

# TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 151\*

September 18, 1986

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Star in margin means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY!



# 11. ACTION SUMMARY

¶ No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Cherokee Wilderness	Reps. Quillen, Duncan Sens. Sasser, Gore	"Thank you!"
2A	House Mountain	Hearing 9/30	Give or send testimony
2B	Cedar glade	Boeing	"Preserve the area!"
2C	Radnor Lake	Comm. Howell	"Acquire tracts!"
3A	Rock Creek	US Rep and Sens	"Urge OSM to designate area unsuitable for mining!"
4A	Natural Landmarks	TCWP	Offer to be monitor
4D	Canyonlands NP	DOE	"Disqualify Davis and Lavender Canyons!"
6B	Dams in Parks	US Rep and Sens	"Support HR 4089!"
6C	Big S. Fork	Corps	"Acquire deferred areas!"
8	Greenhouse Effect	US Rep and Sens	"Action is needed NOW!"
9B	Whites Cr. Trail	TCWP	Come on hike

Senator John Doe United States Senate Washington, DC 20510	The Hon. John Doe U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 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		

## 10. THINGS TO DO..... (continued from p. 11)

- "Tennessee State Acid Rain Project: Basic Information Document" has been prepared by TVA under the EPA-sponsored State Acid Rain Program (STAR), designed to assist States in developing SO<sub>2</sub>-emission-reduction strategies in the event legislation is passed. May be borrowed from TCWP.
- "Conserving Water: The Untapped Alternative," shows that more efficient water use and water recycling result in greater yield per dollar spent than do traditional methods, such as dams (\$4 from Worldwatch Inst., 1776 Mass. Ave, NW, Wash. DC 20036).
- A water handbook, put together by the Kentucky Fair Tax Coalition, provides information on how to test for stream pollution, how coal, oil, and gas extraction affect water quality, how water supplies can be protected from contamination. Available from SOCM (P.O. Box 457, Jacksboro, TN 37757).
- "Wetlands and Water Quality: A citizen's handbook on how to review and comment on Sect. 404 permits," by G. A. Paulson (\$3 from Lake Michigan Federation, 8 South Michigan, Suite 2010, Chicago, IL 60603).
- "World Resources 1986" contains data tables for 146 countries, and analyses of trends in population, forests, wildlife, energy, water, atmosphere, etc. (349 pp, \$16.95, paperback. Order #721 from World Resources Inst. Publications, P.O. Box 620, Holmes, PA 19043-0620).
- "Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy" is a quarterly journal dedicated to a serious discussion of public issues related to energy, the environment, and natural resources. Summer issue: global environment. Future topics include acid rain, National Park policy etc., (\$20 annually. FARPP, TVA, P.O. Box 1750, Knoxville, TN 37901-1750)
- In "Animal Extinctions: What Everyone Should Know," ed. by R. J. Hoage, distinguished scientists examine ways to combat species extinctions and habitat destruction (\$10.95 from Smithsonian Inst. Press, P.O. Box 4866, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211)
- "The WPA Guide to Tennessee," first published in 1939, has been reissued with new introduction and foreword by Wilma Dykeman (\$12.95 paper from U.T. Press, Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14850)

## 1. CHEROKEE WILDERNESS AND OTHER FOREST SERVICE MATTERS

### A. Cherokee wilderness bill moving along

Hearings were held July 31 on HR 5166, introduced by Congressmen Quillen and Duncan, that would bring an additional 33,735 acres in the Cherokee National Forest into the National Wilderness System. HR 5166, based on the wilderness proposal contained in the Cherokee National Forest Plan, designates two areas in the southern Cherokee (Little Frog Mountain and Big Frog addition) that were formerly study areas, and 4 new areas in the northern Cherokee (Big Laurel Branch, Pond Mountain, Unaka Mountain, and Samson Mountain [formerly, Buckeye Falls]). If the bill passes, altogether 66,637 acres, or 10.6%, of the Cherokee NF will be wilderness: 7.9% of the northern portion (where there is presently no wilderness) and 13.6% of the southern. The northern, in addition, has two significant Scenic Areas, Rogers Ridge and Bald Mountain Ridge.

In presenting testimony for the Cherokee National Forest Wilderness Coalition (of which TCWP is a member organization), Will Skelton pointed out that the proposed wilderness plus existing wilderness in the Cherokee represent only 0.2% of Tennessee's total acreage. Tennessee Commissioner of Conservation, Charles Howell, III, also testified on behalf of HR 5166 and expressed the hope that additional wilderness designations in the Cherokee NF would be made in the future. The bill has had widespread endorsement, including editorial support in upper East Tennessee, but a number of problems arose and had to be resolved (a road proposal, a land swap, a rare mineral deposit). Full House Interior Committee mark-up is expected for Sept. 17, and Rep. Quillen has promised a floor vote on Sept. 22. If this schedule holds, the Senate can then merely pass the House-passed bill. Just in case, however, Senators Sasser and Gore have scheduled a Senate Agriculture Committee hearing for Sept. 25. The Congress plans to adjourn Oct. 4, so it's going to be a cliff hanger. Congressmen Quillen and Duncan and Senators Sasser and Gore deserve our thanks for their introduction of the bills and their continuing support (see p. 2 for addresses).

### B. Protection of Grassy Ridge

Several members of Congress (Senators Sasser, Gore, and Helms, Rep. Lloyd) have now transmitted our concerns to the U.S. Forest Service and/or Dept. of Agriculture (NL 150 ¶2). We have urged that a Declaration of Taking be issued for the entire 200-acre Peake tract in order to protect the magnificent views in the Grassy Ridge area of Roan Mountain from developments threatened by the Peak heirs (who have already bulldozed 2 roads). The USDA is opposed to a Declaration and is willing to negotiate only for the 54 acres around the Appalachian Trail; Sen. Helms, for one, acquiesces in this plan. By contrast, Sen. Sasser has been successful in inserting report language in the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation bill (¶7C, this NL) that directs the USFS to acquire the full 200 acres. The agency has not been known to ignore report language, though it is not technically bound by it, as it would be by actual legislation.

By the way, if you want to help an organization that is doing a bang-up job of protecting the Highlands of Roan in general (mostly through land acquisition), and Grassy Ridge in particular, send a contribution to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, P.O. Box 3356, Kingsport, TN 37664.

### C. Fight over the Forest Service's road building program

Analysis of Forest Service reports to the Congress reveals that each year the agency builds more new roads than it says it needs to accomplish its long-range timber plans. The current USFS road system totals 343,000 miles (enough to girdle the Earth 14 times), and an additional 40,000 miles are projected for the next 10 years. Many of these would be constructed into very remote and fragile areas in which the government's cost of timber harvesting would not be recoverable. It has looked to many observers as though the agency's road-building activity is a device for disqualifying areas from future wilderness considerations (only roadless areas qualify).

For several years in a row now, the House has cut funds from the bloated request for USFS road building money, and the Senate has restored these cuts. The same thing happened again this year. On July 24, the House Interior Appropriations Committee cut \$44 million from the Administration's request of \$178 M, but in early August, the corresponding Senate committee, under the influence of Sen. McClure, added \$75M to the Administration request. Last week, Sen. Proxmire offered a floor amendment (supported by Tennessee's Senators Sasser and Gore) to delete the added \$75M and an additional \$15M. Sen. McClure failed 43:51 in his effort to table this amendment, and things looked pretty good. In the next several days, however, McClure evidently twisted some arms, because when the Proxmire amendment itself came up on Sept. 16, a McClure substitute to cut the \$75M by only \$8M (i.e. to increase the Administration request by \$6M) won -- despite efforts of Sen. Sasser, among others. The Interior Appropriations bill now goes to conference.

## 2. AROUND THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

### A. House Mountain hearing, September 30

This largely unspoiled 2100-ft-high mountain northeast of Knoxville has for some time been authorized as a State Natural Area but is still in private ownership. Ever since its 1979 attempt to buy land on the mountain generated rumor-fed local hostility, the State has been reluctant to pursue any action at all. However, the Trust for Public Land recently took an option to buy the 524-acre Kern tract from a very willing seller; and a House Joint Resolution, passed this spring, decreed a House Mtn. study by the Dept. of Conservation. Pursuant to these events, the State will hold a listening session on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 7 pm EDT, at the East Knox Elementary School on Rutledge Pike (in the Skaggston Community). Everyone interested in having a State Natural Area for Knoxville (which presently does not have a single large public natural area) is urged to attend and to recommend acquisition of the Kern tract. If you can't go, send written testimony to Comm. Charles Howell (TN Dept. of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203). For further info, call Bob Allen, 525-1293.

### B. State Natural Area (with critical plant community) on Boeing land

Boeing Engineering is interested in building a new facility on what is now part of the Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park, and the Oak Ridge City Council has essentially given its blessing. The land in question (the "O-segment") contains 9 state-listed rare plant species (including 3 considered for federal listing), as well as the best known remaining example of cedar barrens, a very rare type of plant community identified by the TN Dept. of Conservation (TDoC) as critical and in need of protection. In January 1986, the USDOE and the TDoC entered into an agreement to register about 200 acres on this site as a State Natural Area. -- Boeing has expressed a willingness to consider the importance of this area in the early stages of facility-development planning. We would encourage our members to write to Boeing to show their support for the positive attitude the company is taking in preserving the special areas in the O-segment. (Write to Ms. Tina Sanders, Boeing Engineering, P.O. Box 851, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0851).

### C. Radnor Lake State Natural Area needs more protection

Only 15 minutes from the State Capitol in Nashville lies the 1000-acre Radnor Lake Natural Area, providing habitat for many species of animals and a serene environment for stressed city dwellers. Ironically, the protection of this area has spawned threats to it: close-by private tracts have become extra desirable for developers. These tracts lie in the lake's watershed and/or are visible from trails or from the water. The Dept. of Conservation has plans and funds for building a Radnor Lake visitor center. Several knowledgeable individuals have suggested that it would be much wiser to spend the available money for the acquisition of critical lands, instead of for construction of a building. Write to Charles A. Howell, III, Commissioner, Tenn. Dept. of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203.

D. Toward a Wolf River "Greenbelt"

The Memphis City Council in July passed a resolution that may lead to a Wolf River Greenbelt, and the Shelby County Commission has probably, by now, followed suit. The intent is to create a 150- to 200-ft-wide buffer of green on either side of the river along its whole 28-mile course through the county and city. For more info, write Wolf River Conservancy, P.O. Box 171159, Memphis, TN 38187-1159.

E. Yet another training center proposed by TN National Guard

While the Spencer Range proposal is (hopefully) dead (NL 148 ¶1), the TN National Guard (TNG) seems not to have given up on its idea to develop a training center somewhere. Preliminary talks are apparently underway for the use of about 40,000 acres in Coffee and Franklin Counties on land now owned by the Air Force adjacent to the Arnold Engineering and Development Center (near Tullahoma). The training facility would include tank trails and firing ranges. State Adjutant Gen. Wallace (who had been the main promoter of Spencer Range) recently stated that no federal funds would be spent for the facility.

Adj. Gen. Wallace, earlier this year, was one of three possible nominees for head of the National Guard Bureau in Washington (NL 149 ¶6B). Had he been appointed, he might have been able to revive the Spencer Range proposal. Instead, the nominee is Major Gen. Herbert Temple, Jr., present Dir. of the U.S. Army National Guard, who on March 6 had written to Rep. Jim Cooper: "I have concluded that the National Guard does not have adequate resources to acquire and develop this training area [Spencer Range] ..." (NL 148 ¶1).

F. Lavender Bridge: meaning of the settlement

As reported in our last issue (NL 150 ¶6A), an agreement had been reached in the case of the complaints against the TN Dept. of Transportation (TDoT) and its contractor for polluting White Creek while replacing Lavender Bridge. The Agreed Order has now been signed by all parties and, on Sept. 17, was presented to the Water Quality Control Board for their endorsement. TSRA president, Ray Norris, who had taken the lead in negotiating the agreement, attended the WQCB meeting. In lieu of finding guilt in a specific case, the agreement, (which was summarized in NL 150) seeks to provide a general solution for the protection of Tennessee streams, and to address the problem of reluctance of one state agency to initiate enforcement actions against another. It will now be very important for concerned organizations and individuals to remain attentive to the implementation of the new system by TDoT and the Dept. of Health & Environment.

3. STRIPMINING IN TENNESSEE AND THE NATION

A. Petition to designate Rock Creek unsuitable for coal mining: EIS imminent

Almost 2 years ago, area citizens filed a petition to designate about 23,000 acres in the Rock Creek watershed as unsuitable for surface mining under Sec. 522 of the federal strip-mine law. Rock Creek forms a beautiful gorge in the Walden Ridge area of Bledsoe County and is virtually the last unspoiled watershed left in the region. In March, OSM issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that dismissed almost all allegations of adverse mining impacts presented in the petition. The DEIS was amply criticized by many people commenting at a hearing on May 8. Subsequently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), too, submitted detailed comments on the DEIS, stated that mitigating measures proposed by OSM (e.g. for expected acid mine drainage) might not work, and recommended that the entire watershed be designated as unsuitable for surface mining.

Will OSM ignore EPA, as it has tried to ignore citizens? We'll soon find out when the final EIS is published, supposedly at the end of September.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: This is our last opportunity to support the "522" petition. You can write to Senators Gore and Sasser and to your U.S. Rep (addresses on p. 2), asking them to contact OSM. Point out that all experience has shown that stripmining will produce

X

environmental damage. As EPA has pointed out, mitigation cannot be relied upon. Residents fear contamination of their groundwater supplies, and all of us would mourn loss of one of the few remaining unspoiled watersheds and gorges. For more info, call Don Barger, 482-6746.

#### B. Meeting held with OSM's "boss"

Donald Todd represented TCWP at a meeting of environmental-group representatives with Steven Griles in Knoxville, Sept. 12. Griles is Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management and thus the immediate boss of OSM Director Christensen. Don stressed the need for vigorous pursuit of the Abandoned Mine Lands program. Mr. Griles was polite but noncommittal. See below for his background.

#### C. "The Shambles at OSM"

is the title of an informative article by Charles Callison in the Summer issue of AMICUS (the NRDC magazine). The article relates how James Watt sabotaged OSM by appointing active foes of the federal Surface Mining Control & Reclamation Act (SMCRA) to high positions. One of these, Steven Griles, became head of enforcement at OSM. Prior to his OSM job, Griles was a mining official in Virginia, in which capacity he: (a) resisted enforcement of SMCRA, and (b) shaped a lawsuit by the state challenging the constitutionality of SMCRA (case subsequently thrown out by the Supreme Court). Griles has since risen within Interior to a position above OSM (see ¶3B, above). There are many other evidences that OSM (and USDI, in general) is in effect sabotaging SMCRA: (a) OSM has failed to take action against over half the observed violations; (b) the two-acre-exemption abuse has not been curbed -- over 3000 two-acre sites have been mined and abandoned; (c) there has been no control of "exploration" sites (which often are, in fact, mining sites); (d) there has been an abysmal failure to collect civil penalties -- over \$200 million were uncollected as of a year ago (and less than 5% collected); (e) efforts to collect reclamation fees (which go into the Abandoned Mine Lands Fund) have been woefully inadequate; and (f) the National Coal Council, an industry group, has been invited by Sec. Hodel to suggest amendments to SMCRA.

#### D. OSM presses for relaxation of standards

To draw attention from its abysmal failure to reclaim abandoned (pre-SMCRA, i.e., pre-1977) surface mines, OSM is working on a report that recommends that operators be offered incentives to re-work such mines and then reclaim them under the terms of SMCRA. Only, not quite under those terms! The draft report is said to recommend such incentives to miners as excusing them from the requirement to restore "approximate original contour," and from liability for water quality degradation (except that which exceeds existing pollution). OSM says that without such re-mining under reduced standards, no more than 10% of abandoned mines can be reclaimed by the time the AML program ends in 1992. We wonder what percentage could be reclaimed if OSM were doing its job?!

### 4. ABOUT NATIONAL PARKS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### A. National Natural Landmarks Program seeks "patrons"

The NNL Program, administered by the National Park Service (NPS), was established in 1962 to identify and recognize the best examples of biotic communities and geologic features (regardless of site ownership), with the objective of encouraging preservation of natural diversity. NNLs are designated by the Secretary of the Interior and are listed in the National Registry of National Landmarks. In Tennessee, NNL's include: Savage Gulf, Reelfoot Lake, the Grassy Cove Karst area, the Roan Mountain Massif, Piney Falls, May Prairie, several caverns, and others. The NPS is responsible for annually monitoring the condition of each designated site, and to report on imminent threats or existing damage. We have received a request for volunteers to help in an NPS "Patron Program." Such individuals would annually visit the site and provide a 2-page report. Anyone wishing to help should contact TCWP (address on p. 1).

#### B. Smokies' superintendent transferred

John E. Cook, superintendent of the Gt. Smoky Mountains National Park since April 1983,

has been appointed as Southeast Regional Director of the National Park Service. This is a return engagement for Cook to a post he held from 1977 to 1979. From 1979-1983 he was the first director of the NPS Alaska Region. Cook remains as member of Governor Alexander's Commission on Tennesseans Outdoors.

C. Great Basin: a new national park?

The Great Basin, geologically the area between the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada, is the last region of the West without a national park. The idea for a park centered around Nevada's 13,063 ft Wheeler Peak -- with its gem-like lakes and streams -- first came up early in the century and has surfaced in the Congress for the past 20 years. Now, there is a real chance. The House has passed a bill (HR 3302) to establish a 129,000-acre national park with an adjacent 45,000-acre national preserve: but the Senate version (Laxalt's S.2506) calls for only 44,000 acres. The Administration, as might be expected, favors the smaller proposal, or no proposal at all. A compromise will presumably be forged.

D. Canyonlands National Park not yet home free

For possible location of the first national nuclear waste disposal dump, DOE recently recommended 3 areas -- one each in Nevada, Washington, and Texas -- for "site characterization" (NL 149 18K). However, Davis Canyon, immediately adjacent to Canyonlands NP, Utah, remains "nominated" among the top 5 "suitable" sites, which means that it is still eligible to be tested if, for technical, legal, or political reasons, DOE must consider a site other than the 3 now recommended. Lavender Canyon, also adjacent to Canyonlands NP, remains vulnerable to later consideration for the nation's second nuclear waste dump. Site testing would involve a huge operation (both in terms of area covered and in level of activity) that would be visible and audible from major sections of the national park. Neither site will be safe unless it is actually disqualified from any further consideration.

✱ WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to DOE (Sec. of Energy Herrington, 1000 Independence Ave, Wash. DC 20585) and demand disqualification of the sites adjacent to Canyonlands NP. Point out that impacts to the Park are major, unavoidable, and unacceptable.

E. Is Mott getting stymied from above?

Conservationists were unanimous last year in praising the appointment of William Penn Mott as Director of the National Park Service. Now, while Mott's integrity, commitment, and intentions are unquestioned, there is general doubt that he will be able to translate his pledges into action. A major stumbling block appears to be Mott's immediate boss, William Horn, Asst. Sec. for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, whose philosophies are along the James Watt lines. Examples of Mott's efforts that the Administration has failed to support (or, actually opposed): protection of lands surrounding parks by restricting certain federal activities; addition of new parks (see also 14C, this NL); speedup in acquisition of inholdings; curtailment of noisy sightseeing flights over parks; and funding more adequate to protect park natural values.

## 5. TVA NEWS

A. The vacant seat on the TVA Board

While Senator Jeremiah Denton is still maintaining that it's Alabama's turn to have someone on the TVA Board, and is pushing former governor Fob James (who has said he'd only accept the post if he could be chairman), it now looks as if the current front-runner is Thomas Morgan Roberts of Memphis. Roberts is being promoted by Vice President Bush, whose 1980 campaign treasurer he was. For the past 5 years, Roberts has been a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Reagan's first appointee to the NRC), where he has taken a consistently pro-industry stand and has downplayed safety issues. He owned a Memphis company that made nuclear plant components. Roberts has pushed to weaken Sunshine Act provisions for the NRC. -- Both Senators Sasser and Gore have stated that they would scrutinize Roberts' record on nuclear safety, should he be nominated.



## B. Appropriations

The non-power portion of TVA's activities encompasses, among other things, environmental protection and research (water and air quality, habitat inventories, wildlife restoration, erosion control, reservoir-land planning, surface-mine restoration research, etc) and economic development. The Reagan Administration has repeatedly attempted to eliminate some of these programs via the budget process, and the Congress has repeatedly restored a portion, but not all, of the funds. Last year (FY 1986), the non-power funds ended up being \$113 million (including \$9M carry-over), down from \$130M the year before. For FY 1987, the Administration requested only \$58 million, but both House and Senate Appropriation Committees provided \$100M. It remains to be seen how much of this will survive the Gramm-Rudman-type (deficit-reduction) cutting process.

## 6. RIVERS AND WATER PROJECT

### A. Additions to National Wild & Scenic Rivers System

As we went to press, the Senate was about to vote on separate bills adding 5 river segments to the WSR System. On the House side, all are included in a single omnibus WSR bill that passed on April 8. The segments to be designated are: Cache la Poudre R. (75 mi, Colorado); Black Creek (21 mi, Mississippi); and Saline Bayou (19 mi, Louisiana). Those to be studied for potential addition to the WSR System are: Farmington R. (18 mi, Conn. and Mass.) and Great Egg R. (60 mi, NJ). The Henry's Fork of the Snake R. in Idaho was one of the controversial rivers that resulted in separate Senate bills for 5 of the 8 rivers contained in the House omnibus bill. Senate action is imminent on a bill that would bar all but one of several proposed hydro developments (the one not barred is on an existing dam), but would not add the river to the WSR System. On the other hand, well on its way toward being added are 4.5 miles of the Horsepasture R. in NC: the House bill was passed in August, and Senate hearings are scheduled for late September.

### B. No new dams in parks?

This may surprise you, but there are currently 108 dams in 18 national parks, most of them built to supply water and power before the parks were created. There are, further, plans to expand some of these facilities. HR 4089, introduced by Rep. Richard Lehman (D-Calif), would (a) prohibit construction of new dam projects in national parks and monuments, (b) require congressional approval of plans to expand existing works, and (c) require USDI to issue permits for existing projects and regulate their operation. Lehman apparently resolved problems that were raised by some subcommittee members, and the full House Interior Committee was expected to mark up HR 4089 on Sept. 10 or 17. Prior to this bill's reaching the House floor or coming over to the Senate, you should urge your US Rep and Senators to support the measure.

### C. Omnibus water resources legislation (with BSFNRR ceiling rise) closer to enactment

Congress has not enacted a major Corps of Engineers omnibus bill for over 15 years because of a lack of consensus on user fees and cost-sharing (by non-federal governments or groups interested in a project). For a while, it looked as though this year, too, the bill would flounder. Now, however, most differences between the House bill (\$21 billion, 316 projects) and Senate bill (\$13 billion, 191 projects) appear to have been resolved in favor of the latter. -- The conference version will presumably contain a Section that raises the authorized spending limit for the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area by about \$52 million. If you have not already done so, NOW is the time to write to the Corps of Engineers and urge them that first priority for new spending must be given to the completion of land acquisition; developments should have lower priority. Consult the ACTION CALL in our last NEWSLETTER (NL 150 #1) for more info. \*(Col. Starbird, District Engineer, P.O.Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070).

## 7. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

### A. Sen. Dole must be urged to break Endangered Species Act deadlock

It's been over a year since the House passed a bill (HR 1027) to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and 10 months since the Senate counterpart (S.725) was

favorably reported by the Environment Committee. Three Senators, however, have refused their consent to allow S.725 to come to a vote: Sen. Simpson (R-WY), who wants to reinstate the sport trapping of wolves and limited hunting of grizzlies; Sen. Symms (R-ID) who wants to change grizzly management; and Sen. Heflin (D-AL), who is afraid that the listing of a turtle species will impede coal mining (which is destroying the turtle's habitat and food supply). These parochial concerns have frustrated the American public's overwhelming support for the ESA. If Congress is to act before adjournment, Majority Leader Dole must assert his authority to break the deadlock and bring S.725 up for a vote.

\* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Phone Sen. Dole (202, 224-3135) or send a telegram to tell him it is irresponsible to allow a handful of Senators to block ESA reauthorization. If possible, also call your own Senators (202, 224-3121, Congressional switchboard). Sen. Sasser is on record that he'll oppose weakening amendments.

#### B. Fast action needed to support federal billboard reform

Strong billboard reform provisions are now contained in one Section of the Highway Reauthorization Act, S.2405, which may come to a floor vote at any moment. The House voted for a meaningless measure in early August that only appears to address the question; so it is particularly important that the Senate provisions remain intact, since the outcome will presumably be a compromise. Currently, the country is operating under a 1965 Highway "Beautification" Act, which requires taxpayers to pay for the removal of signs (\$200 million to date), but does not prevent their replacement with newer, bigger ones. In 1983, for example, we paid for removal of 2,235 old billboards, but 13,522 new ones went up. Sect. 117 of S.2405 would, among other things (a) ban construction of new billboards along federal highways, (b) prohibit tree cutting in front of billboards, (c) allow state and local governments to use their own zoning authority to remove billboards.

\* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Call the Congressional switchboard right away (202, 224-3121) and ask for your Senators' office; ask to speak to each Senator or to an aide handling Highway bill. Support Sect. 117 of S.2405.

#### C. Interior and related agencies appropriations

Both the House and Senate provided more funding than requested by the Reagan Administration for federal land acquisition under the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

Agency (dollars in millions)	FY 1986	FY 1987		
		Reagan	House	Senate
National Park Service (including State assistance)	94	15 (0)	101 (50)	66 (35)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	39	2	33	37
U.S. Forest Service	27	3	43	35

Despite this recurrent rescue by the Congress, appropriated amounts have sharply decreased with the years. Thus, for FY '84, FY '85, and FY '86, acquisition funds for the Park Service have been \$237, 141, and 94 million, respectively; and for the Forest Service, \$63, 51, and 27 million.

For FY 1987 Fish & Wildlife Services programs that implement the Endangered Species Act, both Houses voted appropriations roughly at the FY 1986 level of \$29 million, though the Administration had asked for an almost 25% reduction, altogether eliminating grants to the States. The only Interior agency for which the Administration request was relatively generous is the Office of Surface Mining. See ¶1C, this NL for the Forest Service road construction budget; and ¶5B for TVA appropriations.

#### D. Elections and petrochemical industries

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION recently published a study on the relation between contributions by

PACs (political action committees) and voting records. In a 3½-year period, the top petrochemical PACs spent \$362,315 in campaign money. Of the 12 top takers, 5 are on key committees for environment and energy legislation. The 11 senators and representatives who took over \$30,000 each scored an average of 10.1% on toxics votes. By contrast, the 18 who took \$10,000 or less scored 72.2% on average. (And talking of elections, look for our next NEWSLETTER which will be devoted to information on candidates running for various elected offices in Tennessee.)

## 8. SPEED-UP IN GLOBAL WARMING DUE TO GREENHOUSE EFFECT: A MAJOR THREAT TO OUR PLANET

If you lived through the Tennessee summer of 1986, you will readily identify with the broad consensus that now seems to exist among scientists: the greenhouse effect is speeding up global warming; this speedup is becoming exponential; and it could have drastic world-wide effects within our lifetimes. The alarm among highly knowledgeable scientists became apparent at a June 10 hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution and in several recent studies, such as a major global temperature synthesis (published in the distinguished scientific journal NATURE), which had carefully corrected data base for inhomogeneities.

The major cause: our use of the atmosphere as a garbage dump. CO<sub>2</sub>, in particular, is responsible for trapping the heat, but other gases contribute, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's) destroy the protective ozone layer. CO<sub>2</sub> comes mostly from the burning of fossil fuels. The USA and the USSR, jointly, are responsible for 40% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted into the atmosphere; and biotic sources, such as the cutting and burning of tropical forests, contribute 20%. CFC's come from refrigerants, aerosols, and styrofoam.

The projections: if nothing is done, global temperatures in the next few decades will rise "well above any level experienced in the past 100,000 years" (Dr. Hansen, NASA). Estimates range from 3 to 5°F average increases in the next 20 years, 3 to 8°F in the next 40 years. This will cause: rises in sealevels by 4.5 ft (major losses of coastal zones, including big cities); changes in ocean currents (and thus loss of fisheries); shifts and losses of the major grainbelts of the Earth (and thus famines); disastrous droughts; enormous losses of wetlands.

Proposed remedies: make it a major agenda item for the next USA-USSR summit meeting to set up a scientific panel to make recommendations for speedy action; reduce fossil-fuel use through energy conservation, energy efficiency, use of solar power, and the levying of "carbon taxes" (which could be used for reforestation, e.g.); ban any non-essential uses of CFC's.

All of our elected representatives need to be made aware that we live on the brink of a world-wide catastrophe unless some wise action is taken very soon.

## 9. TCWP NEWS

### A. Executive director

Sam Suffern has taken a more-than-full-time job, working on waste management for military installations, so, with regrets, had to give up his less-than-half-time job as TCWP executive director. We appreciate all he did during the short period he was able to work for TCWP. The TCWP Board on Sept. 18 is interviewing two candidates for the opening left by Sam.

### B. Hike scheduled in Whites Creek Small Wild Area, Oct. 18

Chuck Coutant, TCWP Board member in charge of Trail Maintenance, is asking for helpers for a trip on Saturday, October 18. An earlier maintenance hike in the Whites Creek Small Wild Area on Watts Bar Lake showed the need for blazing, some trail relocation, and the clearing of a short segment. It should also be a fun trip on a beautiful fall day, especially if you have not before visited this area. To carpool, meet at 8 a.m. at the

Big Turtle Park (off the Oak Ridge Turnpike W of traffic light #13). Or, meet at trail-head parking area at 9:15 a.m. Directions: Take I-40 exit #347 and go south on US27 through Rockwood. Where US70 takes off on right, check your odometer but stay on US27; 4.5 miles from that point, US 27 passes over 2 blue bridges in tandem. Exactly 2 mi later you come to a crossroad where you should turn left at an abandoned white house (sign reads Bethel Baptist Church; if you are coming from the south, you'll find this corner ca 7 mi north of Spring City). Proceed ca 1 mi to the lakeside parking lot.

C. Ernie Dickerman shares award with us

Again, an illustrious TCWP member has won an award, and, again, he has shared it with us (for earlier story on Mike Frome, see NL 149 ¶ 9A). Ernie Dickerman, one of TCWP's founders, and extremely active on the Board during our earlier years, went on to work for The Wilderness Society in Washington, then "retired" to a farm in Virginia. In fact, he has been working like a beaver (and successfully so) for wilderness designation in Virginia's national forests. Recently, Ernie (who some years ago won the General Motors Conservation Award) received a Sol Feinstone Environmental Award of \$1000. With typical generosity, he shared his prize money, transmitting \$100 to TCWP.

D. TCWP volunteers

We are truly grateful to a number of people.

- The group that helped assemble Newsletter #150 consisted of Dick Ambrose (coordinator), Marion Garber, Harry and Sylvia Hubbell, Louise Markel, Margaret Olson, Marion Roesel, and Steve Young.
- Our Annual Meeting brochure has been prepared by Lynn Wright and Lee Russell. It will be assembled and mailed by Miriam and Francois Kertesz.
- In separate pre-primary meetings with candidates Jo Ann Garrett and Harold Jernigan, TCWP was represented by Dick Ambrose and Lee Russell.
- Don Todd represented TCWP at a meeting with Asst. Sec. of Interior Griles (see ¶3B, this NL).

E. Coalition could use support

One of the coalitions TCWP belongs to has recently done a great deal of fine work that necessarily incurred some expenses. It is the TVA Board Appointment Coalition that attempts to give voice to the people of the region in the process of choosing nominees. The Coalition interviews potential candidates at length, both in writing and in person, and makes this and other information available to member organizations and to key legislators and White House staff. TCWP has made a financial contribution to the Coalition, and some of you may wish to help individually (TVA Board Appointment Coalition, P.O. Box 11248, Knoxville, TN 37939-1248).

1. THINGS TO DO AND THINGS TO READ

- Oct. 9-10, Shelbyville, TN: Expo 86 Water Quality Conference. Speakers will include heads of the TVA, the TN Off. of Water Management, the Soil Conservation Serv. in TN, the TN Wildlife Resources Agency, and several other prominent persons. (For info, call John T. Harris, 901, 422-5682).
- Oct. 31, Nashville, TN: Semi-annual meeting of The Water Quality Control Board. Among agenda items: amendments to Stream Use Classification and Water Qual. Criteria; ground-water protection strategy. (For info, call 741-2215)
- The "Tennessee Coalition for Consumer Justice" is being formed to fight attempts by the insurance industry and toxic polluters to severely restrict citizens' rights to be compensated for injury caused by hazardous waste. These industry attempts are carried on under the smokescreen of tort "reform" to eliminate "joint and several" liability. Contact Bill Nolan, Tenn. Trial Lawyers Assn., 430 Third Ave, N, Nashville 37201.
- A review of the Tenn. DoC's Div. of Ecological Resources was recently undertaken by a panel of experts. The report may be borrowed from TCWP.

(Continued on p. 2, below Action Summary)