' motion for a full hearing with witnesses on both aspects of the trial, and this was held May 21, 22, 23. Witnesses appearing for plaintiff were Jack Gibbons, Bob Peelle, Alice Slone, J. W. Bradley, Elizabeth Peelle, and Lucille Langlois (we have detailed notes on their direct and cross examinations). Lynn Seeber, Al Curry, and two coal company officials appeared for defendants, after which TVA decided not to call other planned witnesses. Judge Taylor gave both parties 30 days in which to present wrap-up briefs.

E. Miscellaneous stripmine news

TVA has announced 2 demonstration projects dealing with orphan-mine reclamation. One is along Crab Orchard Creek and is visible from Route 29A north of Oakdale. The other is at Coalmont, in the proposed South Cumberland Regional Recreation Area.

The Board of Reclamation Review held hearings on 4/25 at Tazewell to hear complaints from citizens of Buffalo Hollow against the Charles King Coal Company which had been granted a permit under the new law in the face of a citizen petition pointing out the abominable record of this company. A ruling is being awaited.

4. BIG S. FORK: MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

A. Morgan County Court resolution to reduce area is shown fallacious

R. O. Brooks (Brooks Store, near Rugby) recently maneuvered through Morgan County Court a resolution, riddled with factual errors, which would have the effect of completely eliminating Morgan County (including the historical Rugby region), from the Big S. Fork National River and Recreation Area, by recommending that this Area extend south only as far as the Joe's Branch tributary of Clear Fork (which enters downstream from Whiteoak Creek). Many members of the County Court were actually under the impression that they were voting only to make a slight reduction in the Morgan County portion of the project (which, as it is, covers less than 1000 acres); whereas, in effect, they were recommending detailed boundary changes in Fentress County! Furthermore, the County Court was not told of the in-lieu-of-tax provision in the bill and was led to believe that the county would suffer major tax losses through the project.

The Morgan County Parks and Recreation Council has explained the background of the resolution and pointed out its factual errors in letters to Sen. Baker and Congr. Baker. The Council will attempt to get Court action rescinding the resolution.

B. State acts to clean up Clear Fork oil spills

The Division of Water Quality Control has taken action on several complaints concerning crude oil that is entering Clear Fork by way of Bear Branch. The Division's investigation has traced the oil to five drilling sites of the Dixie Drilling Co., and, specifically, to overflow from holding ponds. The Division is considering legal action for previous discharges, and promises criminal action in the event of future discharges. In addition, it has required permit applications with specific information for each holding pond by July 6, and has requested the Oil and Gas Board to refrain from approving new sites for the company until this information is supplied. We hope you will express your support for these actions to Mr. Michael E. Tant, Chief Engineer, or to S. Leary Jones, Director, Div. of Water Qual. Control, Department of Public Health, 621 Cordell Hull Bldg, Nashville 37219.

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5. EASTERN WILDERNESS

A. State position: "general" support

In a letter of 4/25/73 to Sen. Haskell (chmn. of the Sub-Committee on Public Lands), Commissioner of Conservation Granville Hinton "endorses the premise of Eastern Wilderness" without supporting specific legislation (he mentions S.938, S.22, and S.316), and "hopes that regional hearings will resolve ... discrepancies." More recently, in a letter of 5/23, the state has now asked for a meeting of representatives from conservation groups June 4 in Nashville (2:00 p.m. CDT, Room 1227, Andrew Jackson Bldg) directed toward arriving at a specific state proposal. In the meantime, TCL, the only group that did not support S.316, has set up a committee of four to draft the League's position with respect to Eastern wilderness.

B. Bald River watershed, near Tellico Plains, Cherokee National Forest

Several organizations (Trout Unlimited, TCWP, SMHC, Sierra Club, TV Sportsmen's Club, TCL) have been conducting field trips and meetings in an attempt to arrive at a joint recommendation concerning this watershed. The coalition is attempting to find the optimum method for preserving the area.

6. THE HIGHWAY BILL AND OVERTON PARK

* The Federal-Aid Highway bill passed House and Senate in different forms, making the job of the Conference Committee arduous and highly critical. One major difference between the two versions concerns the question of whether to allow urban areas to spend Trust Fund money on mass transportation. The Muskie-Baker amendment that does allow this flexibility (Sen. Baker deserves our thanks) passed the Senate 49-44, with both Baker and Brock voting in favor. The similar Anderson amendment in the House unfortunately failed, with all Tennessee Congressmen voting against flexibility (except Evins, not voting).

A difference in the opposite direction (i.e., Senate bill worse than House bill) concerns a Senate provision that indirectly exempts the San Antonio Expressway from environmental protection laws by allowing a park segment to be built solely with state funds. In spite of Sen. Baker's speech in favor of the Buckley amendment that would have deleted this exemption, the harmful provision passed 50:43.

* The Conference Committee which has been working on the bill for several weeks has still to resolve the mass transit provision (should there be funding? how much flexibility? how about funds for urban portions of Interstates?) With regard to the San Antonio Expressway provision, it looks as though the Senate version may have won out, posing a threat to Sec. 4(f) of the DOT Act. (It was explained to us that Sec. 4(f) would probably still remain powerful for Interstate situations, such as in Overton Park, though it will obviously be weakened for primary federal highways.) Conservationists are writing to members of the Conference Committee (which includes Sen. Baker), and also to their own Congressman and Senators, in view of the possibility of later floor action (a Conference report can only be accepted or rejected in toto).

* Recently, U.S. District Judge Bailey Brown remanded the Overton Park case to the Dept. of Transportation (DOT), finding that former DOT's Sec. Volpe decision of January 18 was incomplete (Volpe could not find that no alternative route exists). The court ordered the new DOT Sec., Brinegar, to choose, by June 4, either the park route or a specific "feasible and prudent alternative." Gov. Dunn and Sen. Brock have for some time been on record in favor of the park route. The Memphis Press-Scimitar of 5/10/73 quotes Sen. Baker as saying "It is time to find a way to build that highway through that park." Sen. Baker's office has indicated that the Senator's main concern is for a speedy decision, but that he will exert no influence on Sec. Brinegar. Obviously the Secretary cannot be unaware that key political figures in Tennessee support the Park route. We hope he also hears from citizens to help him come up with a "prudent and feasible" alternative.

7. DISASTROUS WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS AND THEIR PREVENTION

A. Duck River dams

Construction at the Normandy site is now continuing, after a delay caused by a strike of the workers; but the plaintiffs in the environmental suit against TVA plan to file a motion for preliminary injunction in the near future.

B. America's Rivers have new champion

The American Rivers Conservation Council (ARCC) was formed 2 months ago for the purpose of promoting the protection of wild and scenic rivers. ARCC will act as a national clearinghouse for pertinent information of all kinds (including action alerts), and will be directly involved in legislative action for river preservation. Brent Blackwelder, EPC's active water-resource person, is chairman of the executive committee, and ARCC's mailing address is 324 C St., S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003. None of the big national environmental organizations have heretofore taken on river preservation as anything but a piecemeal job. We therefore feel ARCC can perform a vital national function. The Council will need broad-based support: basic dues (including Newsletter) are \$5 (larger contributions welcome, of course).

Incidentally, ARCC would like to get in touch with anyone actively monitoring public notices mailed by Division Offices of the Corps. Blackwelder points out that the Corps is presenting real options in project planning, and hopes conservationists can get involved in early stages.

C. "Disasters in Water Development" includes Duck River project

A brochure, published jointly by virtually all the major national environmental groups, and prepared by EPC's Brent Blackwelder, describes the 13 most destructive and wasteful dam, canal, and channelization projects in the United States. The price tag for the 13 projects (which lie in 14 states) exceeds \$5 billion and is likely to surpass \$10 billion. Among these national disasters is TVA's Duck R. project (Normandy and Columbia dams). If conservationists throughout the nation will urge their Senators and Congressmen not to fund the 13 wasteful "disasters," we should be able to break away from the old pork-barrel approach of "you don't criticize my project and I won't criticize yours." Copies of the brochure are available from the editor on request. We hope you'll get one and take action.

D. Hearings on Water Commission report

The draft report (see NL #54, Item 6), which recommended new bases for project evaluation, will be the subject of a series of hearings by the Water & Power Subcommittee of the Senate Interior Committee (Sen. Frank Church, chairman), as follows: June 28, National Water Commission; July 17, Water Resources Council; after August recess, non-government witness. To testify, write the Subcommittee, Senate Office Bldg., D.C. 20510, Attn.: Dan Dreyfus.

E. Flood losses -- will they ever stop

As we are writing this NEWSLETTER, some new floods are evidently in the making (the second set this year) and some new proposals for structural controls will undoubtedly result. Since passage of the Flood Control Act of 1936, over \$7 billion have been spent on flood control measures, yet floods now cost the nation \$1 billion/year -- twice the 1936 figure -- and are expected to jump to \$5^{billion}/year by 2020. Projects are more and more being promoted on the grounds of enhancing development on flood plains.

We recommend two excellent articles on the subject: (a) "Flood Losses -- Will They Ever Stop?" by Johns Hopkins' Prof. Steve H. Hanke, J. of Soil and Water Conservation, Vol. 27, No. 6, pp. 242-243 (Nov-Dec '72); (b) "A Plan to Use Our Floods, Not Fight

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* Them," by James Nathan Miller, The Reader's Digest, March 1973. Both articles are available from us on request. You may also be amused by Oliver Houck's conversation with the mythical General Dredge (NWF Conservation News, Vol. 38, No. 8, 4/15/73). The General has just discovered that, in spite of more flood losses than ever, his projects were still basically sound: they were just serving a different purpose -- flood enhancement! "Where we hold the water back, it's flood control; where we move it to where people are sure to be, it's flood enhancement. This gives us real flexibility."

* Incidentally: S.1582 (Case) would de-authorize Corps projects that have not been funded for 8 years. The Public Works Committee should act on this.

8. HOLSTON VALLEY CHAPTER NEWS

A. Board of Directors Meetings

These are now regularly scheduled for the third Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held at the home of Don Kreh at 7:00 p.m., June 18. All members are invited to attend at any time.

B. Pot Luck Supper

The May 20 supper and program were attended by 37 members and guests. Those not attending missed a terrific meal and a good program.

C. Recent activities

The Chapter was represented at the stripmine hearings in Nashville, April 17, and presented oral comments. Subsequently, legislators were contacted about pending bills. -- Written testimony was presented for the record of the Obed hearings 5/24 and 5/25/73. -- The Chapter has submitted a detailed written response to the USFS South Holston Unit Plan. -- On June 2 the Chapter organized a hike to the Kimberly Clark tract in Unicoi County. Efforts are underway to have this land purchased by the USFS (see NL #54, Item 10.D).

9. NORTH RIDGE TRAIL: STATE DESIGNATION TOO!

Only two months after TCWP's North Ridge Trail officially became a National Recreation Trail, Conservation Commissioner Hinton designated it also as a State Recreation Trail. In a letter of May 11 to Oak Ridge Mayor Bissell, Mr. Hinton writes "the standards that merit a trail's inclusion in the system are high and you can look with pride at your trail's selection."

In view of the fact that several complaints of motorcycle use of the North Ridge Trail have been received, the following facts should be known: (a) state trails are barred to motorized vehicles, except where life or health is at risk; and (b) prosecution may be initiated by any private citizen who witnesses a violation.

10. NATIONAL ISSUES

A. Land-use legislation

* The Senate Interior Committee on 5/22 favorably reported Jackson's S.268 without sanctions for noncompliance; but Sen. Jackson will offer an amendment that would add this feature when the bill gets to the floor of the Senate (probably mid-June). We urge you to write to your Senators (copy to Sen. Jackson) pointing out that, without sanctions, the bill has no teeth. S.268 authorizes grants to the states for developing and planning land-use programs. The bill gives the federal government authority to specify "areas of critical concern." The states are given 3 years to inventory land areas and develop plans. In the House, Rep. Saylor has introduced H.R. 6460 which reflects most elements of land-use planning sought by environmentalists.

B. Timber in National Forests again threatened

On 3/26, the Nixon Administration announced an order to increase logging in national forests by almost 10% (to 11.8 billion board feet this year). Brock Evans, Sierra Club, documented examples showing that allowable cut is already too high and that errors as high as 40% have been made in estimating land available for commercial timber harvest. Others have estimated that National forests are presently being logged twice as fast as can be sustained. Evans also showed that billions of board feet (to be limited to 2.5 billion if a recent Stevenson amendment is passed) are exported, much of it to Japan, which has stopped cutting its own virgin forests; and he asked for letters to the President urging him to rescind the increased timber cutting order. In the meantime, the order has been translated into USFS instructions for more clearcutting and for less environmental concerns and long-range planning -- On 5/16, Sen. Sparkman managed to slip through, without hearings, a new national timber supply bill, H.R. 1775, for further consideration by the Senate Agricultural Committee. The bill calls for increased timber yields and lacks environmental safeguards. Environmentalists are urging the members of this Committee to kill S.1775.

C. Alaska pipeline

Following the court decision against the pipeline on the grounds that the required right-of-way would violate the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act's 50-foot width limitation, a number of bills were introduced to "remedy" the situation. The Senate Interior Committee has ordered reported Jackson's S.1081, a general federal land right-of-way legislation which conservationists have described as a "blank check" to the Sec. of Interior, since it grants broad discretionary powers to allow rights-of-way across federal land for just about any purpose. In the meantime, Sen. Mondale and others are preparing amendments that would delay action on the Alaska line until after an NSF study of the Canadian route. The Canadian route would not require a new corridor since it would accompany an already planned gas-line; and it would bring the oil to the area of greatest demand (Midwest and East). The decision will undoubtedly be made on the floor of the Senate (probably during the second week in June), and your Senators should know what your feelings are on this matter.

D. New leadership in federal agencies

A USDI re-organization shifts the BOR to report to Nat Reed, Asst. Sec. for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. -- When Ruckelshouse went to FBI, his former deputy, Robert W. Fri took over temporarily as EPA Administrator, with John R. Quarles, Jr. moving into the deputy slot. [Incidentally, EPA has just issued a new booklet, "Clean Air - It's up to you, too." March 1973, 30 pp.]

E. Energy Policy

"In its emphasis on increasing supply rather than curbing demand, President Nixon's April 18 energy message is a disappointment," according to Audubon staff economist Robert K. Davis, whose sentiments resemble those of most other environmentalists who have been quoted on the subject. "Mr. Nixon gives industry about everything it wants," said Davis (referring to the Alaska pipeline, oil shale, off-shore oil).

In May 1972, the Ford Foundation announced formation of the Energy Policy Project (EPP) to make a comprehensive analysis of national energy policy problems. EPP Reports Nos. 1, 2, and 3 are in our files. A final report will not be issued for many months.

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11. STATE LEGISLATURE: SESSION ENDS

On May 4, ^{the} Tennessee Legislature adjourned for the year. For what it did (or, rather, did not do) with the citizens stripmine bill, see Item 3A. (Note: it also failed to pass Bissell's 1¢ addition to the severance tax.) -- On another front, the General Assembly passed an act designating 18 areas for the Natural Areas system (see NL #54, Item 1B). These are the 16 presented at our January Intergroup Conference, plus Morril Cave and Radnor Lake. The Dept. of Conservation wants suggestions for further natural areas to be considered for later addition. Please let us know your ideas and we shall transmit them. -- Also enacted was a bill enabling state and local governments to acquire scenic easements to property that is adjacent to or has a visual, audible, or atmospheric effect on significant natural or historic places. Eminent domain may not be used. -- H.B. 138 (NL #54, Item 1D) was passed.

12. CALENDAR

- June 4 - Tenn. Div. Water Qual. Control hearing on fed. requirements, priority lists, 9 a.m., U.T. Nashville (615, 741-2275)
- June 4 - State meeting with conservation representatives re Eastern Wilderness bill (see Item 5a, this NL)
- June 8,9,10 - School of River Canoeing, Hiwassee River. Chota Canoe Club and ETWWC (call Richard Navarre, Knoxville 584-5313)
- June 9-10 - Nantahala float, TSRA (Preregistration reqd. Bob Pyle, 2534 Hibbits Rd., Nashville 37214, Ph. 883-7410)
- June 11-15 - Buffalo R. Canoe Camp, TVCC (Don Hixson, 1229 O'Henry Drive, Hixson, TN 37343, Ph. Chattanooga 877-9051)
- June 14-17 - Second Natl. Trails Symposium, Colorado Springs (P. O. Box 672, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80901; or call Clarence Streetman, 615, 336-2211)
- June 24-27 - Conf. on Local Environmental Conservation Commissions, The Conserv. Foundation (Chas. Morrison, NY State Dept. of Env'tl Conserv., 50 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY 12201)
- July 7,8 - Nantahala Wildwater Race, Wesser, N.C. (Eliz. Wilson, 415 Wimbledon Rd. NE, Atlanta, Ga 30324)
- July 20,21,22 - TSRA Canoe School, Hiwassee River

D U E S ! ! !

Several of you are still delinquent. Please check the right top corner of your mailing label. If the letter M is followed by only one number, you have not yet paid your 1973 dues. If it is followed by X, you owe for both 1972 and 1973.

Please do not let us down! Some of us are working very hard to protect Tennessee's natural environment.