

TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 186

January 24, 1992

1. Big South Fork happenings			p. 3
A. Land Protection Plan	D. Biosphere status?		
B. Funding	E. Family float		
C. Trails Management Plan			
2. Obed protection issues			p. 4
A. General Management Plan	C. New staff position		
B. Acquisition status	D. Congressman Cooper		
3. Smokies			p. 4
A. Helms bill would build road	D. Red Wolf reintroduction		
B. Smokies: AQ and the State	E. Natural-resource miscellany		
C. Elkmont leases			
4. Around the state			p. 6
A. Pickett Forest Plan	D. Ocoee for Olympics?	F. Forestry Division	
B. Rivers Assessment	E. DoEC organization	G. Cumberland Gap	
C. Rivers Council			
5. TVA			p. 8
A. Chip-mill Draft EIS	B. Clean Air Act compliance		
6. Cherokee National Forest			p. 9
A. We appeal road decision	B. Concerned employees re SE Forest		
7. Stripmining: bad precedent is set in a "takings" case			p. 9
8. National parks and other public lands			p. 10
A. Parks concessions reform	D. "Regreening the National Parks"		
B. Canyon country overflights	E. Land & Water Conservation Fund		
C. California desert			
9. Other national issues			p. 11
A. Spotted owl and ESA	D. Rain forests bill		
B. Endangered Species Act	E. "Green" guise for multiple-abuse groups		
C. Wetlands battle	F. Quayle aide and acid rain		
10. TCWP news			p. 12
A. Political guide; dues	D. Annual Meeting rpt	G. Whites Cr. hike rpt	
B. Thanks for contributions	E. NPS thanks TCWP	H. Thanks to volunteers	
C. New Board	F. News of TCWP folks		
11. Job openings, activities; reading matter			p. 14
12. ACTION SUMMARY			p. 2

Enclosures: (1) Political Guide

(2) Duesform

(3) Rivers Assessment questionnaire

11. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1B	Big S. Fork funding	Sens. Sasser & Gore; Rep. Cooper	"More acquisition funds are needed for FY93; also operating funds!"
1C	BSF Trails Mngt. Plan	TCWP	Offer your assistance.
2A	Obed General Mngt. Plan	TCWP	Offer your assistance.
3A	Smokies road legislation	Sens. Sasser & Gore	"Oppose <u>any</u> bills calling for North Shore Road!"
3B	Smokies air pollution	TCWP	Offer to testify at Kingsport, 2/25/92
3C	Smokies: Elkton	Sens. Sasser & Gore; your US Rep.	"Resist any pressure to extend Elkton leases!"
4A	Pickett Forest Plan	TCWP	Offer to attend Jamestown meeting, 2/5/92
4B	Rivers Assessment	Betsy Bunting	Fill out and mail questionnaire
5A	Chip Mill threat	TVA T.A.G.E.R.	Request copy of Draft EIS, and comment Make contribution
8A	Parks concession reform	US Senators	"Support S.1755!"
8B	Canyon country overflights	Air Force U.S. Rep	"Do not overfly fragile areas!" "Encourage Utah delegation to stop the plan!"
8C	California desert protection	US Senators	"Support S.21!"
9A	Ancient Forests	US Sens. and Rep.	"Support ancient-forest protection bills!"
9B	Endangered Species Act	US Rep.	"Co-sponsor HR.4045 to strengthen ESA!"
9C	Wetlands threat	Reps. Clement, Duncan, Gordon, Guillen, Tanner, Sundquist	"Remove your name from HR.1330!"
9D	Rain forest protection	Sen. Gore	"Thanks for S.1159; please push it!"
9E	Public lands protection	US Sens. & Rep.	"Oppose" Private Property Act!"
10A	Dues	TCWP	Please pay without delay!

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

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." Aldo Leopold

1. BIG SOUTH FORK HAPPENINGS

A. *The Land Protection Plan, prerequisite to land acquisition, is moving right along*

By close of the comment period, near the end of November, it was clear that no policy changes would be needed for the National Park Service's Draft Land Protection Plan (LPP) for the Big South Fork NRRRA. Issues raised by the comments were incorporated at the local NPS level, and the document was sent to the NPS Regional Director in Atlanta. Since no major revisions were suggested for the Draft LPP, the document can be finalized by the SE Regional Office, without having to go to HQ in Washington, and the final Plan may be approved in the very near future. After that, the BSFNRRRA will at last be able to begin land acquisition with the funds it has in hand (see 9B). In general, tracts will be acquired according to the priority order listed in the Draft LPP (there are 16 priority classes, some of them with several sub-priorities); however, NPS has some latitude in making minor adjustments in acquisition priorities -- as conditions warrant -- without having to go through formal revisions. Top acquisition priority are the 15 tracts (11,329 acres) needed for protection of the North White Oak Creek and its Laurel Fork. The LPP will be routinely updated every 2 years; if major revisions are proposed, there will be opportunities for public comments.

TCWP commented in detail on the 44-page document and its 6 appendices. We found it to be a thorough, well-organized, and concise treatment of a great body of information, and to demonstrate a good awareness of the values to be protected in the BSFNRRRA. In addition to making a number of suggestions about clarifying the presentation, we had several substantive comments. Among these were: a request for certain boundary adjustments; an endorsement for acquisition of mineral rights, even in the "Adjacent Area" where oil & gas exploration and extraction are generating pollution that harms the "Gorge Area"; and a suggestion to put pressure on the State of Tennessee to donate Scott State Forest, which is presently an inholding in the BSFNRRRA. [If you want a copy of our comments send a self-addressed envelope (29 c) to the address on p.1.]

B. *Acquisition funds and operating funds*

A Senate-House conference committee, meeting in the fall, left intact the \$2 million BSFNRRRA acquisition funds in the FY 1992 appropriations bill. There are, therefore, altogether \$3 million in hand, counting the 1991 appropriation (see NL184 ¶2A). The total planned BSFNRRRA acquisition is about 123,000 surface acres; the statutory acreage ceiling is 125,000 acres. Currently, 104,000 acres are in federal ownership; 4 tracts remain to be acquired.

Clearly, the \$3 million currently in the bank will buy only a fraction of the remaining acreage. TCWP has again had an input into the annual document that

is prepared jointly by the major national conservation groups to brief Congress regarding the needed Land & Water Conservation Fund appropriation for the next fiscal year. We have suggested \$6 million for the BSFNRRRA and \$0.6 million for the Obied Wild & Scenic River for FY 1993.

The BSFNRRRA, like many National Park System units, is terribly understaffed, especially with regard to natural-resource protection, interpretation, and research. Sen. Sasser had attempted to add \$500,000 to the Area's operating budget for FY 1992, but this increase did not survive into the final appropriations bill.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Sens. Sasser and Gore and Rep. Cooper (addresses are on p.2), and thank them for helping secure FY 1992 land-acquisition funds, which will be usable as soon as the LPP is approved (probably within weeks). Point out that this funding will, however, buy only a fraction of the land that is still threatened, and urge them to appropriate additional funds for FY 1993, specifically \$6 million for the BSFNRRRA and \$0.6 million for the Obied Wild & Scenic River. -- Additionally, both units are very badly in need of operating funds, and even a relatively small increase in the FY 1993 operating budget could do a lot of good.

C. *Roads and Trails Management Plan*

NPS is in the process of developing a plan that will identify location, type of use, and level of maintenance of the Area's roads and trails, and TCWP has been invited to make suggestions. TCWP members who are familiar with BSFNRRRA trails and/or roads can really help us have a meaningful input into the NPS' plan. We hope very much you will contact Lee Russell (482-2153 or 574-0860; or address on p.1) to offer your assistance, which can range from a short phone conversation to attendance at a 2-hour meeting with NPS personnel. Let us hear from you!

D. *Should BSFNRRRA try to become International Biosphere Reserve?*

There are over 250 Biosphere Reserves worldwide (including about 50 in the USA) under a UNESCO program that aims, eventually to include representatives of all the world's land forms and ecosystems, providing a global network of sites for cooperative research and information exchange. NPS and the Big South Fork Regional Association are investigating possible Biosphere Reserve status for the BSFNRRRA. Ideally, a Reserve has a core area (which has secure protection against any activities that might adversely affect natural processes and life forms), a buffer zone, and a transition area. The core area would consist of the lands within the BSFNRRRA boundaries, and the buffer zone would be the surrounding lands. In the buffer zone (which may include settlements of people), uses are managed in ways that help protect the core area, and rehabilitation of previously damaged ecosystems may

be carried out. Biosphere Reserve status (which carries no financial cost) would advertise the research need of the BSFNRRA.

E. BSF Regional Assoc. to sponsor Family Float

The BSFRA is planning to sponsor a late-spring event that will be billed as a Family River Float. Entrants who travel a certain stretch of the river in float tubes, rafts, canoes, or kayaks will receive an award certificate. The event is designed to acquaint local and area people with the resources of the Big South Fork.

2. OBED PROTECTION ISSUES

A. General Management Plan to be generated

After years of delay, the NPS has finally approved funds for generating a General Management Plan (GMP) for the Obed Wild & Scenic River. The process, which is expected to take 18-24 months, will be initiated in early March when the NPS' Southeast Regional Director is expected to visit Obed HQ in Warburg for an orientation workshop with GMP participants. Obed Site Manager, Don Forester, will be the local coordinator for the studies, many of which will be carried out by the NPS' Denver Service Center.

Since the Plan will set the management objectives for the Obed WSR, it is important to identify issues during the study stage. For example, where are boundary adjustments needed? would it be desirable to add river segments that are currently not included? what can be done to protect against recreation overload? to what extent (if any) should overlooks, trails, etc., be developed? what can be done to protect and/or improve water quality? should there be a resource manager dedicated to the Obed WSR? There will be opportunities for TCWP input, but we'll need help from interested members. Please call Lee Russell (482-2153 or 574-0860) as soon as possible to offer assistance.

B. Land acquisition status

According to a strange provision in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, land within a Wild & Scenic River boundary cannot be condemned after 50% of the total authorized acreage has been acquired. As a consequence, NPS over a year ago identified four relatively small Priority-1 tracts that would require condemnation (all these tracts are uninhabited). Now, finally, the process has been initiated to obtain approval from the Secretary of the Interior to proceed with condemnation proceedings; it could take 6 months to several years to obtain this approval and to complete the legal proceedings. [When an agency is building a road or a dam, it takes a fraction of this time, even where tracts are inhabited.] Until then, even though virtually all the remaining owners are willing sellers, the only acquisitions that can be made are

those that would not bring the acreage above the 50% mark.

C. Finally an additional staff position for the Obed

Only 4 persons are on the staff of the Obed WSR: Site Manager Don Forester, Ranger Frank Doughman, a maintenance supervisor, and an office clerk. Clearly, there is not enough personnel to find out what needs doing, leave alone do anything about it. Now, federal drug-eradication money will fund an additional ranger position, starting in March. The Obed staff earned this money by finding, and getting rid of, some marijuana plants that were found thriving in the gorge.

D. Meeting with Congressman Cooper

It is obvious from the preceding paragraphs that the Obed WSR has problems and opportunities. At our request, Representative Jim Cooper has agreed to meet with interested persons to discuss the protection needs for the Obed and surrounding areas. The date is yet to be arranged. Please call Lee Russell (482-2153 or 574-0860) if you would like to participate in such a meeting.

3. SMOKIES; JESSE HELMS; AQ THREATS; ELK MOUNT LEASES; WOLVES

A. Jesse Helms introduces road-building bill

On October 22, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) introduced the bill we had earlier seen in draft form (NL 185 14). The bill, S. 1849, which was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, would pay Swain County \$16 million, and make the Park Service build the north shore road within the Great Smoky Mtns. National Park.

While Helms' action is only what we had expected, the bigger worry is that Sen. Sanford (D-NC) might now be weakening regarding the final settlement language of his own bill, S. 1339. As presently written, S. 1339 compensates Swain County for the "1943 Agreement" by payment of \$16 million, but does not address the issue of Wilderness designation for the GSM National Park, as had been done in a couple of earlier bills (NL 183 13A; NL 184 15A; NL 185 14). Smokies Wilderness advocates, who were not wildly enthusiastic about S. 1339 because of their concern that passage now of a "money-only" bill would make any future wilderness bill much harder to pass, eventually reached an implied understanding with Sen. Sanford that the \$16 million payment to Swain County would be specified as a *substitute* for the North Shore road that is called for in the 1943 Agreement. Unfortunately, there are now rumors that Sen. Sanford may be moving in the opposite direction, i.e., changing the settlement language in his bill so as to leave a way open for construction of a "primitive" road through the 44,000 acres north of Fontana Reservoir.

* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Senators Sasser and Gore (addresses on p.2) and urge them to strongly oppose any legislation that would call for a road north of Fontana Reservoir within the Great Smoky Mtns National Park; but to support a \$16 million payment to Swain County as settlement-in-full for the 1943 Agreement.

B. Air-quality deterioration is major threat to Smokies, but the State of Tennessee won't control pollution

Acid precipitation and low-level ozone are having increasingly adverse effects on Smokies ecosystem and on the quality of visitor experience. Julie Thomas and Jim Renfro, NPS speakers at TCWP's Annual Meeting (see ¶10D, this NL) provided much scientific information on this subject and discussed regulatory problems. Low-level ozone (O₃) is created by atmospheric interactions between hydrocarbons (some of them natural) and nitrates (NO_x). This creates smog, particularly in the Smokies which have more stagnant air than other parks. At least 10% of the time, the visibility is less than 3 miles. Even worse, symptoms of ozone damage can be seen in 95 plant species in the Park, some of them rare or endangered; about 80% of the Park is at high to moderate risk from O₃.

The Park has been increasingly worried about the continuous buildup of thousands of NO_x sources, small and large, in East Tennessee, but NPS' pleas to the Tennessee Division of Air Pollution Control to reduce emissions have been ignored for 10 years. Now there is a biggie in the works, a permit application by Tennessee Eastman to construct a 30-megawatt power-generating boiler at Kingsport, a permit application with a French company. This boiler could generate 1,500 tons of NO_x annually, thus greatly adding to the O₃ load in the Park. NPS Southeast Regional Director James Coleman has asked the State to deny the permit, but Harold Hodges, Director of the Tenn. Air Pollution Control Div., takes the position that the Park should restrict automobile traffic if it wants to reduce NO_x. He ignores the fact that the transmountain road is a federal highway on which the number of vehicles cannot be readily controlled.

With regard to his decision on the Tennessee Eastman permit application, Hodges has stated that the weight of public opinion will be very strongly taken into account. This may be the reason why he has sited a public hearing at Kingsport, where there will be a great outcry about the loss of jobs that would occur if the boiler permit were to be denied. This meeting is scheduled for February 25, at 7 p.m., location to be announced. We hope very much that several of our members will be able to attend and testify; please let us know (see bottom of p.1).

The recent amendments to the Clean Air Act have given NPS new power to challenge air-pollution-

permit applications within 62 miles of the Park, and to sue if the NPS' concerns are not properly answered. NPS has been assigned an important expert role by the Act, and the State will hopefully give deference to the NPS opinion unless it had strong reason to reject it.

C. Elkmont cabin holders using political pressure to get leases extended

A few privileged individuals have been benefiting from exclusive use of public lands without charge. They are the lease holder of about 50 cabins in the Elkmont area of the GSM NP. When the Park was established in the 1930s, property owners were given the option of taking full market value and leaving, or taking 50% market value and staying for the remainder of their lifetime. Most of the roughly 6,600 people, many of whom had been farming the land for generations, took the former option; but a few well-to-do summer-cabin owners at Elkmont worked it so the government bought the cabins, and the sellers got leases until 1952. At that time, NPS, in exchange for getting electricity to the Elkmont Campground, extended the leases until 1972. Then, political pressure worked another extension to 1992, but that most recent lease agreement specifically stated that leaseholders would not seek yet another extension. You guessed it: the cabin holders are now working through Congressman Quillen to get an indefinite extension!

These are ~~not~~ historical cabins; and none of the original leaseholders are alive today. A few influential individuals have occupied, free of charge, cabins in a national park that was set aside for the enjoyment of all. Had they paid fair rental value, NPS could have collected \$1 million annually; i.e., the leaseholders, collectively, are receiving an annual gift of \$1 million, tax free! Further, the leaseholders do not even pay property taxes to Sevier County.

In addition to the 50 cabins at Elkmont, there is also the Wonderland Hotel that is benefiting a few at the expense of the taxpayer. Annual profits from lodging services at the hotel are estimated at \$144,000, but this income is retained by the operators, and no rental or concession payments are made to the government; neither does the hotel pay Sevier County property taxes, because the buildings and land are federally owned. No significant improvements have been made recently, and the renovations that would be needed to bring the hotel up to current building standards would cost several million \$. The NPS should not be asked to pay this. If the Wonderland is to be retained, the private interests that operate it should be required to pay for needed renovations and to turn over a percentage of their operating profits to the government. (See related article in ¶8A, this NL).

* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Senators Sasser and Gore and to your Representative (addresses on

p.2) and urge them to resist any pressure to extend the Elkmoil leases beyond their final expiration date of December 1992. The leases are held by a few privileged individuals, who, over the past decades, have benefited from exclusive use of public lands and buildings without charge.

D. *Progress in Red Wolf reintroduction*

After an absence of almost 100 years, red wolves are again roaming the Smokies. Of the two pairs of adults that had been in holding pens near Cades Cove since January 1991, one had a litter of five in April. The parents and two of the pups, both females, were released on November 12. TCWP members attending our annual meeting were excited to learn about this just 4 days later. All four wolves are radio-collared and their movements are being tracked around the clock. At least for the first few weeks (we haven't heard since), the wolf family spent most of its time near the pen, their former home. However, the parents (without the pups) made several excursions into the open areas of Cades Cove, but only during the hours when the Loop Road was closed to traffic. Radio-tracking will continue for 10-12 months, and data will be collected on the wolves' diet and their relationship to humans, livestock, and coyotes. On the basis of these data, managers will decide whether the Smokies are a suitable habitat for permanent reintroduction of additional red wolves.

The Final Rule on designating the Smokies' red wolves a "Nonessential Experimental Population" was published November 4 (Fed. Reg. 56[213]:56325-56334). As we reported earlier (NL184 ¶5C), this rule is an attempt to get communities surrounding the Smokies and the nearby Cherokee NF to accept the wolf-reintroduction effort. Project biologists are on standby around the clock, and are certain that they can quickly recapture the animals, should they wander from the Park. In situations where it appears that an immediate hazard exists to the wolves or to livestock outside the Park, the following numbers should be called: 448-6835 (Chris Lucash, Cades Cove); 436-1230 (GSMNP Communication Center, Gatlinburg); 436-1207 (Bob Miller, Park HQ).

Other red wolf news:

1. WBIR-TV on Dec. 3 aired a 30-minute program about the red-wolf recovery efforts, and made 400 copies of the program. This video cassette, a poster, and a teacher packet are available to schools. Requests should be made on school stationery to: Front Runner, WBIR-TV, 1513 Hutchinson Ave., Knoxville, TN 37917.
2. Oliver Springs students, grades 5-8, recently signed petitions supporting return of the red wolf to the Smoky Mountains.
3. Sale of red-wolf art prints will support the recovery program. Wildlife artist Steve Jackson has donated 500 signed and numbered prints of four wolves in a Smokies setting. The prints sell for \$100

apiece, and this amount is doubled by a challenge grant from the Fish & Wildlife Foundation. The money raised will supplement federal funding for the recovery project; however \$10,000 will be set aside to reimburse livestock owners for any losses due to red-wolf predation. No such losses are expected to occur; however, the presence of the fund should help reassure Park neighbors. [For Yellowstone, where NPS has been trying to reintroduce the greywolf, Defenders of Wildlife has established a program to pay ranchers for any livestock losses. To date, only 10 ranchers have filed claims totalling \$11,000.] Anyone interested in purchasing a red-wolf print may contact the GSM Natural History Assoc., 115 Park HQ Rd., Gatlinburg, TN 37738, Phone 436-7318.

E. *Smokies natural-resource miscellany*

From Carroll Schell, Chief of the Park's Natural Resources Research Branch, we learned some interesting facts at the TCWP Annual Meeting.

- The black bear population is on the increase, and the Park exports surplus animals to bear sanctuaries.
- About 6,000 of the damaging, exotic hogs have been removed or killed since 1977 -- over 1,100 of these in 1989 alone. Unfortunately, this is the last year in which the Park will have any hog-control funds.
- There are about 300 other exotic species in the Smokies, mostly plants. The Park is beginning to exert control over some of them; e.g., 110 of 160 known kudzu sites are now dead. Unfortunately, the native brook trout has lost 70% of its habitat to the exotic rainbow and brown trout.
- The Gypsy Moth is coming our way. This is of particular concern since 80% of the Park's trees and shrubs are deciduous.
- Even more potentially harmful is the possible coming of the hemlock woolly adelgid which, unlike the balsam woolly adelgid, is not age-selective. Thus, every single hemlock could be killed in just one season. The Park is currently the largest repository of old-growth hemlocks.

4. AROUND THE STATE

A. *Pickett Forest Plan requires our input*

A Pickett State Forest Management Plan is in the works, and the Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF) is soliciting public input. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 5, 1992, 7 p.m. CST (note, Central Time) at the Alvin C. York Agricultural Inst. on US 127 in Jamestown. Please attend if you possibly can -- Pickett is a great favorite of TCWP members, and we have held several annual meetings there.

In 1984, TDF prepared a State Forest System Plan that addressed the collective role of all State Forests. The Pickett-specific Plan now being generated will give management direction within the



broad guidelines of the general System Plan. An "Assessment of Pickett State Forest" has been prepared to provide information for those wishing to have an input into the Pickett planning process. To obtain a copy, call Laura Craft at TDF, 615-742-6617.

B. Rivers Assessment is on its way

The Tennessee rivers assessment that TCWP (Jenny Freeman) and TSRA (Bill Allen) have worked so hard for (NL179 §3B; NL180 §2; NL181 §5A; NL182 §3A) was officially started on October 1. An early stage of the process is to gather input from many sources that will help the Rivers Assessment coordinator in her task. As promised in NL185 §6A, we are herewith distributing a questionnaire that asks you to identify rivers or river segments in Tennessee, as well as river values (e.g., water quality, scenery, wildlife, recreation), that you think should be considered in the assessment. The Rivers Assessment would not be in progress were it not for TCWP and TSRA. We therefore hope that large numbers of our members will return the questionnaire.

The Assessment program is funded by the Lyndhurst Foundation (as a result of a grant application by TCWP and TSRA); by TVA; and by the Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation (DoEC), which provided the staff position for the coordinator, Betsy Bunting. Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen are members of an excellent steering committee, which also includes representatives from other conservation groups, several state agencies, TVA, and the Farm Bureau.

The product of the assessment will be a document ranking as many rivers as possible according to their value in various resource categories. It is hoped that conservation groups and others will help gather information for the project. The document should help in future policy development and planning, may identify legislative or regulatory actions that would be beneficial, and will show where future research efforts are needed. Encouragement of public dialog on river resources, and expansion of public awareness of Tennessee's wealth of rivers will be among the additional benefits from the project.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: We strongly urge you to fill out the enclosed assessment form -- even if only partially -- and return it to the address shown on the reverse side. All you need do is to fold the page where indicated and add a stamp

C. Scenic Rivers Advisory Council

Its perpetual state of dormancy sometimes causes us to forget about the existence of the State Scenic Rivers Program. The program has a big objective -- in five words: it needs to get implemented. Several years ago, a Scenic Rivers Advisory Council was formed, in the hope that this objective could be moved forward. Recently,

Commissioner Luna appointed five new members to the Council, his first action on the scenic rivers program since the departmental reorganization that took place a year ago. Among these five are Bill Pope of Pikeville, (who, as a State Legislator from Pikeville, in 1968 introduced and successfully sponsored the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act), attorney John Williams (Environmental Action Fund lobbyist and formerly TSRA conservation chair), and Julius Johnson, public affairs director for the Tennessee Farm Bureau (which generally has not been overly fond of state scenic rivers). Seven former members of the Council were reappointed.

The Council last met over a year ago and recommended boundaries for the three river classifications in the Act. These recommendations have not, to date, been acted on by the State, or been put out for further discussion.

D. Will Ocoee be used for Olympic events?

In response to a proposal that whitewater events for the 1996 Olympics be held on the Ocoee River, Olympic supporters and the State of Tennessee have had a consultant prepare a draft feasibility study. This draft was presented at a December 18 workshop sponsored by the State, TVA, and the U.S. Forest Service. A second draft, incorporating workshop comments, is imminent, and will be evaluated by state and federal agencies. Should a formal proposal be submitted, the appropriate agencies will conduct an environmental review under NEPA to assess impacts on affected federal lands. If you are interested in this issue, call Bob Allen in Nashville (615-742-6685).

E. Organization of the Dept. of Environment & Conservation

We were fortunate in having David Gregory, Assistant Commissioner of Environment & Conservation, address our Annual Meeting on November 16. His talk was particularly informative on the organization of the new department, which was created less than a year ago from the former DoC (Conservation) and parts of the former DHE (Health & Environment).

The new DoEC now has 3 bureaus: State Parks (McKinney), Environmental Regulatory Programs (Wayne Sharber), and Resource Management (David Gregory). Gregory is working to establish the following components of the Resource Management Bureau.

(1) Planning. Gregory feels the need to create a comprehensive planning function, especially since the Department has lost Mike Countess (see §4F, this NL). He believes that the land-acquisition process needs to be incorporated into this planning, since DoEC now finally does have money for acquisition, both from the Natural Resources Trust Fund interest and from the new Recordation Tax Act passed last year (NL182 §2A).

(2) A major education effort.

(3) A technical Assistance arm that will help communities with waste-water treatment, recycling, recreation services, etc.

(4) Preservation Services. Several are already in place, such as Ecological Services (Dan Eagar), Archeology (Nick Fielder), Land Reclamation (post-mining) (Tim Eagle), Geology (Luther), and Rivers Assessment (Betsy Bunting). Others are being established; one of these is Biodiversity Planning.

F. Functions of the State Forestry Division

Mike Countess, former Assistant Commissioner of Conservation, now heads Forestry in the Dept of Agriculture, its new home (NL182 ¶4A). We were fortunate in having him speak at our Annual Meeting on November 16. He gave us some background on the Division of Forestry (TDF), which currently has 430 full-time plus 250 seasonal employees.

A 1985(?) re-write of the State Forestry Act established the process under which individual Forest Management Plans are generated. Grundy State Forest has become a State Park, Frozen Head SF became a State Natural Area, and parts of Prentice Cooper SF were incorporated into the protected status of the Tennessee River Gorge. Unlike National Forests, State Forests have no timber-supply responsibility; a major part of what became State Forests was previously ruined land, and one of the objectives of the TDF is reforestation. In 1992, less than 1,000 acres are slated for cutting -- only part of this will be clear-cut. Countess feels that one of the greatest potentials for the TDF is the demonstration of forest management techniques for the benefit of private timberland owners.

Forestry and agricultural practices are currently exempt from the regulatory process of the State Water Quality Control Act; therefore, they contribute greatly to Tennessee's non-point-source pollution problem. This is a particularly bad situation in relation to the possible advent of chip mills (¶5A), which would greatly increase timber-cutting activities. We brought up the possibility of legislation that would require Best Management Practices (BMP) for forest lands. According to Countess, BMP are simple, not costly, and already used by the larger operators; if required from everyone, however, the TDF would not have the manpower for enforcing this ruling.

G. Cumberland Gap Plan approved

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park will undergo major changes when U.S.25E is re-routed through a tunnel that is currently being excavated below the Gap. The Gap will be restored, including the historical Wilderness Trace, a narrow wagon path that will be barred to motorized traffic. In January 1991, the National Park Service made available for public comment the proposed Restoration of Cumberland Gap and Wilderness Road Development

Concept Plan. There were only 8 comments from the general public. The document also included an Environmental Assessment, which has now resulted in a FONSI (finding of no significant impact).

5. TVA: THE CHIPMILL ISSUE; AQ COMPLIANCE

A. Comments needed for chip mill Draft EIS

A recent *Chattanooga Times* editorial likened what chip mills would do here to "Third World countries that sacrifice their natural resources for a pittance to big industries of exploitative colonialists ... lured by an abundance of hardwood forests and lax laws." The companies (including a Korean one) that applied to TVA for permits for barge-loading facilities and land for chip mills near Nickajack would consume so much hardwood that forests in an area twice the size of the Gt Smoky Mtns Natl Park would be clearcut within 20 years (NL181 ¶2A; NL182 ¶6B; NL183 ¶4B; NL185 ¶5).

Forced by citizen and EPA pressure, TVA is generating a full-fledged EIS on off-site as well as site-specific impacts. Such off-site damages, resulting from clear-cuts and quick-rotation harvests, are likely to include soil erosion, stream siltation, loss of soil fertility, flooding, destruction of ecosystems and of biodiversity, increased air pollution, and decreased opportunities for outdoor recreation. Will TVA address these? There is also the worry that unsustainable harvesting on private lands will lead to increased pressure for timber from public lands, such as national and state forests. The Draft EIS is expected momentarily, and we strongly urge you to comment on it.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Write to Paul Schmierbach, Environmental Quality Staff, TVA, 400 West Summit Hill Dr, Knoxville, TN 37902 and request to be put on the mailing list for the DEIS. If you are an expert in the area of any of the impacts enumerated above (e.g., forestry, water quality, soil science), it is particularly important for you to give the DEIS a thorough reading and to send in your comments. (Or, call TCWP, 482-2153, to transmit the information). (2) Spread information about the chip-mill threat -- few people have heard of it. Hardwood-industry-related folks, in particular, need to know about it, because it is a threat to their livelihood. (3) Make a contribution to Tennesseans/Alabamans/Georgians for Environmental Responsibility (T.A.G.E.R., P.O.Box 764 South Pittsburg, TN 37380), a local group that is staying right on top of the issue.

B. TVA looks at compliance with Clean Air law

To comply with the SO₂-reduction requirements of the recent Clean Air Act amendments, TVA has developed a tentative plan that will affect only two of the agency's coal-fired steam plants. Scrubbers will be built at the Cumberland plant in order to allow the continued burning of high-sulfur coal. The Gallatin

plant will switch to low-sulfur Western coal; a test will be run in February to determine whether that coal is suitable. Near the turn of the century, changes will have to be made at additional TVA steam plants to meet the stricter Clean Air Act requirements that go into effect in the year 2000.

6. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

A. We appeal Cherokee decision on roads

Cherokee National Forest Supervisor John Ramey is proposing to exempt 23 regions of the Cherokee NF from the USFS's own standards for road density. This violates the terms of the 1988 settlement on the road issue that was arrived at by the appellants to the Cherokee Forest Plan (including TCWP) and the Forest Service (NL175 ¶4D). [See NL185 ¶7A for an upcoming lawsuit on some of the other issues of that appeal.] As a result, five groups (including TCWP) have appealed Ramey's road decision.

The excessive number of roads would lead to motor-vehicle damage to steep mountain slopes and to fragile areas, e.g., some of the balds. In some of the black-bear habitats, the proposed road density would be 3 times the allowed level, posing threats to the bear population. Siltation from erosion of the poorly maintained road surfaces would lead to water-quality deterioration and reduced fish survival.

The appeal will go to Jack Alcock, Regional Director of the USFS in Atlanta, and it is hoped that the road density proposed by the Cherokee NF will be reduced at the Regional level, at least to USFS standards.

B. Forest Service employees speak as concerned citizens

The Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (AFSEEE), which we have mentioned before (NL185 ¶7F), publishes a fine magazine, *Inner Voices*. A recent article discusses Southeastern forests, with their tremendous native diversity. Forest management should restore and perpetuate this diversity; if logging must be done it "should be accomplished by a method that protects the integrity of the forest canopy," e.g., selection management. In the Southeast, only 10% of all forest products come from National Forest lands, and the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station (Athens, GA) has concluded that "the value of the National Forests to wilderness and recreational users is nine times greater than ... the value to society from harvesting ... timber."

Although environmentalists are not calling a halt to logging on national forest lands, they are often blamed for the timber crisis and for job losses. However, in the Southeast where about 90% of the timber comes from private lands, the reason mills are

laying off workers is the currently low price of lumber -- and not any shortage of national forest timber.

AFSEEE's address is PO Box 11615, Eugene, OR 97440, Ph: 503-484-2692; Buzz Williams is the Program Coordinator for the Southeast.

7. STRIPPING: BAD PRECEDENT IS SET IN A "TAKINGS" CASE

The "takings" issue has over the years become a real problem in implementing the federal Surface Mining Act (SMCRA) (see, e.g., the definition of Valid Existing Rights discussed in NL184 ¶4A; NL185 ¶3A). Now, there are ominous signs that the courts will be singing the industry tune. The U.S. Supreme Court (with Justices White and Blackmun dissenting) recently let stand the decision by a lower court to award \$140 million to two companies that claimed that SMCRA had prevented them from extracting their coal because the Act forbids mining on alluvial valley floors. This Court decision seems particularly unjust for the following reasons: (a) the companies did not avail themselves of a mechanism provided for by SMCRA whereby the land could have been exchanged by the companies for other federal land that contains minable coal; (b) the prohibition against mining alluvial valley floors serves the purpose of protecting water supplies, agriculture, and other resources in the arid West, thus serving the public interest -- a circumstance which the Court, in the past, had often ruled did not require compensation.

This adverse Supreme Court decision may be a bad omen for the outcome of the Claims Court action by the Emory River Land Company (ERLC) against the Office of Surface Mining in the Frozen Head "522" case (unless, as predicted, an out-of-court settlement is made, in which case no legal precedent would be set) (NL179 ¶2; NL181 ¶6A; NL184 ¶3; NL185 ¶3B). The Supreme Court action in the alluvial-valley case adds extra support to TCWP's decision not to intervene in the ERLC Claims Court case. Our decision was originally made on the basis of our lawyers' advice that we probably would fail to get "standing" in the Court (NL185 ¶3B).

In case you are worried about Frozen Head, we remind you that, because ERLC withdrew its appeal to the District Court, the "lands-unsuitable" designation for the 5,200-acre Flat Fork watershed stands and cannot be touched by the Claims Court. The Flat Fork Watershed is safe from surface mining for good!

8. NATIONAL PARKS AND OTHER PUBLIC LANDS

A. Bills would reform harmful Parks concessions policy

We urge you to re-read NL185 ¶9A where we outline the great harm done to the National Park System by our present concessions policy. Private business is over-commercializing many of our parks; concessioners operate as a monopoly within park

units; they pay only 2.5% of annual gross receipts (on average), and even this small amount goes to the general U.S. Treasury instead of to the Parks; and incumbent concessioners have a preferential right to renew their contracts, so there is little competition.

Concessions Policy Reform Acts have been introduced in both Houses -- S.1755 by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark), and HR.943 by Rep. Mike Synar (D-Ok). It is particularly important, at this time, to get support for the Senate bill, which is being strongly lobbied against by the National Conference of Concessioners.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask both of your senators (addresses on p.2.) to co-sponsor S.1755. Tell them why concessions policy reform, is so badly needed to save and restore some of our over-developed and over-commercialized parks. Ask them for a written response stating their position on this issue.

B. *Canyon Country threatened by overflights*

Utah has some of the world's most beautiful canyon-country wilderness, much of it within National Parks and other public lands. Now the Air Force proposes to develop a low-level training route for B52 and B1B bombers that would bring planes flying only 400-600 ft above ground at a speed of >600 mph right above some of the most pristine canyon wilderness. Four passes would be made along a 200-mile stretch, four times per day. Nine wilderness study areas and several potential Wild & Scenic Rivers would be affected. It is essential that the Air Force be required to generate a full-scale EIS in cooperation with affected land-management agencies (and not just a simple, unilateral Environmental Assessment) before applying to the FAA for approval.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Write to John Mastrianni, Dept. of the Air Force, HQSAC/DEVP, Offutt AFB, Nebraska 68113-5001, explaining why you oppose the training route. (2) Ask your Representative to encourage the Utah delegation to help stop the plan.

C. *California Desert protection bills*

In November, the House passed overwhelmingly (297:136) Rep. Mel Levine's bill that would protect 7.1 million acres of federal land in the southern California desert -- the largest wilderness measure ever approved by the House for the lower 48 states. The bill expands portions of Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments, both of which would become national parks, and makes a national monument out of the current East Mojave Scenic Area.

So far so good. The bad news is that the Senate companion bill, S.21 (Cranston, D-CA), faces a tough fight because of opposition from the state's other Senator, John Seymour (R-CA) and from the Administration.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your senators to support S.21, which would give badly needed protection to very important desert habitat.

D. *A program for "Regreening the National Parks"*

Author Mike Frome, personally known to several TCWP members, has been characterized as "the conscience of public land management in this country." Two months ago, Frome testified before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, and effectively made some of the points developed in his recent book, *Regreening the National Parks* (University of Arizona Press, 1991, \$19.95). According to Frome, our country's 80-million-acre park system is in very serious trouble because the National Park Service (NPS) is a mismanaged agency driven by politics, rather than by professional ethics or science. Presidents and Congress have "politicized" the agency, influencing personnel selection, and treating the parks like political pork.

One of the book's 10 recommendations for "regreening" the park system is to remove NPS from the Interior Department and make it into an independent bureau. Other recommendations: limit numbers of visitors and length of stay; limit cars; remove souvenir shops and reduce number of hotels; involve public in management decisions; coordinate resource management with surrounding federal lands and with communities. "We need to protect the parks from being popcorn playgrounds. They're there for inspiration, not for fun and games that can be played elsewhere."

E. *Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)*

FY 1992 figures for the LWCF are now final. The total appropriation was \$337 million, of which \$137 M is the federal portion, and \$20 M goes to the states. All of these sums represent decreases from FY 1991, when the federal and state portions were \$342 M and \$30 M, respectively. The federal portion of the LWCF provides land acquisition money for the Park Service (including Big S. Fork lands, see §1B, this NL), Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, and BLM. Of all the federal agencies, the National Park Service suffered the greatest % decrease: it received \$137 M in FY 1991, but only \$105 M for FY 1992. The operating budget of NPS was, however, increased from \$1,348 M to \$1,394 M.

2. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES

A. *Actions on spotted owl endanger the Endangered Species Act*

Two stories are playing simultaneously on the spotted owl issue: (1) the designation of critical habitat for the owl, and (2) the "God Squad" that has been convened to exempt the bird from protection of the Endangered Species Act.

(1) Final designation of critical habitat was made by the Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) on January 8. The acreage (6.9 million acres) has been scaled back to only just over half of that originally proposed by FWS last April (11.6 million acres). First, about 3 million acres of private land were removed, and later all state lands. FWS made these drastic reductions in response to pressure about loss of jobs; the second reduction is supposed to save about 1,000 jobs.

(2) In October, Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan announced that he would convene the high-level interagency committee (created by a 1970 amendment to the Endangered Species Act) that has the power to exempt endangered or threatened species from the Act's protection by invoking adverse economic impacts of the protected status. Since, with the stroke of a pen, the committee can wipe a species off the face of the Earth, it has been dubbed the "God Squad."

The spotted owl, which was finally listed as "threatened" in 1990, is an indicator species for an entire endangered ecosystem, the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest. The listing of the owl has temporarily halted destruction of these forests (NL182 ¶58; NL183 ¶5A, B, C; NL184 ¶7A; NL185 ¶7D). By creating the God Squad, the Administration is now helping the timber industry to remove this obstacle to logging; it is also helping Sen. Packwood (R-OR) in his campaign to gut the Endangered Species Act.

The God Squad, chaired by Sec. Lujan himself, began its activities on January 8, with public hearings in Portland, Oregon. In one of his numerous calls to the Dept. of Interior (see below), TCWP Board member Dick Ambrose was told that if he sent a letter, it would not be included in the Record of the Hearing. The God Squad will review a ruling by the FWS to prohibit 44 timber sales on 4,470 acres of BLM tracts in western Oregon; 7-9 of these 44 tracts are on land designated Critical Habitat on January 8 (see [1] above). If logging on the 44 tracts proceeds, numerous owls will be killed outright, and the survivors will be deprived of habitat. Unless an extension is granted, the date of the God Squad's final decision will be March 20.

Dick Ambrose, who supplied much of the information for this article, has made 16 calls to USDI in the past 3 months to find out what's going on and what type of input is possible (apparently, none). Talk about getting the run-around! Dick has chronicled his interactions in 3 pages of typescript; call him if you want a copy (615-482-9229).

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact your senators and Representatives and urge them to support ancient-forest protection bills. These are described in NL184 ¶7A and NL185 ¶7E. Several of these bills, in addition to protecting the ancient forest ecosystems,

also include provisions for banning log exports and diversifying local economies so as to bring economic relief to timber-dependent communities.

B. *Bill would strengthen Endangered Species Act*

Reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) promises to be one of the most important environmental battles of the next couple of years. Already, two bills have been introduced that would weaken the Act by requiring economic considerations in the species-listing process. Now there is also a bill that would strengthen the ESA, HR.4045 by Gerry Studds (D-MA).

Under current law, species often receive protection when they are already on the brink of extinction. Besides, there is a backlog of 3,800 candidate species awaiting decisions on whether they should be listed. Studds' bill would protect both listed and candidate species, as well as the ecosystems they depend on. The bill also sets multi-species recovery plans and sets recovery deadlines. Funding for the Act would also be increased. A companion bill will shortly be introduced in the Senate.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Ask your Representative (address on p.2) to co-sponsor HR.4045. Tell him/her that the ESA is a key environmental law that must be strengthened for the protection of the Earth's living things.

C. *The wetlands battle continues*

Bills that would gut wetlands protection were introduced in 1991, with the idea of using them as amendments when the Clean Water Act comes up for reauthorization in 1992. Sect. 404 of the Act currently regulates the use of wetlands, and the oil & gas industry, developers, realtors, and agri-business are out to destroy this Section.

HR.1330 (Hayes, D-LA) and S.1463 (Breaux, D-LA) would allow "low-value" and "medium-value" wetlands to be filled or drained (the latter requiring some mitigation or replacement), and would make only "high-value" wetlands subject to the 404-permit process. However, if a permit for developing a given "high-value" wetland were to be denied, the federal government would have to buy the land. Unfortunately, HR.1330 already has about 170 co-sponsors, including Tennessee Representatives Clement, Duncan, Gordon, Quillen, Sundquist, and Tanner. Constituent mail might make some of these gentlemen change their mind; in fact, 5 original co-sponsors from other states recently removed their names from the bill.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Let's see if we can't convince any of the Tennessee Congressmen of the importance of wetlands for the protection of ecosystems, wildlife habitat, hardwood timber, healthy river corridors, flood control, filtration, even absorption of pollutants. Inform them that of the freshwater wetlands lost nationwide during a recent

9-year study period, 95% were southeastern bottomland hardwoods (wooded swamps) such as are found in Tennessee.

D. ~~Saving~~ grain forests by labeling wood

A major impetus to the destruction of rain forests is the demand from U.S. consumers for products made from tropical woods - furniture, paneling, salad bowls, picture frames. Many Americans would not purchase such products if they knew that this led to rainforest destruction. The trouble is: they don't have enough information to make the proper buying decisions.

Sen. Al Gore, Jr. has introduced S.1159, which would provide that information. The bill would require that all imported tropical wood and wood products bear labels, at the point of sale, listing the wood's species and country of origin. In conjunction with a consumer-education program planned by national environmental groups, this bill could greatly help to save rain forests.

* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Let Sen. Gore know how much you appreciate his leadership in the fight to save tropical rain forests. Urge him to request hearings on S.1159.

E. Multi-use groups take "green" guise

What does the name American Environmental Foundation convey to you? In fact, this is one of numerous groups created by the industry-backed so-called multiple-use or "wise-use" movement that are thoroughly anti-environmental beneath a green veneer. We have earlier mentioned the National Wetlands Coalition, whose objective is to quit wetlands protection and to weaken the Endangered Species Act. One of the oldest of these groups is the National Inholders Association which waves the property-rights flag and creates a land-grab panic in fighting against protection of public lands. The techniques of these and similar groups, and their industry support in many cases, has recently been documented by the National Wildlife Federation and the National Audubon Society. In one case, members of a group formed to fight mining reform in the West received \$15,000 apiece (!) from several companies; and while the group assumes a grass-roots facade, in fact 12 of its 13 directors are mining industry executives. A frequently voiced objective for these groups is to "achieve a balance between nature and people."

* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your members of Congress to oppose a House bill, HR.1572, by Olins (D-VA), and a Senate bill by Steve Symms (R-ID), each named the "Private Property Act."

F. Quayle aide investigated for seeking to influence acid-rain regulation

Allan B. Hubbard, Vice President Quayle's deputy chief of staff, is also the executive director of

the Quayle-led White House Council on Competitiveness, which recently sought to undermine wetlands protection (NL 185 18A). Recently, Hubbard chaired a White House meeting at which a regulation on acid-rain emission was changed so as to benefit an electric utility in which Hubbard owns stock. A Congressional committee is investigating this, and an earlier case of conflict of interest involving Hubbard.

10. TCWP NEWS

A. Enclosures: Political Guide; dues bill; questionnaire

Enclosed with the NEWSLETTER, as always in January, is the new POLITICAL GUIDE. Note that one sheet has a Federal and a State side, both packed with information. There are also suggestions on how to write your legislator. The other sheet lists State senators and representatives by district; if you don't know what district you live in, the map may help. Please store the GUIDE in an easily accessible place, and use it often -- that's what democracy is all about. Lynn Wright deserves our sincerest thanks for preparing the GUIDE.

* Also enclosed for most of you (except those who have already paid) is the 1992 dues form. We should appreciate it if you would pay while you have the form in front of you; it allows us to make better use of our money, and saves us much effort in re-billing you.

* Finally, we urge you to fill out the Rivers Assessment Questionnaire -- see #4B.

B. Thanks so much for your contributions!

TCWP members were exceedingly generous in response to the fund-raising appeal we mailed in December. To date over 60 addressees have responded, and returns are still coming in; the total amount is approaching \$3,000. We promise to put this money to good use in working to protect our natural environment.

C. New Board and Nominating Committee

The following were elected at the Annual Meeting; *denotes newcomer to Board.

President: Maureen Cunningham
Vice Pres.: David Adler
Secretary: Jenny Freeman
Treasurer: Charles Klaborde
Directors: Judith Barlow
Charles Coutant
*Eric Hirst
*Fred Holtzclaw
Neil McBride
Liane Russell
*Larry Pounds

Committee to nominate the 1993 Board: Bill Allen, Dick Ambrose, Bob Luxmoore (chair)

D. Report on Annual Meeting

Forty adults and 10 kids enjoyed a wonderful mid-November weekend near the Smokies. The Wesley Woods accommodations were comfortable, the food (catered by Jenny Freeman's sister and husband) was delicious, the weather for the hikes was ideal -- both on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday (but there was not enough water for canoeing), and the program was highly informative.

In the various parts of the NL (#3B, 3E, 4E, 4F), we report on what the Saturday-morning speakers had to say. Saturday evening, we had a special session to remember our 25 years of effort. After showing slides of TCWP events and people over the years, Lee Russell distributed copies of our very first Newsletter (printed on two sides of just one page), and a list of all the members of all our Boards and Nominating Committees since 1966. She recalled the numerous important environmental issues we became involved in very early in the game (taking a brief look at where we were now on these issues), and mentioned some of our other activities (e.g., the Harvey Broome Memorial Film Series, letter-writing socials, ORHS environmental studies, questionnaires to political candidates, initiation of inter-group meetings). We also remembered our succession of fine executive directors: Bill Chandler, Tom Johnson, Jenny Freeman, Jim Doncaster, Pam Petko-Seus, Sandra Edwards, Craig Walker, Sam Saffern (hope I didn't forget someone). After that, Don Todd and Bill Russell told stories of funny and interesting events that they were around for during the past quarter century. May the next 25 years be as fruitful!

If anyone left a Mirokita camera lens cap in one of the bunk rooms, contact Maureen Cunningham, 483-8312.

E. The Park Service thanks TCWP

A wonderful surprise during our Annual Meeting was a visit from Bill Dickinson, Superintendent of the Big South Fork NRR and Obed WSR. Bill made a wonderful speech (wish we'd had a tape recorder) and presented us with two very fancy plaques, "Award[s] of Recognition," one for TCWP the other to Bill and Lee Russell for persistent and dedicated leadership in the establishment and preservation of unique national treasures for the benefit of present and future generations, the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and Obed Wild and Scenic River, presented by the National Park Service November 16, 1991, on the 25th anniversary celebration of TCWP.

F. News of TCWP follows

- Martha Kettle, TCWP President 1988 through 1991 left Tennessee at Christmas time to assume a job as Assistant Forest Supervisor in Northern California. She will be located at Eureka.

- Ram Uppuluri, formerly our representative on the Environmental Action Fund, has graduated from Vanderbilt Law School, where his emphasis was on environmental law. Ram is now working as an attorney in the law offices of David Stuart and Christopher Van Riper in Clinton. Before he started at Vanderbilt, Ram was an aide to Congressman Jim Cooper.
- Fred Holtzclaw, one of the new TCWP-Board members, and an ORHS Biology teacher, was featured in the latest issue of *Martin Marietta Today* in connection with an ecological studies project he has organized for his students. In 1990, Fred appeared in an ad that ran in 20 national magazines and described the regional Academy for teachers of Science and Mathematics that was established at U.T.
- Ruth Moore, Garden Editor for *The Oak Ridger*, had a big feature article about TCWP's work in the Nov. 14 issue of the paper.
- Maxie Swindell, long-term TCWP member has died. Her devotion to environmental causes was deep, and her death is a loss to us all. Several years ago, she volunteered to organize TCWP's statewide phone tree, and herself took on the calls to phone-tree heads in the non-Oak Ridge, non-Knoxville parts of the state.

G. Report on Whites Creek hike

Possibly because of the date change or the closeness of Christmas, there were just 6 of us on the December 8 hike in the Whites Creek Small Wild Area, the last of the many events of our 25th Anniversary Year. It was a gray, but otherwise very pleasant day -- just right for the great amount of trail maintenance we accomplished (we figured that, at laborers' wages, we saved TVA \$285!). Chuck Coutant had brought a small chainsaw to cut through some major blowdowns on the trail (we all abhorred the sound, but it did its job); Judith had brought a number of wooden signs that we nailed up where the route was unclear; and the rest of us worked without clippers and pruning shears, and just about gave up on the thick briars that have grown up in the small portion of the trail that goes through the Bowaters pine plantation (that part will be re-routed). We hope more of you will get to enjoy this attractive, varied trail in the future.

H. We thank our volunteers

We are grateful to the following who assembled NL 185 on November 7: Dick Ambrose, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, Dick Raridon, Ed Sonder, Ken and Helen Warren.

11. JOB OPENINGS; ACTIVITIES; READING MATTER

- **JOB OPENING:** The National Parks and Conservation Association is conducting a search for a Southeast Regional Director, to be based somewhere near the Smokies. Contact Tom St. Hilaire at NPCA, 1-800-NAT-PARK, ext. 200.
- **JOB OPENING:** The Delta Environmental Land Trust Association, based at Vicksburg, Miss., is looking for an executive director. Contact Wilson Carroll, 601-359-6279. (Deadline may have passed).
- **January 30, Knoxville.** The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy will present its revised audiovisual show at 7:30 at the Tenn. Valley Unitarian Church, 3219 Kingston Pike.
- **February 5, Jamestown.** Meeting on Forestry Division's Pickett Plan. See ¶4A, this NL.
- **February 25, Kingsport.** Air quality hearing on Tenn. boiler proposal and its effect on Smokies. See ¶3B, this NL.
- **March 6-8, Tremont.** The Gt. Smoky Mountains Inst. sponsors an Environmental Education & the Arts Workshop. Call 615-448-6709.
- **April 10-12, Memphis.** 5th National Citizens' Conference on Groundwater, sponsored by Friends of the Earth, 218 D Street, SE, Wash., DC 20003.
- **May 15-17, Tremont.** The Gt. Smoky Mountains Inst. will conduct a Spring Naturalists' Weekend. Call 615-448-6709.
- **May 28-30, Clinch-Powell conference** at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN. More info later, or call Ray Norris, Nashville, 615-665-2324.
- **A Directory of River Information Specialists (DORIS)** has been assembled by River Network to assist river guardians nationwide in a number of ways. DORIS is a compilation of over 350 specialists from within environmental organizations, government agencies, academia, and private practice, who will assist grassroots organizations by discussing issues over the phone, attending group meetings, testifying at hearings, providing referrals to other specialists, etc. To use DORIS, or to volunteer your services as a specialist, call River Network at 503-241-3506, or write River Network, DORIS, P.O. Box 6787, Portland, OR 97207.
- **Training for environmental activists** in the skills necessary for public debate is provided by American Horizons, Inc., 16 Springtree Lane, South Berwick, ME 03908.
- **Healthy Building for a Better Earth**, edited by Charles A. Howell, III (former Tenn. Commissioner of Conservation) and James Summerville, presents the

proceedings of the first national conference on environmental sensitivity in construction. (135 pp., \$9.95 postpaid, from Trust for the Future, Inc., 2704 Twelfth Ave, South, Nashville, TN 37204).

- **Conservation Directory 1992** is the most recent guide to international, national, and regional environmental organizations. (\$18 + 4.50 shipping from National Wildlife Federation, 1400 - 16th Street, NW, Wash., DC 20077-9964).
- **The Sierra Club Public Lands Series** includes booklets on the National Park System, National Forest System, BLM lands, etc. All 7 booklets may be ordered for \$9 (\$12 for non-members) + \$1.75 postage from Sierra Club, Dept. SA, PO Box 7959, San Francisco, CA 94120.
- **Election 1992**, a transcript of the League of Conservation Voters' Green Vote Conference, held last October, is available for \$5 from LCV, 1707 L Street, NW, Wash., DC 20036. You can also order a copy of *Presidential Profiles* by calling LCV, 202-785-8683.
- **I AM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESIDENT** juxtaposes President Bush's media quotes against his record. Send \$1 and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Public Affairs Dept., Sierra Club, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109.
- **Earth Work** is a new magazine, designed for conservation professionals, that keeps track of the job market, describes graduate programs, reports on growing career fields, etc. Subscriptions are \$19.95 for 6 months from Earth Work Magazine, PO Box 550, Charlestown, NH 03603.
- **Saving the Planet: how to shape an environmentally sustainable global economy** is the first volume in the new Worldwatch/Norton Environmental Alert Series. This series is designed as a complement to Worldwatch's *State of the World* annual. Call 202-452-1999.

RIVER ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Contributed by TWCWP Members

- A. I believe the following rivers or river segments should be included in the Tennessee Rivers Assessment. I have ranked them in the importance they are to me (No. 1 is most important)

____ River or river segment _____ County or other locator

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- etc.

- B. I believe the following values should be included in the Tennessee Rivers Assessment. I have ranked them in the importance they are to me (No. 1 is most important; any one grade can be assigned to several items)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport and commercial fisheries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry/agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial navigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic qualities | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking-water source |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent wetlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/historical qualities | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness qualities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial development | <input type="checkbox"/> Geological setting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational use (canoeing, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem protection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rare species (e.g., mussels, birds) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list) |

- C. I would/would not [strike out one] like to participate in the project as it progresses

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Comments: _____

From:

29cstamp

Betsy Bunting, Rivers Assessment Coordinator
Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation
701 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37243-0447

Fella #10^A