

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

*Newsletter No. 70, September 8, 1975

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Please note our two enclosures (Smokies and Obed)

1. TCWP ANNUAL MEETING TO BE NOVEMBER 18

Mark the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 18 on your calendar now for the TCWP annual meeting. We shall have a great visual program (possibly the new multi-media Smokies slideshow), luscious refreshments, elections, and reports-plus-plans. More details in our next NEWSLETTER.

2. STRIPMINING: NEW HOPE FEDERALLY, IF WE ACT; STATE NEWS

A. Your help needed in reviving federal bill

When the House Interior Committee meets in a few days, Congr. John Melcher (D., Mont.) will offer an amendment to attach the entire stripmine bill (H.R. 25) to another pending bill, H.R. 6721 (coal leasing legislation). The Senate on 7/31/75 overwhelmingly adopted its version of the coal leasing bill, which, however, attaches only those portions of the stripmine bill that pertain to Federal coal lands. This would not protect those regions of the country (including ours) which have experienced the worst damage. It is therefore imperative for the move in the House committee to succeed. Please wire or phone Rep. Haley, Chmn., Interior Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 and ask him to attach the vetoed stripmine bill to H.R. 6721. -- Also, if you have not yet done so, thank Reps. Lloyd, Ford, and Fulton (now mayor of Nashville) for voting right 3 times out of 3 (March, May, June) on the stripmine bill. All other Tenn. Congressmen were wrong (or not voting) 3 times. -- It has now become obvious that data documenting the veto message's job- and tonnage-loss figures do not exist.

B. State stripmine regulations

Issuance of the new regulations (following the 6/24/75 hearing) may await resolution of a controversy over applicability of the new Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. As reported earlier (NL #69, ¶5.B), the new rules will probably contain provisions for high-wall elimination and for a 50-ft limitation on spoil, as advocated by conservation groups. In the meantime, the 1974 regulations (which contain these same provisions) remain in effect.

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C. AMAX projected stripping

The AMAX Co. is designing a 20-year project for Sequatchie, Bledsoe, and possibly additional Counties which will use "blanket-mining," i.e. mining through streams. Baseline studies by the Water Qual. Control Div. and the Wildlife Resources Agency indicate that the streams to be affected are presently "viable aquatic systems supporting healthy communities of benthos and fish." Say goodbye! -- If AMAX can be stopped, now is the time.

3. SMOKIES: WE NEED TO PUSH CITIZENS' WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

* Enclosed with this NEWSLETTER is the Citizens Wilderness Proposal, distributed by the Gt. Smokies Park Wilderness Advocates, of which TCWP is a member. Please heed the action recommendations in the final section of the brochure. -- When looking at the map, you'll undoubtedly have noticed that the biggest discrepancy between the NPS' and the citizens' Wilderness proposals is in the area north of Fontana Reservoir. This is the acreage originally acquired by TVA and added to the Park under the troublesome 1943 Agreement, which called for a North Shore Road, almost resulted in another transmountain road, and is obviously still haunting wilderness planning. Recently, the signators of the 1943 Agreement have met and developed a proposal for settlement that was presented to Swain County, N.C. in July. The major items of the settlement are: (a) extension of the Blue Ridge Parkway to Deep Creek near Bryson City; (b) construction of a major visitor center at Deep Creek; (c) ending of the North Shore Road somewhere east of Forney Creek; (d) payment of a lump sum of money to Swain County. If Swain County accepts the settlement, this would clear the way for addition of the 44,000 acres to the Wilderness.

4. RIVERS IN TENNESSEE

A. Obed

* We are enclosing an Obed River Factsheet. Please use it to spread information and to gain support for protecting this magnificent resource: show it to a friend, take it to your club, church, place of work, etc. More copies of the fact sheet are available on request, as are more copies of the petition form that was enclosed with the last NEWSLETTER. Get as much expression of support as possible for H.R. 6530 (see last section of factsheet) and communicate this to Congresspersons Marilyn Lloyd and Joe Evins (House Office Bldg., D.C. 20515), and to Senators Bill Brock and Howard Baker (Senate Office Bldg., D.C. 20510).

The Geodyne (stripmine) Corp. -- infamous for its anti-Obed ads in Crossville and Wartburg papers, and for helping circulate an anti-Obed petition (see NL #69, ¶1) -- had, as you may recall, been stripmining on Clear Creek. When its water discharge permit was revoked for noncompliance with the approved mining plan, Geodyne appealed. However, its attorneys failed to show up at the set hearing Sept. 2, and again on Sept. 8. Geodyne has thus been found in default.

B. Big South Fork

* Lee Russell presented oral and written testimony for TCWP 7/29/75 at a Huntsville hearing on the initiation of the pollution abatement study for the New River (one of the two major stems of the Big S. Fork). Our testimony (available on request) pointed out that virtually all of the pollution results from present as well as past stripmining in the watershed and should be stopped at the source. We suggested a number of concrete ways of doing so and opposed the use of impoundments to "control" siltation. The TCWP testimony also urged the Corps not to allow the New River study to distract it from speedy implementation of the BSF Area. Col. Hatch, Chief of the Corps' Nashville District did a superb job at controlling several attempts at rabble-raising by stripmine elements in the audience. We were also glad to hear him refer to the scepter of a New River Dam as a "non-problem." -- Earlier in the day, Col. Hatch and staff of the Nashville office much enjoyed a BSF canoe trip from Leatherwood to John Smith's Place organized by TCWP and TSRA members (Russells and Guinns).

Col. Hatch has indicated to us that the BSF conceptual plan the Corps has in the works is in close concert with the development plan proposed by the Big S. Fork Preservation Coalition May 30 (see NL #69, ¶7). The Corps' plan will be presented in draft form to Coalition representatives in the near future. The Rugby Restoration Association has asked the Corps to consider reconstruction of the Tabard Inn at Rugby as one of the two lodges called for in the Act. TCWP supports this recommendation, as it would (a) give a needed economic stimulus to Rugby, and (b) obviate the need for a lodge intrusion within the Tennessee portion of the BSF Area. You may wish to express yourself on this subject to Mr. Jim Spear, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1070, Nashville 37202, with a copy to Sen. H. H. Baker, Jr., Senate Office Bldg., D.C. 20510.

A firm commissioned by the Corps to study the feasibility of restoring the Blue Heron Mine in the Kentucky portion of the BSF Area, is soliciting answers to a questionnaire (available from us on request) as part of an attitude survey. The BSF Preservation Coalition feels that, with limited funds available, first priority should be given to land acquisition rather than to tourist-oriented development. -- If you have not done so already, please urge Sen. Baker to work for enough funds to acquire the entire 125,000-acre Area, with a start to be made as soon as possible.

C. Little Tennessee.-- TVA may seek an exemption from the Endangered Species Act to complete the Tellico Dam. This would mean certain destruction of the snail darter. For information, contact Don Cohen (U.T., Knoxville), 615, 974-4131.

D. Potential additions to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System

BOR has contracted with two consultant firms to conduct river surveys in two physiographic provinces (Appalachian Plateaus and Blue Ridge). The data will be used to identify rivers that may be proposed to Congress as potential additions to a "basic or minimum" National System. Any stream in which you have a particular interest or special knowledge should be brought to the attention of Margaret Tucker, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, SE Region, 148 Cain Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, with a request to forward it to the appropriate consultant.

5. OTHER WATER RESOURCE NEWS AND ACTION CALLS

A. Battle to preserve the Red River Gorge (Kentucky)

Russell Peterson, Chmn. of CEQ (Council on Envtl. Qual.), on May 5 stated unequivocally that, in CEQ's view, the Corps' final Envtl. Impact Statement (EIS) fails to meet the requirements of NEPA. At a recent court hearing, a number of groups and individuals cited the inadequacies of the EIS and requested a preliminary injunction against the dam. Publication of a GAO (General Accounting Office) investigation of the Corps' benefit/cost analysis is expected momentarily and will probably be highly critical. -- In spite of all this, the House voted \$1.5 million for the dam in June. There's still a chance to stop appropriations in the Senate or the conference committee. Letters should be sent to Senators Baker and Brock and to Congressman Evins.

B. Corps' Dredge-and-Fill regulations; Your comments needed

Regulations published 7/25/75 expand the Corps' jurisdiction over disposal of dredge and fill material to protect most wetlands. The formerly existing permit procedures for such operations, which were applicable only to traditional navigable waters, will be extended in a three-phase program over the next 2 years to include, first (as of 7/25/75), adjacent wetlands; then (7/1/76) primary tributaries, natural lakes over 5 acres, and adjacent wetlands; and finally (7/1/77) other waters up to the headwaters. There is, however, still a danger that these good regulations may be changed if adverse comment is received during hearings scheduled Sept. 10 - Sept. 25 in four states. Environmentalists must be heard from in support of strong regulatory protection of wetlands. This is particularly important in view of the fact that, earlier this year, "scare" publicity by the Corps (see NL #69, ¶10) had caused many to believe that the regulations would be extended to the point of absurdity (e.g. to affect small-scale plowing, ditching, etc.). Please send your comments

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* to: Chief of Engineers, Forrestal Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20314, Attn: DAEN-CWO-N, to arrive by Oct. 23. Express your support for the Corps' broad new approach and urge effective implementation to protect wetlands. Suggest the following changes in the published regulations: (a) intermittent streams should be covered mandatorily (instead of discretionarily); (b) there should be no blanket exclusion for agriculture or forestry where major wetland areas would be affected. (c) There should be independent federal review (under EPA guidelines) where permits have been issued at the state or local level.

C. Recent voting record of Tennessee Congressmen on water resources.

Every one of Tennessee's 8 Congressmen voted funding for a Dickey-Lincoln dam impact study. This dam would devastate the wild St. John's River in Maine (the Allegash flows into it). -- The Tennessee record was almost as bad on the vote that resulted in continued funding for the Trinity River Barge Canal (Texas), the largest authorized Corps project in the nation. Congr. Evins, Ford, Jones, Lloyd, and Quillen all voted for this boondoggle. -- Our Congresspersons apparently had a better record on H.R. 5608, a bill that extends until the close of 1983 the period for wetlands acquisition, and increases the maximum of authorized appropriations. Mrs. Lloyd informs us that she voted for this bill, and since it passed 400-to-0, we assume most or all the other Tennesseans did too.

6. NEWS AROUND THE STATE

- Five new members have been appointed to the 15-member Conservation Commission, as follows: Robert Brandt (Nashville), Floyd Freytag (Wartburg), Thomas Gannaway (Kingsport), Frank Lankford (Waverly), and Red Spain (Milan). Bob Brandt is known to many of us as an active conservationist. Other members are Paul Cates (Jefferson City), Billy Chapman (Franklin), Jo Anne Clark (Knoxville), Shirley Duer (Crossville), Dick Empey (Knoxville), Don Faulk (Kingsport), Joe Hooper (Brentwood), Charles Montague (Memphis), Lofton Stuart (Stanton), Ed Williams (Johnson City). Commissioner Allison plans to make active use of the Commission's research and advisory capacity. We urge you to stay in touch with the Commissioners from your own area.
- Two State Natural Areas, May Prairie and Burgess Falls, have been acquired by the state through purchase and donation, respectively. -- The State Scenic Rivers and Trails Programs are continuing to suffer from attrition: no approval even for appraisal contracts!
- The Shelby County Court passed a resolution urging Tennessee senators and representatives legislatively to exempt the Overton Park segment of I-40 from federal environmental laws. This would, of course, be a bad blow to parklands protection in general, and to NEPA. Studies on a slurry-wall tunnel and a cut-and-cover tunnel through Overton are underway. Citizens, however, contend that road location has not been legally established, so why spend public funds on road method?

7. TVA NEWS

- Confirmation hearings on Pres. Ford's nomination of James F. Hooper to the TVA Board were to be held by the Senate Public Works Committee July 22 and 23. They have been postponed for an indefinite period to permit investigation of disclosures about Mr. Hooper's financial affairs. Rep. Marilyn Lloyd has joined some others (Duncan, Brock) on the Tennessee Congressional delegation in expressing doubts about the nomination. Sen. Baker, as the
- * ranking Republican on the Public Works Committee, should hear from you on the subject.
- TVA has withdrawn its name from the list of possible purchasers of Peabody Coal Company. Much opposition to this potential purchase had been expressed at Senate hearings in May (see NL #69, ¶3A).
- Last month, TVA issued a draft environmental impact statement on electric rate policies ("Policies Relating to Electric Power Rates," available for public comment from TVA, Knoxville). The draft EIS is said to analyze alternative rate concepts that have been suggested to serve various purposes, such as peak load pricing, disincentive rates, and lifeline rates.
- TVA has stated that it cannot meet air quality compliance schedules at its Bull Run, Gallatin, and New Johnsonville plants. Both the State of Tennessee and EPA feel that

TVA can improve on its revised Bull Run schedule. (Incidentally, did you remember that May 31, 1975 was the day our country's air was to have been clean? That was the intention of the 1970 Clean Air Act! Actually less than 35% of the nation's air quality control regions are expected to meet standards.)

- The Tenn. Env'tl. Council (TEC) has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Office of Environmental Education to conduct a study and forum on "TVA's Resource Management Policy and the Environment." Several regional meetings are planned.

8. FEDERAL CAPSULES

- On 7/15/75, the House Interior Committee killed H.R. 3510, the Land Use bill, by 19:23. Since the bill would probably have had a chance if it had reached the Floor of this year's more liberal House, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and development interests concentrated their tremendous pressures on the Committee's rural conservative members.
- Stanley K. Hathaway, the much-opposed Interior Secretary who took office June 13, resigned in mid-July. As of this writing, there are only speculations concerning a possible successor.
- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) takeover of three wildlife ranges (NL #68, #14.B, NL #69, #12.C) has been blocked through (a) a preliminary injunction that may become a permanent one; and (b) a House Appropriations Committee directive to the Interior Secretary not to make the transfer unless appropriate legislation is enacted. H.R. 5512, which, more generally, forbids disposal of any unit of the National Wildlife System without Act of Congress, will probably get to the House Floor in September. Contact your Congressperson.
- The Forest Range and Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 requires the Forest Service (USFS) to develop long-range plans. On August 15, the USFS released a draft document (Assessment, Program, and Summary) outlining management options for National Forests through the year 2020. These range from heavy to light use in each activity. The timber industry is already pressing for maximum timber cutting. It is important for us to express our views also. You can obtain the draft document from and comment in writing to: Chief, Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, D.C. 20250. Comments must be in by 10/15/75. Or, you may wish to attend one of the hearings closest to us, namely, Atlanta, Sept. 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Georgia Power Co., 270 Peachtree St. NW), or Memphis, Sept. 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Hilton Inn, Airport). [P.S. We have one copy of the USFS draft document available for loan.--We also have the final EIS on the Upper Hiwassee Unit Plan which, sorry to say, we didn't find time to comment on when it was in draft. We do need help!]
- Pesticide controls are being threatened by a number of proposed amendments to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Although the House Agriculture Committee last week defeated a proposal to give USDA veto powers over EPA pesticide control (thus restoring USDA's former position of power in the field), it decided to permit self-certification of farmers in lieu of the presently required state training and certification in the use of restricted pesticides. A tough floor fight is in the offing on these and other amendments. Let your Congressperson know that FIFRA should be left intact. [Did you know, e.g., that 80% of Louisiana's pelicans have died in recent months from lethal concentrations of endrin etc.? Agricultural chemicals washing into the Mississippi have been suggested as the cause.]
- The Tennessee Congressman with the best environmental voting record, Richard Fulton, is now mayor of Nashville. We'll miss him in Washington!

9. WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBYISTS NEED SUPPORT

The only public interest lobbyists in Washington who concentrate on stripmine problems, land-use planning, and water resources work for the Environmental Policy Center. The only lobbyists who specialize in preservation of natural free-flowing rivers work for the American Rivers Conservation Council. Both these organizations are vital to our work. Both aren't going to make it if they don't get small, fairly regular, contributions from a lot of people. Can you help? Both are at 324 C Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

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10. PUBLICATIONS

- A booklet containing recommendations for improved funding of non-game wildlife programs can be obtained for \$1 from the Wildlife Management Inst., Suite 709, 1000 Vermont Ave., N.W., D.C. 20005.
- A guidebook, to be available early in 1976, will describe two 3,500-mile coast-to-coast bicycle routes (Oregon to D.C.), primarily using existing back roads. Overnight lodgings and repair shops will also be listed. (Write: Bike-centennial '76, P.O. Box 1034, Missoula, MT 59801).
- The Stanford Environmental Law Society (Stanford Law School, Stanford, Calif. 94305) has a series of interesting publications. Examples: "A Handbook for Controlling Local Growth"; "Public Land Management -- A Time for Change" (Chapters on mining laws, timber and grazing management); "A Handbook for Bicycle Activists"; several others.
- "Annual Report" Tennessee Air Pollution Control Division. (From Environmental Health Services Bureau, Dept. of Public Health, Nashville, TN 37219).
- The Power Line," a monthly newsletter by the Environmental Action Foundation will address itself to such issues as rate structure, public power, environmental impacts, etc. (From EAF, 724 Dupont Circle Bldg., D.C. 20036)
- "Environmental Affairs" a multi-disciplinary journal published quarterly by Boston College Law School, Brighton, Mass. 02135. \$18 per year. Special NEPA issue, \$6.
- "Guide to Neighborhood Ecology," designed to encourage those interested in neighborhood conservation to become actively involved in their own communities (\$1, from Center for the Visual Environment, 1525 New Hampshire Ave., D.C. 20036).

11. CALENDAR

- Sept. 19 - USFS hearing, Atlanta (see item 8).
- Sept. 20, Oct. 4, Oct. 18-19, Oct. 25, Nov. 9 - SMHC hikes. (For details, contact Ruth Young, 227 W. Fairview Rd., Oak Ridge).
- Sept. 20 - Sierra Club clean-up hike, Big Creek, Cohutta. (Call Bradley Burns, Chattanooga 698-1057).
- Sept. 20 - EACOM float on Wolf R. (Call Joe Haas, Memphis 683-9831).
- Sept. 20-21 - TERC hike, Reinhardt Knob. (Call Dick Ardell, Kingsport 247-3718).
- Sept. 26 - USFS hearing, Memphis (see item 8).
- Sept. 27 - TVCC float on lower Tellico River -- no whitewater. (Call Newton Calhoun, Chattanooga 894-0020 or 755-2881).
- Oct. 4 - S.E. Intercollegiate Canoe Race, Catawba River, Class II. (Contact Bob Benner, Western Piedmont Community College, Morganton, N.C. 29655).
- Oct. 11-12 - TVCC float, Little Tennessee River -- no whitewater. (Write TVCC, P. O. Box 11125, Chattanooga, TN 37401).
- Oct. 15 - Deadline for comments on Forest Service plan (see item 8).
- Oct. 18 - TTA hike to Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness. (Call Evan Means, Oak Ridge 483-5555).
- Oct. 18-19 - TERC hike, Savage Gulf. (Call Rick Phelps, Kingsport 323-4426).
- Oct. 18-19 - TSRA, TERC float and canoe camping Big S. Fork of Cumberland. (Write TSRA, P. O. Box 3104, Nashville, TN 37211).
- Oct. 19 - TVCC float, Tennessee River -- no whitewater. (Call Barbara Bodley, Chattanooga 266-6607).
- Oct. 19-21 - Conference on "Limits to Growth '75," The Woodlands, Texas (Write Limits to Growth '75, S. Shore Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60615).
- Oct. 23 - Deadline for comments on dredge-and-fill regulations (see item 5.B).
- Oct. 25 - TTA fall color hike Frozen Head. (Call Don Todd, Wartburg 615, 346-3113).
- Oct. 25-26 - TVCC float and canoe camping, Big S. Fork of Cumberland. (Call Don Bodley, Chattanooga 266-6607).
- Nov. 8 - TERC hike, Maddron Bald, Smokies. (Write Tenn. Eastman Recr. Club, Kingsport 37662).
- Nov. 8 - TVCC float Chickamauga Creek System -- no whitewater. (Write TVCC, P.O. Box 11125, Chattanooga, TN 37401).
- Nov. 15 - TSRA hike, Savage Gulf. (Write TSRA, P.O. Box 3104, Nashville, TN 37211).
- Nov. 18 - TCWP annual meeting (see item 1).

NL TO insert
OBED RIVER FACTSHEET

Where is the Obed River?

The Obed River and its major tributaries, Clear Creek and Daddys Creek (to be referred to as the Obed System) are in the Cumberland Plateau area of East Tennessee. The rivers flow in a generally easterly direction to join the Emory R., which in turn drains into the Tennessee R. via the Clinch. Counties traversed are Morgan, Cumberland, and a small portion of Fentress. Almost one-third of the shoreline of the Obed System is in the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, owned by the State and administered by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

What makes the Obed System valuable and unique?

The rivers have cut into the plateau to form deep canyons that have, so far, almost totally escaped the impact of civilization. In about 100 river miles, there are fewer than a dozen man-made structures, most of them weekend cabins clustered in one place. The scenery is spectacular. Multihued vertical sandstone bluffs face each other across the clear water. On the river banks, sandy beaches are nestled among house-sized boulders that are covered by lichens and mosses. The streams form a succession of rapids, separated by pools that remain deep and clear even during the driest summer months. Streambank corridors are 90% forested, with upland hardwood stands intermixed with pine and hemlock. Rhododendron, laurel, azalea, and fringe trees bloom along the shores and in the intimate side gorges formed by cascading small tributaries. The vegetation is of an almost unmatched variety. Fish and wildlife populations, almost equally diversified, include several animals on the rare-and-endangered-species list. No other river system in the populated eastern U.S. has remained so unspoiled -- thus far.

Threats to the Obed System

- For decades, dam proposals for the Obed watershed have been studied by the Corps of Engineers and TVA. In 1965, an earlier TVA proposal for the Nemo Dam was revived. Nemo, which was to provide "flood control and recreation," would have inundated the gorges, with water spilling well out over the plateau. Citizen efforts to combat this dam proposal led to the formation of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) which, together with other groups and individuals, have ever since been active in fighting additional threats and in promoting positive means of preserving the river system.
- In 1969 a large stripmine was opened in the gorge of the Obed. More recently, an illegal mining operation commenced on Clear Creek, and permit applications are pending for other parts of the system. While it is true that the coal deposits in the watershed are not of such a magnitude that controlling their extraction would lead to a sizeable economic loss, it is also true that even a few mining operations can do serious damage to the river system.
- A major powerline was planned by TVA to invade the system in two places. As a result of conservationist intervention, TVA took steps to mitigate its effects.
- A large corporation has bought land right down to the banks of the Obed for residential development.
- Private streambank owners include insurance, land, and timber companies. Oil exploration is a distinct possibility.
- As the population grows and as word about the Obed gets around, there is the probability that more accesses would be constructed and the river valleys become overused.

Attempts to protect the Obed System

- The Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act, as first written, included the Obed and its major tributaries. But although the Act as such was passed in 1968, the Obed system was deleted from it as a result of pressure from local proponents of the Nemo Dam. The dam opponents had, however, also made their voices heard, for, shortly afterward, TVA concluded that the dam was unjustifiable.
- Due to the efforts of TCWP, TSRA (Tenn. Scenic Rivers Assn), and the State of Tennessee, the Obed System was included as one of 26 rivers in the study category of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. This meant a temporary moratorium on federal dam building and on state stripmine permits. The study, undertaken by a federal-state task force under the

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leadership of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR), was completed in 1974. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was issued 8/22/74.

Findings and recommendations of the BOR study

The task force found that 100 miles of the Obed system possess "outstandingly remarkable ... values" and recommended inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as authorized by P.L. 90-542. Included would be 34 miles of the Obed, 29.5 miles of Clear Creek, 34.5 miles of Daddys Creek, and 2 miles of the Emory (below the Obed confluence). The uppermost 16.5 miles of Daddys Creek and the 2 miles of Emory would be classified "Scenic;" all the remainder, "Wild" (the highest classification). Of a total of 15,644 acres affected, about 4,000 are already in public ownership (Catoosa); the remainder would be acquired by fee title or scenic easement. The area would consist of a corridor averaging 1,300 ft across (i.e. 217 yds on each side), encompassing the "critical sight line." According to the proposal, no new accesses to the rivers (beyond the existing ten) would be constructed. There would be 4 scenic overlooks from high elevations, 8 primitive picnic areas and a primitive campground near existing accesses, 18 miles of trail, a short scenic drive in the reclaimed stripmine, and visitor centers in Crossville and Wartburg. -- The task force recommended joint federal-state management, with the federal partner being TVA.

A great many organizations and individuals testified at task-force hearings, and subsequently submitted comments on the draft EIS. An overwhelming majority approved of adding the rivers to the National System, endorsed the proposed classification, and agreed with the main features of the development plan. Strong opposition was however expressed to the TVA management role and to the BOR's large estimate of annual carrying capacity. The comments will be incorporated in the final EIS.

The BOR report and EIS are merely administrative recommendations without force of law. Federal legislation is required to add the rivers to the National System; and if the terms of such legislation were to be different from the BOR recommendations, they would supersede them.

Pending legislation: its supporters and opponents

In the spring of 1974, Congresswoman Marilyn Lloyd (D., 3rd Dist.) introduced H.R. 6530 to add the 100 river miles proposed in the BOR study to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. However, contrary to the BOR recommendation, the federal partner in the joint federal-state management would be the National Park Service instead of TVA. In this feature of the bill, Mrs. Lloyd followed the desires of conservation groups, as well as the wish of the State of Tennessee.

Mrs. Lloyd's bill is opposed by some Cumberland County riverbank owners, the County Court, and three Cumberland County organizations. Part of the circulation of an opposing petition was done by employees of a large stripmine company. That company also ran large (and factually false) ads in area newspapers, warning that the bill would spell economic doom for the Cumberlands.

In support of National Wild & Scenic River status for the Obed are well over 30 local, state, and national conservation groups, individuals throughout Tennessee (as expressed in numerous letters and petitions), the Committee on Recreation and Tourism of the Morgan County Court, the County Judge, some major riverbank landowners, the Tennessee Department of Conservation, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Those groups and individuals who wish to see the river system preserved as the natural marvel that it is, will have to work energetically -- and in concert -- to assure passage of Mrs. Lloyd's bill in the House and a similar one in the Senate.

For further information, contact any of the following:

Lee Russell, TCWP, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, Ph. 615, 482-2153
Donald Todd, TCWP, P. O. Box 331, Wartburg, TN 37887, Ph. 615, 346-3113
Dick Creswell, TSRA, Box 3104, Nashville, TN 37219, Ph. 615, 298-2719