

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 162

April 6, 1988

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TCWP outing: April 16

See ¶9 Join us!

11. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1	Smokies wilderness	Sens Sasser, Sanford Other senators	"Thanks! See bill through!" "Support bill, and stop any filibuster!"
2B	State bills	State legislators	"Support HB 1357, HB 1359, HB 417, and Septic-tank bills!"
2C	Nonpoint pollution	DHE	Review draft plan.
2E	State Forests	Bob Rochelle	Request info on forest plans and provide input
2G	State Trails	Sen. Greer, Rep. Hillis, your own legislators	"Reinstate Trails Administrator position!"
3A	Harpeth River	Peter Jordan	If Williamson County resident: join preservation coalition.
3B	Ocoee River	Beth Harper	Have input into road plans
3D	Chattooga R.	USFS US Rep and Sens	"Disallow airport!" "Urge USFS to disallow WSR invasion!"
3F	Hydro projects	US Rep	"Co-sponsor HR 3593!"
5C	TVA Board	Harry Moskos	Commend editorial position
5D	Nickajack lands	TVA	Provide input into plan
7B	Trust Fund	US Rep and Sens	"Co-sponsor HR 4127 / S 2199!"
7C	Park Service	US Rep	"Co-sponsor HR 3964!"
7D	Endangered Species	US Sens	"Urge early floor action! Oppose weakening!"
7E	Arctic Refuge	US Sens and Rep	"Support HR 39 / S 1804! Oppose leasing!"
7F	Clean Air	US Sens US Rep	"Co-sponsor S 1894!" "Support strong House bill!"
8	Cedar Barrens	TCWP	Volunteer for maintenance
9	April 16 hike	TCWP	Join us

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. SMOKIES WILDERNESS: ONE STEP CLOSER

On February 25 the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported out the Gt. Smoky Mountains Wilderness Bill by a vote of 11:7 (Yeas: Sens. Johnston, Bumpers, Metzenbaum, Melcher, Bradley, Bingaman, Wirth, Fowler, Conrad, Weicker. Nays: McClure, Domenici, Wallop, Murkowski, Nickles, Hecht, Evans). Our very special thanks should go to Sen. Sasser, who worked tirelessly to bring about committee action and to line up votes. He has taken a strong personal interest in the bill. Sen. Sanford of NC also deserves our highest praise.

The Senate Committee made amendments needed to bring the bill into consonance with the House-passed measure HR 1495 (see NL161 ¶5), and, in fact, reported the bill as HR 1495 (rather than under the number of either the Sasser/Sanford/Gore or Helms bill). In addition, some agreed-upon fine tuning changes were made. The major features of the bill are as follows:

- The total wilderness area will eventually be 465,000 acres, to become effective on the date when Swain County actually receives authorized payments (see below). For the 46,000 portion north of Fontana Res., an additional requirement for wilderness designation is the extinguishing or transfer of any reserved rights, or the date of 10/1/91, whichever comes first. (Any TVA rights are immediately being transferred to USDI, with passage of the bill.)
- Until wilderness designation becomes effective, the 465,000 acres will be managed in accordance with the General Management Plan of January 1982.
- Swain County is authorized to receive \$9.5 million in return for NPS' noncompletion of a road north of Fontana Res., as well as such sums as may be necessary to retire the balance of a Farmers Home Administration loan for a high school. (Two appropriations committees will be involved in getting these sums actually appropriated, a prerequisite to wilderness designation.)
- Cemeteries (and access corridors in the 46,000-acre portion) are excluded from wilderness designation and will be managed in accordance with the 1982 Management Plan. The National Park Service (NPS) is to provide permanent special access to the cemeteries, in the same manner (by boat and 4-wheel-drive vehicle) as now, and at the same frequency (several times a year). The only motorized vehicles permitted on roads leading to the cemeteries will be those owned and operated by NPS.

Swain County citizens (including a County Commissioner) and representatives of environmental groups recently lobbied most senators in preparation for the upcoming floor action. They believe that the votes are there to pass the bill by a substantial majority. However, Sen. Helms has threatened a filibuster, and some senators feel that, regardless of the merits of a case, they should not ignore the wishes of a fellow senator regarding a land-management decision in his state.

*** WHAT YOU CAN DO:** If you live in TN or NC, thank Senators Sasser, Sanford, and Gore for all they have done already, and urge them to see the bill through to an early and successful floor vote. If you live elsewhere, your senators must be asked for their support not only of the bill itself, but also of a cloture motion, should the Helms filibuster materialize.

2. STATE NEWS

See ¶ 3 for state river items.

A. State Natural Areas progress

Our questioning of the administration's commitment to state natural areas preservation (NL160 ¶4) brought about a great deal of correspondence with the DoC and Governor's office, the information being reassuring on many, but not all, issues (NL161 ¶2). TCWP made these points in a recent letter in which we also thanked the Governor for his support. Billy Stair, Assistant to the Governor, in responding to one of our members, writes: "I cannot at this time tell you exactly which natural areas will be purchased during the next year as a part of the Natural Areas Acquisition program. I do know that the Governor included a restoration of full funding for the program in the 1989 Budget he recommended to the General Assembly last week." That is indeed good news.

B. Bills in the legislature

- (a) HB 1357 – solid-waste reduction by recycling.

This bill introduced by Jimmy Kyle Davis (R-Knoxville) mandates the recycling of 15% of each municipality's solid waste at the end of the first year, 25% at the end of the second. Each county would designate at least 3 types of wastes to be recycled and would outline the strategy for collecting, marketing, and disposing of the recycled materials. Composting of leaves would be mandatory. Unless a county's plan is approved by the Tenn. Dept. of Health and Environment, the State would not issue a permit for any new or expanded solid waste facilities (including incinerators) for that country. The bill also requires government agencies to utilize certain minimum amounts of recycled materials.

(b) HB 1359 -- ground water

This bill by Jimmy Kyle Davis (R-Knoxville) establishes a state ground-water policy that reiterates the "antidegradation" statement of the Water Quality Control Act. The bill also creates a ground-water protection fund to be generated by a \$1/ton surcharge on solid waste.

(c) Other bills deserving our support

We refer you to NL161 ¶3 for information on a bill (HB 417, Kernell) that would designate the Shelby Farms Forest Natural Area, and on bills (sponsored by Rep. Ralph Yelton, D-Kingsport, and Sen. Carl Moore, D-Bristol), that would prohibit the blasting of bedrock for septic-tank placement. These bills, along with the ones summarized in (a) and (b), above, deserve our support. Contact your state legislators (see list sent with NL161).

C. Input needed for State's nonpoint-source pollution program

As much as 80% of our State's water pollution is caused by nonpoint-source pollutants. A Statewide Nonpoint-Source Management Program is under development by the Tenn. Dept. of Health and Environment (DHE). The first step in this process, an assessment, is currently available for public review. DHE is particularly anxious to have citizens supply any missing information. The Tennessee Nonpoint Source Assessment and the relevant EPA guidance may be reviewed in any of 13 DHE offices located in 10 cities across the state. To find the location nearest you, call 615, 741-0638. Written comment is due by 4/29/88. (Send to Dr. A. N. Barrass, Mngr., Nonpoint Source Mngt Program, Div. of Construction Grants and Loans, 150-9th Ave., N., Nashville, TN 37219-5404.)

D. Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency criticized

A recent audit of TWRA finds the Agency almost exclusively occupied with game species. Only 1.3% of the 1986 budget was spent for programs to preserve non-game and endangered species. These programs have been dependent on diminishing federal funds, while most of TWRA's revenues come from hunting- and fishing-license fees. The audit recommends that some of these license-fee money be used to support non-game and endangered-species programs. In addition, TWRA is urged to develop innovative ideas for generating new revenues.

E. State Forest management plans

The first of the individual forest management plans being developed is for the Natchez Trace State Forest. As we have reported (NL 161 ¶3C), the Forestry Division earned high praise for its effort in soliciting public comment and its conduct of the December meeting. Using this input, the Division is currently drafting several alternative management plans which will be sent out for public review. To get on the mailing list, contact Bob Rochelle, Div. of Forestry, TN Dept. of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville 37219; Ph.: 615, 742-6615. The next plan to be developed is for the Prentice Cooper State Forest near Chattanooga.

F. Artillery range proposed for Tullahoma vicinity

The National Guard's Maj. Gen. Wallace a couple of years ago failed in his attempt to turn an area between Savage Gulf and Falls Creek Falls into a Tennessee National Guard (TNG) training center. He is now proposing an artillery range on thousands of acres of wild-life preserve in The Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) near Tullahoma. According to Wallace, TNG personnel must at present go out of state to train in the use of mortars, tanks, and anti-tank weapons. The US Air Force, which has jurisdiction over the AEDC is evaluating the TNG proposal and has recently submitted a report to a Senate subcommittee. Rep. Jim Cooper opposes the plan, and Sen. Sasser has said he too may do so if there is local citizen opposition and if the Air Force should deem the land necessary to its own mission.

G. State Trails Council organized

The State Trails Council of Tennessee, at its organizing meeting in January, proposed the following goals: (a) to meet with Dept. of Conservation (DoC) officials on a quarterly basis for informative exchange; (b) to promote completion of Scenic Trails Act provisions, with emphasis on the Cumberland Trail; (c) to coordinate information about state trails regardless of the jurisdiction of the trail; (d) to be a sympathetic watchdog for DoC; and (e) to promote responsible use of trails. DoC officials urged the assembled representatives of about a dozen groups to admit all-terrain and off-road-vehicle groups to the Council. A computerized data base of state trails, and of persons or groups "adopting" them, is being developed by DoC. Bob Brown has agreed to chair the new Trails Council. For more info, call Bob Barnett, Lebanon 449-4012.

The first substantive action taken by the Council was to recommend that the State Trails Administrator position, abolished last year, be reinstated, since presently no one is responsible for our State Trails System. This will require an amendment in the 1988/89 budget, which has already been submitted by the Governor. You may wish to express your support for this amendment to Sen. J. Ronnie Greer, Chmn, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Rm 304, War Memorial Bldg., and to Rep. I.V. Hillis, Chmn, House Committee on Conservation and Environment, Rm 22, Legislative Plaza, both at Nashville 37219. Your own state senator and rep. should get similar letters.

H. Tennessee is acid-rain country

In January, only 11 states topped Tennessee in the acidity of their rainfall. Our pH was 4.2 (about 25 times the acidity of normal rain), but that is only slightly worse than our annual average of about 4.5 (the lower the pH, the higher the acidity). The chief of technical services for the Tenn. Division of Air Pollution Control says "There's no doubt we've got a problem" (AP, 2/17/88). But TVA's director of environmental quality, Ralph Brooks, does not consider the January reading alarming, since TVA's monitoring -- initiated in 1971 -- has consistently recorded a pH range of 3.9-4.5. Why is Tennessee so acid? TVA powerplant emissions account for about 90% of the total SO_x in the state.

3. RIVERS IN TENNESSEE AND ELSEWHERE

A. Harpeth River Coalition being organized

* A small group of citizens in Franklin has formed a coalition whose major objective is to encourage preservation in a natural state of the Harpeth River in Williamson County, its banks and flood plains, and its tributaries. The group will encourage governmental bodies to eventually acquire a strip of natural area on both sides of the river. Walking trails are envisioned, and paddlers will be welcomed. City and county officials view the organization's goals favorably. Riverside land owners in Franklin are being contacted by the group. For info, contact Peter Jordan, 231 Second Ave., S., Franklin, TN 37064, Ph.: 615, 790-1400.

B. Road to the Ocoee: good and bad alternatives

* The Tenn. Dept. of Transportation has proposed two alternative routes for a new road to the Ocoee #3 powerhouse. Alternative B generally follows the present road (Highway 64) along the northern river bank, involves massive tunneling, and would be very costly. Alternative A would roughly parallel the river about a mile, on the average, to the north, cutting through the forest. A local couple, the Harpers, have proposed Alternative A1 for which they are seeking support. A1, located between A and B, runs through the uplands, but closer to the rim of the gorge. Three overlooks would give views of the gorge and of the historic wooden flume. Both A and A1 must cut through pyrite-laden strata, and their construction is thus damaging to any streams they intersect (northern tributaries to the Ocoee). However, while A impacts 10 miles of stream, A1 impacts less than 2 miles. Further, the Harpers point out that A1 would be less disruptive to bear habitat than A, which penetrates deep into it. For info, contact Beth Harper, Rt. 1, Box 93B, Reliance, TN 37369, Ph.: 615, 338-2775.

If you have a special interest in the Ocoee, you might want to attend a "Future of the Ocoee" meeting 4/30/88, 7:30 p.m., Nantahala Outdoor Center Outpost (Highway 64 between Ocoee and Parksville). Or, get on the State Park mailing list for this river (Bob Allen, Tenn. Dept. of Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37219).

C. Pigeon River

The proposed EPA permit for the Champion International paper mill at Canton, NC, is a compromise that leaves Cocke County, TN, residents feeling that they have been sold out by both the state and federal governments, but which at least begins to address some major health questions. The color will be reduced, but only to 100-120 apparent color units, rather than to the Tennessee standard of 50. Tennessee is not changing its standard but is proposing to grant Champion a 5-year variance, at the end of which Champion could either have achieved the required 50 or again apply for a variance. (The Cocke County Executive plans to fight the granting of this variance in the legislature.) Champion is required to monitor for dioxins and other toxins in the discharge water 0.4 miles from the plant -- something that should have been done by them or by EPA quite some time ago. Champion also has to remove chloroform from the water and check its sludge. The company announced on March 9 that the proposed permit will allow the mill to continue in operation.

D. National Wild & Scenic River threatened by airport proposal

* The Chattooga is one of the original components of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) System. It has 3 sections for paddling and three for hiking, fishing, and camping. Even if you have never visited its deep forested gorge you may wish to rally to its defense, because the issues involved are overall WSR protection and public-land give-aways. Rabun County, GA, has asked the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to give them 270 acres of public land for an airport just 1000 yards from the river. The county has only 12,000 residents (compare this to 60,000 people from all over the USA who visit the Chattooga each year), and there are airports in each of the surrounding four counties within distances of 15 or 20 miles. Airport construction (which involves mountain leveling) would dump silt loads into the river (the area gets 60-80" of rain annually), and once the airport was built, planes would have to cross the river on take-off and landing (some would also be tempted to fly up and down the gorge). -- Incredible as it may seem, the Gainesville, GA, office of the USFS approves of the project, despite extreme disapproval by some of the USFS Ranger Districts in the area.

* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (a) Call or write to Mr. Kirby Brock, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, 508 Oak St., NW., Gainesville, GA 30501, Ph.: 404, 536-0541; (b) urge your US Rep and Senators to bring pressure on the USFS to disallow this invasion of a National Wild & Scenic River.

E. River Parks under consideration by National Park Service

NPS Director, William Penn Mott, Jr., would like to preserve an entire river system "in its natural condition so that everyone would be able to see what rivers looked like before man came here." While the Wild & Scenic Rivers System protects river segments, the new plan would protect an entire river from source to end, along with its watershed. The number of eligible rivers is shrinking rapidly. NPS has 3 candidates for the river park category: (a) the Blackwater R. on Maryland's Eastern Shore, (b) the Two-Hearted River in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and (c) the Amicalola R. in northern Georgia (a lovely canyon). Each of the three offers a different ecosystem, and NPS may try to protect all of them.

F. A bill to regulate hydro projects on federal lands

Rep. Richard Lehman (D-CA) has introduced HR 3593 to give the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "stop-project" authority over hydroelectric projects. Currently, these agencies merely rubberstamp any licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for nonfederal hydro projects, many of which adversely affect natural resource values on federal lands. Under the terms of HR 3593, USFS and BLM could issue rights-of-way for FERC projects only if public benefits from construction and operation of such projects would exceed harm to natural, cultural, scenic, recreational, watershed, or fish and wildlife values. In the processing of rights-of-way for hydro projects, public participation in the local area affected would be mandatory.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your US Rep. to co-sponsor HR 3593 (address on p.2).

G. Last year was a good one for California rivers

Three bills that passed near the end of 1987 protect almost 400 miles of California rivers -- the greatest number of river miles ever to be preserved in a non-election year -- as follows: (a) Kings River, 92 miles (eliminating the proposed 510 ft. Rodger's Crossing Dam); (b) Merced River (a favorite of John Muir's), 124 miles; and (c) Kern River (which runs through the longest glaciated valley in the world), 150 miles. American Rivers (formerly, the American Rivers Conservation Council) deserves much credit for these victories.

4. STRIPMINE CAPSULES**A. OSM remains rigid on North Chickamauga Creek**

On March 17, Jed Christensen, Director of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), promulgated his decision on the "522" petition to designate the N. Chickamauga Creek watershed unsuitable for stripmining (NL158 ¶5A): "I do not designate any part of the petition area as unsuitable for surface coal mining and reclamation operations." Thus, OSM chooses not to budge from its earlier pronouncement (made at a lower level) -- notwithstanding Sen. Gore's request to the Secretary of the Interior to reverse the decision or at least to order a re-study (NL160 ¶5B). Any appeal from Jed Christensen's statement must be filed in court within 60 days. In the meantime, the watershed is protected by the State of Tennessee's refusal to issue water-discharge permits for mining in the area (NL161 ¶3B).

B. Reclamation of abandoned coal mines

Two years ago, Sen. Sasser managed to shake loose some federal Abandoned Mine Lands funds which OSM had refused to issue to Tennessee on account of our not having a State program (NL149 ¶5B). After the initial \$1 million, OSM has been matching abandoned mine funds appropriated by the Tennessee legislature. Funds are continuing to be received under this agreement, with \$2 million expected over the next 2 years. Reclamation work will begin this summer on 10 abandoned coal mines [Tennessee has 22 counties with abandoned mines in need of reclamation], and will be supervised by the Dept. of Conservation's Division of Land Reform. The federal money is earmarked for correction of health and safety hazards, while the State-appropriated funds will be used to repair serious environmental damage.

C. Task Force seeks to reverse down-trend in Tennessee coal industry

The Governor's 21-member Coal Industry Task Force, appointed last year, released a report in February. The study finds that, in contrast to other eastern coal states, Tennessee has had a decline in coal production (from 10.5 million tons in 1981 to 6.6 million tons in 1986). TVA, the state's biggest coal consumer, often does not consider buying Tennessee coal, which has a high sulfur content and is often not available in the huge quantities required by steamplants. Further, Tennessee coal is found in sporadic seams that make extraction expensive. The Task Force's recommendations include mapping and sampling of coal seams, creating a coal data base in the DoC, and creating an office for coal promotion.

5. TVA NEWS**A. Administration proposes major budget cuts**

Once again, the Reagan Administration is trying to make a major cut in TVA's non-power funds. The President's 1989 budget recommends only \$76 million for this program, a 28% cut from the current level. TVA's non-power activities

include work on water quality and other environmental matters, as well as fertilizer research and economic development. Every year during the Reagan era, Congress members representing the TVA region have managed to restore some of the funds the Administration is trying to lop off, and for the past several years the finally appropriated level has been at \$100 million or just above (it was higher in the past). The Congressional effort is again under way this spring.

B. Houseboats on Fontana Reservoir

In defiance of TVA regulations and U.S. property rights, non-navigable houseboats have for some time been permanently moored against the shores of the Gt. Smoky Mtns National Park, in an area that will hopefully soon be wilderness. TVA finally sued, and on Feb. 3 a U.S. District Court ordered the houseboats to be moored in compliance with TVA regulations at an approved location, or to be removed from the reservoir. The houseboat owners have asked the court to reconsider, and to stay the enforcement of the judgement pending this reconsideration.

C. TVA chairman limits public participation in board meeting

After his first Board meeting, TVA's new chairman, Marvin Runyon, is quoted as saying "this is not a public meeting; this is a board meeting held in a public place." He changed the format of the meeting so that neither the TVA board members nor the 9 top managers (who now must sit with their backs to the audience) will answer questions from the public during the meeting. Questions are taken by board members in a "listening session" after the managers have left, and after decisions have been made. Representatives of several environmental groups expressed considerable disappointment over the changes, particularly about foreclosure of the opportunity to have input into decisions and to interact with the office managers, and about the general retrenchment from the democratic process. A *Knoxville News-Sentinel* editorial wrote: "TVA is not a private enterprise. It is owned by the citizens of this nation and valley.... Eliminating public questions at the point of decision is a quantum leap backward from TVA's claim that it is partners with the people." Editor Harry Moskos deserves to be commended (P. O. Box 59038, Knoxville, TN 37950, Ph.: 521-8142).

D. Nickajack Plan ready for review

The draft Nickajack Reservoir Land Management Plan was issued March 14, and TVA will accept comments until April 18. Call 1-800-362-9250 (or 1-800-251-9242 outside Tennessee) to get a copy of the draft and/or to express comments. Written comments should be sent to Wm. S. Ambrose, Nickajack Reservoir Lands Planning, TVA, Norris, TN 37828.

6. BIG SOUTH FORK CAPSULES

A. Leatherwood Ford developments

The corps of Engineers is developing the area around Leatherwood Ford by constructing parking lots and associated roadways, a comfort station, outdoor lighting etc. Bids for this construction project were to be opened March 31, and the chosen contractor will have 270 calendar days to complete the work.

B. Charit Creek Hostel open for 1988 season

March 18 was the opening date for the Charit Creek Hostel deep within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The Hostel, which is accessible by a ca 1-mile trail, offers a lodge building with bunkhouses, camp store, fully-furnished kitchen building, commons area for dining, and an eight-stall horse barn. For information, call 615, 879-4289, or write Charit Creek Hostel, P. O. Box 20, Pall Mall, TN 38577.

7. NATIONAL ISSUES

A. Land & Water Conservation Fund reauthorization and appropriations

Four months ago, the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which was due to expire in 1989, was reauthorized for 25 years. Subsequently, Congress appropriated 1988 LWCF monies at a considerably higher level than sought by the Administration, but very much lower than the authorized \$900 million. Federal agencies will receive \$150 million, and states \$20 million. Because of this habitual shortfall in the actually appropriated amounts, conservation groups are working to establish a trust fund for land acquisition (see B, below).

B. Trust Fund legislation introduced: your support is needed

The principal recommendation of the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors was to create an endowed, self-sustaining fund that would provide a minimum of \$1 billion annually for federal, state, and local land acquisition and related expenses. Two bills have been introduced that would accomplish this objective: HR 4127 (Udall) and S 2199 (Chafee, Baucus, Graham, Fowler) would create the American Heritage Trust, a successor to both the LWCF and the Historic Preservation Fund. Among provisions affecting the LWCF are the following: (a) the allocation of the fund will be 30% to federal projects, 30% to state projects; 10% to urban park programs, 10% to state trust funds, and

20% to be allocated by the Congress; (b) each state would pass half of its money to local governments, including 5% for projects sponsored by private or nonprofit organizations which would contribute at least 10% of the project's cost; (c) money will accrue to the fund until the balance reaches \$25 billion, after which interest from the fund will make it self-sustaining; (d) any amount not appropriated in a given year would remain in the fund permanently; (e) land-acquisition priority lists must annually be submitted to the Congress by federal agencies.

The backlog of land already identified to be in need of protection but not yet acquired runs into the billion of dollars. As we wait, we must pay more and more to acquire less and less. In introducing his bill, Rep. Udall said: "It is not just the big crown jewels, the Grand Canyons... that I am worried about. I'm just as concerned about the little places that help make life meaningful in every community across America. It's that quiet spot along the banks of the river just outside of town where a couple of kids can sit and watch and dream.... These places are being lost."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: It is most critical that you write to your representative and senators and urge them to co-sponsor HR 4127 and S2199.

C. More Independence for the National Park System?

HR 3964 (Vento) is viewed favorably as a first step toward establishing NPS as an independent agency outside the Dept. of the Interior (see also ¶7H, this NL). The bill would establish a 3-person National Parks Review Board, appointed by the President, and reporting annually to the Congress about park needs and issues. The NPS director would be appointed by the President (with Senate confirmation) for a 5-year term. This bill deserves our support; urge your U.S. representative to co-sponsor it.

D. Endangered Species Act faces weakening amendments in Senate

Four months after the House defeated harmful amendments and passed a strengthened Endangered Species Act reauthorization (NL161 ¶8B), the Senate bill, S 675, is still waiting to come to the floor. Though S 675 now has 30 co-sponsors (19 Dem, 11 Rep), a few other senators [primarily Simpson (R-WY), Symms (R-ID), Hecht (R-NV), and Gramm (R-TX)] have put "holds" on the bill and have threatened it with weakening amendments. These amendments would ease restrictions on hunting of threatened grizzlies and wolves, would allow water diversions that harm several endangered species, would ease pesticide restrictions that are intended to protect endangered species, and would delay installation of devices that prevent sea turtles from drowning in shrimp nets.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask both your Senators to contact Senators Byrd or Cranston and urge them to schedule floor debate for S 675 without further delay. Further, ask your Senators to oppose all weakening amendments. (Address on p.2; or call 202, 224-3121).

E. Even more reason now to protect the Arctic Wildlife Refuge

The oil industry has been saying for years that Prudhoe Bay is a model of clean development, and this is being used by the industry and the Administration as an argument in favor of opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) -- just 60 miles to the east of Prudhoe Bay -- to oil exploration. An extensive study by 2 national and an Alaska-based groups (NRDC, NWF, Trustees for Alaska) now makes it clear that the record far from supports the industry statements. The 250 square mile Prudhoe Bay development has released large amounts of pollutants into the air, the water, and the tundra. The atmospheric discharge of NO_x from the facility equals that produced by cars and factories of Washington, DC. Underground waste injections, and large numbers of spills (953 in 1985 and 1986 alone) have brought about contaminations of pools and tundra with heavy metals and other toxins. Hundreds of violations of federal and state regulatory controls have occurred. This report raises concerns that must be addressed by the Congress as it deliberates whether to open up the ANWR Coastal Plain for oil drilling.

Your Senators and Representative should consider the following:

- (a) The oil industry needs to demonstrate that it can indeed comply with protective legislation before it is allowed into a pristine area. (Even exploration -- stopping short of full development -- is a serious threat, since it would involve construction of 100 wells, requiring huge amounts of fresh water and gravel and generating large quantities of toxic wastes.)
- (b) The saving from just a 2 mile/gal increase in the fuel efficiency of our cars would be greater than the hoped-for output of ANWR;
- (c) Even should oil be found, the savings (over buying imported oil) would amount to only \$24 a year for the average American household; saving 2000 sq. miles of a remarkable wildlife area should certainly be worth this.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask your Senators and Representative to consider some of the arguments, and urge him/her to support S1804/HR 39, which would give wilderness designation to the ANWR Coastal Plain. [The Prudhoe Bay report described above is *Oil in the Arctic: The Environmental Record of Oil Development on Alaska's North Slope*. \$15 from NRDC, 122 E 42nd St., New York, NY 10168.]

F. Clean air bills still awaiting action in both Houses

To buy time, Congress voted in December to suspend federal sanctions against cities that failed to meet the 12/31/87 deadline for reducing O₃ and CO; fortunately, however, the extension was limited to 8 months, instead of the 2 years proposed by some legislators. A house subcommittee is working on a bill that will combine regulation of ozone (HR 3054), acid rain (HR 2666), and, hopefully, toxics -- attempting to make it acceptable to Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) who has been the obstacle in moving clean-air legislation. A Senate bill, S 1894 (Mitchell, D-ME) has been approved by the Senate Environment Committee and is awaiting a floor vote, with Sen. Majority Leader Byrd a possible obstacle in getting the action scheduled.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Senators to co-sponsor S 1894 and to push for quick action. Urge you Rep. to support strong legislation when a bill emerges from committee.

G. Commission being formed to assess science in the National Parks

The need to assess the role of research in the national parks has been recognized by NPS Director Mott, but USDI Secretary Hodel has resisted any action along those lines. The National Parks & Conservation Assoc (NPCA) recently obtained a grant to set up a Commission on Research and Resource Management and Policy in the National Park System. The 15-member group now being selected consists of nationally recognized scientists, who will be chaired by John C. Gordon, dean of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. Some NPS staff will work with the panel. The Commission will issue a conclusive report early in 1989, to coincide with the arrival of the new administration.

H. A comprehensive analysis of park futures

The first comprehensive long-term plan for the National Park System was developed in a 3-year study by the National Parks and Conservation Association. The areas addressed in 9 separate volumes, are Resource Management, Science and Research, Interpretation, new areas, park boundaries, land acquisition, visitor use, personnel and organization, and planning. The analysis covers strengths, flaws, and needs of the park system, and numerous specific recommendations are made. The executive summary of "Investing in Park Futures: A Blueprint for Tomorrow" can be obtained for \$12.50 (which includes postage) from NPCA Member Services, 1015 Thirty-first St., NW, Wash. DC 20007

J. Then and now

From a large compilation of facts in the March/April *Audubon Activist*, we extract a few. The year is in parens.

	<u>THEN</u>	<u>NOW</u>
World human population (in billions)	3.72 (1970)	5.32 (1990, proj)
World's carbon emissions (in millions of tons)	3,934 (1970)	5,225 (1986)
Acres of forest in the USA (in millions)	723 (1969)	655 (1982)
Acres of old-growth forest, west of the Cascades (in millions)	3.27 (1976)	2.47 (1986)
Acres of wilderness and parks (in millions)	49.3 (1969)	115.6 (1982)
Miles of Natl Wild and Scenic rivers	868 (1970)	7,363 (1986)
Agricultural land transformed into urban areas	13 million acres between 1970 and 1980.	

8. OAK RIDGE CAPSULES

- The Cedar Barrens Natural Area and maintenance agreement was signed by TCWP Pres. Martha Kettle a couple of weeks ago. We need a lot of volunteers for trash pickup, trail development, and other jobs. Even if you can help only occasionally, please call Maureen Cunningham (482-6746) or Dick Ambrose (482-9229).
- An Oak Ridge beautification committee, chaired by Geneva Melroy, will be planting trees and picking up litter on Saturday, April 23.
- A glass-recycling center may open April 23 at the corner of Emory Valley Rd and Lafayette Drive. Glass can be left in barrels at that location. (Green, brown, and clear are collected separately.) For more info, contact Virginia Dale, 482-6536.

9. TCWP NEWS

- Jenny Freeman Johnson, TCWP executive director, has taken a 4-month leave of absence to join husband Ken on another panda-research project in the mountains of China. During her absence, some of her jobs are being divided among the following: David Adler and Cathy Burke, letter writing; Cheri Wolfe and Joy Mayfield, Nashville legislative contacts; Bob Luxmore, TVABAC liaison; Chuck Coutant, TVA Reservoir Planning.

- April 16 is our hike in the 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.
- We are grateful to the following who assembled NL 161: Flossie Starling, Helen Warren, Harry and Sylvia Hubble, Frank Hensley, Carol Hilton, Eileen Wilson, Cathy Burke, and Dick Ambrose (who, as usual, made all the arrangements).
- TCWP members of note: Ed Clebsch, botany professor at UT Knoxville, was featured in a recent issue of the *Tennessee Alumnus*, with Ed and Meredith's wild-flower greenhouse prominent in text and picture. -- Bill Chandler TCWP's first executive director, has left World Watch and is working on an energy conservation project for Batelle Northwestern (in Washington, DC).

10. OPENINGS, EVENTS, RESOURCES

- Job opening: The Tennessee Environmental Council, Nashville, is searching for a new Development Director (an energetic, self-confident extrovert!!). Call 615, 321-5075.
- Volunteer openings: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has ca 150 openings for volunteers interested in working with wildlife conservation programs in Alaska. Most positions are for the period between mid-May and September. Contact Bill Knauer, USFWS, 1011 East Tudor Rd, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, Ph.: 907, 786-3399.
- April 16: TCWP hike on Whites Creek Trail. See ¶9.
- April 28-29: a conference on the visual environment (The Economics of Aesthetics: Why It Pays to Look Good), Days Inn Downtown - Capitol Hill, Nashville. For info call Marge McCormick, 298-3223 (Nashville), Gene Burr, 522-5238 (Knoxville), or Suzanne Lautar, 901, 755-2205 (Memphis).
- April 17, 23, 24, 30: park-sponsored hikes at Frozen Head State Natural Area. All meet at Picnic Shelter C. For info on times, etc., call Wartburg 346-3318.
- April 29 - May 1: annual meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society at Brentwood. For info, call TEC, Nashville, 321-5075.
- May 21: Tennessee Land Trusts: A Land Protection Conference, Radisson Read House, Chattanooga, TN. Sponsored by Tennessee's 3 land trusts -- the Foothills Land Conservancy, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, and the Tenn. River Gorge Natural Areas Trust -- as well as by the Land Trust Exchange, a national communications network. The program will examine the current status of land conservation in Tennessee and look at the agenda for the future.
- Various summer weekend events and workshops are sponsored by the Gt. Smoky Mountains Inst. at Tremont. Call Townsend, 448-6709 for brochure listing programs.
- Oct. 4-5: Meeting of the Minds (a discussion of resource management), Fall Creek Falls State Park, sponsored by TVA, TDoC, and the Tenn. Recr. & Parks Assoc. Call Donna Behm Reed, Knoxville, 632-1570.
- The Rails-to Trails Conservancy is working to turn abandoned rail corridors into a trails network. National membership support is sought. Write Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 1325 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Wash. DC 20005.
- The Meeman Archive is dedicated to preserving outstanding environmental journalism and now has about 1000 articles in its collection. To order articles on particular topics write Meeman Archives, School of Natural Resources, U. of Mich., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1115, Ph.: 313, 763-5327. The charge is 5 ¢ per copy page, plus postage.

