

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 176

May 12, 1990

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

12. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No	Issue	Contact	"Message" or Action
1B	Re-mining with no liability	Rep Rahall Copies to US Rep & Sens	"We Oppose HR 4053!"
3A	Natural areas acqui. funds	Rep McAfee	"Thank you for effort. Try again!"
3B	State wetlands	Sens Greer & Kyle; Rep. Kernell	"Thank you for effort!"
5D	Landfill near Smokies	J.G. Layton, etc. (see 15D)	"Do not allow landfill!"
6A	Timber cuts in Cherokee NF	US Sens & Rep.	"Support Pilot Test to phase out below-cost timber sales in Cherokee NF!"
6B	Bill to reduce log exports	Sens Sasser & Gore	"Support S753 and S754!"
7	Bill that undermines Wilderness System	US Sens. copy to Chmn. Pres. Bush	"Help defeat S371! "Veto S371. If it passes!"
6A	Park units boundary study	US Rep	"Support HR 3383!"
9B	Clean Air bill	Sens. Gore & Sasser Various DC numbers	Tell them how you feel about their votes. Get latest info on House bill.
9C	Auto fuel efficiency	Sen. Gore Sen. Sasser	"Thanks for co-sponsoring S1224!" "Co-sponsor S1224!"
9F	S&L bailout	TCWP	Offer to help inventory environmentally sensitive properties that might be available at low cost.
10A	Supt. Dickinson's talk	5/31/90	Attend; bring a friend.
10C	Cedar Barren fence	5/26/90	Help us erect it.

Senator John 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 federal bills, call (202) 225-1772

1. FROZEN HEAD SAFE! A DANGEROUS BILL IN CONGRESS

A. Frozen Head decision now final: no mining in watershed!

We didn't have to eat crow! On March 16 (NL175 ¶1), we reported a rumor from "usually reliable sources" that has fortunately turned out to have been correct. As we had predicted, Interior Secretary Lujan announced publicly on March 23 that OSM's "preferred alternative" in responding to the citizens' petition to declare Flat Fork watershed unsuitable for mining was No. 3b of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), namely, "Designate all parts of the petition areas unsuitable for surface coal mining operations while allowing the use of the existing haulage road through the petition area." The Federal Register notice of the same date (March 23) did not state what the preferred alternative was (it merely announced the availability of the FEIS), but anyone willing to hunt through the inch-thick FEIS could find the small parenthetical phrase "(preferred alternative)" printed next to the discussion of 3b. We had to wait 30 days after publication of the FEIS for the decision to be formally announced. OSM signed the final decision document on April 24 -- almost in time for Earth Day.

While we had all testified in favor of Alternative 1 (which bars all operations, including the haul road), 3b is the next-best possibility. The decision serves to keep the entire 5,200-acre petition area (Flat Fork Valley west of the Frozen Head State Park) free of stripmining, and to preserve the esthetic and recreational uses of the park. The fine water quality of Flat Fork Creek will be protected from acid mine drainage and siltation.

It should be noted that, under 3b, only the existing haul road is permitted. This road winds up the slope to your left as you drive up Flat Fork Valley toward the park, and appears to be all but invisible. The FEIS states that, under 3b, "coal could be hauled through Ross Gap and the petition area from areas located on the northern slopes of Bird Mountain [i.e., outside the park, and invisible from it], but no actual mining or additional road construction in the petition area would be allowed." People familiar with coal mining in the area believe that all the stripminable coal has already been mined on the north side of Bird Mtn, and that there are not enough reserves for a big deep-mining operation. Alternative 3b thus greatly minimizes the chance of surface disturbance of the watershed.

At this time of victory, it is well to remember the more-than-a-decade-long effort that has gone into trying to protect Frozen Head from stripmining. In 1983, concerned citizens formally petitioned the State to have the Flat Fork Valley, which leads into

Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area, designated unsuitable for surface coal-mining operations under Sec. 4522 of the federal surface mining law. TCWP was one of three organizations that participated in the petition, along with three individuals. We won it once -- then lost it again when Tennessee gave up state primacy in 1984 (a very complex story, briefly summarized in NL173 ¶1). Another petition was filed, this time with the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM), and the process ran its course -- with a scoping hearing in Sept. '88, a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) produced by OSM, a hearing on the DEIS in Nov. '89, and a subsequent comment period during which the State administration as well as federal legislators supported the large number of citizens who had expressed themselves in favor of having the entire 5,250-acre petition area designated unsuitable for stripmining (Alternative 1; see NL174 ¶3).

The person who led the effort over the years and held it together, who intelligently gathered vital information and gently but effectively mobilized support, was long-standing TCWP member Don Todd of Warburg, who, prior to all this, was instrumental in getting Frozen Head protected as a state park and natural area in the first place. Our wonderful legal help (much of it for free) came from Carol Nickle. Duane Wyrick, Annetta Watson, Martha Kettle and Sandra Edwards are just a few among the many, many others who played a vital part. (We could fill a page with their names).

B. A dangerous bill in the Congress

The chairman of the House Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources, Nick Rahall (D-W.VA.), has introduced HR 4053, a bill whose title (Coalfield Environment Enhancement Act) belies its content. The proposed legislation would amend the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) by adding a section on the re-mining of abandoned sites. The coal industry has long clamored to do so, professing the objective of wishing to mitigate the abuses of pre-SMCRA mining practices. That such mitigation, in fact, occurs has, however, not been demonstrated; there are no documented cases where re-mining has reduced acid mine drainage, sedimentation, or the risk of landslides. In particular, the technology for re-mining acid-producing areas has been shown to be ineffective.

HR 4053 provides major incentives for the re-mining of acid-producing areas by greatly limiting the operator's liability for any damage caused. Under existing law, an operator must demonstrate in a compelling manner that he will not cause acid mine drainage (AMD) before he can conceive a permit; and should AMD occur anyway, the operator is to be held perpetually responsible. Under the re-mining

sections of HR 4053, several liability-limiting provisions are triggered by the occurrence of an "unanticipated event or condition," which the bill defines in such a manner as to render the industry virtually risk-free.

It should be noted that, over the objections of coalfield citizens, industry has already been given a major incentive for re-mining. This was accomplished by a 1983 SMCRA regulation that dropped the requirement for eliminating preexisting highwalls in the case of operations in which a site was being re-mined.

★ WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to The Hon. Nick Rahall, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources, U.S. Congress, Washington, DC 20515, opposing HR 4053. Let your letter show that you are sending a copy to your own Rep. and both Senators and urging their opposition to this bill.

C. Capsules

- Representatives of area groups interested in coal-mining problems will meet with OSM Director Harry Snyder when he visits Knoxville on May 14. Martha Kettle and Jenny Freeman will represent TCWP. Look for a report in our next NL.
- Available reading matter
The Citizens' Mining Project of the Environmental Policy Institute has just published *The Stripmining Handbook: A Coalfield Citizens' Guide to Using the Law to Fight Back Against the Ravages of Strip Mining and Underground Mining*. TCWP has received a few complimentary copies of this informative, 150-page book; if you would like one, send \$1 for postage (address at bottom of p.1 of NL); or, you can order one from EPI for \$9.95 (218 O St. SE, Wash. DC 20003).
- We have two extra copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Frozen Head to give away. They contain quantities of interesting and useful information about the area. Contact us if you want one. Also for distribution are copies of OSM's final decision on the Flat Fork petition, along with a 19-page Statement of Reasons. If any of these items has to be mailed, send \$1 for postage.

2. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED

A. Roads restricted to non-vehicular use

Effective April 16, those roads into the Gorge Area of the Big South Fork NRR that are not specifically permitted for motorized transportation in the authorizing Act were restricted to non-vehicular use. Access to roads in the plateau portion of the park is not affected by this action. The 1974 Act, as amended, designates eleven roads, crossing or

accessing the BSF or Clear Fork, that are to remain open to vehicular traffic. Restriction of additional gorge roads to non-vehicular use will create an environment where hikers, campers, river runners, fishermen, and hunters may enjoy the river gorges without modern-day intrusions. Access to cemeteries and burial sites will continue to be maintained as it was at the time ownership was transferred to the federal government. Roads which were overgrown or impassable will remain so; where motorized access was available at the time of acquisition, it will be controlled by NPS for use of family members.

B. Obed land acquisition

Because concern had been expressed by many people at the slow speed with which the National Park Service is acquiring land within the authorized boundary of the Obed National Wild & Scenic River, Superintendent Dickinson organized a meeting on this subject on April 19. Attending were NPS personnel (including a member of the Regional Office's Land Resources Division) and interested citizens (including TCWP members Bill and Lee Russell and Don Todd).

We learned of two major problems. One is that, under the terms of the National WSR Act, condemnation authority is lost after 50% of the in-fee acquisitions have been made. Therefore, as this 50% mark is approached, even one or two landowners who are reluctant or slow to sell can hold up the whole process because of the possibility that these parcels might eventually have to be condemned. Specific cases were discussed and remedies suggested. The other major problem is that the National Park Service is as poor as a churchmouse with regard to operating funds; there is only one person in the Atlanta office who must handle land acquisitions for all NPS units in the entire SE Region. (NPS appropriations clearly need to be boosted).

Another item discussed at the meeting was the possible need for Obed boundary adjustments; in some river segments, the boundary is right at the bluff line, with no buffer strip provided on the plateau. Minor boundary adjustments can probably be handled administratively; major adjustments would require legislation (see also 18A, this NL).

C. Obed River cleanup

The NPS office in Wartburg is organizing an Obed cleanup for May 11, 12, and 13. Many groups from Morgan and Cumberland Counties, as well as several canoe clubs, plan to participate. The project is bound to raise local public awareness of all the Obed has to offer. Particularly significant is the participation of several scout troops, which will make the young people of the area aware of the rare

beauty of the river gorges. Back in the late 1960s, when we were working hard to save the river from being dammed, one local official scoffed at the idea of preserving the gorge (which he had never seen) by calling it "nothing but a dirty crack in the ground, full of rattle snakes." The new generation should know otherwise.

3. POST MORTEM ON THE STATE LEGISLATURE

(Based on reports by John Williams)

A. Acquisition of natural resource lands stymied

Because of the near-lack of state funding for the acquisition of natural areas and other natural-resource lands, environmental groups have been proposing legislative approaches to generating revenues for this purpose (NL174 §5A; NL175 §3A). The Environmental Action Fund supported a bill that would have imposed a severance tax on sand, gravel, and crushed stone, and would have increased the automobile registration fee by \$2 annually. Other bills would have increased the fee for automobile certificates of title, provided for issuance of bonds, or allocated part of the Wetlands Acquisition Fund to parks and natural areas.

The Farm Bureau, which maintains a rigid philosophical opposition to government ownership of land, sabotaged all of these efforts. The Bureau was successful, also, in getting the McWherter Administration into their camp. Rep. Bill McAfee (R-Chattanooga), the primary champion of our cause, bitterly withdrew one of his bills, but promised to battle the Farm Bureau again next year on this issue.

B. Wetlands fight carried over to next year

The legislature adjourned, without action on either the good wetlands bill (substitution of Stream Obstruction Removal Guidelines for channelization) or the bad one (facilitation of wetlands drainage); both were referred to a study committee (NL175 §3B). The following groups supported the dangerous wetlands-drainage bill: the Obion-Forked Deer Basin Authority, upset at having had one of its drainage projects stymied by the State; United Foods, a frozen-food agri-business company that has Lieutenant Governor John Wilder on its board of directors; and (guess who) the Farm Bureau. Because the Farm Bureau hates to lose, it will probably be back next year. Our champions were Senators Ronnie Greer (R-Greenville) and James Kyle (D-Memphis), and Representative Mike Kernell (D-Memphis). We hope you will write to thank them for their courage and determination in resisting the tremendous pressures brought by the Farm Bureau.

C. New golf courses in state stopped -- for now

Sen. Jerry Cooper's bill (NL175 §3C) would have allowed the construction of golf courses in ten state parks that are presently without them. This

would have been accomplished by creation of a Recreation Authority which would issue bonds, to be paid for by revenue from the new courses plus increased greens fees on existing ones. Not only would the Department of Conservation be totally bypassed on any golf-course decisions, but, in the event other recreational services were later to be assigned to the Authority, the State's Division of State Parks might become totally enucleated.

The moving force behind the bill came from Lt. Governor Wilder and House Conservation Chairman T.V. Hillis, who want to develop golf courses in Chickasaw and Rock Island State Parks, respectively. Opposition came from environmentalists, who were appalled at the prospect of wholesale clearing of woodlands, destruction of habitats, and proliferation of developments in our parks, and from several legislators, who didn't want greens' fees on existing golf courses raised, or who (like Sen. Riley Darnell, D-Clarksville) were worried that revenues would be insufficient to pay off the bond issue. The bill was defeated in the House Conservation and Environment Committee.

4. OTHER STATE CAPSULES

- Tennessee's native wildflowers are continuing to be commercially exploited, despite the 1986 Rare Plant Act, which provides fines up to the \$1000, and jail terms up to 6 months for this offense. The State does not have sufficient resources to enforce the law, even when the offense is as blatant as the recent use of a bulldozer on Bluebell Island (near Winchester) to uproot wildflowers for commercial resale.
- The Tenn. Dept. of Transportation (TDoT) is having to be reprimanded once again. TDoT apparently failed to get a dredge-and-fill permit, required under the federal Clean Water Act, for constructing an overpass near Spring City, TN; and, in the course of the work, produced major adverse impacts on a stream and nearby wetlands. EPA has issued an order for corrective work, to be done by 12-31-90; whether or not any fine will be levied (which could be as high as \$125,000) will depend on the quality of the corrective work.
- Again, Tennessee ranks among the bottom five states on a nationwide environmental scorecard. The score, compiled by the Institute of Southern Studies from data in recent federal reports, was based on 35 indicators.
- Rep. Marilyn Lloyd (D-3rd) will have a challenger in her bid for reelection to Congress. He is Pete Melcher (competing as an independent), a Chattanooga biology teacher who is running on an environmental platform.

5. THE SMOOKIES AND SURROUNDINGS

Jenny Freeman represented TCWP at a meeting held at the GSMNP headquarters on April 28. Most of the following account is based on her report.

A. *Reintroduction of endangered species*

The last wild wolf in the Smoky Mountains area was killed in 1905. Now there is a program to reintroduce the species into the Park. In the fall of 1990, three pairs of red wolves (the native wolf of the Southeast) will be placed into specially built pens for 6 months to get them acclimated to the area and bonded to each other. They will then be released, tracked for 6 months, and recaptured to allow assessment of the program before a full-blown reintroduction effort is initiated. It is thought that the Park can support a permanent population of 50-100 red wolves.

In interacting with other park visitors, each one of us will be able to do his/her share in making people think of the wolves as a natural (and exciting) part of the Smokies ecosystem. Red wolves are relatively small, and their prey consist of rabbits and other small game; they do not run in packs. The animals are very shy and do not constitute a threat to humans. Park visitors are unlikely ever to see a wolf, but if they are lucky they may hear its thrilling howl.

The other reintroduction program is showing good evidence of success, with reproduction having occurred in Abrams Falls Creek. And, after 6 years of effort, peregrine falcons may finally be nesting in the Smokies (probably in the Eye of the Needle vicinity of Mt. LeConte).

B. *Air quality deterioration and its effects*

Polluting emissions from coal-fired power plants and from automobile exhausts are having major impacts on visibility and on the health of forests in the park -- just two more reasons we all need to work for passage of a strong Clean Air Act this year (and for defeat of the proposed Knoxville incinerator). Weakened trees are succumbing to a balsam woolly aphid infestation, and when the dead trees fall, the shallow-rooted red spruce trees are left without protection against the strong winds that blow in the higher elevations. The beautiful spruce-fir forest of the Smokies -- a remnant of the Pleistocene glaciation -- appears doomed to extinction.

C. *Funding for research*

A dedicated professional Park Service staff is trying to carry out a variety of needed research projects in the Park but is greatly hampered by serious underfunding. The public does not generally realize how much work NPS staff does for how little pay; besides, many research projects need more than just dedication of the investigator.

D. *Proposed landfill would threaten bears*

Haywood County, N.C., is proposing to locate the White Oak Landfill less than 3 miles from the Park boundary in the Cataloochee area. This site is in the center of an important corridor used by regional bear populations as they move between the Park and the Pisgah National Forest. The black bear, considered to be a symbol of the Smokies, is already heavily stressed by poaching and by land developments (especially road building) in the areas around the Park. Tearing out the center of a main corridor for bear-population movement could be the last straw when added to the other stresses.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write in opposition to the proposed landfill site. Address your letter to J. Gordon Layton, Chief, Solid Waste Section, Division of Solid Waste Management, Dept. of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611. Send a copy to Mr. Teddy Rogers, Chmn and County Mng'r, Haywood County Commission, Courthouse Annex, Waynesville, NC 28786.

E. *Recycling in the Park*

According to an announcement by Sec. Manuel Lujan, the Great Smoky Mountains NP is the first of four national parks chosen for an industry-supported experimental recycling program. Two companies, Dow and Huntsman, will recycle plastic waste; some products built from this waste (e.g., picnic tables) will be returned to the parks. Recycling bins in the GSMNP should be in place by the end of May.

6. THE CHEROKEE AND OTHER NATIONAL FORESTS

A. *We must support elimination of below-cost timber sales*

The 1991 budget for the US Forest Service (USFS) proposes a Pilot Test for phasing out below-cost timber sales in 12 national forests, of which the Cherokee would be one (NL 175 14A). This proposal is now threatened by a resolution recently passed by the Tennessee General Assembly, which "urges Congress not to approve that portion of the federal budget as it relates to the Below Cost Commercial Timber Sale Pilot Test on the Cherokee National Forest." We must work to counteract the effects of this resolution.

The proposed USFS Pilot Test includes increased funding for recreation and wildlife, and provision for greater utilization of user fees. The idea is to see to what degree any local economic impacts from reducing timber sales would be offset. (Note: below-cost timber sales cost the national tax payer lots of money, but some people argue that they benefit the local economy). In 1989, the

Cherokee NF sold 36 million board feet (mbf) for \$1.5 million, but the cost of cutting was \$2 million (i.e., the nation lost half a million dollars). Under the Pilot Test, timber harvest would be reduced to 17 mbf, and the Cherokee would receive \$1.4 million to expand recreational opportunities (camping, swimming, picnic areas).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact both Senators Sasser and Gore and your US Representative and tell them that below-cost timber sales should be phased out. Specifically, support the Bush Administration's budget proposal for the Pilot Test in the Cherokee National Forest, and make it clear that the General Assembly's recent resolution (Joint Resolution #653) does not represent your feelings, or those of the people of Tennessee (it was rushed through without public discussion). Why below-cost timber sales must be phased out: (a) they are a drain on the federal budget; (b) they encourage overcutting and subsidize excessive road building; (c) both overcutting and road building have negative impacts on other National Forest uses, such as watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and recreation.

B. A bill to reduce log exports

One major cause of the plunder of the old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest is the unchecked overseas sale of timber. Sen. Packwood (R-OR) has introduced S 753 and S 754, which would restrict the export of raw logs from public forests in the USA to mills overseas.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask Senators Sasser and Gore to support S 753 and S 754, which constitute an important step toward stopping the "bleeding" of our most majestic forests.

C. Move from within for USFS reforms

There are hopeful signs that the Forest Service may be reforming itself from within, but will the reforms come in time? A recent joint communique to Chief Forester, Dale Robertson, from Forest Supervisors of 11 western states expresses the concern that actual USFS programs do not reflect the land stewardship values embodied in forest plans, USFS employees, and the public. The communique recommends deemphasizing timber production and, instead, reorienting toward the objectives of restoring and maintaining the ecological health of the USFS lands.

Another sign of discontent within the agency is the formation of the Assoc. of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, which now has 1000 USFS members, as well as 2000 non-agency members. AFSEEE lobbies for reform within the agency, defends the rights of employees to speak out, and publishes a newsletter, the Inner Voice (AFSEEE, P.O. Box 11615, Eugene, OR

97440). Within the next 8 years, about 70% of the Forest Service's top managers are expected to retire, creating an opportunity for rapid change. Hopefully, not all of our forests will be liquidated before then! (Based on an article in "Common Ground," published by the Conservation Fund.)

7. WILDERNESS ACT ALERT

S 371 by James McClure (R-ID) masquerades as a local bill (the Idaho National Forest Management Act) but, in fact, would undermine the integrity of the entire National Wilderness Preservation System - 91 million acres that have been set aside in 45 states. This bill has already been approved by the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee, so it will require our special effort to keep it from getting enacted.

The McClure bill makes a travesty of the word "wilderness." An area is defined in the bill would not have protected water rights, would be open to motor vehicles while discouraging hikers, and (most horrendous of all) would be subject to withdrawal from wilderness designation by the Sec. of Agriculture. Thus, the bill would take away from Congress the power it exclusively holds under the 1964 Wilderness Act to fix wilderness boundaries by statute and for all time, so as to preserve land for future generations of living beings (including humans). Wilderness decisions would, instead, be made by political appointees (perhaps a James Watt type?) and would be ephemeral.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Senators (address on p.2) to defeat S 371; send a copy to Sen. Bennett Johnston, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ask Pres. Bush (The White House, Wash. DC 20500) to veto the bill, should it get passed. Main point to stress: S 371 runs completely counter the letter and spirit of the historic Wilderness Act, and sets a very dangerous precedent.

8. NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES

A. National Park System boundaries

The House Interior Committee has marked up HR 3383, directing the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct an ongoing series of reviews of boundaries of Park System units. The bill was modified to meet NPS concerns that the scope of the task (as originally drafted) was too great for existing agency resources. The marked-up bill requires NPS to choose at least 25 high-priority park units to study within the first 3 years, and to study remaining units on "a timely, regular, and comprehensive basis." Concurrent with the first study, NPS must develop criteria for subsequent studies, solicit public comment on them, and submit them to Congress in 3 years. The bill requires all studies to address the adequate protection and preservation of the natural, historic, cultural, scenic

and recreational resources relevant to the unit, as well as the most efficient management of the unit.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: There are many examples (including some right here in Tennessee, see, e.g., ¶2B, this NL) where boundaries are totally inadequate to protect the resource the unit was established to protect. Write to your US Rep (address p.2) in support of HR 3383. Our support is important, since the bill is expected to be fought by Westerners who are opposed to federal land acquisitions, which they fear the study would lead to.

B. River protection via Forest Planning

Section 5(d) of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act requires federal agencies to consider whether any of their rivers are potentially wild & scenic ones. The US Forest Service did not initially do so in its separate Land Protection Plans for the various national forests; so American Rivers (formerly, American Rivers Conservation Council) and the SC Legal Defense Fund initiated a program of administrative appeals of USFS Plans. Since 1966, 37 such Plans have been appealed, and 31 agreements have been signed in which the agency has committed itself to further identification and protection of potential W&S rivers; it looks as though most of the remaining appeals will probably be successfully negotiated. In Tennessee, we have already benefitted from this process. You may recall (NL173 ¶3C) that the Cherokee is the only eastern national forest in which rivers have been designated as candidates for possible inclusion in the National W&S System; eight rivers have been found eligible for formal study, and a ninth (the Nolichucky) has already been recommended for W&S status.

Unfortunately, the Bureau of Land Management has not been as cooperative as the USFS. Although American Rivers has appealed five BLM plans, no resolutions have been achieved.

C. Threat to WS River removed

Not too long ago, there was a serious proposal to construct an airport in the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia, practically within spitting distance of a National Wild & Scenic River, the Chattahoochee (NL169 ¶3G). Because of a major outpouring of opposition from people concerned not only about the actual case but about the precedent it would set for National Wild & Scenic Rivers, the Rabun County Board of Commissioners passed a motion that they would let the airport study be completed, but would subsequently table the study. The Federal Aviation Administration ruled in mid-March to terminate the airport master-planning grant to the county. The FAA letter expresses "regret that the citizens of Rabun County will be denied direct access to [their] county's extensive

air transportation system. Their loss is great." (Talk about editorializing!)

D. The States' share of the LWCF

Times used to be when the States got almost 50% of the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) appropriations — and the total LWCF amounted to several hundred million \$\$ annually. For example, in 1979, the States received \$370 million. By law, these federal funds to the States are matched by State funds and used for land acquisition and development of outdoor-recreation areas. Now, the Bush Administration is following the the Reagan footsteps by recommending zero funding for State grants. Each year, the Congress manages nevertheless to appropriate a pittance for the States: last year it was \$16.7 million (the States had asked for \$500 million). Everyone expects the same pattern to prevail this year.

9. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

A. Dolphin-safe tuna ?

For reasons unknown, porpoises in the eastern tropical Pacific travel in association with schools of yellowfin tuna. Tuna-fishing boats therefore set their purse-seine nets on dolphin in order to catch tuna. Dolphins are also caught in large-scale drift nets. The carnage that results from these practices is truly shocking — about 100,000 porpoises annually are estimated to drown or be mangled in tuna nets. On April 12, three U.S. tuna canners — StarKist, Chicken of the Sea, and Bumble Bee (which, in aggregate, account for 70% of canned-tuna sales) — announced that they would "not purchase any tuna caught in association with dolphins" and would "sell only dolphin-free tuna." This is a decision to be applauded. What needs to be ensured is verification of the method of catch. (The majority of tuna boats operating in the eastern Pacific are now under non-US registry.)

HR 2926 (Boxer, D-Calif.), slated for mark-up next week, is expected to provide a regulatory framework for enforcing the industry labeling, and to ensure against consumer fraud. The bill will require an observer on all domestic and foreign tuna boats. If anyone of the nets set by a boat caught dolphins, the tuna catch from the entire trip would not be permitted to receive the "dolphin-safe" label. Another bill about to be introduced by Bates (D-Cal) would provide federal grants and loans to US tuna fishermen to ease the transition to dolphin-safe tuna fishing.

B. Clean Air legislation weakened by White House

In January, the Senate began debate on S 1630, which had been overwhelmingly voted out of the Environment and Public Works Committee. Although the bill was already a compromise,

considered by many to require too slow a regulatory pace, it turns out to have been much stronger than the version that finally passed on the Senate floor on April 3. The considerable weakening that occurred in the interim was the result of a compromise agreed on by the White House (which appeared intent on eliminating all strengthening provisions) and the Senate leadership (which was intent on avoiding a Bush veto after all the years of effort toward extending the Clean Air Act). Provisions for acid rain control are probably the only ones in the Senate bill that are considered acceptable to Clean Air advocates. Particularly galling was the elimination from the committee version of the requirement for a second round of automobile tailpipe emission standards (NL 175 ¶7A).

On the Senate floor, there were six key votes. On all of them, Senator Gore consistently voted the pro-environmental position. (In addition, he co-authored a successful strengthening amendment that requires companies to clean up their toxic air pollution instead of evacuating affected neighborhoods.) Sen. Sasser cast pro-environment votes on three of the six occasions. However, he voted in favor of tabling three good amendments, which would have reduced automobile emissions, mandated an alternative fuels program for America's dirtiest cities, and restored the federal enforcement mandate when states fail to clean up urban smog.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The clean-air votes were probably among the most important environmental votes in the Senate this year. It is therefore important for citizens to follow through and tell their senators how they feel about the way they voted. (See p. 2 for address). — In addition, it is important to keep informed on what is happening in the House. Since things could move fast, we would suggest you call one of the following Washington numbers to get the latest info: 202-797-5436 (National Clean Air Coalition); 202-783-7800 (Deborah Shelman, NRDC); or 202-547-9017 (Connie Mahan, Audubon).

C. **Fuel efficiency and global warming**

CO₂ increases are the major factor in projected global warming. In the USA, the transportation sector accounts for 30% of the CO₂ emitted into our air. S 1224 (Bryan, D-Nev) is designed to increase fuel efficiency of the US auto fleet and thus decrease CO₂ emissions. In 1988, average mileage of the US fleet was 28.7 mpg for cars and 21.3 mpg for light trucks. The Bryan bill would require automobile manufacturers to increase car mileage to 34.4 mpg (25.5 for trucks) by 1995, and to 40 mpg (29.8 for trucks) by 2001. This goal would cut in half the number of pounds of CO₂ emitted today.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Sen. Gore for co-sponsoring S 1224, and ask for his continued support. Urge Sen. Sasser to become a co-sponsor. (Addresses on p.2)

Also about cars: Americans use approx. 1 billion gallons of motor oil annually. About 40% of this ends up polluting the environment. If we were to recycle and refine all of our motor oil, we would save 1.3 million barrels of oil each day; this is equivalent to half the daily output of the Alaska Pipeline.

D. **Mass transit dramatically reduces air pollution**

We all know that every time a commuter rides mass transit instead of driving, he/she reduces air pollution; but few of us are aware of the magnitude of this reduction. According to a report recently released by the American Public Transit Association, these are the figures, in grams per passenger-mile (for typical work commutes), for hydrocarbons (HC), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and carbon monoxide (CO) emitted by a single-occupancy auto: 2.09 HC, 2.06 NO_x, 15.06 CO. By contrast, per passenger mile of electric train travel, the figures are 0.01 HC (that's 0.5% of the car level), 0.47 NO_x (23% of car level), 0.02 CO (only 0.1% of car level).

E. **International conference on global warming**

Sen. Al Gore chaired a three-day conference of some 200 legislators from 42 nations, hosted by the US Congress in early May. Unlike Pres. Bush, the conferees concurred that NOW is the time to take actions. They called for specific levels of reduction in greenhouse gases over the next 20 years, elimination of the use of CFCs, help from industrial nations for developing countries in dealing with international environmental problems, and stabilization of the world's population at 10 billion in the next century. Though the conference resolutions are not binding on any country, it is expected that they will be used by environmental activists in legislative bodies as a way to push for new laws.

F. **The S&L bailout and land protection**

Who would have guessed that the Savings & Loans debacle might have environmental implications? As a result of the S&L bailout, about \$200 billion worth of foreclosed property is now in federal hands. Some of this property includes environmentally sensitive lands. There are also some scenic parcels that had been bought by developers who subsequently went bankrupt, causing the parcels to fall into the hands of the S&Ls (and, secondarily, into the hands of the federal government when it bailed out the S&Ls).

The Resolution Trust Corp (RTC) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC) are two

federal agencies charged with cataloguing and selling all S&L assets. The bailout legislation charges the RTC and the FDIC to identify properties with "natural, cultural, recreational, or scientific values of special significance." This provides an opportunity for conservation groups and local governments to acquire environmentally sensitive or outdoor-recreation lands at low cost (someone has likened this to the "debt-for-nature swaps" involving Third World countries). The only problem is: the RTC and FDIC have, to date, failed to produce the requisite inventories.

* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Let us know if you can volunteer at regional RTC and FDIC offices to help inventory any former S&L properties in Tennessee or the surrounding region that have "natural, cultural, recreational, or scientific values". TCWP can contact citizen land trusts or appropriate local government offices that might have an interest in purchasing such lands at relatively low cost.

G. Environmental attitudes

A recent survey of 2172 "opinion leaders" from various walks of life was conducted by a Philadelphia-based research company (HRN) at the request of the Ford Motor Co. Some findings: 78% said the public would be willing to pay more for environmentally benign products, 70% thought the public would accept a somewhat lower standard of living for the sake of environmental quality, and 70% said industry would not voluntarily act to protect the environment; about 50% thought business had no credibility at all on environmental issues, while 85% credited environmental groups with high or moderate credibility on environmental issues.

10. TCWP NEWS

A. BSNRRA superintendent to address TCWP

* We took forward greatly to Bill Dickinson's talk on "The Big South Fork: A Challenge in Conservation," on Thursday, May 31, 7:30pm in the Oak Ridge Library Auditorium. Bill will talk about the wonders of the Area and then discuss resource-conservation issues. Refreshments will be served. See the flyer accompanying this NL. Be sure to come -- and bring a friend or two.

B. March for Parks

TCWP's major Earth Day activity was participation in the nationwide March for Parks, held March 24; our "march" was held in the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. As you know, this event was a fundraiser to help the NPS purchase water-quality monitoring equipment for the BSNRRA and to print site bulletins. Since all

the money was sent to the National Parks & Conservation Assoc (which will return 50% to the BSNRRA, keeping the other 50% for national projects), we don't know yet how much was collected. The weather on March 24 was miserable - a cold, driving rain. Despite this, about 30 people assembled and participated in two hikes.

C. Cedar Barren fence

* Constructing the Oak Ridge Barren fence was to have been another of our Earth Day activities, but violent storms were threatening on April 21, and the work had to be postponed. And that was just the first of the postponements: on the three subsequent Saturdays it was either pouring, or the ground was so soggy that the risk of causing damage with the City's hole-digging equipment was too great. The activity is now rescheduled for May 26, when the wet spell will hopefully be over. We urge all of you to come out and help assemble the 620 feet of split-rail fence. TCWP was instrumental in saving the Oak Ridge Barren, a registered State Natural Area, from the Crown development (NL 161 11) and having the City designate it Greenbelt. Subsequently, TCWP raised most of the money needed for the fence. One major contributor and helper was the Jefferson Jr High School's Biology Club; a large contribution was also made by Bechtel. The City's Recreation Dept (Josh Collins) has offered to dig the post holes, and otherwise help with the project.

D. Whites Creek hike report

Another TCWP activity that was to have been held on April 21 actually took place exactly 3 weeks later. There were so many delays and mixups (The Oak Ridge announced a wrong date on one occasion) that we figured no one would show up. We did have seven participants, though, who enjoyed a great hike despite an overcast sky and threat of rain. We plan to return for a major maintenance hike in the winter, since there have been a number of blowdowns that need to be taken care of.

E. We thank our volunteers

* The following helped assemble NL 174 at Dick Ambrose's house: Flossie Stirling, Don DeAngelis, Anna Dobbins, Peggy Turner, Harry and Sylvia Hubbell, Charlie Klabunde, and Dick Ambrose. The following assembled NL 175 at Maureen Cunningham's apartment: Don Davis, Marlon Garber, Louise Markel, Ruth Kemohan, Ed Sonder, Charlie Klabunde, Maureen Cunningham. Thanks to all these folks! Also, our sincerest thanks to the many who collected and/or donated money for the March for Parks (see B, above).

F. South Cumberland Recreation Area report

Herman Baggenstoss has kindly sent us several copies of the Grundy County Conservation Board's "Cumulative Report," much of which deals with the South Cumberland Recreation Area, established in 1971. "We thought TCWP might be interested," he writes, "since in its early days they lent moral and active support to some of the units acquired, such as the Savage [Gulf]". If you would like a copy, send a self-addressed, stamped (25c) envelope to TCWP (address on p.1, this NL).

11. JOBS, ACTIVITIES, READING MATTER

- May 31, Bill Dickinson, BSNRRA superintendent speaks to TCWP, 7:30 pm, Oak Ridge Library Auditorium. Refreshments. See enclosed flyer.
- May 25-27, National Forest Reform conference, Tuxedo, NC. TCWP is a co-sponsor. See NL 175 §4C. Call David Adler (Oak Ridge 482-1274), or the WNC Alliance (Asheville 704-258-8737).
- June 16-17, Doe River Gorge trip, Tennessee Native Plant Soc. Call Ed Schell, 615-282-6125.
- For job listings, contact the following:
Environmental Job Opportunities, U. of Wisc., 550 North Park St, 15 Science Hall, Madison, WI 53706;
Environmental Opportunities, POB 788, Walpole, NH 03608; *Job Scan*, Student Conservation Assoc, POB 550, Charlestown, NH 03603; *Job Seeker*, Rt.2, Box 16, Warrens, WI 54666.
- The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) is looking for good people to work on campaigns of LCV-supported candidates for the 1990 election. LCV pays for travel expenses and finds free lodging. Call 202-785 8683 for more info.
- Volunteers are needed for 66 intern positions (naturalists/interpreters, researchers, back-country patrollers) in Alaska state parks. A stipend for food and lodging is available for most of the positions, which last through August. Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Alaska State Parks, POB 107001-AA, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7001; Ph. 907-792-2655.
- A TV Special, "Arctic Refuge: A Vanishing Wilderness?", narrated by Meryl Streep, will be shown on TBS SuperStation on May 27, May 28, June 2, and June 11. Not all dates apply to all areas. Check your local listings for viewing times.
- Grants for grassroots work in river conservation are offered by the National Rivers Coalition. Amounts range from \$200-1,000. Contact Suzi Wilkins,

American Rivers, 801 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, Wash. DC 20003.

- The purpose of the new "River Network Bulletin" is to circulate ideas for river protection to grassroots activists. The second issue (just received) addresses protecting the quality of rivers that flow through private lands. To get on the distribution list, write River Network, POB 8787, Portland, OR 97207.
- Do you want to invest in socially responsible funds? An 80-page guide and directory are available for \$8 from Social Investment Forum, 711 Atlantic Ave, Boston, MA 02111, Ph. 617-451-3252. A brokerage firm specializing in socially responsible investing is Progressive Asset Management, Ph. 1-800-527-8267.
- "50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth," by John Javna, is full of practical environment-saving information. (\$4.95 from bookstores; or order from Earthworks Press, Box 25, 1400 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709, and add \$1 for postage).
- "The Green Consumer," by John Elkington et al., provides detailed information about a wide range of everyday choices. (374 pp., \$8.95, Viking/Penguin Books, New York).
- "Dead Heat: The Race Against the Greenhouse Effect," by M. Oppenheimer and R.H. Boyle, proposes practical solutions to tackling the challenge of global warming. (\$19.95, Basic Books/New Republic Books; or order from EDF, 1616 P St, NW, Wash, DC 20077-6048).
- Two publications about the National Wildlife Refuge System are available for \$1.50 each. They are "How to be a National Wildlife System Advocate" and "National Wildlife Refuge System." Write Sierra Club, Box P6, 730 Polk St, San Francisco, CA 94109.
- Over 300 of the country's 800 land trusts are members of the Land Trust Alliance, which provides technical assistance and national leadership. For info, call 703-683-7778.
- World Resources Institute publishes larger numbers of reports on the world's natural resources, energy, pollution, sustainable development, etc. For their catalog, write WRI, 1709 New York Ave, NW, Wash. DC 20006.

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- The Video Project, a non-profit enterprise, was founded to produce affordable films and videos on issues critical to our future on the planet. To receive a recent catalog listing 25 films and videos that may be rented or purchased, contact Video Project, 5332 College Ave, Suite 101, Oakland, CA 94618, Ph. 415-655-9050.
- "The Ecologist," founded 20 years ago in England, is an international "green" journal that is now being distributed in North America. Its main theme is man's impact on the biosphere, and the social, economic, and political barriers to regulating this impact. Subscriptions through MIT Press Journals, 55 Hayward St, Cambridge, MA 02142, Ph. 617-253-2889.
- "Land Letter," a bi-weekly newsletter published by The Conservation Fund, focuses on Capitol Hill and major land management agencies, as well as on nationally significant state news. Introductory subscription, \$100/yr. Call 703-522-8008.
- "Save the Trees: An Invitational Exhibition of Paintings" is at the Morgan Keegan Tower in Memphis until June 15.

Bill Dickinson

Superintendent

Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area




"THE BIG SOUTH FORK: CHALLENGES IN CONSERVATION"

Thursday, May 31, 1990: 7:30-9 pm

Oak Ridge Public Library Auditorium

Refreshments will be served

Bill Dickinson will show slides of the magnificent resources within the boundaries of the BSFNRRA, then discuss a number of the special resource-conservation problems presented by this Area. The talk should be of interest both to those who do not yet know the BSFNRRA and to those who already love it and want to help protect it. Bring your friends !



Sponsored by Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

For information, call 482-2153 or 584-6016

