

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 161

February 19, 1988



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- "The Appalachian National Scenic Trail: A Time to be Bold," by Hank Foster, follows the political and social impacts of the AT from earliest vision to current status (\$12.95 + 2.10 postage from A.T. Conference, POB 807, Harpers Ferry, W.VA 25425; reductions for ATC members and for bulk orders).
- "Alternatives for Reducing the Cost of Acid Rain Controls: Electricity Demand-Side Management and Clean Coal Technologies," has recently been issued by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (\$10 from EESI, 410 First St., SE, Wash., DC 20003).
- The Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy is a quarterly publication in which respected authors cover timely public policy issues in the energy/environment area. (\$20/yr from the Forum, POB 1750, Knoxville, TN 37901-1750; Ph.: 615, 632-8042).

11. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1	Cedar Barrens	TCWP	Volunteer for maintenance
2	Natural Areas	Gov. McWherter	"Thanks for acquisitions made or in progress, but please speed process, provide funds!"
3A	Shelby Forest	Members of House Conserv. Comm.	"Pass Shelby Natural Area bill, HB 417!"
3B	N. Chickamauga Cr	Elmo Lunn Sen. Gore	"Thanks for denying water permit!" "Thanks for urging decision reversal!"
3C	State Forests	Bob Rochelle	Request info on forest plans and provide active input.
3E	Septic tanks	State Rep and Sen	"Vote to end groundwater contamination!"
4A	Nolichucky R	Cherokee NF	Request EIS. Support WSR status
5	Smokies (if no action on 2/24/88)	Committee members	"Speed up passage of S.693!"
6B	Cherokee NF	Ranger districts	Provide input into projects
8A	Arctic Refuge	US Sens and Rep	"Do not permit leasing! Support HR39/S.1804!"
8B	Endangered Species	US Sens	"Ask Sen. Byrd to schedule early floor action! Co-sponsor S.675 as reported!"
9	Hikes	TCWP	Come
9	Dues	TCWP	Pay

Senator Joe Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Governor Ned McWherter
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37219

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman/woman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Gov. McWherter
Respectfully yours,

To call a Representative or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, (202) 224-3121

To find out about the status of a federal bill, call (202) 225-1772

1. CEDAR BARRENS VICTORY: VOLUNTEERS NOW NEEDED FOR MANAGEMENT

(Our non-Oak Ridge members need a lot of updating since NL 160 ¶1. Not only have they presumably not read the local papers, but we omitted them from the mailing list of two recent first-class TCWP mailings that pertained specifically to the Cedar Barrens.)

The Cedar Barrens represented a very basic natural-areas issue: it is scientifically highly valuable (a 5000-year-old prairie remnant containing a state-list endangered species) but not scenically spectacular. At the same time, the Barrens became a symbol for a whole city's development philosophy. The area originally nominated for State Natural Area status in 1986 was 22 acres, but subsequent happenings (NL 160 ¶1) shrank the contested parcel to 7.9 acres.

At its January 4 meeting, despite tremendous public representation for Barrens preservation, the Oak Ridge City Council voted 6:5 to sell the entire parcel to Crown American Corp., which held an option to buy the adjacent 94 acres for a mall development. One argument used against us was that the Barrens was nothing but a dumping ground for trash; but 2 days earlier, TCWP volunteers had cleaned it up with only 25 person-hours of effort. The main argument, of anti-Barrens Council members was that the parcel was essential for Crown's as-yet-unrevealed development plans. However, when these plans actually arrived a few days later, no use for the Barrens was shown, except for one little wedge as part of a parking lot, and one peripheral strip as a drain field. [In fact, it became clear that Crown would not have asked to buy the 7.9 acres, had it not been invited by City staff to do so.] Crown proposed to leave 4.8 acres in Barrens status. Since the company would not talk to us directly, this was not a true compromise. However, Councilman Jones (who had been absent from the Jan. 4 meeting) subsequently arranged for a joint walk-through of the area by a Crown representative, TCWP leaders, and members of the Planning Commission and EQAB, which resulted in boundary adjustments agreeable to all parties.

Another important point that had to be won was "Greenbelt" zoning for the roughly 5-acre portion we were going to retain. City staff and some members of Council considered such designation to be too permanently protective. However, at its January 28 meeting, the Planning Commission voted 10:1 to recommend greenbelt zoning; and, on February 16, City Council voted unanimously for the first reading of a rezoning ordinance to this effect. (The remaining ca 3 acres were rezoned for Crown's use.)

This all sounds much easier and more straight-forward than, in fact, it was. A tremendous amount of citizen effort lies back of this victory, with hundreds of phone calls, letters, letters-to-the-editor, fact finding in city offices, TV and newspaper interviews, ads, the collection of almost 1600 petition signatures, and, as a climax, a TCWP-sponsored rally of ca 200 people (with excellent talks by Drs. Elsie Quarterman and Stan Auerbach, among many others), followed by a walk through the Barrens. A huge number of people did a huge number of great things, and only a very few of them can here be mentioned: Maureen Cunningham (at the head of all), Don Barger, Michael Huston, Virginia Dale, Becky Charles, Fred Holtzclaw, Chuck Coutant, Bill and Lee Russell. Members of the Planning Commission who were particularly helpful in achieving the compromise with greenbelt status were Charles Hensley, Ed Nephew, Chairman Lynn Noey. On the City Council, the 5 initial votes for Barrens preservation came from Trauger, Pitt, Rush, Ginsburg, and Bryant. Our particular gratitude goes to Elaine Trauger for her intelligent and courageous leadership role, and to John Jones for taking the lead in forging the ultimate compromise. For 2 months, the citizens of Oak Ridge were exposed to public discussion of natural areas, good planning, open space, open government. The response was tremendous and will hopefully color future Council actions on greenbelts and open space.

* Following the second reading of the ordinance and City approval of the TCWP Management Plan, hopefully on Feb. 29, we become responsible for the area and need all the volunteers we can get -- for periodic trash cleanup, removal of exotic species, trail development, etc. To volunteer for however little time you can spend, contact Dick Ambrose, 482-9229, or Maureen Cunningham 482-6746.

2. STATUS OF THE TENNESSEE NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM

TCWP has had considerable correspondence from the TN Dept. of Conservation (DoC) and the Governor's office in connection with our questioning the administration's commitment to natural areas preservation. The two specific issues raised by us (NL 160 ¶4) were: (a) the administration's failure to request appropriations for the Natural & Cultural Areas Acquisition Fund in 1987 (and similar prospects for 1988/89), and (b) the apparent inertia with respect to specific acquisitions that could have been handled with the existing balance of the Fund.

Regarding appropriations, DoC informs us that the Governor has never proposed to reallocate the (existing) Fund for other purposes. As to the future, it is unlikely that new capital projects would be initiated by the administration (i.e., new money asked for) prior to completion of existing ones, with priorities most likely to "focus on critical maintenance type issues." Thus, says DoC, "with an unencumbered balance of approximately \$2 million in the Acquisition Fund, the administration is

administration is reluctant to consider capital budget expansion at this time." Regarding the slowness of actual acquisitions with existing funds, it appears that DoC's proposals submitted to the administration in the spring of 1987 were tabled until after completion of the Governor's statewide summer listening sessions. Starting late in October 1987, two meetings were held at which DoC found the Governor's staff to be "most supportive and interested in proceeding with the program." As of early January, DoC was, at the Governor's request, drafting criteria for selection of candidate sites. (An earlier letter from DoC states that "any list of candidate sites will be significantly influenced by this administration's input.") Two acquisitions were made in 1987 -- one, a natural area (House Mountain, \$247,590), and one, a cultural area (Chester Inn Historic Site, \$254,428). In progress are additions to two Natural Areas, namely Radnor Lake (\$600,000) and Frozen Head (\$90,000), and acquisition of the Burra Burra Mine Historic Site (\$229,750). There is no mention of the status of the other areas that DoC had recommended for acquisition, e.g., the Savage Gulf addition.

* We are indeed gratified to learn that the existing Fund is safe from competing uses, that DoC found the Governor's staff interested in proceeding with the program, and that some acquisitions have been made or are in progress. Gov. McWherter deserves to be commended on these points (see p.2, for address). We should also urge greater speed in acquiring the many other natural areas already recommended by DoC, a priority system based on ecological and other scientific considerations (with the smallest possible input from political considerations), and an administration request for new appropriations (since the existing balance will very soon be used up if the administration does its job of following up on recommended acquisitions).

3. OTHER STATE ISSUES

A. Shelby Farms Forest Natural Area needs support

Of 32 State Natural Areas, only 4 are in West Tennessee, but right in Memphis' backyard is an area highly worthy of preservation. In a wide band along the Wolf River, within the 4500-acre Shelby Farms area, lies a bottomland hardwood forest and baldcypress-tupelo swamp. Eagles and river otters are often sighted in this urban forest, which contains 11 miles of trails. No cost would be involved in designating the forest a State Natural Area: the land is already in public ownership (Shelby County), and a team of experts has volunteered its services to produce a management plan and to implement it. Natural Area designation is likely to affect the routing of a proposed highway (Kirby Parkway extension) which otherwise threatens to bisect the forest.

* The legislative process for designating a 1000-acre Shelby Farms Forest Natural Area was initiated last year when SB 954 was passed 28:0 under the sponsorship of Sen. Steve Cohen. A House bill, HB 417 (Kernell) remains in the Conservation and Environment Committee and needs the support of all Tennesseans (East, West, and Middle!). Check the enclosed Political Guide for members of the committee and be sure to contact any that represent your area (if none do, contact the chairman). These of you who live in the Shelby County region should also contact your mayor(s), and members of the City Council and County Commission.

We received a letter from Gov. McWherter that focuses almost entirely on the road issue. The governor wants to know (a) what route the city and county leadership desire, and (b) what the costs and environmental impacts would be for alternative routings.

B. North Chickamauga Creek: saved by the State?

* The federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) essentially threw North Chickamauga to the wolves when it denied a citizen petition to designate the watershed as unsuitable for coal surface mining (NL 158 ¶5A). The OSM study done pursuant to the so-called "522" petition corroborated many of the arguments that had been brought by the citizens, yet the agency chose to ignore its own findings. Stripmining in Tennessee, however, requires a water-discharge as well as a stripmine permit, and the state's Office of Water Management recently found that "any mining activities in the watershed" would violate the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act. N. Chickamauga thus appears safe, for the time being. In the meantime, Sen. Gore has asked the Secretary of the Interior either to reverse the OSM decision outright or at least to order a re-study (NL 160 ¶5B). People deserving out thanks: (a) Elmo Lunn, Administrator, Tenn. Office of Water Management (see Political Guide for address), and (b) Sen. Al Gore, Jr. (see p.2).

C. The State Forest planning process

A few years ago, public outcry about clearcutting in the Natchez Trace State Forest provided the initial impetus for generation of forest management plans. Since then, the Division of Forestry of the Tenn. Dept. of Conservation has drafted a management plan for state forests overall. For each individual forest, a resource assessment will be done, and a 10-year management plan will be written following various inputs. The first hearing for an individual state forest plan was recently held for the Natchez Trace. The Forestry Division earned high praise for its effort in soliciting public comment.

Because the overall state forest draft plan dictates "multiple-use" management -- a concept that can be bent in many directions -- the Intergroup Conference of Nov. 1987 passed a resolution urging that the term be redefined as "compatible multiple use." The resolution also urged the Div. of Forestry to limit off-road vehicles in state forests to specified roads, and to show in each individual forest plan just how this policy will be implemented. The next management plan to be undertaken is for the Prentice Cooper State Forest near Chattanooga. To get on a mailing list for invited input into this (or any other) plan, and to stay informed about state forestry planning in general, contact Bob Rochelle, Div. of Forestry, TN Dept. of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville 37219; Ph.: 615, 742-6615.

D. State's ground-water strategy endorsed -- with some changes

Concerns about ground-water protection lag at least 10 years behind those for surface-water or air-quality protection. The Division of Ground Water Protection of the TN Dept. of Health & Environment recently released a 37-page draft report entitled "Tennessee Ground Water Management Strategy." Matters dealt with are data needs, protection policies, strategy implementation, etc. Recommendations for eliminating certain sources of contamination include: (a) to cease exempting agriculture and forestry from provisions of the Water Quality Control Act; (b) to delete the statutory provision that allows blasting into bedrock for septic-tank installation; and (c) to require "no discharge conditions" at all new sanitary landfills. The Tennessee Environmental Council, which has made a very thorough study of ground-water problems and protection needs, supports the draft Management Strategy, except for provisions that allow ground-water injection with industrial waste fluids. [For a copy of the draft strategy and/or the TEC recommendations, contact Suzanne Wilkes, Div. of Ground Water Protection, 150 9th Ave, N., Nashville 37219; Ph.: 615, 741-0690.]

E. Changes in septic-tank construction advocated; to protect ground-water quality

Existing statutory language permits blasting into bedrock for the placement of septic tanks and field lines. Such blasting has for some time been a major source of ground-water contamination (see also ¶ 3D, this NL). This year, the Environmental Action Fund (of which TCWP is a member) is lobbying for legislation that would (a) repeal the permissive statutory language, and (b) change the percolation-test requirements that determine whether soil can accommodate a septic system. Contact your state legislators (see enclosed list) to support bills that will disallow bedrock blasting for septic-tank placement.

4. RIVERS IN TENNESSEE

A. Nolichucky study: champions of Wild & Scenic River status needed

A draft environmental impact statement (EIS) has been completed by the U.S. Forest Service as a prerequisite to determining whether a segment of the Nolichucky River should be designated as a component of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) System. The Nolichucky was included in the National Rivers Inventory developed during the Carter administration to identify rivers potentially worthy of WSR protection.

Designation would have to be accomplished by Act of Congress. In the hope that a citizen constituency for such legislation can be found, we urge all those who love the river to take an interest in the process. A copy of the EIS may be requested from Russ Griffith, Cherokee National Forest, 2800 N. Ocoee Rd., P.O. Box 2010, Cleveland, TN 37311. Ph. 615, 476-9700.

B. Pigeon River: Champion Paper Co. demonstrates the art of job blackmail

The Champion International Paper Co. transported 2000 of its workers and family members from Canton, N.C., to Knoxville for the January 21 hearing on the EPA-proposed permit to clean up the Pigeon River. On a gentlemen's agreement, Tennesseans had stayed away from the N.C. hearing held the week before at Asheville, but Champion failed to reciprocate when it came to the Tennessee hearing. Champion has obviously convinced its workforce that compliance with environmental regulations would force a shutdown of the 80-year-old plant, though other paper companies have survived clean-up measures. There are rumors that the mere age of the plant -- unrelated to EPA permit requirements -- might necessitate costly rebuilding that could force a plant closing. "Champion," said Sam Venable in the Knoxville News-Sentinel, "has done a masterful job of scaring people, pointing fingers, and totally obscuring the issue." Almost 40 miles of the poisoned Pigeon River flow through Tennessee, and the point was made at the hearing that Cocke County, TN, could be making \$7.3 million annually from tourism and related business if the river were cleaned up. Congressman Quillen and Gov. McWherter were notably absent from the Knoxville hearing.

C. Ocoee carrying capacity under study

With the tremendous increase in the popularity of white-water recreation, the Ocoee River last year was becoming clearly overused. The Tennessee Dept. of Conservation (DoC) has now launched a Carrying Capacity and River Management Study for the Ocoee. An informal advisory committee, appointed to provide input into this study, includes two representatives of the private boating community. One of these is Sam Suffern, past TCWP executive

director, who will represent TCWP and two whitewater clubs. -- DoC is also in the process of promulgating rules and regulations pertaining to rafting services on the Ocoee.

D. Clinch River: Coal-barge terminal

The developer has promised anti-runoff and dust-control measures for the coal-barge terminal he proposes to build across from the Eagle Bend Industrial Park at Clinton. Five coal trucks per hour are projected to enter the terminal.

5. SMOKIES WILDERNESS: COMMITTEE ACTION IMMINENT

It now appears as though February 24 may be the date on which the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee votes on S.693, the Smokies Wilderness bill. Ever since the House bill (HR 1495) passed on September 29, there have been attempts to get action on the Senate bill, with mounting fears that delays during the short election-year calendar could prove fatal. What has delayed Senate action can be summarized in 3 words -- Sen. Jesse Helms. Despite the major concessions made to cemetery visitors in the House bill, as well as in the amended S.693, Sen. Helms (R-NC) will not budge from his rival bill (S.695), which cuts 65,000 acres from the wilderness, and authorizes construction of a 30+ mile road into the heart of the pristine Hazel Creek area north of Fontana Res.

Senators Sasser (D-TN), Sanford (D-NC), and Gore (D-TN), who introduced S.693 over a year ago, have prepared an amendment to their bill that will make it very similar to the House-passed HR 1495.

- About 419,000 acres are designated wilderness, and another 46,000 acres will become wilderness as soon as certain rights retained by private landowners (probably minimal) are acquired by the National Park Service (NPS). Total wilderness, 465,000 acres.
- Swain Cy, NC, is authorized to receive \$9.5 million in return for NPS' noncompletion of a road north of Fontana Res. It will require actual appropriation (i.e., not merely authorization) of the \$9.5 M for wilderness designation to become effective.
- Current visitor access now provided by NPS to cemeteries within the park will continue on a permanent basis. The cemeteries and access corridors to them are excluded from wilderness, but use of the access roads is restricted to NPS vehicles.

That's the amended bill which the Committee will hopefully approve on Feb. 24. All three sponsors -- and particularly Sen. Sasser -- have worked very hard to get the subcommittee and Committee chairmen to finally take up the bill. Since Sen. Helms has not budged from his position, he may try to get a powerful friend, Sen. McClure, to block Committee consideration, even now. At best, there will be Committee members voting against S.693 -- hopefully, they'll be clearly in the minority.

* If, by the time you read this, the Committee has failed to act on the bill, contact one or more of the following Committee members to urge speedy passage of S.693: Bennett Johnston (LA) (chairman), or Senators W. Ford (KY), J. Melcher (MT), B. Bradley (NJ), J. Bingaman (NM), T. Wirth (CO), W. Fowler (GA), K. Conrad (ND), M. Hatfield (OR), L. Weicker (CT), D. Evans (WA). -- If S.693 did get voted out of Committee, we need to urge Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd to schedule the floor vote without delay.

6. AREA NATIONAL FORESTS

A. Highlands of Roan

The US Forest Service plans to manage all Federal lands within the Highlands of Roan by special management criteria that are compatible with the goals of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, the group instrumental in protection-acquisition of key tracts in the area. The DC office of the USFS has approved an initiative by the NC National Forests to buy the remaining 141 acres of the Peake tract on the west slope of Grassy Ridge (59 acres along the Appalachian Trail are finally being acquired by condemnation, see NL 160 ¶7C).

B. Ranger-district projects in the Cherokee NF

* Six ranger districts of the Cherokee NF are developing plans for 3-5 projects each (timber cuts, road construction, inventories, etc.), with an environmental analysis to be made for each project. Public comments are invited, as is participation in field reviews. While some of the deadlines have already passed, others are still in the future. To get a list of ranger districts and projects, call the Cherokee NF headquarters at Cleveland, TN, 615, 476-9700.

C. Status of appeal of the Cherokee Plan

The Cherokee Forest Plan was implemented as of May 19, 1986, and has been directing management in the Forest, except for a 90,000-acre area for which a stay of implementation was requested in our appeal. The stay (granted by

the USFS in October 1986) affects initiation of new management activities, such as timber harvesting and road building. Some of the negotiations under the appeal have resulted in the USFS agreeing to, various types of protected status for altogether 22,500 acres of the "special lands" (see NL 159 ¶2). There has also been some approach between the parties regarding total annual timber harvests and the percentage of Cherokee timber harvests that is to be done by methods other than clear-cutting. Wildlife management issues are under discussion with the Cherokee NF team. Appeals issues that must be resolved at the Washington level of the USFS are maintenance of biological diversity, below-cost timber sales, visual quality, and economic suitability of lands scheduled for timbering. Once settlement of the appeal occurs, that portion of the 90,000 acres that is not designated for special treatment will be released for management in accordance with the current Cherokee Plan.

D. Cherokee NF roads

In FY 86, the Cherokee constructed 27.4 miles of new roads, and reconstructed or restored another 37.3 miles. For FY 87, the corresponding figures were 30.9 and 50.3 miles, respectively.

7. TVA AND CITIZEN INPUT

A. Runyon assumes chairmanship

On Dec. 17, the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee voted 12:1 (Sen. Breaux dissenting), and on Dec. 19, the whole Senate voted 81:5 (Sens. Adams, Byrd, Breaux, Harkins, and Proxmire dissenting) to confirm the nomination of Marvin T. Runyon to the TVA Board. Runyon was sworn in on January 25, becoming TVA's 9th chairman; Charles Dean, the former chairman, remains on the Board. Throughout the nominations process, Runyon had refused to answer questions by the TVA Board Appointment Coalition (TVABAC) which represents 42 citizens groups throughout the Valley, stating "it is only proper for the members of the Senate...Committee to hear my views directly" TVABAC's questions were finally submitted to Runyon by Sen. Humphrey, who ordered Runyon's written responses to be printed in the Congressional Record (S.18604-18606, 12/21/87).

Runyon retired from Ford Motor Co. in 1980 to become Nissan president, in which capacity he was responsible for building the Nissan Plant at Smyrna, TN. He has no prior experience with utilities, with government, or with dealing with public involvement. Since taking office at TVA, Runyon has divided TVA activity areas among Board members and has created 6 task forces, with two of these reporting to each Board member. Of closest concern to us is the task force on appropriated (i.e., nonpower) programs which, along with that on legislative initiatives, will report to John B. Waters. TVA's non-power budget for FY 1988 is \$106.4 million.

B. TVA Environmental Constituency Meeting -- Chattanooga, Feb. 2-4, 1988

(Contributed by Jenny Freeman Johnson, Exec. Dir., TCWP)

As part of a decade-long effort to establish meaningful dialogue with TVA concerning its environmental policies, a full-day meeting was held in Chattanooga between representatives of the Valley environmental community, TVA office managers, and members of the TVA Environmental Quality Staff (EQS). The meeting did not focus on specific issues, but rather on the establishment of a process for future communication. Environmentalists were told about the annual Environmental Goals and Objectives process that will direct TVA's environmental policy, and we learned where we can participate in the development of these goals and objectives. We decided to hold semi-annual meetings to continue and strengthen our dialogue. In addition, environmentalists were encouraged by Dr. Ralph Brooks, Director of EQS, to request meetings with him and his staff whenever we wish to discuss specific issues.

The meeting was productive because representatives of the environmental community and top-level TVA managers had the opportunity to get to know one another and to learn of each other's concerns. Only the future will tell whether a real partnership has been developed, or whether this was just another meeting.

C. TVA Board Appointment Coalition Meeting with Marvin Runyon--Nashville, Feb. 15, 1988

(Contributed by Jenny Freeman Johnson, Exec. Dir., TCWP)

On Feb. 15, representatives of the TVA Board Appointment Coalition (TVABAC) met with Marvin Runyon in Nashville. The purpose of the meeting was to ask questions of Mr. Runyon, questions that are part of an interview that TVABAC tries to have with every nominee for the TVA Board of Directors. Marvin Runyon had refused our repeated earlier requests for an interview, starting back in August when he was first mentioned as a candidate for the Board (see ¶7A, above).

Mr. Runyon arrived at our meeting with a prepared statement answering criticism of his recent reorganization of TVA Board meetings. This reorganization sets limits to public participation and interaction with Board members and office managers at TVA Board meetings, the time when policy decisions are made. After a general discussion of the concept of public participation, we asked Mr. Runyon several questions about water quality, residential rate preference, the privatization of TVA, the appropriated (non-power) programs, TVA's commitment to a troubled

nuclear program, and others. We found Mr. Runyon to be cordial, but lacking in depth of knowledge about TVA issues and programs. We found his perceptions of public participation to be limited by his years of working in private industry. As a result of the interview, the TVABAC delegation recognizes the hard work that will be involved in educating and working with this newest TVA Board member.

D. TVA Reservoir System Operations and Planning Review, Knoxville, Feb. 18

(Contributed by Jenny Freeman Johnson, Exec. Dir., TCWP)

On February 17 & 18, a TVA reservoir planning session was held in Knoxville. Ex-TCWP Director Sam Suffern and I were two of four environmentalists who agreed to participate. The other participants were drawn from such Valley constituencies as the East Tennessee Development District, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Soil Conservation Service, the Alabama Development Office, county and city governments, and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Authority. The meeting was the second step in a process that began last December with a public information session at which interested citizens could offer comments, ask questions, and get information about TVA's reevaluation of its reservoir operations (NL 160 ¶6F). According to TVA, the reservoir reevaluation study, broadest ever undertaken by the agency, is aimed at making the Tennessee River the "best river system in America" in terms of water quality, water supply, and the river's usefulness to the regional economy.

At the February meeting, I expressed TCWP's concerns about the dissolved oxygen problem below hydro dams, our desire to preserve portions of reservoir shorelines in a natural state, and our support for planning for additional uses of the TVA system, such as whitewater recreation, fisheries, and waterfowl habitat. I also applauded TVA for its openness in creating the review process by which hundreds of people from all kinds of constituencies had the opportunity to participate in decisions about an important TVA policy.

E. TVA Natural Areas

On December 17, TVA issued Volume 7 of the "Tennessee Valley Outdoor Recreation Plan," subtitled NATURAL AREAS. The report provided an overview of the goals and objectives of TVA's natural areas project and a description of established and proposed TVA-managed natural areas. For further information, contact Judith Bartlow, Natural Areas Coordinator, TVA, 218 Natural Resources Bldg, Norris, TN 37828, Ph.: 615, 632-1592.

F. "Environmental Trends and Issues"

TVA's Environmental Quality Staff (EQS) has now prepared its second report on this subject. Areas covered are air quality, water quality, Valley lands, and waste management. Considered under each topic are "trends" -- which discuss the data in the environmental assessment, and "issues" -- which ask if and how TVA should work to solve the problems noted under "trends." For copies, contact Martha Ketelle, EQS, 203 Summer Place Bldg., Knoxville 37902; Ph.: 615, 632-6686.

8. NATIONAL ISSUES

A. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: an oil-development bill is on the move

The push to open up the incomparable ANWR to oil and gas drilling (NL 156 ¶7A, NL 158 ¶8A, NL 160 ¶8A) had everything on its side: strong Reagan Administration support, all the influence that oil money can buy, and championship by Alaska's Congressional delegation. The main hope of those trying to protect this wildlife treasure was that repeated congressional delays and the short election-year calendar might postpone the issue until another administration takes office. However, the Senate Energy Committee is currently engaged in marking up a joint staff draft that is being touted as a compromise (mainly because lease sales would be phased at 2-year intervals, with no more than 20% of the area leased in any one sale), but which environmental groups characterize as a straight leasing bill that would subject the development to standards that are below even those of other wildlife refuges. For example, no NEPA challenges to the initial leasing regulations would be allowed. An amendment to the draft bill will be offered that would delay initial leasing by at least 2 years, in the meantime requiring USDI to complete a study that details the need for ANWR development in the context of overall U.S. energy demand.



Our message to Senators and Representatives (addresses on p.2) remains simple: no drilling in the ANWR, which has been called America's Serengeti. Instead, support for HR39/S1804, which would give positive wilderness protection to the area.

B. Endangered Species Act passes House

On December 17, the House by a vote of 399:16 passed a five-year reauthorization of appropriations for the Endangered Species Act (HR 1467). The lopsided vote masks the intense struggle over the contents of the bill, and the fact that a large number of amendments were brought up during 8 hours of debate. The most harmful of these were defeated, including one that would have delayed measures to prevent the drowning of sea turtles in shrimp nets; but one or two others stuck or required compromise. As far as we can ascertain, no Tennessee Congressmar

voted against the bill, and several (Gordon, Lloyd, Sundquist) wrote to tell us that they gave the reauthorization their full support.

Now the Senate must be persuaded to take prompt action in order to prevent time pressures later in the session from forcing conservationists to accept damaging compromises.

* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to both your Senators (address on p.2) and ask them: (a) to contact Sen. Byrd and ask him to schedule an early floor debate for the ESA, if necessary, over the objections of Sen. Simpson (who wants to allow hunting of threatened predators), and (b) to co-sponsor S675 as reported out by the committee, and to work for its passage with no amendments.

C. Assistance for rivers and trails

An important appropriations victory was won recently when the Senate voted to roughly double funding for the National Park Service's State and Local Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program. This program provides technical support for a variety of protection efforts, including assistance to states that are in process of developing river inventories and assessments.

D. Wetland Capsules

- The "swampbuster" provision of the 1985 farm bill denies farm program benefits to farmers who convert wetlands to cropland. Sen. Kasten (R-WI) has recently criticized the Dept. of Agriculture for not enforcing this provision to protect so-called "prairie pothole" wetlands in the Great Plains, particularly in North Dakota.
- A U.S. District Court in California has ruled that EPA must approve funding (from construction-grants monies) for land acquisition to replace wetlands that are destroyed by a project covered under the Clean Water Act.

E. Largest Appalachian Trail Acquisition

Of about 192 miles of AT yet to be acquired, 113.5 miles were in Maine. More than one-fourth of this Maine mileage has now been purchased by the National Park Service from the Scott Paper Co. The 5000-acre sale (for 31.6 miles of trail) represents the largest single transaction in the history of the AT land-acquisition project. The tract is also notable for its magnificent panoramas.

9. TCWP ITEMS

- * • We hope you will join the hikes announced in this NL for TCWP-maintained trails. Bring friends -- it's a good way to get people to enjoy areas we have helped preserve. See ¶10 for dates and other details.
- Enclosed with this NL is our annual Political Guide (with lots of federal and state addresses and phone Nos.) and a list of state legislators. This is a service provided by TCWP for its members. Please save both sheets in a readily accessible place, and use them whenever the need arises for citizen input.
- * • Also enclosed is the 1988 dues statement. Please return it promptly with your check -- this saves us the labor and expense of re-billing. If no statement is enclosed, this means you have already paid.
- Our sincere thanks to the following volunteers:
Lynn Wright and Bob Luxmore prepared the Political Guide; Flossie Starling, Alice Runtsch, Peggy Turner, Caroline Hunsacker, Richard Raridon, and Dick Ambrose assembled NL 160.

10. JOB OPENINGS, EVENTS, THINGS TO READ

- TCWP outings on March 5 and April 16, see below.
- Job Opportunities
 1. Consultant to the Natural Resources Defense Council for project that will aim to preserve Hawaii's rich natural heritage. Graduate degree desirable. Salary \$25-30,000. Position available March 1. Contact David Edelson, NRDC, 90 Montgomery St., San Francisco, CA 94105.
 2. The Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Management has 1988 summer job openings on the A.T. Salary ca \$280/wk. Send resumes to R. B. Hatton, 907 N. Hoosac Rd., Williamstown, MA 01267. For info, call 413, 458-3123.

- Feb. 27 & 28, Southern Environmental Assembly, Atlanta. The South, with its vast rural lands and lax enforcement of environmental laws, faces great threats from unchecked growth and pollution. Interested citizens will meet for issue and skills workshops. Call 404, 584-8503.
- March 5, TCWP Northridge Trail hike -- walk the entire 8.5 miles, or less if you wish. Meet 9:30 a.m. where Mississippi Ave meets W. Outer Drive. Wear sturdy shoes, pack a lunch and beverage, bring plastic bag for possible trash pickup.
- March 14-16, "Protecting and Planning for Parks of the Future" is the theme for this year's National Park and Conservation Assn's conference in Washington, DC. For information, call Ellen Barclay, NPCA, at 202, 944-8550.
- March 19, TEC-sponsored fund-raising workshop, Nashville (Call TEC, 615, 321-5075).
- April 16, TCWP hike in Whites Creek Small Wild Area, Watts Bar Lake. Meet at 9 a.m. for carpooling at Big Turtle Park, ca 2 mi W of traffic light #13, Oak Ridge Turnpike. Or, meet at 10 a.m. at the trailhead. (Take US 27 south from Rockwood. About 4 miles after US 70 turns off, you will cross 2 bridges in tandem. 2.0 miles beyond the center of the second bridge, a road turns left at Roddy and goes 1 mile to the lake-side parking lot.) Wear sturdy shoes, pack a lunch and beverage, bring a plastic bag for trash pickup.
- April 28-29, Conference on "The Visual Environment," Quality Inn, Robertson Parkway, Nashville. Topics will include sign control, bottle-bill strategy, roadside beautification, model city ordinances, etc. For info, contact Tennesseans for Scenic Beauty, 1719 West End Ave, Suite 227, Nashville 37203.
- June 26-July 2, Wildbranch Workshop in Outdoor, Natural History, and Environmental Writing, Sterling College. Write Sterling College, P.O. Box 72, Craftsbury Common, VT 05827-9988; or phone 1,800-648-3591.
- Audubon Ecology Camps and Workshops feature field ecology, nature photography, wilderness research, etc. For info, write National Environmental Education Center, 613 Riversville Rd, Greenwich, CT 06831-9957.
- The Smoky Mountain Field School offers courses between March 5 and Dec. 10. Courses are 1-5 days in length and are taught in the Smokies by faculty from U.T., ETSU, ORNL, etc. For info, phone Dr. Gayle D. Cooper, Knoxville, 974-6688.
- Sailing among the Apostle Islands, Lake Superior (July 24-26, Aug. 7-9), and canoeing in the Boundary Waters Wilderness (Aug. 20-27) are trips to be led by the Northwoods Audubon Center. (Contact Natl. Audubon Soc, 1313 Fifth St., SE, Suite 321, Minneapolis, MN 55414; Ph.: 612, 379-3868).
- To learn how to generate video programs for public access channels on cable TV, contact Chris Palmer, Natl. Audubon Soc., 801 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, Suite 301, Wash., DC 20003; Ph.: 202, 547-9009.
- The MAMMAL SLIDE LIBRARY, a nonprofit enterprise, sells individual slides for \$1 each. The program has slides of over 600 species from more than 100 families. Slides can be ordered from a list (free) or a catalog (\$2). (Write Dr. Dwight W. Moore, Mammal Slide Library, Div. Biological Sci., Box 50, Emporia State Univ., Emporia, Kansas 66801).
- A Tennessee business that sells recycled paper is Earth Dance Trading Co., 1313 Linville St., Kingsport, TN 37660; Ph.: 615, 753-4873. Watt Childress at this company is TEC's contact.
- "Helping Out in the Outdoors: A Volunteer Directory to American Parks & Forests, #14" has just been issued by the American Hiking Society (1015-31st Street, NW, Wash., DC 20007; cost, \$3). Positions are listed state-by-state for both state and national parks and forests.
- "The Conservation Directory, 1988," is a guide to environmental agencies in federal and state governments, citizens' groups, parks, forests, and wildlife refuges, etc., etc. (\$15 each + \$2.75 postage [regardless of number ordered] from National Wildlife Fed., 1412 - 16th St. NW, Wash. DC 20036-2266).
- The "Annual Environmental Sourcebook" lists and describes 76 practical books for better conservation and management. To receive this catalog, call Island Press, toll-free, at 1-800-628-2828, Ext. 416 (24-hour service).
- A "Lyme Disease Brochure" is available from the Appal. Trail Conf., POB 807, Harpers Ferry, W. VA 25425-0807. Lyme disease is transmitted by the deer tick and is curable if treated promptly. 80% of cases have been in New England.
- Films and videos on nature and outdoor subjects are available from West Wind Productions, Inc. (POB 3532, Boulder, CO 80307). Videocassettes ca \$60; films range \$105-145 for used print, \$175-295 for new print.
- "Footprints on the Planet: A search for an Environmental Ethics," by Robert Cahn (\$5.95 from Island Press, Box 7, Covelo, CA 95428).