

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

13. ACTION SUMMARY

NO	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1	Dismemberment of DoC	Agric. Committee Gov. McWherter State Rep. & Sens.	"Keep State Forests within Dept. of Envi. and Conservation!"
2	Wood-fiber Industry Invasion	US Sens. & Rep. Gov. McWherter Media	"Get TVA to generate an EIS!" "Prevent massive clearcutting of state and private forests!" Spread the word.
3A	Obed	Sens. Gore, Sasser, Rep. Cooper; your US Rep.	"Urge NPS to do a boundary study!"
3B	Obed & Big S. Fork	Sens. Gore, Sasser, Rep. Cooper; your US Rep.	"Work for FY 92 acquisition funds: \$6M for BSF; \$600,000 for Obed!"
4A	State parklands	State Sen. & Rep.	"Support SB.571/HB.774, providing funds!"
4B	State wetlands	Agric. Committee (if not too late, see text)	"Oppose HB.793; support TEC compromise!"
4D	Tennessee's flora	State legislators	"Support 'Tenn. Flora 2001' project!"
8A	Natl. Energy Strategy	Pres. Bush, US Sens. and Rep.	"Support legislation promoting conservation, efficiency, renewable resources!"
8B	Arctic Wildlife Refuge	US Sens. & Rep. Pres. Bush	"Support HR.39/S.39!" "Sacrificing ANWR is not a prerequisite for energy independence!"
8C	Auto fuel efficiency	Sen. Sasser Sen. Gore	"Support Bryan bill, S.279!" "Thanks for supporting S.279!"
NOTE: 8A, 8B, 8C are related issues; it may be possible for you to handle them jointly.			
9A	Ancient Forest	US Rep.	"Co-sponsor Rep. Jontz's Protection Act!"
9B	Wildlife refuges	USD! US Rep.	Provide testimony for hearings. "Support bill that sets guidelines for Refuge System!"
9C	1872 Mining Law	US Sens. US Rep.	"Support reform bill, S.433!" "Support reform bill superior to HR.918!"
9D	Properties sold in S&L bailout	RTC	Monitor for properties having conservation value.
10	Oak Ridge greenbelt	Council members Minter, Nephew, Rush Spore	"Thank you for your 1/28/91 vote!"
3D, 5B, 10	BSF trails; rivers hearings; greenbelt committee	TCWP	Offer to volunteer

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

ACTION CALL -- time is of the essence!

1. DISMEMBERMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION MUST BE OPPOSED

Among Executive Orders signed by Gov. McWhorter at the beginning of February were the following: No. 40 transfers the State Parks Division from the Dept. of Conservation to the Dept. of Tourist Development (effective 7/1/91); No. 41 transfers the Forestry Division from the Dept. of Conservation to the Dept. of Agriculture (effective 7/1/91); and No. 42 transfers the Bureau of Environment in the Department of Health and Environment (DHE) to the Department of Conservation (effective immediately).

We considered No. 42 to be good news, especially since DHE Commissioner J. W. Luna was appointed as commissioner for the new Dept. of Environment and Conservation (DoEC). However, Executive Orders Nos. 40 and 41, which essentially dismembered the old DoC, spelled disaster for land-protection efforts in Tennessee.

Subsequently, a lot has happened in a very short time, and the bottom line is that (a) transfer of the Parks Division has definitely been delayed for at least one year, and (b) our immediate effort is needed to get the transfer of the Forestry Division also delayed by at least one year.

TCWP's reasons for opposing both of these transfers are set forth in the following outline, which was filed as part of our testimony for recent hearings held by Rep. McAfee's Subcommittee on State Parks and Tourism of the House Conservation Committee.

1. The Department of Conservation (DoC) has historically melded various units to achieve a balance between natural-resource protection and utilization. Splitting up these units to at least three Departments appears regressive and administratively inefficient.
2. State Parks, State Forests, and (in some cases) State Natural Areas are geographically intricately associated in numerous instances, e.g., Pickett (Park & Forest), Natchez Trace (Park & Forest), Chickasaw (Park & Forest), Fall Creek Falls (Park & Natural Area), Frozen Head (Park & Natural Area), Cedars of Lebanon (Park & Forest & Natural Area). Strong bonds have been formed between managers of these different land bases in DoC, and many problems -- local to global -- can only be solved jointly.

3. No budget savings of the proposed moves has been demonstrated if there are to be (as promised) no personnel cuts. On the contrary, we can see numerous extra expenditures, such as costs of the physical moves, printing new stationery, new uniforms, etc. The biggest costs will come from circumstances explained under 4.
4. In the original DoC, a number of personnel groups and functions served both the Parks and Forestry Divisions. Examples are
 - a. attorney services for land acquisition, boundary protection, watershed protection, etc.;
 - b. the database maintained by the Division of Ecological Services (which has become a model for the other 49 states), which is essential to environmental review and planning;
 - c. the administration of laws pertaining to endangered plant species, which is carried out by the Division of Ecological Services;
 - d. educational services, including the *Tennessee Conservationist*
 - e. especially, see 2., above
5. Removal of the State Parks Division to the Dept. of Tourist Development (the former currently larger than the latter) will result in
 - a. out-of-state promotion of parks as destinations, so that access by Tennesseans to their own state parks will be diminished;
 - b. degradation of the resource through over-use (note that the Feb. 1991 report by Comptroller W. R. Snodgrass [see ¶68, this NL] finds that some parks are already over-used and suggests that methods be considered for restricting visitation);
 - c. absence of expertise in the Dept. of Tourist Dev't for naturalist-interpreter activities and other educational programs, maintenance of hiking trails, management of rare and endangered species, protection of natural features, etc.
6. Removal of the State Forestry Division (which manages 163,000 acres in 13 Forests) to the Dept. of Agriculture raises the following concerns:
 - a. In the Dept. of Agriculture, commodities and markets are the primary emphasis. By contrast, in the DoC, the State Forests were managed under a "multiple use" philosophy, which states that forest objectives should include not only timber production but also watershed protection, wildlife management, recreation, forestry research and demonstration.

- b. Agri-business interest, which have historically dominated the Dept. of Agriculture, have no sympathy for woodlands/preservation, or for programs of wetlands protection.
- c. The State Forests have been engaged in a process of developing long-range management plans with considerable public input. The recently-completed Prentice Cooper State Forest Plan clearly incorporates multiple-use objectives. What will happen to the planning process for other State Forests? Is the Prentice Cooper Plan safe?

- 7. The disintegration of the land-base programs in the new Department of Environment and Conservation will greatly weaken the following programs we consider essential:
 - a. Ecological Services
 - b. Natural Areas
 - c. State Rivers
 - d. State Trails

In addition to submitting organizational testimony and writing the Governor, we also contacted about 30 TCWP members, scattered over the state, who could be relied upon to submit personal comments. We know many of you have done so, and we are most appreciative. Quite a few other groups were also very active. And all of the effort worked, at least partially!

On February 27, at the beginning of the first of two House Conservation Committee hearings, Commissioner Luna announced that "numerous individuals and organizations" had raised several concerns that "may have merit and deserve further attention." As a result, the Administration had decided that the transfer of parks to the Dept. of Tourist Development would be delayed at least until 7/1/92 and be given further study.

But the Forestry Division transfer was apparently still on. We felt that this still provided major threats to resource protection, particularly in the many instances (see item 2 in outline, above) where state parks are juxtaposed with state forests (a good example is Pickett, where the trails and woods and gorges that most of us think of as park are actually forest, with park designation confined only to the area of the cottages and the lake). The transfer also threatened the multiple-use policy under which state forests are currently managed, and the forest-planning process with its increasing emphasis on citizen participation.

On March 6, Ram Upputuri presented TCWP's testimony concerning the Forestry Division transfer to the full House Committee on Conservation and the Environment. At the end of the hearing, the

chairman, T.V. Hillis, indicated that the committee would ask the Administration to postpone the forest transfer for at least a year, and that, failing a positive response, it would pass a resolution urging postponement.

This was reassuring. However, it now appears that jurisdiction over this issue has been transferred from the Conservation to the Agriculture Committee, which, naturally has more interest in the Dept. of Agriculture than in the Dept. of Conservation. That committee will hold hearings on March 19 at noon, in Rm. 31, Legislative Plaza.

*** WHAT YOU CAN DO:** It is very important that the House Agriculture Committee hear from many of us by March 19. We urge you to contact them -- even if you have earlier written to, or contacted the Conservation Committee (and been rewarded by the decision to delay the Parks transfer). A list of members of the committee appears in ¶4F, this NL. Address your comments to the chairman, Rep. C. Ray Davis, Tenn. General Assembly, 212 War Memorial Bldg, Nashville, TN 37219; or call him at 615-741-3859. If you live in the district of any other member of the committee, be sure to contact him/her also (see Political Guide). Also write to Gov. McWhorter (State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37219), with a copy to Commissioner Luna (Dept. of Environment and Conservation, 701 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37219). Other copies to your own Rep and Senator won't hurt (see Political Guide for addresses; however, ZIP code is 37219, not 37219). The TCWP committee testimony (see outline, above) may help you to extract facts or arguments for your comments; item 2 is particularly important.

2. A MAJOR CRISIS FOR TENNESSEE'S FORESTS

A. The wood-fiber industry is moving into Tennessee

Having been run out of the Northeast, the wood-fiber industry is making a massive move into the mid-South. Why should that concern us? One reason is prospects for widespread clear-cutting. Wood chippers, which supply paper companies and particle-board manufacturers, don't need large trees; their procedure, therefore, is to clear-cut huge areas of hardwood forests, then to repeat the clear-cutting process in 20-year (or shorter) cycles. Appetites of the wood-fiber industry are insatiable. This potentially affects, all of our forest lands -- private and public. A TVA Environmental Assessment (see below) indicates that over 1 million acres in TN, AL and GA would be clearcut within the next 20 years.

Already, the industry is moving into our area in droves. At least four wood chippers and one billion-dollar paper plant are locating in the Nickajack Reservoir area alone; and 2-3 other major paper companies are following. Mead Paper Co. alone would consume the output of three chipmills.

Two federal agencies are heavily involved in this process: TVA and the Corps of Engineers (CoE). TVA is selling property along reservoirs for the siting of the factories and mills, and is providing permits for barge-loading facilities. CoE has a role through the "404-permit" process under the Clean Water Act. Both agencies have been actively involved in promoting the wood-fiber industry sitings, partly to be able to boast of economic development, partly to demonstrate the usefulness of the waterway system -- the multiply-impounded Tennessee River and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Canal. What this means, of course, is that Tennessee's forests will be slaughtered to supply overseas markets with paper and wood-chip products.

To date, TVA is engaged in an Environmental Assessment (EA) process for the chip-mill sitings; however, EA's are limited to local impacts. The off-site impacts (clear-cutting and related evils), which are infinitely more serious, are not even touched upon in such EA's. TVA needs to be encouraged -- and, if necessary, forced through a lawsuit -- to go through the full-fledged EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) process. An EIS would have to study and evaluate the numerous significant impacts of massive clear-cutting, such as soil erosion and resultant stream siltation, loss of soil fertility, flooding due to elimination of the water-retention capacity of forest floors, destruction of ecosystems and biodiversity, loss of wildlife habitat, diminution of fish habitat (due to siltation), increases in air pollution (due to bark burning), augmentation of the greenhouse effect (due to bark burning and the destruction of CO₂-consuming trees), and decreases in the opportunities for outdoor recreation. There would be adverse economic effects too, e.g., on saw mills dependent on bigger timber (for boards), and economic costs, e.g., the repairs needed to public-road surfaces destroyed by the constant passage of timber-hauling trucks.

Even though the EIS process could be highly valuable in focusing attention on the environmental disasters that will ensue from the siting of wood-fiber-industry facilities around reservoir shores, it cannot, by itself stop the process. It will be necessary for the states to

regulate timber practices on private lands. To encourage action by the state administration and/or legislature will require a substantial public outcry.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Write to Sens. Sasser and Gore and to your Congressman/woman to let them know your concerns about what is happening, to urge them to bring pressure on TVA and CoE to produce an EIS, and to ask them whether there might be any way to address the problem through federal legislation. (2) Write to Gov. McWherter asking for his assurance that massive clearcutting will not occur in state forests (see also ¶1, this NL), and urging that the state consider ways to regulate timber practices on private lands, so that he won't leave a legacy of destroyed Tennessee forests. (3) It is important that you spread the word by any means you have; one good way is to submit copies of the letter(s) you are writing to your senator, governor, etc. to the letters-to-the-editor column of your local paper(s). [While Tennessee is severely threatened by this crisis, it is not the only state thus affected. Other states in the TVA Area are also in trouble, particularly Alabama. Inform your friends in these other states.]

B. Another lawsuit against the USFS

At the time of settlement of our Appeal of the Cherokee National Forest Plan, a number of issues were deferred and had to await a decision from the Chief of the Forest Service (USFS). Our appeal on these issues, which included biological diversity, below-cost timber sales, and visual quality, was recently thrown out at the Washington level. It is likely that several groups, including TCWP, will challenge this action through a law suit against USFS.

3. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED PROTECTION ISSUES

A. Obed boundary study is badly needed

There are some dangerous flaws in the boundary currently shown for the Obed Wild & Scenic River. For lengthy stretches, there is no protected area on the north side of the gorge; and in other places, too, the boundary is totally insufficient for resource protection and thus not in keeping with the intent of Congress. There are also reasons to think that the boundary was drawn at variance with the government's own recommendations. Finally, the boundary as currently drawn takes in only about 1/3 of the acreage permitted under the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

It had been our impression that completion of an Obed General Management Plan (GMP) was a prerequisite for doing a boundary study. The GMP has been repeatedly delayed (NL180 ¶1C). In the meantime, the local NPS (National Park Service) has been authorized to use the Statement for Management and the 1978 General Development Plan (which already contains most of the information needed for a GMP) as interim guides. A boundary study does not have to await the GMP if there is enough Congressional pressure for one. This is where you can definitely help.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Sen. Gore, Sen. Sasser, Rep. Jim Cooper, and your own Rep. (addresses on p.2) and ask them to urge NPS to proceed *expeditiously* with a boundary study for the Obed. Inform them that there are severe threats to the resource from incompatible developments (logging, oil extraction, building construction) unless boundary changes are quickly made in a number of places. Point out that the Obed WSR was established over 14 years ago, but appears to have been a stepchild of the SE Regional Office of NPS. Send copies to James M. Ridenour, Director, NPS, US Dept of the Interior, Interior Bldg, Washington, DC 20240.

B. *Obed and BSF acquisition funds needed for FY1992*

Congress has already begun work on the various FY1992 appropriations bills. A briefing book assembled by national conservation groups for Members of Congress, lists recommended Land & Water Conservation Fund appropriations for various areas all around the country. Recommended Obed WSR and Big South Fork NRRRA appropriations, supplied by TCWP, are included in this document. To get these recommendations translated into actions requires that members of Congress hear from you.

The FY1992 amounts recommended by us, after study and consultation, are \$600,000 for the Obed WSR, and \$6 million for the Big South Fork NRRRA. The rationale for these amounts was presented in NL180 ¶1B. If you have lost this, ask us for a copy (482-2153). Note that the total amounts that will be required over the years to complete acquisition for the Big South Fork is \$13 million. The \$600,000 for the Obed should (if added to money "in the bank") be sufficient to complete acquisition within presently set boundaries.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Sens. Sasser and Gore, to Rep. Cooper, and to your own Rep. (addresses on p.2) and urge them to work for

LWCF appropriations of \$6 million for the Big S. Fork, and \$600,000 for the Obed. State your reasons why these appropriations are so important. Also, if you have not done so before, express your thanks for their efforts in passing the 1990 BSFNRRRA transfer-legislation and for securing the FY1991 appropriation.

C. *Status of the Big S. Fork Land Protection Plan*

Now that the BSFNRRRA is under jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NL179 ¶1A), the completion of land acquisition is finally in sight. About 15,000 acres remain to be protected. A prerequisite for their acquisition is the development by NPS of a Land Protection Plan (LPP).

A draft of the LPP, prepared by the BSFNRRRA office of NPS, has been sent to the NPS Southeastern Region for approval. From there, it must go up channels, all the way to the Secretary of the Interior, before it can be released to the public. Consequently, we have not seen any of the actual contents of the LPP, and know only what *type* of information it contains. First and foremost, the Plan prioritizes the tracts of land or other properties (e.g., mineral rights) to be acquired, and points out complicating factors where these exist (as with the O&W right-of-way). The LPP also discusses other land issues of concern, and lists properties and rights-of-way that do not require NPS protection.

As soon as the Plan is released, TCWP will study it and inform its membership of needed actions. We urge those of you who are concerned about speedy protection of the as-yet-unacquired lands (which include the beautiful North White Oak Creek and Laurel Fork gorges) to take an active interest in the LPP. Furthermore, we can expect the LPP to address possibly controversial issues (e.g., the O&W right-of-way), and we must be ready to put our weight against pressures for adverse development. If you are willing to help, contact Lee Russell (address on p.1). If you have questions about the LPP or want copies of documents, contact NPS' Ron Wilson, 615-879-3625.

D. *Obed and Big South Fork capsules*

- A group of interested people from the local area, U.T., etc., are investigating the feasibility of establishing a Big South Fork Environmental Education and Research Center.
- The BSFNRRRA is organizing an Area-wide trails inventory/inspection/cleanup for June 8 and 9.

✱ Would you be willing to help if TCWP were to participate in this activity? (Call 482-2153).

- Funding has been received to add a full-time ranger to the Obed WSR. His/her duties will concentrate on law enforcement.
- Following the flooding caused by recent heavy rains, the Obed has received \$40,000 of TVA and other federal flood money to repair damage.

4. BILLS BEFORE THE STATE LEGISLATURE

Several actions we urge you to take below (and in ¶1 of this NL) require contacts with legislative committees. Please refer to ¶4F for updated committee lists.

A. Funding for park-land acquisition, SB.571/HB.774

The State and Local Parks and Recreation Partnership Act, SB.571 (Crutchfield)/HB.774 (Odum, Knight, Cross) attempts to raise funds for park-land acquisition and trail development. The legislation would increase the recordation tax on the transfer of real property from 28¢ to 32¢ per \$100, starting 7/1/91. For example, the tax paid on transfer of a \$100,000 home would go up by \$40 (\$320, instead of \$280) -- surely a trivial sum. In case another tax (for low-income housing loans, which is supported by the Administration) is also enacted, the total transfer tax would become 37¢ per \$100.

About \$4 million are expected to be generated annually by the 4¢ tax, the sum to be split equally between state and local governments. The State portion, to be maintained in a separate account, will be used for land acquisition for state parks, forests, natural areas, and boundary areas for scenic rivers and trails. The local governments' portion would be available to county and municipal governments that apply to the Dept. of Env't and Conservation (DoEC) for grants. Such grants would have to be matched with an equal amount of local money, or with a donation of land from a third party. Allowed purposes would be land acquisition, and trail development, or facility development on acquired land (e.g., to establish a county park or greenway).

The existing Wetlands Acquisition Fund (currently funded by 4¢ of the transfer tax) would remain intact; in fact the Fund would be extended indefinitely beyond 1996, its current expiration date. SB.571/HB.774 is supported by the Environmental Action Fund; for further

information, call lobbyist John Williams, 615-385-4389.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** With the shortfall in state funds being the greatest it's been in 20 years, there is no hope for protecting existing land resources (e.g., by providing badly-needed buffer zones) or for bringing new ones under protective status *unless* this bill is passed. The bill is supported by a number of organizations, but opposed by realtors and by the Tennessee Farm Bureau. It is very important that you contact your state senator and representative and urge him/her to support the bill. (See Political Guide, and corrections under ¶4F, below).

B. Wetlands: a bad bill, and a possible compromise

Wetlands are essential to the environment -- as wildlife habitats, as resuppliers of ground water, and as substrates for valuable hardwood forests. Less than 30% of Tennessee's original 2.3 million acres of wetlands remain; yet, apparently unrelenting forces, trying to work through the General Assembly, are determined to drain much of what is left.

There are already provisions for draining farm lands if legitimate reasons are demonstrable, and if water quality and the overall wetland resource is protected. Thus, federal law (the 1985 and 1990 Farm Acts), as well as current Tennessee regulations, specify that so-called "swamped-out" lands (which may qualify for being drained) must have been in production since 1985; and that an individual permit be granted that assures that the draining does not affect water quality. The politically powerful Tennessee Farm Bureau has now proposed legislation, SB.359 (McKnight, Jackson)/HB.793 (Holt, Dyersburg) that would (a) move the cut-off date to 1970, and (b) substitute a general for an individual permit. The early cut-off date would make virtually all lands eligible for draining, and the general permit would do away with on-site inspection and subsequent monitoring by regulatory authorities; in fact, if an applicant receives no response within 30 days, he would be allowed to go ahead with whatever it is he proposes.

Recognizing that some farmers in Tennessee do have legitimate problems with flooding and with standing water, the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) has proposed a compromise, as follows. In order potentially to qualify for draining, fields would have had to have been cropped six out of the last 10 years, and swamped-out bottomland-hardwood forests would have to contain live

trees that are stressed or dying from inundation. Stream Obstruction Removal Guidelines should be adopted. All other provisions of the present law and regulations should be retained. TEC has also pointed out that individual farmers could be hurt by the provisions of SB.359/HB.793, since they would stand to lose federal farm supports and other USDA-program benefits by violating the 1990 federal Farm Act.

With little warning, the House Agriculture Committee held hearings on HB.793 on March 5 (it had been generally assumed that the bills would be considered by the Conservation Committees). The committee has announced that it will vote on the matter on March 12, but is being asked by numerous citizens groups to delay the vote in order to allow more time for testimony and for analysis of the report of the Governor's Wetlands Task Force, which is expected to be issued next week.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If the vote of the Agriculture Committee is delayed, it will be important for you to contact the committee (see 14F), as well as your own state legislators. Wetlands are not just a West Tennessee issue, even though the drainage proponents often portray them as such. So, regardless of where you live in the state, make your views known, stressing that this is an important issue for us all. We support the TEC compromise plan, and oppose SB.359/HB.793. [If one or both of your legislators is a member of the Agriculture Committee, your contacts will be extra-valuable.]

C. **Funding for the Environment & Conservation Dept. SB.631/HB.1089**

These companion bills, introduced by Sen. Ronnie Greer (R-Greenville) and Rep. Bill Purcell (D-Nashville) would provide funding for the State's environmental regulatory programs by imposing fees on those who apply for and receive permits from the State under different environmental statutes (air, water, solid waste, etc.). Several other states have found the permit-fee approach to work very successfully. A broad-based coalition of business and environmental groups supports the concept of this bill, but is awaiting the details, which have not yet been fully drafted. It is envisioned that the Department's budget would be raised 30% if this legislation is enacted, and this would serve, (a) to speed up the permitting process (hence, industrial and municipal support), and (b) provide more effective enforcement of regulations (hence, environmental support).

Administration support can make or break this legislation, which is currently being

reviewed by Finance Commissioner David Manning. At this time, there is therefore no need for you to contact your legislators. SB.631/HB.1089 is supported by the Environmental Action Fund; for further information, call lobbyist John Williams, 615-385-4389.

D. **The "Tennessee Flora 2001" project**

Though Tennessee's flora is among the most diverse in the entire nation (over 2,800 species), it has not been recorded in any guide since 1901. Moreover the few botanists knowledgeable about the state's flora are retired, or about to retire, and the field does not attract young scientists. The Tennessee Native Plant Society, supported by a number of other organizations, has therefore proposed the Tennessee Flora 2001 project, which would provide funds for three important reference works: (a) by 1993, a popular, photographically illustrated book of native plants; (b) by 1995, a county atlas, based on all available sources, and (c) by 2001, a guide to the complete vascular flora of the state that would provide keys for identification, descriptions of habitats, range for each species, etc., plus illustrations of selected species.

A Joint Resolution in support of the project, introduced by Rep. Lane Curlee, has passed the House Conservation and Environment Committee, and is going to the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee that must action appropriations. You can help by asking your legislator for support.

E. **"Scenic Tennessee" asks for help on two bills**

SB.969 (Montgomery, Atchley)/HB.899 (Kernell, Draper) would prohibit the clearing of vegetation for billboard visibility along state and federal rights-of-way. This bill is slated to come before the Transportation Committee on March 13.

SB.298 (Montgomery, Atchley)/HB.901 (Kernell, Draper) would require the Commissioner of Transportation to conduct an annual review of DoT's property holdings in order to determine which, if any, of the properties are in excess of the state's highway needs and, at the same time, possess scenic or environmental qualities that would restore or enhance the scenic beauty of the highway environment. Such properties must either be retained by DoT for these purposes, or be transferred to another appropriate state agency for preservation.

Scenic Tennessee (formerly, Tennesseans for Scenic Beauty) urges us to contact our State Rep. and Sen. McNally, who serves on the Transportation Committee.

F. Committee update

At the time our Political Guide went to press, the final make-up of committees had not yet been determined. Please make the following corrections on your Guide. Also, look over the lists of legislators below to identify those from your own district -- you are in a position of having special rapport with these. ANOTHER IMPORTANT CORRECTION to make in your Political Guide (on the page listing State legislators): the ZIP code for both House and Senate is 37219 (not 32719).

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES:

Ronnie Greer, Chair; James Kyle, Vice Chair; Randy McNally, Secretary; Burkes, Crowe, Jordan, Hamilton, O'Brien, Patten. Oak Ridgers, please note Sen. McNally's prominent position; he also heads a subcommittee that is studying the numerous solid-waste bills that have been introduced.

HOUSE COMM. ON CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

I.V. Hillis, Chair; Jerry Cross, Vice Chair; Gary Odum, Secretary; Biddle, Callicott, Crain, Halterman, Joyce, Kernell, Knight, McAfee, McDaniel, Pinion, Severance, Wix. -- Our Knoxville members should note the presence of Reps. Severance and Biddle on the committee. Chattanooga's note Rep. McAfee in a prominent position.

There are four subcommittees, chaired as follows: PARKS AND TOURISM, McAfee; WILDLIFE, Crain; ENVIRONMENT, Kernell; BUDGET, Severance.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE:

C. Ray Davis (Gibson Cy.), Chair; Lane Curlee (Tulahoma), Vice Chair; Ken Givens (Hawkins Cy.), Sec; R.S. McKee (Athens), Frank Nicely (Strawberry Plains), Ruth Robinson (Jonesboro), Page Walley (Hardeman Cy.), Michael Williams (Maynardville).

5. STATE RIVERS

A. Tennessee Rivers Assessment

Because state government has never appropriated funds for a state-wide rivers assessment (which would provide a factual basis for assessing opportunities, needs, and problems in river protection), TCWP's executive director, Jenny Freeman, conceived of the idea

of moving the process forward with private funding. TCWP, in collaboration with the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Assoc. (TSRA), wrote a proposal for an \$80,000 foundation grant (NL179 §3B). In mid-December, we were officially notified that the Lyndhurst Foundation of Chattanooga would provide a grant of \$30,000, and would release these funds when we had secured commitments for an additional \$50,000, at least half of which must be from public sources (federal, state, or local governments) (NL180 §2). We have until 6/30/92 to secure these additional funds.

TCWP and TSRA have had numerous contacts with state and federal officials, including a major planning meeting on January 2 (NL180 §2) to discuss how government agencies might provide additional funding or other support for the rivers assessment. Subsequently, two proposals were submitted to the Tennessee Dept of Environment and Conservation (DoEC). (a) A USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) proposal addresses the technical, data-collection and -computerization aspects of the project. (b) The TCWP/TSRA proposal addresses several aspects of project coordination, as summarized below.

TCWP/TSRA will hire a full-time project manager, who will be responsible for day-to-day coordination. USGS will provide maps and other data. The National Park Service (NPS) will provide technical assistance, such as resource-evaluation methodology. A Coordinating Committee (with representatives of all participating units) will be responsible for oversight. This committee will appoint a Rivers Assessment Advisory Group (to include representatives of many diverse river interests in the state) which will provide general project guidance. Resource teams will be formed for each resource category to carry out specific tasks. The Tennessee Planning Office will be the state agency responsible for completing the rivers assessment.

The product of all this activity, the assessment report, will form the basis for a second report which will analyze needs and opportunities for each river, and which will develop recommendations for state actions to promote a balancing between conservation and development of significant river resources. This second report will also identify (a) information gaps, (b) opportunities for public- and private-sector cooperation, and (c) needs for legislative or regulatory changes.

Another meeting will be held in Nashville on March 22 to consider how the proposals can be melded into one cohesive package. One

major topic for discussion will be to determine the prospects of finding State revenues for the project. Such State funds will be essential, even if the Lyndhurst Foundation agrees to enhance the initial funding amount.

B. Tennessee's Scenic Rivers Act

More than 20 years after enactment of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act (SRA), the Department of Conservation (DoC) was finally stirred into action by the 1989 Attorney General's Opinion, which held, among other things, that the DoC had a legal responsibility to set boundaries around the river segments identified in the SRA and to regulate activities within these boundaries. Once the proposed regulations are drafted, DoC (now, DoEC), will hold listening sessions throughout the state. We'll need TCWP representations at these sessions; please contact us now (see bottom of p.1, or call Jenny at 482-5980, evenings) if you might be willing to participate when the time comes.

Regarding the matter of boundaries, the Scenic Rivers Advisory Council, meeting in November 1990, recommended the following. For Class-I gorge rivers, 3000 ft [Conasauga, sections of Roanoke River, Blackburn Fork, and Spring Creek]; for Class-I swamp rivers, 1000 ft [Hatchie]; for Class-II and -III rivers, 66 ft [Harpe, Buffalo, French Broad, Hiwassee, Tuckahoe, and sections of Roaring River, Blackburn Fork, and Spring Creek]. The 66-ft suggestion strikes us as terribly narrow. The Council recommended that the state purchase easements for these corridors, using a trust fund that would have to be established by the General Assembly.

6. OTHER STATE MATTERS

A. Update on Frozen Head

On February 27, the U.S. District Court in Knoxville held a hearing on OSM's and our Motion to Dismiss the Emory River Land Company's (ERLC's) appeal of the Frozen Head decision (NL179 12). Oral arguments were presented. The Court denied our motion to have the case dismissed and, instead, set a briefing schedule (that means the case is still pending). Starting 120 days hence, the parties are to file briefs concerning the issues in the petition: ERLC first, OSM and citizen groups responding. Our attorney is Carol Nickle.

B. A report on resource protection

In response to a 1990 Senate Joint Resolution, the State Comptroller's Office in February issued a "Special Report: Protecting

Tennessee's Natural and Cultural Resources." The five major conclusions are as follows (in abbreviated form):

1. Several of Tennessee's public natural and cultural (n&c) resources are sustaining damage because of private development on their borders, increased use, water and air pollution, and off-road vehicles. As a result, Tennessee may lose irreplaceable resources that should be protected for the public good.
2. Lack of funds and a slow acquisition process are two major impediments that must be overcome if the state is to improve the protection of public n&c resources. In addition, cooperative relationships among public and private entities may need to be strengthened. To establish a steady revenue source for the protection of their public n&c resources, other states use a variety of different taxes and fees (enumerated in the Report). [See §4A, this NL, for current efforts to provide revenue for land acquisition in Tennessee.]
3. The state has insufficient resources for clearly marking the boundaries of all n&c properties. As a result, there have been numerous instances of unauthorized timbering, removal of surface materials, and construction. The settling of disputes has been costly.
4. Tennessee has less stringent laws and policies for protecting environmentally sensitive areas than do many other states. Tennessee is one of only 16 states that do not have a State Environmental Policy Act. Such Acts commonly require that projects which use state funds be subject to the assessment of environmental impacts.
5. Several Tennessee state parks are in danger of being degraded by over-use. Total state park visitation increased 42% between 1982 and 1990. Many state parks are at or near their carrying capacity. The Dept. of Conservation may need to consider methods for restricting visitation at some of the most heavily used parks.

In addition to giving an overview over the current status of things, the 28-page report also offers several legislative and administrative alternatives for achieving resource protection. E.g., the report suggests:

- Possible sources of revenue for use in resource protection
- Revising the current acquisition process so the state can act quickly if sensitive areas come on the market
- Passage of a State Environmental Policy Act, including a formal review process that could help to identify properties with significant features (e.g., endangered species) in time to take protective action if necessary
- Improved cooperation among all levels and agencies of government
- Establishment of a planning process to identify significant resources to be protected, and the best means for doing so.

Copies are available from the Division of State Audit, Comptroller of the Treasury, State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37219-5043.

C. **We protest against damaging road proposed by TDoT**

Alternatives for improving State Route 40 (US 64), which currently runs along the Ocoee River in Polk County, are the subject of an Environmental Assessment (EA) submitted by the Tennessee Dept of Transportation (TDoT) to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). TDoT's "preferred alternative," A-1, would move the road up, out of the valley, and fragment a large tract of the Cherokee National Forest with 9.4 miles of a high-speed 4-lane highway (the equivalent of a piece of Interstate) (see NL180 ¶3). Should the FHWA hand down a finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), the State would be in a position to seek Congressional funding, and this over-designed project could become a pork barrel.

A letter co-signed by 6 organizations (TCWP -- which originated it, TSRA, TEC, TCL, TAC, and TSC) was sent to FHWA on February 22. The letter points out the severe environmental consequences of the proposed project, such as unremediable pollution of high-quality streams by disturbed pyritic soils, fragmentation of wildlife habitat, and pressures on wildlife resulting from the opening up of hitherto undisturbed areas. The letter also points out that the level of service for the proposed highway far exceeds the design level needed to alleviate the traffic problem on the existing road. TDoT's estimated cost (\$345M), outrageously high as it is, excludes numerous

items and would therefore undoubtedly be exceeded.

The letter concludes by urging that Alternative B be more fairly evaluated; the existing EA barely discusses Alternative B, and provides no cost estimate for it. Earlier, both TWRA (Tenn. Wildlife Resources Agency) and EPA had also urged TDoT to choose the "reduced-design" alternative (modified Alternative B) that would improve traffic flow and safety by creating passing lanes and pull-off areas on the existing road. Because Alternative B is not fairly evaluated in the present EA, and because of the severe environmental impacts of Alternatives A and A-1, the letter by the six organizations concludes by requesting that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared, and that public input be obtained through a formal hearing process.

D. **Progress in protection of Tennessee River Gorge**

The Tennessee River Gorge Trust has recently purchased options on two important sets of acreages totaling 750 acres. The properties are, (a) Pot Point (500 acres of the most beautiful, unspoiled area in the Gorge), and (b) the River Canyon Land Company's lands (a 250-acre easement of tracts that are in danger of being developed). The Trust has 9 months in which to raise the money needed to complete these purchases.

E. **Environmental sensitivity in building construction**

Nashville is the birthplace and headquarters for The Trust for the Future, a private non-profit foundation that concerns itself with the environmental aspects of building construction. The foundation was the brainchild of Charles Howell, II, former Commissioner of Conservation. Last spring, the Trust sponsored a national conference, "Healthy Building for a Better Earth," the proceedings of which will soon be published with the help of a grant by EPA. The Trust also distributes a list of environmentally insensitive building materials and suggests alternatives. For more information, contact Jim Summerville, Trust for the Future, 2704 Twelfth Ave, S, Nashville, TN 37204.

7. TVA NEWS

A. **Growth in TVA's Natural Areas Program**

Over the past 10 years, there has been an approximately 5-fold increase in acreage protected under TVA's Natural Areas Program: from 1,800 acres (in fewer than 20 areas) to 9,200 acres (in 77 areas). The agency's natural

areas are located in Alabama (4,462 acres), Tennessee (4,247 acres), Kentucky (407 acres), and Mississippi (73 acres). -- The program includes four management categories: Small Wild Areas (TCWP members are familiar with Whites Creek), Wildlife Observation Areas, Habitat Protection Areas, and Ecological Study Areas. The last two types are not open to the public, thus providing even better protection for certain species and habitats.

The growth in the Natural Areas program is attributed to two factors: (a) an increased emphasis on protecting biodiversity; and (b) the Reservoir Lands Planning Process, initiated a decade ago, which involves examining -- with public input -- the best possible use for each piece of non-power TVA land around every mainstream reservoir.

B. Columbia Dam status

Recently, we have had questions from several members who have heard rumors that something might be stirring regarding completion of Columbia Dam or alternative developments. The Upper Duck River Development Association has tried to make a case that recent flooding (resulting from this winter's unusually heavy rainfalls) could have been prevented had the Dam only been completed. Truth is that the dam could not have controlled this flooding. -- One alternative suggestion that has been mentioned by some is to build a small tributary impoundment, leave the Duck River itself unimpounded at Columbia, and develop the banks stretching upstream from the incomplete Columbia Dam into a greenway.

It should be recalled that construction of the Columbia Dam was finally halted by the finding that endangered muskrat species in the river would be jeopardized by the project. These species have not gone away. In fact, additional ones have been listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as has one plant species. We all remember how Tellico Dam was exempted from the ESA, but it appears highly unlikely that either TVA or the local legislators would ask the Congress to exempt Columbia Dam.

C. Nominee for TVA Board

On the recommendation of Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell, Pres. Bush has nominated William H. Kennoy to succeed retired director Charles (Chili) Dean. Kennoy, 53, is the head of a family firm that works on municipal sewage systems in Kentucky. A financial-disclosure statement reveals his (or his firm's?) assets to be over \$1, but he drew no

salary last year. The Senate will hold confirmation hearings on March 14; however, the vote will probably be delayed until after the Easter recess. It is to be hoped that the hearings will provide information about Kennoy's interests, philosophy, and qualifications, because very little is known about these matters at this time.

D. Capsules

- TVA has initiated a Large River Mussel Restoration Project to demonstrate ways to improve aquatic environments downstream from dams
- TVA is planning for a possible demonstration in integrated waste management that would combine recycling and electric-power generation. Refuse-derived fuel from municipal solid waste would be burned in a plant to be built at one of TVA's existing fossil-fuel facilities (Kingston is one of four contenders). As plans mature, TVA will involve the public in the decision-making.
- See §2, this NL, for TVA's role in the environmental crisis posed by the wood-fiber industry and related clear-cutting.

8. NATIONAL ENERGY STRATEGY AND RELATED ISSUES

A. Administration's Strategy spells business as usual

The long awaited National Energy Strategy (NES) was announced by President Bush on February 20; on February 21, Dept. of Energy (DOE) Secretary Watkins appeared before the Senate Energy Committee. Since then, criticism of the NES has become widespread in the Congress and in the country. While developing the Strategy, DOE held several hearings and received voluminous comments stressing the important role of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources in achieving energy independence. These aims, however, are virtually absent from the NES' 67 options. What is stressed instead, in the name of "national security," is new energy production (the exploitation of ANWR -- see §6B, below, offshore oil drilling, facilitation of nuclear energy by easing regulations), and business as usual (financial incentives and the easing of regulations for the natural gas, coal, and oil industries). According to a variety of press reports (L.A. Times, AP, etc.), a number of energy-conservation measures that had been present in earlier NES drafts were deleted by

conservative White House officials. The White House has made clear its distaste for even modest increases in automobile fuel economy standards (see ¶8C, below).

By itself, NES has no effect: it must be translated into laws and regulations. There is already considerable Congressional displeasure with the Administration's product, and this displeasure is bipartisan. Ten Republican senators have sent a letter to the President, calling energy conservation "a crucial factor in establishing energy independence," and urging that the conservation measures that the White House deleted from the draft NES be restored. Sen. Bradley (D-NJ) said that the NES' goal seemed to be "to sustain a glut of oil, and keep oil prices low regardless of environmental costs." Sen. Al Gore called NES "a dead-end energy policy headed into a brick wall." Many expressed shock that, while our armed forces were risking their lives protecting access to oil, the Administration should be proposing an energy future that continues down the same wasteful and polluting path of fossil-fuel abuse.

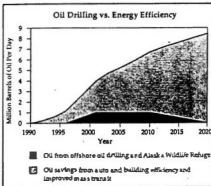
WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to the President, your senators and representative (addresses on p 2) and urge them to develop legislation that promotes energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable resources in order to reduce our need for oil (which leads to pollution and wars), while providing long-term sustainability combined with economic growth. See also suggested action for related items ¶8B and ¶8C, below.

B. Arctic Refuge (ANWR) threatened worse than ever

As we had predicted in NL180 ¶7C, the onslaught on ANWR started early in 1991, and is using the country's need for energy independence as an excuse. The exploitation of ANWR is a central part of the Administration's National Energy Strategy (see ¶8A, above). Alaska's two senators and single representative have introduced S.109 and HR.759, respectively, which would open ANWR's Coastal Plain to oil & gas leasing. [Recall that just one day after Iraq invaded Kuwait, Sen. Murkowski (R-Alaska) attached an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill that, if passed, would have empowered the President to bypass laws like the Endangered Species Act or the National Environmental Policy Act, and to promulgate a "schedule of leasing" that would open up tracts in the order of their oil & gas potential -- ANWR obviously being near the top.] An omnibus energy bill introduced by Sen. Bennett Johnston (D-LA), powerful

chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, also includes provisions for opening ANWR to drilling. This bill is particularly insidious because revenues from ANWR oil leases would be earmarked to fund energy conservation and renewable-fuels programs. The only good bills (same numbers as last year) are HR.39 (Udall/S.39 (Roth, Baucus), which would designate the entire Coastal Plain as wilderness, a designation already held by the remainder of ANWR.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to the President and to your senators and representative to point out that the sacrifice of a magnificent wilderness and unparalleled wildlife habitat is not a prerequisite for America's energy independence. Even under maximal projections, ANWR's average production would probably never amount to more than 1.8% of U.S. daily oil consumption. Information presented in ¶8A, above, and ¶8C, below, also supports the argument against drilling in ANWR. Ask your representative and senators to co-sponsor HR.39/S.39, and to oppose any legislation that would open the Coastal Plain to oil exploitation.



From Amicus Journal, Winter 1991

C. Automobile fuel efficiency

Almost 50% of the oil used by this country is consumed by cars and small trucks (the figure is 60% for the entire transportation sector). Sen. Bryan (D. Nev.) has again introduced bill, S.279 (the Motor Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Act), that would require the "Corporate Average Fuel Economy" (CAFE) to be increased by 20% in 1996, and another 20% in the year 2001. This means that the current 27.5 mpg standard for cars would increase to about 40 mpg over the

next 10 years, an achievement that is technologically feasible even now. It is estimated that, by the year 2005, the Bryan bill would save the country 2.5 million barrels (mb) of oil per day, roughly equivalent to almost 40% of the oil we now import (namely, 7mb/day), and 10 times as much as ANWR could yield under the most optimistic estimates (0.29 mb/day, averaged over the life of the reserves; see also the diagram on page 13). Bumping less fuel also means less tail-pipe pollution, less contribution to the greenhouse effect, less money needed to pay for running your car.

This bill came within a hair of passing the Senate last year. In fact, 57 senators (including Sen. Gore, a strong advocate) supported it on the floor, which should have been more than enough, except for the fact that a filibuster threat by auto-industry advocates (supported by the Administration) kept the bill from coming to a final vote. Three more supporters would have made the bill filibuster-proof.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Last year, Sen. Jim Sasser, while supporting the bill initially, abandoned it during the crucial floor action. Your letters and phone calls are needed to convince him that this bill is truly deserving of his support. Ask him to co-sponsor S.279. Sen. Gore, who is already a supporter of the bill, will be further encouraged by letters from you. Addresses on p.2.

2 OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

A. Ancient Forest Act is reintroduced

Rainforests in North America are being destroyed at a faster rate than those of most third-world countries. What remains of the ancient forest of the Pacific Northwest is fragmented by clear-cutting. If current logging practices continue, this national treasure cannot remain as a functional ecosystem for longer than a decade or two. Trying to address this problem is Jim Jontz' Ancient Forest Protection Act (bill number not yet known), which made considerable progress last year and was reintroduced early in this session. This legislation would establish a reserve system for ancient forests on public lands in the Northwest, and protect corridors that link these vital ecosystems. This is seen as the only hope for saving the rich biodiversity of these forests, and the many endangered species they contain (including the northern spotted owl).

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Tell your representative that the endangered ecosystem of the

Pacific Northwest forests is a vital part of America's natural heritage, and urge him/her to become a co-sponsor of Jontz' Ancient Forest Protection Act of 1991.

B. Will the Wildlife Refuge system be reformed?

The National Wildlife Refuge System, home to 1,000 species of birds and mammals alone, is an unparalleled part of our national heritage. Encompassing 90 million acres in 455 units, the System is larger and more diverse than the National Park System. But, as shown by a recent General Accounting Office report and a couple of other studies, the Refuges are in bad trouble as a result of a 1960s Act that allows the Secretary of the Interior to permit any activity he finds "compatible with [a refuge's] primary purpose." Over 60% of the Refuges now permit such damaging uses as power-boating, overgrazing, off-road vehicles, oil & gas drilling, and even bombing maneuvers. In addition, many Refuges are severely harmed by toxic chemicals (e.g., pesticides), leached minerals, and other contaminants.

Beginning in March, the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), which has been accused of mishandling these lands, will be holding a series of 31 meetings throughout the land. A new management plan for the system, "Refuges 2003," will be discussed at these meetings. Now is our chance to express ourselves on such matters as ORV use, oil & gas drilling, and toxic contaminants in the Refuges.

In addition, comprehensive legislation is needed to set consistent guidelines for the Refuge System, and to allow public input in determining what activities to allow on refuges. Several groups are urging introduction of a bill similar to (but stronger than) last session's HR 4948 (Studds) (see NL 178 16E).

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Get on the "Refuges 2003" mailing list, and ask for a list of scheduled hearings. Address: Dan Johnson, National Wildlife Refuge System, Planning Team, MS 670, ARLSO, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240. (2) Urge your Congressman/woman (address on p.2) to support legislation that will set consistent guidelines for the Refuge System.

C. New bills to reform the 1872 Mining Law

What coal stripmining is to the East, hardrock-mineral mining is to the West. In the East virtually all of the damage occurs to private lands; in the West, it is public lands that are devastated. The culprit is the archaic 1872 Mining Law, still on the books, that established

a policy under which valuable metallic ores are to be given to anyone who finds them, and the lands on which such ores are found are to be sold by the government to the mining company for virtually nothing, e.g., \$250-5.00 an acre. Two reform bills have already been introduced in this session: S.433 (Bumpers) and HR.918 (Rahall). Though both bills are improvements over the versions debated last year, the House bill has serious flaws. Urge your US Senators to support S.433; tell your Representative how you feel about reforming the 1872 law, and suggest that HR.918 be amended to become more similar to S.433. For more details on these bills, contact the Minerals Policy Center, Rm.550, 1325 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Wash., DC 20005.

D. Will the S&L bailout protect habitats, or threaten them?

The Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC) has the job of disposing of \$400 billions worth of assets from failed S&Ls. By Congressional mandate, RTC is to inventory and evaluate the properties it holds for recreational, cultural, and conservation value. RTC has no done this, so far, and is merely selling to the highest bidder. The Interior Department's (USDI's) Fish & Wildlife Service was to assist RTC with the land evaluation process. However, a Memorandum of Understanding to that effect has yet to be signed, and there is speculation that the reluctance on this side of the USDI.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Monitor this issue, especially for your state or region. Copies of the holdings inventory are available from the RTC; call 1-800-431-0600. Also, monitor the Congressional oversight by the "RTC Task Force," chaired by Rep. Bruce Vento (D-MN).

E. "Dolphin-safe" labeling will become more meaningful

The Biden/Boxer bill (the Dolphin Protection and Consumer Information Act), which was signed into law last November, sets standards for tuna-can labeling, thus assuring that the good intentions of consumers will not be taken advantage of through meaningless "dolphin-safe" labels (see NL177 ¶8C; NL179 ¶7F). Under the Act, labels may not be applied to tuna caught by vessels that use purse-seine nets set on dolphins. We have recently learned that the law goes even further. As of July 1, 1991, the importation of all tuna products caught in a high-seas driftnet in the South Pacific will be banned; as of July 1, 1992, the same will be true for all fish caught in driftnets anywhere on the high seas.

F. Support grows for Antarctica World Park

The latest conference on the fate of Antarctica was held Nov./Dec. 1990 in Chile. Representatives of 26 nations met to negotiate a new international agreement, and there was evidence of growing support for a world park, to be reserved for commercial mineral activities. Australia and France had made such a proposal in 1989, but were not, at that time, backed by the USA, which instead supported ratification of the Antarctic Minerals Convention. Following efforts by several organizations (EDF, Greenpeace, and others), the President on 11/16/90 signed the Antarctic Protection Act, which indefinitely bans commercial mineral resource activities by Americans in Antarctica, and calls upon the Secretary of State to seek an international agreement barring such activity by any nation. Subsequently, in mid-December the UN General Assembly unanimously endorsed a permanent ban on mining in Antarctica. While the Antarctic Treaty nations had made substantial progress toward such an agreement at their meeting in Chile, much remains to be done. The next meeting will take place in Madrid, in April.

G. National Recreational Trails

HR.1155 (Petr/S.400 (Symms)) would set aside tax revenue collected on recreational fuels not used on highways (e.g., by motor boats) for the purposes of improving and maintaining recreational trails.

10. OAKRIDGE GREENBELT KEPT UNINVADED

On January 28, City Council voted 4:3 to deny the annexation request by Ronald Asher (Ridge Realty) for a 49-acre strip north of the City boundary, and bordered by North Illinois Ave (Highway 62) in the northeast and Reservoir Road in the west. Asher had planned to develop a 52-house subdivision on this parcel, which is separated from West Outer Drive by a portion of the Northern Greenbelt within which lies the North Ridge Trail. The major reason TCWP, as an organization, opposed this proposal was that it entailed crossing the greenbelt with a sewer line; this was unacceptable not only because of the actual damage in this location, but because of the dangerous precedent it would set for invading the Northern Greenbelt elsewhere. There were several additional arguments against the proposal, which were brought out by individual TCWP members and other citizens.

Earlier reactions related to the annexation request were summarized in the last Newsletter (NL 180 ¶9). They include study of the City-staff analysis of the anticipated consequences of the annexation (which

turned up some interesting facts), testimony at the Nov. 19 City Council meeting, mobilizing citizens to also attend that meeting and/or contact Council members, attending the Dec. 6 and Jan. 10 EOAB meetings (EOAB opposed greenbelt crossing by utilities), and a conference between four TCWP Board members and the Ashers to discuss alternatives to traversing the greenbelt with a sewer line.

At the January 28 City Council meeting, the developer withdrew his request for greenbelt crossing. Despite this concession, Council denied the annexation, having heard opposition from numerous constituents. Voting against annexation were Minter, Nephew, Rush, and Spore (they deserve your thanks); voting for annexation were Pruett, Bordinger, and Brown.

Numerous members were active on this project, and thus helped TCWP maintain its successful record on Oak Ridge greenbelt and open-space issues: defeat of the road crossing proposed in 1976, Cedar Barrens protection, and now, once more, keeping the Northern Greenbelt from being invaded. We plan to form a standing greenbelt committee (there are several things to be done) and would welcome volunteers.

11. TCWP NEWS

A. Political Guide is mailed

We are grateful to Lynn Dye Wright for producing the 1991 POLITICAL GUIDE and to Dick Ambrose and his crew (see ¶10D) for getting out a special mailing for it (the information was not ready in time for the last Newsletter). Please note that there are some corrections to the GUIDE, e.g., the ZIP code for legislators is 37219 (not 37219). For committee assignments, see ¶4F. After making these corrections and additions, save the GUIDE in a place where it will be accessible to you all year.

B. Our December appeal brings fine response

Over 50 TCWP members responded most generously to the appeal for special contributions we sent out in December. As you will note from this Newsletter, there are currently many critical issues that face us. The roughly \$2,500 received from the appeal will help us greatly in our work. We hope that all of you will feel that you have a real share in all we manage to accomplish.

C. TCWP receives bequest

On January 17, we were informed that Frances (Tony) Pleasonton had left \$1,000 to TCWP. Tony had been a Life Member ever since TCWP's early days. She was an

intelligent, forthright, and lively woman, who devoted her considerable energies to several important causes. TCWP was one of them.

D. We thank our volunteers

We are grateful to the following who assembled NL 180 on January 10: Dick Ambrose, Jean Bangham, Don DeAngelis, Ruth Kernohan, Charles Klabunde, and Neil McBride. Our sincere thanks also to Sylvia and Harry Hubbell, Marion Roesel, and Dick Ambrose for getting out the Political Guide on February 14.

12. JOB OPENINGS; ACTIVITIES; READING MATTER

- **JOB OPENING:** The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is searching for an Executive Director, salary \$25,000+. Excellent writing and speaking ability, and skills in fund raising, publicity, and public relations are among the required qualifications. Contact Dr. A Murray Evans, Pres., SAHC, 3213 Montlake Drive, Knoxville, TN 37920.
- **VOLUNTEER VACATIONS** is sending teams of volunteers to help preserve America's parks and forests. In 1990, 35 projects were undertaken in areas ranging from Hawaii and Alaska to New Hampshire. Volunteers are reimbursed up to 50% of their travel expenses by corporate sponsors. Volunteers should be experienced hikers, comfortable in remote settings. Write American Hiking Society, PO Box 86, Dept AHS/VV, North Scituate, MA 02060.
- April 19-21, "Reading the Season" Spring Festival, Warrior's Path State Park, Kingsport, TN, features seminars and walks highlighting different areas of natural history. Free. Contact Marty Silver, Park Naturalist, PO Box 5026, Kingsport, TN 37663; Ph. 615-239-8531.
- April 26-27, Chattanooga, TN, Environmental Forum. The objective is to examine what can be done to make our cities economically as well as environmentally prosperous. Amy Lovins will be among the speakers. Contact Chattanooga Venture, 506 Broad Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402-9960.
- May 3-5, Heartwood Forest Council, Camp Ondessonk in Southern Illinois' Shawnee National Forest. The Council will feature a number of programs and workshops. Jeff DeBonis, founder of the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics,

will be one of the speakers. Contact Mindy Harmon, 618-684-6897, or Andy Mahler, 812-723-2430, or write Protect Our Woods, POBox 352, Paoli, IN 47454.

- May 24-27, Fifth Annual National Forest Reform Powwow, Angel Fire, NM. A working conference focusing on the opportunity to reform our entire national forest system. Sponsored by Lighthawk, POBox 8163, Santa Fe, NM 87504; co-sponsored by numerous other organizations.
- June 7, 8, and 9, Appalachian Region Forestry Workshop at Hollins College, Roanoke, VA, sponsored by the Sierra Club's Appal. Regional Coord. Committee. Contact Hugh Irwin, Knoxville, 615-522-3093.
- June 20-23, Denver, CO. A major policy conference on water-resource conservation and river protection, sponsored by the Wilderness Society and American Rivers. Write Wilderness Soc. 6535 S. Dayton Street, Suite 2000, Englewood, CO 80111.
- June 24-30, July 15-21, Naturalist and Educator Weeks. \$170 each week, incl. meals & lodging, GI Smoky Mtns Inst at Tremont, Rt 1, Box 81, Townsend, TN 37882; 615-448-6709. The Institute also sponsors a large number of workshops, camps, outings, etc. Write for their brochure.
- November 9-12, Charlottesville, VA, *Parkways, Greenways, Rivenways: Partnerships for Beauty and Progress*. Sponsored by the Blue Ridge Parkway, NPS, and others. Write Linear Parks Conference, Appalachian Consortium, University Hall, Boone, NC 28608.
- 1991 Audubon Ecology Workshops will be held in S. Florida, Yellowstone, Costa Rica, Trinidad, etc., etc. For brochure, write Audubon Ecology Camps and Workshops, Dept. A, 613 Riversville Rd., Greenwich, Conn. 06831; 203-869-2017.
- The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) has established the Stanley A Murray Memorial Fund to honor Stan for his dedication in saving the Highlands of Roan. The Fund will be used to purchase a 377-acre tract on Houston Ridge. Contact SAHC, POBox 4092 CRS, Johnson City, TN 37602.
- A new software package, *Save the Planet*, blends environmental education with political

action in focusing on atmospheric problems (ozone layer, greenhouse effect, etc) recycling, and energy-saving ideas. The program also contains lists of conservation groups, and customized word processor for writing quick letters to legislators in Washington. Both IBM-compatible and Macintosh versions are available. \$15 from Save the Planet, Box 45, Pitkin, CO 81241. Registered users can receive updated versions.

- *State of the World 1991*, by Lester Brown and 11 other authors, is an up-to-date guide to the world's resources and how they are being managed. (\$10.95, paperback, from Worldwatch Inst., 1776 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Wash., DC 20036-1904. Major discounts are available for bulk orders.)
- The National Wildlife Federation's *1991 Conservation Directory* lists 12,000 individuals and 1900 organizations in the USA and 111 other countries, cross-referenced via scores of indexes. Send \$21.95 (includes shipping) to Conservation Directory, NWF, 1400 - 16th Street, NW, Wash., DC 20036.
- *The Rainforest Book*, an important part of NRDC Rainforest Campaign, can be bought in bulk for class use (Jr. and Sr. High Schools); a free Teacher's Guide is also available. Call 212-727-4485.
- *Outlook: Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources in the 102nd Congress* (\$25), *President Bush's Fiscal 1992 Budget Proposals* (\$20), and the *1991 Briefing Book on Environmental and Energy Legislation* (\$50) are available from the Environment and Energy Study Inst, 122 C Street, NW, Suite 700, Wash., DC 20001. Orders must be prepaid.
- *Wildlife Health News* is a new publication that discusses techniques to save injured or orphaned wildlife and other critical wildlife health issues. A year's subscription is \$36. (Barbara Giles, POBox 155, Black Mountain, NC 28711).
- The World Resources Institute publishes in the areas of natural resources, energy, climate, sustainable development, etc. For a catalog of their publications, write WRI, 1709 New York Ave, NW, Wash., DC 20006.

