

TENNESSEE CITIZEN FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 112, May 29, 1981

1. Keep working to save the Obed and the Land & Water Fund	p. 2
2. An extreme anti-wilderness bill needs to be opposed strongly	p. 3
3. "Mining Supremacy Bill" threatens public lands	p. 3
4. Big South Fork needs your continuing support to head off acreage reduction	p. 3
5. Smokies wilderness problems	p. 4
6. Stripmining: the feds pull out and the state law is weakened	p. 4
A. State's surface mining law is weakened	
B. The good news: change in the Board of Reclamation Review	
C. State enforcement will be very weak	
D. Secretary Watt closes OSM offices	
E. East Tennessee coal users	
7. State capsules	p. 5
A. Litter laws: a bandage on a festering sore -- instead of a cure	
B. Conservation Easement Act will help protect land	
C. Conservation education is replaced by promotion	
D. Study shows inequities in land ownership and taxation	
E. National Trails bill would involve Tennessee	
F. Tennessee and synfuels	
8. River protection and water projects	p. 6
A. Caney Fork study status needs support again	
B. Good Wild & Scenic River Study Guidelines may be affected by freeze	
C. The Ocoee controversy is in the courts	
D. Boondoggles win in budget vote	
E. New study shows Tenn-Tom will cost \$3 billion	
F. Hydropower: more use; less regulation	
9. The Duck River battle is not over	p. 7
10. Watt's happening	p. 8
11. Elsewhere in the Administration	p. 9
CEQ, EPA, YCC, Subcabinet-level appointments	
12. Money and the democratic process	p. 10
13. We thought you'd like to share this	p. 10
14. Publications	p. 11
15. Calendar	p. 11
16. Action Summary	p. 11

Fight back !!

See p.11

1. KEEP WORKING TO SAVE THE OBED AND THE LAND & WATER FUND

Our battle to save the Obed National Wild & Scenic River is fought within a broader context of the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

As we informed you earlier (NL 110 ¶1), Sec. Watt wants to halt land acquisition for parklands that have been authorized by past Congresses -- both recently designated areas and additions to existing ones. Parklands acquisition monies come from the LWCF, derived from offshore oil and gas lease payments to the government, and earmarked for land purchases at a level of up to \$900 million annually (the actually appropriated amounts have generally been lower than that). Watt proposed rescission of the already appropriated (FY 1981) LWCF, as well as a 90% reduction in FY 1982 appropriation. In addition, he is backing a bill, S.910, which would permit the LWCF to be used for developments within existing parks.

Because of TCWP's strong general interest in parklands and specific interest in the Obed, our major activities during the past few weeks have involved this battle. Our executive director, Jenny Freeman, has been to Washington, we have had good media coverage (thanks Jill Bell!), and several of you have had phone calls from us asking your help on this matter. The two legislatively separate items we are currently concerned with are: (a) Watt's FY 1981 rescission request, since this affects all existing Obed acquisition funds (\$1.5 million), and (b) S.910.

(a) The rescission request is being handled as part of a much larger bill, affecting many departments, the "Supplemental Appropriation for FY 1981," which covers a total of over \$700 billion. Within this large package, the administration requested supplementals totaling \$12.7 billion and rescissions totaling \$14.9 billion (including ca \$0.3 billion of LWCF money). The Congress is shuffling individual rescission and supplemental items to come out to roughly the same total. The good news is that the House rejected all of Sec. Watt's request for LWCF rescission (\$250 million for park acquisition, \$35 million for urban parks, \$8 million for historic preservation). The Senate appears to have rejected about half of his rescission requests. A conference committee will probably meet on June 2 to work out differences for the entire package (of which the LWCF is, as shown above, only a small part). Hopefully we'll end up with at least one-half of the already appropriated LWCF intact. How the deficit (if there is any) then gets apportioned is presumably up to Mr. Watt. Our strong support for the Obed will obviously be important.

(b) The fate of S.910 is not yet decided. The House Interior Committee has gone on record opposing the legislation and does not plan to hold hearings. The Senate Energy Committee's subcommittee on Public Lands held hearings at the end of April. Jenny testified, as did several other conservationists from other states. In her subsequent visits to offices of the Tennessee delegation, she encountered potentially good support for the Obed: almost every-where, she was told that a lot of pro-Obed mail was coming in.

* WHAT YOU CAN DO

(1) Continue writing about the Obed: to your Rep. (House Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20515), both Senators (Sen. Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20510), and to Sec. James Watt (U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Wash. DC 20240). If you've written to only one of these before, send similar letters to the others. Even postcards will do. Some things to mention: the Obed is one of only 3 National Wild & Scenic Rivers in the southeast, and the only one under USDI; it is a valuable and unique resource that must be protected; it was authorized 5 years ago and implementation was in progress when Watt froze funds; the sum needed (\$1.5 million in already appropriated funds) is small indeed and will accomplish over half the total acquisition.

(2) Write about the LWCF in general and why the nation needs to add to its parklands. Land unprotected now is likely to be degraded, and even if it isn't, will just cost more in the future. -- Another Tennessee example, besides the Obed, is the Appalachian Trail: one-third of the acreages needed for trail protection could be purchased next year if LWCF money again became available. Send your letters to Senators Malcolm Wallop, Dale Bumpers, J. McClure, and Henry Jackson, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (Sen. Off. Bldg, Wash. DC 20510).

2. AN EXTREME ANTI-WILDERNESS BILL NEEDS TO BE OPPOSED STRONGLY

The most extreme anti-wilderness bill yet, S.842 (Hayakawa), has powerful co-sponsors, among them Sen. Energy Comm. and Agriculture Comm. chairmen. A House companion bill, HR.3358, was introduced by Rep. Hendon (R., N.C.). As you may recall, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), in its 1979 roadless area (RARE-II) review, recommended 36, 15, and 11 million acres for non-wilderness, wilderness, and further planning, respectively. Under the terms of S.842, all areas that were recommended for further planning under *the* RARE-II process, or designated "wilderness study areas" by previous Congresses, would be immediately released forever from wilderness consideration. S.842 requires that any area recommended for wilderness under RARE II would have to be so designated by the Congress by the end of 1984 if in the West, and by the end of 1982 if in the East! Anyone who knows how slowly Congress acts on wilderness bills, and how easy it is to tie up the legislative process, will realize that most of the 15 million acres would be lost by default (they would become permanent "non-wilderness"). Finally S.842 would prohibit the USFS from ever again reviewing its lands in search of further areas suitable for wilderness designation; and it would forbid use by the USFS of any management practices intended to protect the wilderness suitability of any lands.

Powerful members of the Senate majority, the Reagan Administration, and the timber industry are pushing this bill, which has already had hearings in one Senate subcommittee (other hearings are probably still to come). It needs our strong opposition. TCWP as an organization has written to Senators Baker and Sasser, but our Senators need to hear from many of you individually (Senate Office Bldg. Wash. DC 20510). Several areas would be affected in Tennessee, e.g., Bald River Gorge (recommended for wilderness by RARE II), Little Frog Mtn, Unaka Mtn., and Pond Mtn ("further planning" under RARE II), Citico Creek and Big Frog Mtn. (wilderness-study areas designated earlier). Ask your Senators to oppose S.842, the Hayakawa-Helms Anti-Wilderness Bill -- or any other bill like it. Remind them that, last year, Congress developed a successful compromise formula for dealing with the wilderness issue on a state-by-state basis.

3. "MINING SUPREMACY BILL" THREATENS PUBLIC LANDS


This one competes with the anti-wilderness bill (1T2, this NL) for worst bill of the year. Rep. Santini's HR.3364 would (a) give Sec. Watt the absolute authority to grant the mining industry access to any national park, wilderness area, wildlife refuge, etc; (b) name mining as the "dominant use" of most public lands; (c) allow industry to name areas to which it wants mining access anywhere on the public lands; (d) extend from 1984 to 1994 the deadline beyond which no more mining claims can be staked in existing national-forest wilderness areas. Undoubtedly, willing sponsors of a companion bill in the Senate will be forthcoming soon.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask your U.S. Representative to kill this dangerous bill (House Office Bldg, Wash. DC 20515). Request a copy of HR.3364; after you've read it, you might be moved to write to your Congressman again. Write a "letter to the editor."

4. BIG SOUTH FORK NEEDS YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT

A. Letters needed to head off acreage reduction

Because the Corps of Engineers was instructed by OMB to generate options for reducing the total cost of the project (NL 111 I2A), it is very important for us to have an input into the alternative plans being generated. We must urge that there be no reduction in the acreage, and that, if savings are really needed, these could instead be achieved by reducing or postponing some of the developments in the Area. Land not acquired now is likely to be irreversibly damaged, while developments not undertaken now can always be added later. Write about this to Sen. Howard H. Baker, Jr. (Senate Off. Bldg., Wash. DC 20510) -- and also thank him for his past support. Send a copy to Col. Lee W. Tucker, Chief, Nashville Distr., Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 1070, Nashville 37202.

 B. A new Leatherwood Ford bridge will be built, and 18 miles of the road will be upgraded to 2-lane with shoulders. Low bid for this project was \$7.8 million. The new Leatherwood Bridge, high above the river and 628 ft long, will be 100 yards upstream from the old one, which is being retained for pedestrian use. A second bridge, 55 ft long, will be constructed across,

OVER

Bandy Creek, west of the BSF. Senators Baker and Cooper will attend a ground-breaking ceremony June 20.

- C. Questions about Blue Diamond Coal Co.'s coalwashing facility near the company's Stearn's mine were asked at a recent stockholders meeting by a coalition that is attempting to force Blue Diamond into public disclosure of management policies. According to a coalition member, waste from the \$12-million coal preparation facility will be dumped into Sweetgum Branch, which feeds into the BSF.

5. SMOKIES WILDERNESS PROBLEMS

Elections can make hard-won gains disappear in a hurry. Not only is there a new Sec. of the Interior, but there is also a new Congressman representing the citizens of Bryson City and Swain County, N.C. (Wm. Hendon, R., defeated Lamar Gudger, D.), whose demands have for years held up wilderness designation for the Gt. Smoky Mtn. National Park. This is how things looked by the end of 1980: Sec. Andrus had negotiated a monetary payment to Swain County, in return for the county dropping demands for completion of a highly destructive Bryson City - Fontana road in the Park north of the lake. (Note that there is now a good road south of the lake.) A bill embodying this compromise, introduced by Rep. Gudger, passed the U.S. Senate late in 1980 (NL 109 ¶10). In addition, the National Park Service's general management plan, drafted during the Carter Administration, called for the management of 466,000 acres as Type-1 Natural Area (essentially, wilderness). Sen. Sasser had in 1977 introduced a bill to designate 475,000 acres as wilderness.

This is how things look now. Some Swain Countians are urging their new Congressman to push for the North Shore Road on the grounds that it will give access to old cemeteries. (In fact, (a) several of the cemeteries would not be reached by the road and (b) Sec. Andrus had made other arrangements for people to visit cemeteries.) The NPS management plan is not a law and is thus subject to the whims of Sec. Watt who has already expressed himself in favor of developments in Parks. Passage of a Smokies Wilderness Act is doubly important, but, in view of the new faces in Congress, may be doubly hard to achieve. [It is particularly discouraging to learn that the key Congressman, Bill Hendon, has just sponsored the most extreme non-wilderness bill ever --see ¶2.] Here in Tennessee, Reps. Duncan and Quillen are key people, as are both Senators Sasser

* and Baker. Keep communicating with them.

6. STRIPMINING: THE FEDS PULL OUT, AND THE STATE LAW IS WEAKENED

A. The State's Surface Mining Law is weakened

The Albright/Robertson bill (NL 111 T3) passed Senate and House on April 6 and 8, respectively, by lopsided votes. This bill, proposed by FACT, substantially weakens our state law at a time when it appears we'll cease to have federal enforcement (see T6D, below). Among other things, the requirement that stripmining activities must be at least 100 ft distant from streams has been deleted: from now on, operators may strip even in the streambed. However, thanks to SOCM lobby efforts, the two worst sections of the bill were defeated prior to passage. One, stating that the state law could not be more stringent than federal law, would, by implication, have repealed 54 parts of the former. The other would have allowed operators to obtain new permits even while in current violation. We are grateful to SOCM for their efforts, and to Rep. Mike Murphy who carried the decisive battles in the House. Other helpful legislators were Reps. John Spence, James McNivney, and Randy McNally, and Sens. Jim White and Carl Koella. One reason this bad bill passed is that the Administration (Dept. of Conservation) presented it as a needed "house-keeping" measure. Among those voting "yes" were Sens. Buzz Elkins, Anna Belle Clement O'Brien, and Victor Ashe.

B. The good news: change in the State Board of Reclamation Review

Last year's stripmine law created a 5-person board which was coal-industry dominated (NL 109 ¶4A). This year, citizen lobbying efforts, led by SOCM, have resulted in passage of an amendment that expands the Board by two members: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture, and (2) an environmentalist.

- C. State enforcement of stripmine laws will be very weak at best, due to severe understaffing and underfunding. The Division of Surface Mining, at last count, was 59 people short of its goal for running a state program. To attract qualified personnel for the positions of inspector and related jobs would require a higher salary level than the state can presently offer.
- D. Secretary Watt closes OSM offices
The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) had 5 regional, 13 district, and 24 field offices. Sec. Watt announced May 21 that he was closing 20 of these 42 offices, including Region II in Knoxville (which regulated 8 states, including Tennessee), and offices in Norris and Crossville. He would set the ceiling of OSM employees, nationwide, at 628, instead of the 1001 authorized. The number of inspectors is being reduced by 60%. Because the states are effectively regulating stripmining, says Watt, practically the only offices needed for OSM are "state liaison offices" in the capitals of 14 coal-producing states. [We urge you to re-read 6A and C, above.] "Instead of excessive and burdensome regulations, we can meet our environmental protection obligations while cutting back on the growth of the federal government," said our Sec. of the Interior. Pres. Reagan's Task Force on Regulatory Relief has flagged the OSM as an agency whose regulations must be rewritten. The Reagan Administration's strategy appears to be to gut the law by weakening OSM's ability to administer it. OSM will become a facilitator of industry interest, instead of a protector of the public interest.
- E. East Tennessee coal users
TVA is paying \$29 - 32 per ton for 2.5 million tons of East Tennessee coal needed by 2 steam-plants. Among operators signing a letter of agreement was Longwa, Inc., recently involved in mining without a permit (NL 108 ¶5A). -- The Koppers Co has announced that the synfuels plant it is proposing to build near Oak Ridge (¶7F, this NL) will use coal primarily from East Tennessee. The very large quantities needed would require an increase in areas affected by mining.

7. STATE CAPSULES

- A. Litter laws: a bandaid on a festering sore -- instead of a cure
Due to the Alexander administration's opposition, the General Assembly failed to pass the container-deposit bill, SB68 (Koella)/HB528 (Cobb), which remains in the Commerce committees of both Houses until next year. Several compromise bills also failed or were not acted on, e.g., one to prohibit non-returnable glass containers (HB 1050, Frensley), and one to prohibit metal beverage containers not primarily of aluminum (SB 113 Koella). Yet, every poll conducted by legislators in their own district shows that a great majority -- in some cases around 80% of the people -- favors a ban on non-returnables. Only a few (5% in some polls) favored a litter tax: yet, that's what the Administration pushed through. The bill, which passed in mid-April, increases the state tax on beer and bottled soft drinks, with revenues generated to be used for a pickup program by workhouse prisoners. "Why tax people to pick up litter, when an economic incentive (bottle bill) could prevent littering?" asked Rep. Cobb. Rep. Frensley noted the many areas where prisoners will not be picking up litter, e.g. parking lots, farmers' fields.--Another bill that passed (SB1147, Ashe) prohibits pull-off tabs on cans.
- B. Conservation Easement Act will help protect land
Tennessee recently became one of the first states to pass legislation (sponsored by Rep. Mike Murphy) that allows landowners to transfer some of their development rights to a public or non-profit organization. in exchange for tax benefits. This should help efforts to protect highly scenic areas or unique habitats. For further info, contact Sam Pearsall (Heritage Program. TN Dept. of Conservation, 2611 West End Ave, Nashville, TN 37203.)
- C. Conservation education is replaced by promotion
The Tenn. Dept. of Conservation's Division of Educational Services has lost its identity through consolidation, and its director (Padgett Kelly) has moved to the Dept. of Education. The magazine TENNESSEE CONSERVATIONIST, if it is allowed to continue at all, will be made to change its focus, reflecting Departmental policies that resulted in the above changes. The new focus is on promotion of state parks and other recreational areas, instead of conservation education.

D. Study shows inequities in landownership and taxation

Fourteen Tennessee counties were among 80 counties in 6 states analyzed in the recently re-released Appalachian Land Ownership Study. The study, funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission, found that, overall, 43% of the land is controlled by corporate or absentee land-owners, 10% by a few large local owners (the 1% who each own more than 250 acres), and 8% by government. The 99% of Appalachian residents who own only 39% of the land, nevertheless pay 80% of the county taxes. Those are the overall figures. In some counties, things are even worse; e.g., in Campbell County, TN (where there's coal), 99% of the population owns only 24% of the land, yet pays 88% of the property taxes; while corporations own 57% of the land, yet pay only 5.7% of the taxes.

E. National Trails bill would involve Tennessee

HR.861 would designate additional National Scenic Trails and would authorize some trail routes for study. If designated, the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail would traverse part of our state, extending from Nashville to Natchez, MS. One of the study trails, the Trail of Tears, would also traverse Tennessee. The bill would, further, provide financial assistance to citizens groups that develop and maintain trails.

F. Tennessee and synfuels

A seven-county area of the eastern Highland Rim (Overton, Putnam, White, DeKalb, Warren, Cannon, Coffee) has enough Chattanooga shale to yield 2.4 billion barrels of oil, according to a study by TN Technical University. The other major synfuels process that could involve our state is coal liquefaction, as proposed by the Koppers Co. Koppers has recently been conducting a number of PR meetings in East Tenn., and claims "general" support. While the proposal is, in fact, being pushed by just about every Tennessee politician, from federal through local, many citizens are worried about the huge increase in Tennessee stripmining that would come about as a result of the Koppers plant. DOE has rejected the Koppers proposal for a \$1 billion loan guarantee, and the company has applied to the Synthetic Fuels Corp (which received 61 proposals at its first deadline).

8. RIVER PROTECTION AND WATER PROJECTS

A. Caney Fork study status needs support again

Last year's national wild and scenic rivers package has been reintroduced as HR.860 (Burton). It contains 3 river segments (in Oregon and Washington) for immediate designation, and 15 river segments (including 11 east of the Mississippi) for study authorization. In the latter group is the "Caney Fork, Tennessee: the main stem from Tenn. State Road 4251 to its head-waters," about 35 miles. As you may recall (NL 107 ¶12, NL 108 ¶14), a similar bill passed the House near the end of the last session of Congress, but was held up in the Senate by Sen. McClure (NL 109 ¶16A). We must therefore re-express our support for this bill, and specifically for the Caney Fork. Please ask your U.S. Rep (House Office Bldg, Wash. DC 20515) to

- * co-sponsor HR.860, and ask Senators Baker and Sasser (Sen. Office Bldg, Wash. DC 20510) to introduce companion bills in the Senate. If you know the Caney Fork, give reasons why it's worthy of protection. Remind our legislators that Caney Fork study status was supported by resolutions passed by the Intergroup Conference (Nov. '80), and by the Tenn. Environmental Council, a coalition of 40 Tennessee organizations.

B. Good Wild & Scenic River Study Guidelines may be affected by Reagan freeze

In his August 1979 Environmental Message, Pres. Carter directed the formulation of revised river-study guidelines. These finally appeared in the Federal Register of 1/28/81 and may thus be artificially included in the Reagan retroactive freeze on "new regulations" (they aren't regs, and they aren't new). Among the good features of the revised guidelines is that they do away with minimum segment length and water flows that heretofore disqualified certain river segments from inclusion in the National System. (For a copy, send \$1 to ARCC, 323 Penn. Ave, SE, Wash. DC 20003).

C. The Ocoee controversy is in the courts

It would take \$26 million to restore the 68-year old Ocoee No. 2 powerhouse and flume, but TVA claims the cost is economically justifiable (even though the project would increase TVA

capacity by only 0.07%). River outfitters and whitewater enthusiasts want the river free-running (i.e., no power generation) for 82 days/year (NL 110 ¶12A). This would mean \$5 million in lost power revenues, according to TVA, which has proposed charging a fee for running the river in order to recover this loss. In March, the Ocoee River Council filed suit in U.S. District Court, seeking a restraining order against any further rebuilding of Ocoee No. 2. The suit cites TVA's future overcapacity, the insignificant contribution that the project would make to TVA's total capacity, and the fact that there were 55,000 recreational visits to the Ocoee in 1980 (indicating that recreational benefits of the river outweigh hydropower benefits). The plaintiffs also charge that the TVA project would restrict their rights to navigation of a public waterway.

D. Boondoggles win in budget vote

On May 11, the Senate voted on an amendment that would have cut \$200 million in the 1982 budget authority for water-resource projects (dams), and would have added this amount to mass transit and education programs. You guessed it: the amendment failed (30:55). Among those who preferred water projects to mass transit were all Senators from Tenn., Kentucky, N.C., Virginia, except Sasser and Huddleston, who were absent.

E. New study shows Tennessee Tombigbee will cost \$3 billion

A new GAO study shows that the southern portion of the route to the Gulf of Mexico would have to be widened to make the Waterway serviceable. This part of the project has never been authorized, and would add \$1 billion to the presently estimated cost of \$2 billion. Pres. Reagan has proposed a \$201 million appropriation for Tenn-Tom in fiscal year 1982.

F. Hydropower: more use; less regulation?

During only the first four months of FY 1981, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) received 572 applications for hydroelectric projects -- more than 15 times as many as in the whole of 1978. All power projects in the nation's rivers (except TVA's) must presently be licensed by the FERC, but the Reagan administration is drafting legislation to exempt projects of less than 15MW. It should be noted that dams capable of producing 15MW can be 200 ft high or higher -- they are not small dams. There should be more control over hydroprojects -- rather than less -- now that there seems to be such a rush to build them. Let your legislators know of your concern

* (The Hon. _____, House or Senate Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20515 or 20510).

9. THE DUCK RIVER BATTLE IS NOT OVER

As we briefly informed you in NL 111 76, the Tenn. Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) ruled against us. This ruling was undoubtedly the result of political pressures, since it was made in the face of the clearest possible evidence (some of it even presented by TVA itself) that Columbia Dam would cause substantial and irreversible damage to water quality. The WQCB ruled

(a) that present WQ standards of the Duck River are not higher than baseline standards, and

(b) that baseline standards would not be violated by the Dam. Consequently, Phase II of the hearing (which would have considered social and economic impacts) will not take place. All our lawyers -- EDF, Frank Fly, Joe McCaleb -- did a superb job, and so did our witnesses. The case could not have been presented any better. The Duck River battle will obviously have to be won in the political arena. An appeal to chancery court could give us more time for this effort. The Congress and the Administration must be told overwhelmingly that the Columbia Dam is a harmful and totally uneconomical project, and that taxpayers' money could be saved by scrapping it. Our own Tennessee delegation must be made to realize that their past unanimous support for this boondoggle is not favored by the majority of their constituents. WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Write a short note to (a) Mr. David Stockman, Dir., Off. of Mgmt. and Budget, Exec. Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20503, (b) both your Senators (Senate Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20510), (c) Your Rep (House Office Bldg., Wash. DC 20515), (d) The Hon. Robert Roe, Chmn. Water Resources Subcommittee, House Public Works Committee (U.S. House of Reps., Wash. DC 20515), (2) Contribute to the Duck River legal fund, which was left \$9000 in the red after the WQCB effort.

10. WATT'S HAPPENINGS

We need no longer look at Sec. Watt's past history to get a clue to his position. His recent words and actions speak for themselves.

A. Watt and budgets

Sec. of Interior James Gaius Watt said that the administration "will use the budget system to be the excuse to make major policy decisions." The USDI Fiscal Year 1982 budget, in fact, demonstrates where his heart lies policy-wise:

- Land & Water Conservation Fund (main source of money for parklands acquisition) cut by 90% for FY 1982; also rescision of FY 1981 funds. See ¶1, this NL for fuller story
- Office of Surface Mining cut 73% for FY 1982; also rescision of \$1.2 million FY 1981 funds.
See T6.D, this NL for other Watt actions on OSM
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cut 25%. Cuts apply mainly to habitat protection and endangered species programs (cut 40%), which are virtually eliminated
- Cooperative Wildlife Research Program (university research and training of professionals) zero-budgeted
- But, funding added for the Animal Control Program, designed to poison predators on public lands which ranchers lease for grazing

B. Watt quotes

- "No federal land is sacred, and all acreage will be considered for possible development of its natural resources"
- To a conference of National Park concessionaires, 3/9/81: "you folks are going to play ... a growing role in the administration of our national parks." "If a personality is giving you a problem, we're going to get rid of the problem or the personality, whichever is faster"
- "I don't like to paddle and I don't like to walk." "There is no way you could get me on an oar-powered raft on that river [The Colorado in The Grand Canyon]."
- Regarding national parks: "I will err on the side of public use versus preservation."
- When asked whether he favored preserving land for future generations: "I do not know how many future generations we can count on before the Lord returns."
- To Western governors: "bring me your water project proposals!"
- "Conservation is not the blind locking-away of huge areas and their resources because of emotional appeals."
- People who work for national environmental and conservation groups are "hired guns."

C. A few Watt actions

- Abolishment of the Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service, which inventoried rivers and trails for possible addition to national systems
- Invitation to Western governors to make a wish list of federal acreage they would like to see turned over to the states. (In response to this request, the City of Jackson, Wyo., has already asked for part of the National Elk Refuge.)
- Legislative proposal to use Land and Water Fund money for parkland development, instead of acquisition.
- Proposal for a public corporation to finance the development of private concessions in the national parks.
- A new policy for Everglade National Park to allow commercial fishing in the park, and to open wilderness trails to air boats.
- Designation of the U.S. Geological Survey as the lead agency in the study of whether the 990,000-acre Wm. O. Douglas Arctic Wildlife Refuge (Alaska) should be opened for oil & gas drilling
- Order to the NPS to supply the history behind the creation of several recently authorized units of the Park System, indicating that he is preparing a "hit list" of de-authorization requests.
- Suspension of USDI efforts to enforce the acreage limitation, without which enforcement large agribusinesses are the beneficiaries of subsidized irrigation water.

- Order to the USFWS that listing of endangered species cease and that the existing list be examined for possible removal of species. [Note that even without this retrogressive step, it is estimated that 500,000 to 2,000,000 species will disappear worldwide by the year 2000, unless current trends in habitat destruction are reversed.]
- Attempt to allow offshore oil drilling in tracts earlier deleted by Sec. Andrus. More recently, publication of intent to suspend regulations banning oil & gas drilling in the Point Reyes and Channel Islands Marine Sanctuaries which are essential habitat for over 30 species of marine mammals, and through which the world's population of gray whales must migrate.

D. _ What they say about Watt

Criticism of the Secretary has come not just from environmentalists but from such conservative publications as the Wall Street Journal and TIME magazine. One particularly telling statement came from Nat Reed, who served as Asst. Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Nixon and Ford. Reed charges that Watt has "broken faith" with the conservation policies of his party, and that he wants to "turn the clock back to the pre-Theodore Roosevelt era, when everyone supposed natural resources were inexhaustible."

11. ELSEWHERE IN THE ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Council on Environmental Quality's budget was cut by 72%. Employees were cut from 49 to 16. CEQ was established to advise the president regarding protection of the environment. It is the only federal agency that looks at long-range problems in a comprehensive way, as well as acting as oversight agency for the Env'tl Impact Statement process. Alan Hill has been nominated as chairman. An interviewer for Friends of the Earth describes him as "not the best prepared of people ... but much more open to the views of environmentalists than his colleagues in the Reagan Administration."
- B. Among EPA programs severely cut or abolished are the following. Noise Control Program: zero-budgeted. Office of Public Awareness: zero-budgeted, which means citizen participation in decision making will be much reduced. Superfund (toxic waste cleanup): for FY 1981 and 1982 combined, \$50 million cut. Research on toxics and water contamination by energy development (e.g., shale or coal mining): zero-budgeted. State grants for the Sec. 208 (non-point-source) water-quality program: zero-budgeted. Some quotes from "Inside EPA-Weekly report" also give an idea of policy changes: "White House staff feels EPA can do much to relax NAAQS (Nat'l. Ambient Air Qual. Standards) administratively ... geared toward easing the burden on industry ..." EPA "plans to suspend all BCT (best conventional technology) effluent standards under the Clean Water Act ..." "EPA has put PSD [prevention of significant deterioration under the Clean Air Act] on hold ..."
- C. The Administration has proposed to terminate the YCC and YACC (Youth and Young-Adult Conservation Corps). Under these programs, young people aged 15-18 and 18-23 years, respectively, have been working for the Interior and Agriculture Departments, TVA, or state and local agencies on conservation-related programs on public lands. Programs include habitat preservation or improvement, trail maintenance, erosion control, etc.

D. The continuing list of subcabinet-level appointments

In NL 111 ¶8 we reported the nominations to several subcabinet positions. The feature common to most of these people appeared to be that they had earlier attacked the laws or principles governing the offices they were now going to head. Here is additional info on some of the people listed in NL 111, and a list of new people. John (not James) B. Crowell, Asst. Sec. of Agric. for Natural Resources and Environment, in charge of the Forest Service, was confirmed 5/20/81 by a vote of 72:25. He thus drew more "no" votes than any Reagan nominee so far (Baker and Sasser both voted "yes"). Crowell was general counsel for Louisiana-Pacific, a major purchaser of federal timber. Robert Burford (not Buford), BLM director, as speaker of the Colorado legislature led the fight to transfer federal lands to the states. Anne Gorsuch who has now been confirmed as EPA Administrator, has prohibited any public speaking by EPA staff until she has re-formulated policy. -- Now for a few new names. C. Ray Arnett, Asst. Sec. of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, is a former petroleum geologist for Atlantic

Richfield (oil). He was director of the Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game under Gov. Reagan, in which job he had a reputation for supporting dam projects and for being against endangered species. Carol E. Dinkins, Asst. Attorney General for Land and Natural Resources, has represented industries fighting air- and water-quality regulations. In her new job, she has al-ready revoked a Carter administration policy by which environmental groups suing the government were given "standing" on the basis of an affidavit (rather than having to prove pecuniary interest in the issue).

12. MONEY AND THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Political action committees from industries interested in weakening the Clean Air Act (steel, forest products, chemical etc.) contributed over \$1 million to candidates in the 1980 election, including \$540,500 from corporations that are in violation of the Act. Research by Common Cause shows that candidates who had in the past voted to weaken the Act received 15 times more money than did others. Sen. Abdnor, who defeated McGovern, was given \$185,239.

Environmental Action's new Filthy Five -- corporations that have repeatedly violated environmental laws and make heavy campaign contributions -- also pumped over \$1 million into the 1980 election. The 6 top recipients, who received from \$10,000 to \$20,000 each, had an average LCV (League of Conservation Voters) score of 18, while the men they defeated (Sens. Culver, Nelson, Bayh, Church, McGovern) had an average LCV score of 75.

Re-districting resulting from the 1980 census may lead to the loss of some of the nation's most pro-environment Representatives. In the list of the 20 most vulnerable legislators (from districts that had population losses ranging from 12.8 to 48.9%) -- all Democrats -- none has an LCV score lower than 70. Wealthy, and politically active, corporations are contributing to the political groups that are working through state legislatures to eliminate the districts of these Representatives.

And finally, there's voter opinion on issues. Watch for pleasant and reasonable-sounding "educational" material, such as the Shell Answer Series, little 8-page brochures that gets inserted into newsstand magazines. The one on "Energy Independence" has such statements as: "Most experts think that they [public lands] may contain huge reserves [of oil and gas]... If we aren't allowed to develop them, America will not reduce its overdependence on foreign oil." And, "governmental regulations are preventing many of our richest coal deposits from being developed as fast as they could" etc.

- * What can you do? Inform yourself. Inform others (e.g. by writing letters to the paper about the political influence of polluting industries). Work for political candidates who are decent, and who will go to bat for what you believe in. Donate early to groups that will support such candidates financially, e.g., LCV League of Conservation Voters, 317 Penn. Ave, SE, Wash. DC 20003.

13. _WE THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE THIS

Sen. Robert Stafford writes in SIERRA: "Environmentalists should no more be defensive about environmental laws than Americans should be defensive about America. Those laws protect the qualities of our nation that are most precious to its people ... Environmentalists must once again speak with the pride that comes from a tradition of protecting people and protecting America."

- Joseph Sax, writing in "Mountains Without Handrails" about peak developments that proponents say are needed to give opportunities for the elderly and the infirm: "One does not provide such an opportunity ... by building a highway to the top of a mountain. Rather we can assure that the places that are accessible to them are not so deprived of their natural qualities as to put such an experience beyond their reach."
- Japan proves that phenomenal economic growth can be achieved despite tough environmental regulations. Japanese industry is required to adopt the best control technology available in the world. Local governments usually set even stricter standards than those adopted nationally. Factories are subject to unannounced inspections and shut-downs for violations. Tokyo's air

is far cleaner today than it was 10 years ago. There is a great emphasis on recycling waste materials and eliminating waste. Those who blame the woes of American industry on environmental "overregulation" should take a look at Japan.

14. PUBLICATIONS

- "Contamination of Ground Water by Toxic Organic Chemicals," one of the last reports of the Carter CEQ, will hopefully provide some impetus to develop programs for the monitoring and protection of our vital ground water resources. (US Govt. Printing Off.: 1981 - 336-343/8284)
- "How Many More Lakes Have to Die?" from CANADA TODAY, Feb. 1981, is a 12-page article full of documentation on how U.S. smokestack emissions make acid rain in Canada. (Write Canadian Embassy, 1771 N Street NW, Rm. 300, Wash. DC 20036)
- "A Guide to Wildflowers of the Mid-South," by Arlo I. Smith (leader of the Overton Park fight), gives some fascinating info about interrelationships between plants and their changing environment (\$19.95 from Memphis State Univ. Press, Memphis, TN 38152)
- "Sharing Nature with Children," by J. B. Cornell, introduces 42 activities and games designed to teach nature awareness (\$4.95 + 1.25 postage from Ananda Public., 14618 Tyler Foote Rd., Nevada City, CA 95959)

15. CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| June-Sept | River trips throughout the country organized by the Amer. Rivers Conservation Council. Outfitters contribute a small portion of trip receipts to ARCC to help in river-protection efforts (Write ARCC, 323 Penn. Ave, SE, Wash. DC 20003) |
| July 14-16 | 2nd Forum on the Future of Appalachia, Lincoln Memorial Univ., Harrogate, TN (Contact the Commission on Religion in Appalachia, Knoxville 584-6133) |
| Sept. 26-27 | Conference on Chemicals in the Environment, organized by the Tennessee Toxics Program under Betsy Loyless, Scarrett College, Nashville. |

Editorial



LET'S FIGHT BACK!

Times are bad. We're having to fight official policy, smart administration strategies that minimize the chance for public input, piles of money poured into the political process. Our fight for what we believe in has also become a fight for democracy itself. Less than ever can we afford to hide our head in the sand.

Some of us have resolved to take one action a day -- write a postcard, make a phonecall, alert a friend. Can you at least take a couple of actions per week? (This should take you through most of the items listed in the Action Summary, p. 12, by the time the next NEWSLETTER comes around.)

16. ACTION SUMMARY

¶ No.	Issue	Contact	"Message" or Action
1	Obed	U.S. Rep and Sens.; Watt	"Complete the project!"
1	LWCF	Sens. Wallop, Bumpers, McClure, Jackson	"We need parklands acquisition!"
2	Wilderness	U.S. Senators	"Oppose S.842, the anti-wilderness bill!"
3	Public lands	U.S. Rep	"Kill HR.3364 on mining supremacy!"
4A	Big S. Fork NRRA	Sen. Baker, cc to Corps	"Do not decrease acreage!"
5	Smokies	Duncan, Quillen, both Sens.	"Support Smokies' wilderness"
8A	Caney Fork	U.S. Rep and Sens.	"Support HR.860"
8F	Hydropower dams	U.S. Rep and Sens.	"Do not de-control!"
9	Columbia Dam	OMB, U.S. Sens., Reps, Rep. Roe	"Scrap the project"
12	Political influence	League of Conservation Voters	Become involved. Contribute \$\$