

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING
Newsletter No. 143, July 18, 1985

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10. ACTION SUMMARY

¶ No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or action
**	Columbia Dam	TVA and copies	"Do not complete dam!"
1A	Obed	US Rep & Sens	"Urge acquisition speed-up!"
2B	BSFNRR	TCWP	Report on pipeline status
5A	Natl. Guard Center	US Rep & Sens	"Oppose this project!"
6	Orphan mines	US Rep & Sens	"Ask OSM for discretionary funds!"
8A	Endangered species	Sen. McClure	"Approve certain funding items!"

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Governor Lamar Alexander
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37219

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman/woman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Gov. Alexander
Respectfully yours,

To call, dial Congressional switchboard, 202, 224-3121

* Editor: Liane B. (Lee) Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Ph. 615, 482-2153
Star in margin means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY!

1. OBED NEWS

A. Oil company's removal of pipe it laid in Clear Creek could cause further damage

Considerable damage was done to the Clear Creek, well within the boundaries of the Obed National Wild & Scenic River, when the B&W Oil Co. cut a major swath down one bank and disturbed the river bottom to lay a gas pipeline (NL 141 ¶5A). All of this damage was done before the company even applied for a dredge-and-fill permit. When we became aware of the activity early in November 1984, we immediately (11/7/84) urged that such a permit be denied since the pipeline construction caused a major intrusion in a Wild & Scenic River area. Other groups joined us in our request, and Victor Ashe filed a formal complaint. After conducting several field investigations, the Tenn. Department of Health & Environment (TDHE) in fact denied Sect. 401 Certification on December 5. The Corps of Engineers on January 23 followed suit by denying the dredge-and-fill (404) permit (for which the 401 Certif. was a prerequisite) and required B & W to remove the pipes from the streambed. Subsequently, the TDHE, in consultation with the Park Service and citizens, determined that such removal by the oil company would only cause further degradation. Consequently, B & W was notified on June 6 that it no longer needed to perform this job, but that the denial of the 404 permit remained in effect, prohibiting any further work on the pipeline.

The B & W case strongly underlines the necessity for speeding up the land-acquisition process for the Obed WSR. Citizens and our Congressional delegation have worked hard to give the Park Service the money it needs, but the work is still proceeding at a snail's pace. Ask Sens. Sasser and Gore and your U.S. Rep to do all they can to make NPS speed up the process. (Addresses on p. 1).

B. Pollution from Lavender Bridge construction

Early in April, TCWP wrote to the Tennessee Commissioner of Transportation (NL 141 ¶5B), expressing grave concern about the major water pollution problem caused by construction of a new Lavender Bridge on Whites Creek (a major Clear Creek tributary). We requested that the DOT's official Program for Erosion Control be implemented without delay. Commissioner Farris responded May 3 stating that in early April, "just about the same time" TCWP had visited the project, DOT advised the contractor "of the need for additional controls." He also promised continual monitoring of soil erosion by his agency. On May 16, former State Senator Victor Ashe filed a formal complaint under Sect. 69-3-118 T.C.A, requesting that DOT take water samples (particularly during rain), and review the construction contract. According to expert reports we have received -- as late as last week -- the erosion and pollution are still horrendous. TCWP plans to obtain more detailed documentation and may subsequently also file a formal complaint.

C. Upper Obed is among 24 study-river segments abandoned by Administration

About 100 miles of the Obed and tributaries were to be studied for possible inclusion under the terms of the original National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. It is by now ancient history that, in the course of finally getting an Obed Wild & Scenic Rivers bill passed 8 years later, 55 of those miles (the Cumberland Cy. portions) were lopped off as the result of vocal opposition by a small number of vacation-home owners. However, remaining on the books was the strong National Park Service recommendation that all 100 miles be included. This agency opinion, along with opinions on 23 other rivers nationwide, has for years failed to be followed up by a White House recommendation. On April 27, 1985, for the first time since Reagan took office, river-study recommendations were finally sent to Congress. The record is dismal indeed. The President recommends less than 7% of the river miles that have been studied, less than 11% of those that have been found eligible.

	River segments nationwide	Total miles	Upper Obed miles
Number studied	24	2523	55
Number found eligible	21	1604	55
Number recommended by Agency	6+2*	337	55
Number recommended by President	3	174	0

*
for State
protection

The Upper Obed was one of 3 rivers (along with the Snake in ID, OR, WA, and the Colorado in UT, CO) on which National Park Service "for" designations were changed to "against" recommendations at the OMB (Office of Management and Budget) level. It does well to remember, however, that it is the Congress, and not the White House, that designates National Wild & Scenic Rivers. Thus, the time will hopefully come when the agency recommendation and popular support easily outweigh the OMB whim.

2. BIG SOUTH FORK: OPPORTUNITIES AND PROBLEMS

A. TCWP members meet with Rep. Cooper about wilderness and "deferred lands"

On June 7, TCWP Board members Don Todd and Lee Russell, and Sierra Clubbers Will Skelton and John Finger, drove up to Morristown where Congressman Jim Cooper gave us almost an hour of his time to discuss BSFNRRA opportunities and problems.

- Wilderness. Cooper was highly receptive to the idea of a wilderness area roughly as outlined by us (NL 142 ¶4), or even more extensive. He noted, however, that the name by which we have been referring to such an area, "Troublesome - No Business" (the names of two BSF tributaries), would do little to "sell" the idea. He asked very realistic questions concerning potential support and opposition, and proposed to contact NPS. In the meantime, we shall be thinking of another name(s), and shall re-draw the map to show features such as trails, as well as developments that would be excluded from the wilderness (e.g., the Charit Cr. hostel). The political support in Kentucky seems to have become more questionable again, but this could change.
- "Deferred lands." This designation came about when, after an initial period of land acquisition, the Corps chose to spend a large portion of the authorized funds for developments, instead of acquiring the entire authorized acreage first. Lands that cannot be acquired until the authorized spending limit is raised have been designated as "deferred." The immediate danger to these lands comes from stripmine permit applications. Such applications are routinely denied under Sec. 522 of the 1977 Surface Mining Act (since lands are within authorized parkland boundaries). This upsets some owners who would prefer to sell their tracts to the BSFNRRA, and others who agitate to have the authorized boundaries re-drawn to exclude "deferred lands." The latter request is a highly dangerous one, since the boundaries were very carefully drawn, after much discussion, to protect unspoiled scenic values, natural features, and water quality.-- We recommended to Congr. Cooper: (a) that the authorized spending limit be quickly raised, even though subsequent appropriations might be spread out over some time; and (b) that the Corps make the "deferred" classification less rigid, so that threatened tracts could be purchased.

B. Pipeline crossing on Clear Fork is a fait accompli

Big South Fork as well as Obed tributaries are suffering from pipeline crossings. We have only recently learned that the Corps on 11/16/84 authorized a submarine gas pipeline crossing of Clear Fork at Mile 16.1, i.e., well within the acquisition boundary of the BSFNRRA. The area itself had, however, not yet been purchased. By May 16 (6 months after the permit) the company had still not carried out the required revegetation with white pine and/or hemlock saplings. We should appreciate comment from TCWP members who may pass by this area this summer as to (a) the revegetation, (b) whether the swath on the banks was held to 20 ft max. as required in the permit, (c) whether rock bluffs, overhangs, etc., were damaged by the construction. This Clear Fork incidence, as well as the pipeline on Clear Creek (¶1A, this NL), underline the importance of speeding up the land-acquisition process.

C. Water quality problems in the Big South Fork NRRA

The only hydrologist employed by the SE Region of the National Park Service, Mike Rikard, has been collecting water-quality data for the BSFNRRA since 1982. The Area experiences major water problems as a result of unreclaimed and poorly reclaimed stripmines, particularly in the watershed of the New River (one of the two main stems of the BSF). The other major contributors to water pollution are (a) the road building associated with oil/gas exploration, and (b) chemicals used in oil/gas drilling. While these activities are supposedly regulated by state law, the Tenn. Oil & Gas Board has only 4 inspectors for the entire state.

3. THE CHEROKEE AND THE NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE

A. Adverse comments cause Forest Service revisions in Cherokee Management Plan

Comments can make a difference, especially comments as carefully documented and as numerous as those stimulated by the Cherokee Forest Wilderness Coalition and member organizations, including TCWP. These comments were extremely critical of the Cherokee National Forest draft Land and Resource Management Plan, especially with regard to the Forest Service's (USFS) proposed tripling of timber harvest, the clearcut method to be used, the associated expansion of the logging-road system, and the paucity of wilderness recommendations (NL 141 ¶1). On June 3, Cherokee Forest Supervisor Donald Rollens announced that changes would be made in the Plan and associated EIS "to make these documents more responsive to the concerns voiced by the public," especially in the areas mentioned above. He added that, although the public comment period has closed, open discussion will continue with interested parties as changes are made. The final plan is expected by the end of the year. The Cherokee Forest received 320 letters, 185 form letters, and petitions with 5,028 signatures (over 4,500 of which advocated the Wilderness Coalition's proposal for wilderness areas -- see NL 141 ¶1B).

One important 13-page comment (of which we have a copy) was submitted by TVA. This endorses the Citizens Wilderness Proposal and advocates that logging be judiciously limited, with substantial portions of the cove hardwood forests free of cutting altogether, and currently roadless areas left roadless. "In summary," states TVA, "we believe that the Southern Appalachian region's value as a national treasure transcends its commodity value as a source of wood products."

Tennessee is not the only place where comments seem to have made a difference. The Management Plan for the million-acre George Washington National Forest (Virginia and West Virginia) is also being rewritten as a result of widespread criticism of the proposals to double clear-cutting and build 4000 miles of new logging roads.

B. USFS reforestation efforts criticized

A recent staff study by the House Appropriations Committee concludes that reforestation of logged National Forest lands receives low priority in comparison to timber sales and other work done by the Forest Service. Ten years ago, the USFS identified 3 million acres as a "reforestation backlog." Almost 2/3 of this acreage have been "eliminated" from the backlog by reclassification instead of by reforestation.

4. SMOKIES

A. Wilderness bill status

The unacceptable Helms bill of 1984, which was reintroduced into the Senate on March 5 (NL 141 ¶6), has been joined by an even worse House bill, HR 2002, introduced by N.C. Rep. Hendon on April 4. TCWP and other member organizations of the Smokies Park Wilderness Advocates (SPWA) have encouraged Senators Sasser and Gore to introduce a counter measure which would demonstrate to the appropriate Congressional committees that the Helms-Hendon bills are unacceptable to a large number of people. We have received a letter from Sen. Sasser, sharing our view that it is important to maintain unequivocal opposition to road construction in the Park. He reports that he and Sen. Gore are in the process of drafting a bill which reflects the proposal of the SPWA, i.e., is superior even to last year's S.1947 since it also provides protection for the Parsons Branch and Heintooga-Round Bottom Road corridors (in addition to the 467,000 acres included in S.1947). Senators Sasser and Gore deserve our gratitude.

B. Smokies capsules

- A new Cooperative Park Study Unit established with the University of Tennessee is expected to benefit both the Park and U.T.
- A Backcountry Management Plan is under review. Comments on the draft were due July 15.
- In the first half of this year, 209 of the destructive exotic wild hogs have been removed from the Park. About half the total population, (estimated by some at 1500) must be removed each year just to maintain a status quo.

COLUMBIA DAM ACTION ALERT

The pressure to complete Columbia Dam on the Duck River at Columbia, Tennessee is underway once again. Congressman Bart Gordon has stimulated a request from OMB to TVA to prepare a current benefit-cost analysis. The study will use total benefits but only remaining costs (namely, only about 75% of the estimated total cost). Of the \$60 million that has already been spent, much could be recovered by the sale of land already acquired, and much has already provided benefits without the dam, such as highway and bridge construction. TVA does not plan to count agricultural losses as a cost despite the fact that the market value of farm products to be lost from impoundment is greater than all the claimed benefits of the project combined!

TVA performed benefit-cost analyses of the Columbia Dam in 1933, 1951, 1966, 1972, and 1977, but has never found it to have a positive ratio. In 1977, the ratio was computed at 0.7/1.0, which means that for every dollar invested, the dam would return only 70 cents in benefits; again, agricultural losses were not counted as a cost!

TVA's draft report is due August 1, 1985 and the final report is due September 30, 1985. The final report will include all public comment received prior to September 1, 1985. Dam proponents are using this study to demonstrate strong local support. We too must have input by September 1.

X WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Write to John L. Furgurson, Columbia Project Manager, TVA, 143 Evans Bldg, Knoxville, TN 37902. See sample letter (over); or use the fact sheet (below) to compose your own. Stress economic issues, and complain about how the analysis is being done (see above).
2. Send copies to the following:
Congressman Bart Gordon, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510
Congressman Jim Cooper, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510
Sen. Jim Sasser, 298 Russell Senate Office Bldg, Wash. DC 20510
Sen. Al Gore, Jr., 393 Russell Senate Office Bldg, Wash. DC 20510

Your letter is very important: this appears to be a popularity contest, strictly for political purposes! Columbia Dam is a national disgrace and a local disaster.

COLUMBIA DAM FACT SHEET

1. Provides no benefits for navigation, electric power generation, use of marginal lands, or reforestation.
2. Flood control: (1) Municipal: destroys 260 farm homes to protect 43 structures downstream; (2) Agricultural: Inundates 12,600 acres to protect 3,700 acres downstream.
3. Shoreline Development: 27-foot drawdown required for flood storage capacity will reduce reservoir from 12,600 acres to 4,300 acres some 6 months per year, exposing 8,300 acres of mud flats; length of lake will fluctuate by distance of 18 miles.
4. Water Quality: State Water Quality Control Board found that Water Quality Standards would be exceeded; serious eutrophication problems from algae admitted by TVA.
5. Water Supply: TVA concedes that controlled releases from Normandy Dam will fully satisfy the demand for water at Columbia for the next 100 years.
6. Fish and Wildlife Habitat: 24,000 acres destroyed.
7. Transportation: Costly relocation of roads and bridges.
8. Industrial Development: 29% of total cost. Speculative, based on theory that industry will by-pass all sites on Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers (where water supply exceeds 1000 cfs) to locate on Duck with supply of less than 150 cfs. Little industry at Tellico, Tim's Ford or Normandy, despite 24 years combined impoundment.
9. Recreation: 25% of total cost. Need rivers, not lakes. Within fifty miles of project, there are 9 reservoirs of 160,000 surface acres and 3,000 miles of shoreline. Duck ideally suited for family canoeing and canoe camping - 272 miles of Duck within one hour drive from Nashville.
10. Agricultural Losses: \$17 million annually, more than all claimed benefits combined; agricultural use of land perfectly compatible with river recreation. One out of every 18 acres of farmland in 2 counties will be lost to impoundment.

over

11. Benefit-Cost Ratio: Loss computed by TVA in 1977 at 0.7 to 1.
12. Cost Overrun: Over 400%. Current cost estimate: \$240 million; \$60 million spent; 25% complete.
13. Displacement of Residents: 260 families; additional schools, churches, cemeteries, stores, archaeological sites.
14. Land Acquisition: 27,500 acres to impound only 12,600 acres.
15. Legal Violations: Endangered Species; Water Quality; Historic Preservation Act; NEPA; Water Resources Planning Act; and Executive Orders regarding "Floodplain Management," "Protection of Wetlands," and "President's Water Policy."
16. Jobs: TVA states that no more than 6 permanent, full-time jobs will be provided by the project, while UT Ag. figures show 715 farm-related jobs will be lost from impoundment.
17. Alternatives: TVA documents show that 100% of all benefits ever claimed for Columbia Dam can be provided without impoundment by utilizing controlled releases from Normandy and the 11,000 acres of land already acquired.

OUR ECONOMY CANNOT SUPPORT THIS PORK-BARREL PROJECT!

For More Information Contact:

Frank M. Fly, Attorney

P. O. Box 1647

Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1647

SAMPLE LETTER

John L. Furgurson
Project Manager, Columbia Dam
Tennessee Valley Authority
143 Evans Building
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Dear Mr. Furgurson:

I am writing to register my opposition to the completion of the Columbia Dam and to request that my letter be included in the final report to OMB.

Columbia Dam has never had a positive benefit-cost ratio when computed by TVA or anyone else! It will flood more land than it will protect from flooding; it has no water-quality or water-supply benefits; its recreation benefits are already available on existing reservoirs; and its industrial development benefits are not supported by the record at Tellico, Tim's Ford, and Normandy.

It is totally misleading to include all benefits but only remaining costs in the economic analysis, while omitting the value of farm products to be lost to impoundment as a cost. In addition, much of the money already spent could be recovered by the sale of project land, and many of the benefits would remain without completing the dam.

I urge TVA to be forthright in this endeavor and recommend to OMB that the project not be completed.

Sincerely yours,

5. NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

A. The proposed Spencer Range Army National Guard Training Center

There are now several indications that Tennessee's Adjutant General Carl Wallace may have been overly confident in the chances for this 114,000 acre military center between Fall Creek Falls and Savage Gulf. On the other hand, it would be foolish to underestimate his persistence and relax our vigilance. The Pentagon has responded to very detailed questions and requests by Sen. Gore by indicating that it has given almost no consideration to the proposal. (Gore asked for a formal opinion of the value of the facility in defense terms, an analysis of similar alternatives in economic terms, a description of the environmental analysis, a timetable for each step.) General Wallace recently indicated that the Environmental Assessment and the Corps' Real Estate Planning Report, which were supposed to have been finished in July and early fall, respectively, will not be released until the end of the year at the earliest. This would make it impossible (if the project is approved) for acquisition to start before 1988 (not 1986, as the Guard predicted). The General admits that he has not had commitments from any member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation. He continues not to heed local sentiment or sensibilities. Thus he refused, in the course of a recent visit to the area, to apologize for this remark, quoted by the Wall Street Journal (see NL 142 ¶3B): "Probably the largest marijuana-growing area in the state is in this area. I think some of the opposition probably started from that."

We must not relax our vigilance and must make sure Gen. Wallace never does get any positive commitments from the Tennessee Congressional delegation. If you have not already done so, write to your Congressman/woman and to Senators Sasser and Gore (addresses on p. 1). For more info on Spencer Range see NL 139 ¶1.

B. Conservancy acquisitions

Of the 50 million acres of bottomland hardwood forest and wetland that once existed in the Southeast, less than 5 million remain today. Thus it is great news that almost 6000 acres of Tennessee's largest remaining area of this type are being purchased by The Nature Conservancy under its National Wetlands Conservation Project. The area (40 mi N of Memphis) had for 30 years been leased by the Tenn. Wildlife Resources Agency from a lumber company and had been managed as a wildlife area, but the continuation of this arrangement was threatened. After Conservancy purchase, the land will be transferred into the National Wildlife Refuge System. The tract provides habitat for bald eagles, the Mississippi kite, osprey, river otter, and large wintering waterfowl populations.

The Tennessee Chapter of the Conservancy has acquired a 90-acre tract, adjacent to Cedars of Lebanon State Forest, to protect the Tennessee coneflower, the only Tennessee plant species listed as nationally endangered. There are only 5 populations in the world, all in Middle Tennessee. The site is intended for transfer to the state, with appropriated Natural Areas Acquisition funds to be used for the purchase.

C. State Scenic River recommendations

The Scenic Rivers Task Force has completed draft recommendations to be submitted to Commissioner Howell. The members of the committee differed greatly in background and point of view, but, under the chairmanship of Ann Tidwell, appear to have reached consensus. The Task Force recommendations will be reported in the TCWP Newsletter after the draft has been finalized and officially submitted.

D. Oak Ridge Reservation becomes Tennessee Wildlife Management Area

DOE and TWRA have come to an agreement to make the Oak Ridge Reservation into a Tennessee Wildlife Management Area with a full-time TWRA manager. Part of the impetus for this action comes from the recent great increase in the deer population, which led to 250 deer-vehicle collisions last year on reservation roads. TWRA has scheduled 5 hunts before the end of the year. We have not yet determined the relation of the new WMA to the previously designated National Environmental Research Park on the reservation.

E. Governor Alexander to head national outdoor commission

A January executive order established the second Outdoor Recreation and Resources Review Commission and set a March 1986 deadline for the Commission's report. It is expected that by the time members are finally appointed, the name of the group will be changed to "President's Commission on Americans Outdoors," and that the deadline will be moved forward to 18 months after the commission is in place. One of those who have already been notified of their selection is Gov. Lamar Alexander, who will chair the commission.

6. STRIPMINE ACTIONS

A. Continued effort to get AML (Abandoned Mine Land) Funds for Tennessee

Tennessee threw away its right to 50% of AML monies when it gave up primacy; but the fact that we are not getting another portion of this Fund is apparently a policy decision on the part of the Dept. of the Interior.

The AML Fund was set up under the 1977 Federal Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Act (SCMRA) to finance the repair of pre-1977 mine damage with part of the industry's income from post-1977 mining. Operators, pay 35¢/ton and 15¢/ton for surface- and deep-mined coal, respectively, into the Fund. Of the total, 50% is returned to the state for AML work, provided this state has an approved regulatory program; 10% goes to the Small Operators Assistance Program; and 40% is paid into a federal discretionary fund to be used for AML reclamation where the need is the greatest. It is the last of these items we are discussing, an amount of possibly \$1.5 million per year for our state (as estimated on the basis of a prioritized inventory of orphan mines). Tennessee has quite a few Priority-II sites (i.e., "situations that in the long term are hazardous to public health, safety, and general welfare," involving "acid drainage, sediment, ... highwalls that present a hazard" etc.); and, before our State gave up primacy, 14 of these (533 acres) were proposed for AML work in 1984/85.

When urged to fund an AML program in Tennessee with monies from the discretionary portion of the AML Fund, Jed Christensen, Acting Director of OSM (federal Office of Surface Mining) wrote: "it would be inequitable to do so when so many of the States with primacy cannot get as much AML money as they would like." It may be pointed out that the AML is insufficient to give any state all that it needs.

In addition to our not getting discretionary money, there is a problem even with the 50% of the AML that by law we cannot receive unless we have primacy. OSM is not required to keep this money in escrow for longer than 3 years (i.e., beyond September 1987). Only by the best of timetables could we be eligible by then. A longer escrow period will depend on OSM's good will.

Since, with regard to the discretionary funds, OSM is unwilling to respond to citizens' requests directly, we hope our Congressional delegation may get a more favorable response. Your U.S. Senators and Representative (address p. 1) should therefore hear from you. Point out to them that the money has already been collected over the past 8 years from the industry that has been stripping our mountains. Is it not unfair that Tennessee's past scars be denied the remedies that this money could provide? OSM should also be asked to maintain the escrow account (non-discretionary portion of AML) for longer than 3 years, if necessary.

B. Abuses under the "two-acre" exemption may finally be curbed

In 1981, SOCM and two Virginia citizens groups sued OSM to challenge the enforcement of the "two-acre" exemption, especially in Virginia and Kentucky. This exemption, written into the 1977 federal Act, was intended to help small "pick and shovel" operators, who were presumed to be poor Appalachians obtaining coal for their personal use. The exemption soon became abused in a number of clever ways, e.g., by large coal companies signing sub-contracts with a number of small affiliates, each of which used the exemption and was thus not obliged to obtain a permit or carry out reclamation. Furthermore, the acreages used for haul-road construction were often not included in the 2-acre limit. In SW Virginia

alone, there are an estimated 1,100 unreclaimed "two-acre" sites, dating back to 1979. In 1982, OSM issued revised rules that redefined a two-acre site (e.g., haul roads were included) and eliminated loopholes. These regulations were promptly challenged by the State of Virginia and the coal industry, but withstood the court challenge. In May of 1985, the citizens groups settled their case against OSM. The settlement requires OSM to inventory all two-acre sites in Virginia and Kentucky (and other states as requested); identify which are legitimate and which are not; inspect the mines; issue violation notices, or shut down mines as appropriate; impose penalties.

C. Update on our Petition for Rulemaking

(See also NL 141 ¶8D, NL 142 ¶8D.) On November 30, 1984, TCWP and 4 other groups submitted a Petition for Rulemaking in which we asked OSM to alter its regulations for the Tennessee program in conformance to a judicial decision that had invalidated several rules promulgated under James Watt. In the Federal Register of February 1, OSM sought comments on whether the changes requested by us should be granted. Aside from the petitioners, no one commented. The 90-day deadline (specified by SCMRA) within which OSM must grant or deny a petition passed over 4 months ago. Our attorney has requested a speedy decision.

7. NATIONAL PARKS AND REFUGES

A. Land acquisition -- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

During the election year of 1984, the Reagan administration requested \$168 million for parklands acquisition (parks, refuges, WS Rivers, etc); but, this year, it's back to rock-bottom again, with a request for only \$15 million. Congress last year approved \$250 million (including \$73M for the states). Current guessing is that the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee may approve \$75 M for federal acquisition and \$75 for state grants; or, more than \$75 M of federal funds and no state funds. The subcommittee may go along with cuts in park construction proposed by the administration, but probably not with cuts in maintenance.

B. The new National Park Service (NPS) director, William Penn Mott

(NL 142 ¶10A), has received praise from friends of the National Park System and bad words from its enemies. According to the National Parks and Conservation Association, it has been a long time since NPS "has had a director who is as strong a leader and as conservation oriented as Bill Mott." The National Inholders Asscc., on the other hand, calls Mott "a threat to you and your property," who "has the support of ... the large environmental groups." At a June 6 meeting with NPS regional directors, conservationists, and the press, Mott outlined a 12-point program that includes: developing a "strategy to better protect our natural, cultural, and recreational resources"; pursuing a "creative, expanded land protection initiative;" providing more interpretive services; increasing the public's understanding of critical resource issues.

8. STATUS REPORT ON SOME MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS

A. Endangered Species Act reauthorization

House committee approved 3-year reauthorization (HR 1027), which makes only minor changes in the Act, not touching controversial issues. It freezes FY 1986 funding authorization at the FY 1985 level, and allows moderate increases in the following two years. Because of two hearings subsequent to committee passage (on Indian rights to bald-eagle feathers, and on trade in peregrine falcons), committee amendments could be offered on House floor. Senate bill (S725) is still in the stage of subcommittee hearings, with no markup scheduled. Because of pressure to allow sport hunting of grizzlies and wolves, harmful amendments may be offered. Write to Sen. J. A. McClure, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior to (a) oppose such amendments; (b) ask for more money for BLM and Forest Service endangered species programs, including funds for plants and the less conspicuous animals; and (c) ask for an appropriation for the NPS international program (which received zero dollars in the House bill). (Address on p. 1)

B. Water projects

A Senate - White House compromise on the FY 1985 Supplemental Appropriations bill (HR2577) may end the 10-year hiatus on water-project authorizations. The two versions of the bill contain \$63 or 72 million for beginning construction of 25 or 35 new Corps and BuRec projects (full cost, over \$4 billion), but the Senate bill bars spending until the administration has signed new cost-sharing agreements with the non-federal beneficiaries of the projects. These would cut the federal cost to \$1.3 billion. Not only the Supplemental FY 1985 Appropriations bill, but also the omnibus FY 1986 project-authorization bills progressing through the Congress incorporate the policy compromise. Non-federal interests would pay 20-60% of harbor construction costs and 25-35% of flood-control costs in the Senate omnibus bill (S 366), less in the House version. Environmental groups in general support as much local cost sharing as possible. Congressman Bob Edgar, an active foe of pork-barrel water projects, succeeded in deleting 31 new Corps projects (and \$99 million) from the FY 1985 Supplemental Appropriation bill on the grounds that these projects were being proposed for funding without having previously been authorized.

C. Safe Drinking Water Act reauthorization

Passed Senate, May 14; House, June 17; conference-committee action pending. The House bill, while weaker in some respects (e.g., lower authorization levels), shows more initiative in dealing with groundwater. Thus, the bill requires states to develop and adopt plans to protect all underground sources of drinking water and commits Federal matching funds for the purpose. Ground water provides over half the nation's drinking water (97% in rural areas), 40% of irrigation water, and 26% of industrially-used water. The recently released 2nd Annual National Water Summary by the U.S. Geological Survey shows almost 20% of the nation's wells to be contaminated to some degree. Furthermore, heavy withdrawals have drastically lowered the water table -- by over 180 ft in some areas. Anybody interested in dwindling fresh-water supplies in the USA and elsewhere should read WORLDWATCH report "Water: Rethinking Management in an Age of Scarcity," by Sandra Postel (World Watch, 1776 Massachusetts Ave, Wash, DC 20036).

D. Clean Water Act reauthorization

On June 13, the Senate voted 94:0 in favor of a reauthorization bill (S.1128). The House Public Works committee approved HR8 on May 22. Similarities between the bills include a new program to reduce non-point-source water pollution, and restriction of conditions under which industries may obtain waivers from pollution standards. Among differences between the bills is the duration of pollution permits: 5 years in S.1128, 10 years (in certain cases) in HR 8. Environmental groups favor 5-year permits.

E. Clean Air Act reauthorization

Little news to report since NL 142 ¶10D. A recently introduced bill to control hazardous air pollutants (HR 2576) may be handled as an amendment to the Clean Air Act reauthorization, or on its own. The National Park Action Project's Clean Air Coordinator, Susan Buffone asks to be alerted to any examples of air-pollution damage in national parks and similar areas (1, 800,362-3682).

9. THINGS TO DO AND THINGS TO READ

- This one ought to be fascinating:

THE JUNGLES OF BORNEO AND ORANGUTANGS

August 5, 7:30 p.m.

American Museum of Science and Energy, Oak Ridge

This slide show with tape-recorded sound will be presented by TCWP member Dr. Richard Ambrose, who recently participated in a research project on orangutangs. Dr. Ambrose's interests include strong concern for the rapidly disappearing rain-forest habitat around the world.

- The Smoky Mountain Field School has programs continuing throughout the summer and fall, with a couple even in November and December. Courses last 1 to 5 days and include white-water sports, mushroom identification, spiders, photography. Contact Dr. Gayle D. Cooper, 2016 Lake Ave, Univ. of Tenn., Knoxville, TN 37996-3515. Ph. 615, 974-6688