

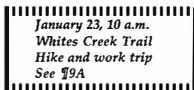
# TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 191

January 11, 1993



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# 11 . ACTION SUMMARY

INo.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Obed & BSF land acquisition	Sen. Sasser, Mathews Reps. Cooper, Lloyd	"Support Obed and BSF acquisition funds recommended by conservationists!"
1B	Proposed Clear Creek dam	TCWP	Offer to help fight dam.
2A	Smokies legislation	Sen. Mathews Sen. Sasser	"Continue Sen. Gore's position on wilderness!" "Continue your past strong stand!"
3A	Chip mills	Corps of Engineers TAG.E.R.	"Do not issue permits without an EIS!" Support the group financially
3C	Big Flery Gizzard Creek	Rep. Lloyd; your State legislator; IDEC	"Oppose dam!"
3D	TDOT's destructive I-26	Gov. McWherter	"Make sure TDOT adheres to settlement!"
6	Cherokee Natl Forest	USSens. and Rep.	"Support appropriation to acquire inholdings!"
6	Eligible Cherokee NF rivers	US Sens. and Rep.	"Sponsor inclusion of these rivers in WSR System!"
7C	Wetlands	Reps Lloyd, Cooper, Ford Reps. Guillen, Duncan, Gordon, Clement Sundquist, Tanner	"Co-sponsor Edwards wetlands-protection bill!" "Switch your support from Hayes to Edwards bill!"
8B	Alaska wetlands	EPA [if comment period is still open]	"Reject regulation that would exempt Alaska wetlands from Sec. 404 protection!"
9A	Planned TCWP events		Participate in events listed in 9A.
9F	TCWP meetings, outings	TCWP	Make suggestions
9F	TCWP Action Calls	TCWP	Send us copies of letters you write.

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

continued from p. 14

- *The TED experience: claims and reality*, is an EDF report that disproves shrimpers' claims that "turtle excluder devices" would reduce the shrimp catch and provide no real benefit to sea turtles. \$3 from EDF (257 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010, phone 212-505-2100).
- *The Impacts of Rail-Trails* is the report of a study, released July 1992, done cooperatively by the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service and Penn State University. For copies or info, contact Tom Iurino (NPS, USDI, POBox 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127, phone 202-343-3669).
- *The Watchable Wildlife Series*, wildlife viewing guides for a number of states, is produced by Defenders of Wildlife with a grant from the US Forest Service. Published by Falcon Press, 1-800-582-2665

# 1. BIG SOUTH FORK AND OBED

## A. Time to support land-acquisition appropriations for Obed and Big S. Fork

The new Congress is in session and will soon get down to business. Not discouraged by our failure to secure acquisition funds last year (NL 190 §2A) (though we did get some the year before), we start again, because our efforts are so essential to the protection of fragile lands that remain highly vulnerable until they come into federal ownership.

Funding for acquisition of authorized National Park System lands is appropriated by the Congress from the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). This year again, money we seek for the BSNRRA (Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area) and OWSR (Obed Wild & Scenic River), \$3 million and \$785,000, respectively, will be included in the National Park & Conservation Association's priority list of nationwide acquisition needs.

NPCA reminds us that, in recent years, Congress has been appropriating only a fraction of the authorized LWCF monies. Even though about \$900 million are added to the Fund each year (from offshore energy lease fees earmarked for this purpose), Congress appropriated only \$90 million for the National Park System (NPS) last year. NPCA had requested \$331 million for 86 NPS projects. Members of Congress are not hearing from their constituents, says NPCA.

✱ WHAT YOU CAN DO: Let us make a major effort to secure BSNRRA and OWSR acquisition funds this year! Write to Senators Sasser and Mathews, Representatives Cooper and Lloyd, and your own representative and senators (if different from the above), explaining why the completion of these units is so important. (Simply put: highly destructive developments threaten unless the lands in question are protected by acquisition.) Urge them to support adequate FY94 LWCF appropriation in general, and the BSNRRA and OWSR appropriations in particular. Ask them whether they are willing to do this; and if they don't respond, or respond inadequately, write again. This is something we can afford to take a little time over. [Oak Ridgers: visit Marilyn Lloyd's office in person and ask to speak to Martha Wallis. Make it clear we are asking for acquisition funds; Obed got development funds last year.]

A little later, we shall also have to lobby for operating funds for BSNRRA and Obed, as well as for the NPS Southeastern Region (SERO). For example, land acquisition has been virtually stalled, even when there is money available, because essentially one person handles all of SERO's acquisition tasks for several dozen of NPS units.

## B. Yet another dam proposed for Obed WSR headwaters: this one on Clear Creek

Our summary of the horror story of the Otter Creek dam proposal in NL 190 §2C ended with this statement: "Transcending the Otter Creek dam issue, the longer-range problem for the Obed is the ongoing quest for more and more water by Crossville and other plateau communities that are reluctant to set limits to growth." Little did we know how soon we'd be proved right.

The Clear Creek is one of the two major tributaries of the Obed River, and the segment downstream from the Fentress County line is included in the Obed National Wild & Scenic River. On Oct. 13, 1992, the Catoosa Utility District submitted a Project Notification Form to the State Clearing House (in the Tennessee State Planning Office) that it proposed to build a water-supply dam on Clear Creek, impounding a 100-acre reservoir. The State Clearing House forwarded this to 9 state agencies and set November 20 as the cut-off date for comments. The National Park Service heard nothing about the proposal until December, and then only from the Sierra Club, via us.

We have since then learned a bit of the history. The Catoosa Utility District commissioned a study by GRW Engineers, Nashville, which was published in March 1991 (we have only just seen it). The report recommended that a raw water supply source of 3.0 MGD (million gallons per day) be planned for. It went on to evaluate three potential water supply locations and compared them to the existing alternative of purchasing potable water from the City of Crossville: Clear Creek, Drowning Creek, and the Obed River. The Clear Creek dam would be just west of the Plateau Road (west of US 127) and would impound 101 acres. The Drowning Creek reservoir would be in the area bounded by Plateau Road, US 127, and I-40 and would impound 321 acres. The Obed location would involve construction of a water-supply weir right in the Goulds Bend section, one of the most dramatic parts of the Obed gorge.

The report found Clear Creek to be the most economical location. The General Development Company (who are they?) "has expressed interest in pursuing development of a take on Clear Creek for their benefit and the benefit of the Catoosa Utility District," and would donate construction costs and water rights; even with that, and assuming Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) financing, the cost of treated water from a Clear Creek dam would be higher than the cost of purchasing potable water from Crossville (!) (However, GRE fears Crossville may raise the price as time passes.)

Now, the GRW recommendation has been translated into an actual proposal. As in the case of the Otter Creek dam, funding would come from

FmHA: a total of \$3,370,000, half of it an outright grant, half a loan. This project would thus be funded by federal dollars and is therefore subject to the provisions of NEPA, requiring an Environmental Impact Statement. Further, under Sec. 7(a) of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, "no department or agency of the United States shall assist ... in the construction of any water resource project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river was established as determined by the Secretary charged with its administration." Already, FmHA personnel have referred to the project as "small, with no real impact," so we clearly have another fight on our hands. It is certainly to be hoped that the National Park Service will take a strong, active part in this fight.

This theft of water from the Obed system is clearly getting to be a habit. Where will it end? Some stronger protection for the headwaters of Wild & Scenic Rivers is clearly needed. As far as the water needs of communities are concerned, statewide regional water-supply planning that includes underground as well as surface water -- and that is not afraid to set limits to growth -- is clearly a necessity.



**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** As soon as this situation is clarified, we'll need help on this issue. Please get in touch with Lee Russell (address on bottom of p.1) if you are willing to help.

#### C. *Progress report on Obed General Management Plan*

Three meetings have now been held in connection with generating the Obed WSR General Management Plan (GMP). Two of them were intensive and well-structured brain-storming sessions -- the Planning Workshop of May 27-28 (NL188 ¶1) and the Alternatives Workshop of September 10 (NL190 ¶2B); the third was an informal "anybody-drop-in" open house on October 27 (NL190 ¶2B). The Planning Team in the Park Services Southeast Regional Office (SERO) has now generated a discussion paper which is partly based on these meetings but includes extrapolations by SERO team members. We have been invited to comment on this discussion paper by January 19.

The paper develops three alternatives with regard to each of the following subjects: Resource Management (ecosystem and cultural resources), Visitor Use (activities, visitor services and facilities), and Park Operations (management, facilities). Alternative A is a continuation of the present course, reflecting existing conditions. Alternative B "represents a condition that achieves a greater consistency with the park purpose by providing additional resources for basic park management." Alternative C "represents a strong, proactive role."

While we have not yet analyzed the entire document in detail, it seems clear that each alternative contains some desirable and some undesirable recommendations. For example, alternative C recommends (pending additional legislative authority) land acquisitions that we have long advocated: expansion of the boundary to that recommended by the original BOR eligibility study, namely 100 river miles (in lieu of the current 45 mile); and additions of the inadvertent omissions, significant tributary resources, and 20-30 miles of Emory (downstream). Recommendations of alternative C that we are less happy about include improving additional river accesses ("as supported by analysis"), such as Obed Junction, and constructing a visitor center within the park boundary.

The Open House, which was held at the Obed Visitor Center in Wartburg on October 27, was attended by 41 people. SERO has roughly summarized the comments received on about 4 pages. These comments seem to have been in general in favor of non-development or restricted development; e.g., a majority opposed a road and developed overlook at the Obed/Clear Creek Jct., others asked that developed camping and picnicking be restricted to Nemo Bridge, that there be "no overlooks unless you hike to them," that there be no paved trails, that the park be kept "primitive," etc. There were quite a few recommendations to extend the boundaries by including the lower Emory, Daddys Creek canyon, Crooked Fork Creek, Island Creek, White Creek from Lavender Bridge, Crab Orchard Creek. People were in favor of stopping the Otter Creek dam, getting TWRA to amend their clear-cutting policy for Catoosa, and enforcing high water-quality standards.

#### D. *Obed River Wildlife Center opens*

Karen Lyles and her husband Buddy Cumble bought land in Morgan County four years ago and moved into their unfinished home in the spring of 1992. Little did they know that their taking care of a few orphaned animals would soon blossom into their operating a rehabilitation center for wildlife. In their Fall 1992 newsletter, they tabulate 31 animals that they have taken care of. Only 5 of these either died or had to be euthanized. The rest were treated and released or relocated; two (a red-shouldered hawk and a great horned owl) have become permanent residents. These folks could use donations of equipment, supplies, or money, as well as help with the work. They are willing to schedule programs. Call Karen at 346-7747 (or write PO Box 425, Wartburg, TN 37887).

## 2. SMOKIES

### A. Wilderness prospects worsen

Hopes for a Smokies Wilderness bill, already extremely remote as long as Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) was in office, just about disappeared when Sen. Terry Sanford (D-NC) was defeated on Nov. 3. Had Sanford been reelected, he would probably have introduced a bill containing both a monetary settlement for Swain County (compensation for flooding of the North Shore Road when Fontana Reservoir was created) and wilderness designation that included the disputed area north of Fontana. Sen. Helms, playing to the tune of the Swain County Cemetery Association, is sponsoring a bill that would authorize construction of a new North Shore Road, in addition to paying Swain County a monetary settlement of \$16 million. The election of ultra-rightwing candidate Lauch Faircloth now gives Helms an unquestioning ally.

In the past, Tennessee's Senators Sasser and Gore have always strongly supported Smokies wilderness legislation that included the area north of Fontana and that also provided a monetary settlement for Swain County. It is to be hoped that Tennessee's new senator, Harlan Mathews, will carry on Gore's position on this matter. It is highly unlikely that the North Carolina senators could pass any legislation that did not also have the support of the Tennessee senators. So the best we can hope for is a stalemate: no wilderness, but also no new North Shore Road. In the meanwhile, the Smokies are at least administratively protected by an excellent General Management Plan that provides for *de facto* wilderness management for major areas of the Park, including the area north of Fontana.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Sen Harlan Mathews urging him to continue Sen. Gore's position on Smokies wilderness. Write to Sen. Sasser, thanking him for his strong stand in the past, and urging him to stand firm in the future also. Addresses on p. 2.

### B. Red Wolf update

Permanent releases have begun! A family of wolves -- mother, father, and four 8-month-old pups (all radio-collared) -- was released from the Cades Cove acclimation pen in October. There are no plans to re-capture them, and they will thus be the first group of red wolves to reside in these mountains since 1905, and the first wolves to be reintroduced into any U.S. national park. A similarly constituted family will soon be (or, perhaps already has been) released into the northwestern section of the park, and there are plans for the gradual release of a few additional pairs each year until the park's carrying capacity has been reached.

In the meantime, all members of the the wolf family that was experimentally released in October 1991 have been recaptured. The adults were transferred to the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, but the two female offspring are in Smokies acclimation pens and are prime candidates for release since they are park-born and have lived in the wild most of their lives.

A lot was learned from the experimental release. The wolves stayed clear of humans (even though they occasionally entered a picnic area and were occasionally seen hunting woodchucks) and showed no interest in panhandling. There were four occasions, when individual wolves left the park, but on two of these the animals returned on their own. They ate deer, raccoons, rabbits, and woodchucks without making a noticeable impact on the population size of these prey species. Recently the first instance of the wolves killing a wild hog was documented -- good news since the park has worked for decade to reduce the size of this destructive, exotic species. There was some predation on domestic animals, both in Cades Cove and outside the park, and a total of \$253 has been paid for livestock losses from the large donated fund that had been set aside to indemnify property owners. Information on wolf-coyote interactions is incomplete because most of the coyotes no longer had functioning radio collars; however, all observed contacts were hostile, lessening the fear that interbreeding might become a problem.

## 3. AROUND THE STATE

### A. Chip-mills and the South Cumberlands

The threat posed by chip mills became very vivid to those of us who attended the TCWP Annual Meeting in the South Cumberlands. The rich cover of deciduous forest makes this area of mountains and gorges one of the most beautiful in our state. And virtually none of it is protected. On the walk to Raven Point, for example, we learned that the country we were traversing, the magnificent Big Fiery Gizzard gorge we overlooked from the Point, and the hills rising beyond the gorge rim on the other side were all privately owned, mostly by timber companies. The same was true when we went to Foster Falls.

A particularly disturbing piece of information was that the Mead Corporation, a big consumer of forests, has been secretly buying up timber rights on about 12,000 acres belonging to private individuals in the South Cumberland region (look for an article soon to appear in the *Nashville Banner*). Mead contracts signed last June are for cutting plateau lands within 52 months, and "side or slope" lands within 138 months -- another sign that the industry intends to sweep the area clean of its forest in 5-12 years, then pull up stakes and move

elsewhere. The thought of what the beautiful South Cumberland would look like if clearcut was horrifying indeed -- especially so since, on our way to Monteagle, we had passed New Hope, the site where Boise-Cascade, intends to start construction of a chip mill. (Boise-Cascade, clearly trying to pressure TVA into granting chip-mill permits, has said that, although river transportation would be desirable, it is not mandatory, and that the company will move the chips by truck or train, see NL190 ¶4A).

Sen. Gore, when writing to us recently, confirming that he had urged TVA and the Corps of Engineers to deny chip-mill permits, went on to say: "I am fully aware that at least one company has announced its intention to proceed with the construction of a chip mill with or without a permit .... Regardless of any independent action taken by the chip mill operators, permits for chip mills along the Tennessee River should be denied. The companies must get a clear message: our government is serious about environmental protection."

Boise-Cascade claims that chip mills practice "sustainable" forestry; but if this were the case, the companies would still be operating in South Alabama, Mississippi, and the northwest. Instead of having cleared out to move into our area. (See also ¶6, this NL).

Not only the Tennessee River but also the Cumberland River is being sought for chip-mill locations because of the cheap barge transport of the product, most of which would be exported to Japan and elsewhere overseas. The Cumberland River is under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers (CoE). We must therefore make it clear to the CoE that the public does not want these mills.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Write to Lt. Col. Sheppard (Regulatory Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PO Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37201-1070) and request that: (a) no new permits should be issued without an onsite and offsite cumulative Environmental Impact Statement, such as the one done by TVA for South Pittsburg; and (b) no existing port permit must be used for shipping chips or logs without re-evaluating the existing permit through an EIS process and holding public hearing. (2) A group called T.A.G.E.R. (Tennesseans/Alabamians/Georgians for Environmental Responsibility) has been spearheading the battle against chipmills. They need financial support to carry on. Send any contribution to them at PO Box 764, South Pittsburg, TN 37380.

## B. BMP's (Best Management Practices) for forestry?

In its Draft EIS on chip mills, TVA indicated that it would be more inclined to issue permits if the

affected states enacted required BMPs for forestry. Some chip-mill proponents oppose any conditions that would regulate forest-management practices on private lands. Certain groups, e.g., the Tennessee Conservation League, want to push a law through the Tennessee legislature to enact forestry BMPs, but the currently proposed bill lacks teeth.

Regardless of how desirable legislated BMPs (however strong) would be for other purposes, we must ask whether they could do anything much to avert the real threat from chip mills, most of which comes from clear cutting. After all, BMPs are chiefly erosion-mitigation measures. They do nothing to guarantee the survival of the forest ecosystem, and they do not even require sustainable forestry. Worst of all, their enactment would probably give the agencies (TVA, CoE) an excuse for granting chip-mill permits.

## C. More about the proposed Big Fiery Gizzard Creek dam

In conjunction with our TCWP Annual Meeting at Monteagle (see ¶9B, this NL), we made a field trip to the site for which a dam on Big Fiery Gizzard Creek has been proposed. Water supply for Tracy City is the justification (NL189 ¶4A). Our local guides and hosts were the wonderful Mays family (Byron, Carlene, and Valerie). The dam site is only a short distance upstream from where the creek begins to cut the spectacular Fiery Gizzard Gorge which deepens as it continues southward, providing shade and moisture for a unique remnant forest.

There are major problems with the proposed 95-acre reservoir: (a) it would reduce water flow within the gorge (and occasionally provide unwanted flows during periods that are naturally dry); (b) it would flood an area that is in itself worth saving, a relatively unspoiled wooded valley containing interesting rock outcroppings and pink tady slippers, a state-listed plant. And these destructions cannot be justified in the name of necessity because there are several alternative ways of getting water for Tracy City (two neighboring utility districts, both of which have an excess of water; untapped ground-water supplies; a nearby 78-acre spring-fed lake, Ramsey Lake, whose owner is willing to sell water to the city [though "safe yields" may not be adequate from this source]; and a recently authorized and funded pipeline to pump water from the Tennessee River up "the mountain").

So why the pressure for damming Big Fiery Gizzard Creek? There is a suspicion that one or more people may be speculating on sales of reservoir-side lands. It was also very interesting to find out that, as was the case with the Otter Creek dam we had fought last year (NL190 ¶2C), the promoting federal agency is the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), which operates stealthily

and scorns the proper assessment of environmental impacts. The reservoir would be funded by a \$3 million grant from FmHA.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** A local hearing on the proposal had been held shortly before we visited the site, but there was still time for TCWP President Maureen Cunningham to provide written comments for the hearing record and to alert EPA. Even now, your letters pointing out the potential destructiveness of the project and the availability of alternative water supplies would help. Your letters should be sent to: (a) Rep. Marilyn Lloyd (address on p. 2), (b) your state legislators (see Political Guide), and (c) to Mr. Robert Baker (TDEC, Division of Water Pollution Control, Natural Resources Sect., 4th Floor TERRA Bldg, 150 Ninth Ave North, Nashville, TN 37247-3011), urging him to deny Permit Application 91-092. The state Water Pollution Control Division can only consider surface-water alternatives; it's apparently up to citizen opponents of the dam to push other alternatives via the political process.

**D. Settlement reached in lawsuit against TDO on destructive I-26**

Construction by the Tennessee Dept. of Transportation, TDO, of I-26/I-181, and particularly the segment from Erwin, TN, south to the NC State line at Sams Gap, has had disastrous environmental consequences (NL190 §4B; NL189 §5D); it has leveled forests, caused huge scars on the mountains, totally destroyed or degraded innumerable streams, and dumped huge quantities of silt and other pollutants into the Nolichucky watershed. Repeated notices from TDEC (Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation) to TDO, citing many dozens of violations, brought no results. Further, the road will be a barrier to wildlife movement, and the Appalachian Trail will become an encased walkway suspended over 4-lane traffic.

In September, the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) and a local group, Good Earth Defense (GED), filed suit against TDO and FmHA to block construction of the project until further environmental review is performed. In December, a settlement was reached that includes the following provisions: (a) TDO will not appeal findings from TDEC, which will involve some lines; (b) migratory paths of black bears will be studied, and TDO will take steps to see that these are not blocked by the road; (c) TDO will restore streams (including streamside vegetation) to as natural a state as possible; (d) an advisory committee will be formed to include representatives of TEC and GED, and TDO will cover expenses up to \$20,000.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Those who have had prior dealings with TDO on other projects are inclined to predict that the agency will drag its feet

rather than comply enthusiastically with the terms of the settlement. We need to ask Gov. McWhorter to urge TDO to carry out specific provisions e.g., to get the bear-migration study started immediately, and the advisory committee initiated. Address on p. 2.

**E. Planning for new trails funds**

The National Recreational Trails Fund Act passed by the last Congress has some bad features, notably the potential encouragement it provides for development of ATV (all-terrain vehicle) trails in currently unspoiled areas. There are also some potentially good features. For example, each state is required to set up a Recreational Trails Advisory Board, which can have a strong input into the choice of trail projects to be funded under the Act.

The State Trails Council of Tennessee recently met with officials of the Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation to discuss formation of the Advisory Board and implementation of the Act in general. If you are interested in participating in this process, get in touch with Bob Brown, Chairman of the Tenn. Trails Council, 4904 Colorado Ave., Nashville, TN 37209, phone 615-373-3467.

**F. Legislative initiatives for EAF**

Milo Pyne, TCWP's new representative on the Environmental Action Fund (the lobbying arm of the Tennessee environmental movement) informs us that EAF will support at least two initiatives. One bill to be supported would make it harder for developers to install inadequate, or inadequately placed, septic tanks (currently a major source of water pollution). In addition, a citizens' suit bill will be supported that should make it easier to bring suit against agencies or people that violate environmental laws. Details of these bills, sponsors, etc., are still being worked out. There has been some discussion of a BMP bill, but EAF member organizations are split on whether this would be a good idea (see §3B, this NL).

#### 4. COAL-MINING NEWS

**A. 1992 Energy Bill addresses Valid Existing Rights (VER) to mine**

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) prohibits mining in such areas as national parks and forests, wild & scenic rivers, the vicinities of cemeteries, public buildings, etc. The coal industry owns mineral rights in some of these areas, and has claimed the right to mine them, resulting in a controversy of how to define VER (Valid Existing Rights) in the regulations promulgated under SMCRA.

Under regulatory language written not too long after passage of the Act, only those companies or individuals that held (or were in process of securing)

mining permits by the date SMCRA, was signed (August 3, 1977) have VER to mine in areas otherwise restricted by the Act. Attentive to the coal industry's pressure for the right to mine in any location in which they own mineral rights -- however pristine or fragile -- the Reagan and Bush Administrations made a couple of formal attempts to change the regulations so as to accommodate the industry. Each time, they were stowed down by the overwhelming outrage of citizens and environmental groups, expressed at hearings. However, there were rumors that the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) was simply waiting for the election to pass before promulgating the industry-supported regulations in final form.

Fortunately, a last-minute amendment to the 1992 Energy Bill, passed in October, established a one-year moratorium on any new definition of VER. This means that any reconsideration of the regulations will come during the Clinton Administration.

**B. 1992 Energy Bill addresses damages caused by coal mining**

Shortly before the 1992 Energy Bill was passed in October, an amendment was added that addresses the damages caused by coal mining. Mining companies must now replace drinking water supplies (wells, springs, etc.) damaged by either strip- or underground-mining. They must also compensate owners of occupied dwellings damaged by subsidence from underground-mining, an occurrence not as common in Tennessee as in states where coal seams are thicker, and long-wall mining is practiced. The Reagan and Bush Administrations had for 12 years refused to include such provisions in the regulations promulgated under SMCRA.

**C. Washington repeatedly overruled regional regulation of stripmining**

In November, chiefs and employees of Office of Surface Mining (OSM) offices in 6 states (including Tennessee) went public to reveal that OSM director Harry M. Snyder had repeatedly ordered them to end investigations of violations, reduce fines, eliminate penalties, divert prosecutions, and prevent inspections. Never mind that the law was being violated, Snyder was implementing the philosophy of Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, who had said: "We don't want to be a regulatory agency; we want to be a development agency."

A Tennessee example of what has been going on is a stripmine near Dunlap operated by the Skyline Coal Co., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Amac Coal Industries, Inc., the nation's third-largest coal producer. About 2 years ago the regional office of OSM in Knoxville (OSM-K) started citing the mine for generating major amounts of toxic drainage, and

required the company to develop a toxic-materials handling plan. This plan was not generated, and OSM-K, after granting numerous extensions, finally ordered the mine shut down in July. Subsequently, OSM-K was ordered by high OSM officials in Washington to withdraw the Cessation Order, and the mine continued operating -- without a permit, pending court action.

Skyline was finally ordered shut on December 12 by Administrative Law Judge Torbett, who made the interim ruling that the toxic-materials handling plan (which had finally been drafted) was inadequate to take care of the waste material chemically (confirming what knowledgeable persons had long said: the Sewanee Coal Seam cannot be worked safely by any known procedure). This shut-down resulted in Skyline workers sending delegations to Rep. Marilyn Lloyd, and to Gov. McWhorter, and organizing demonstrations. Rep. Lloyd called for "some sort of compromise." [The sad fact is that the workers have been hurt by their company's failure to obey the law.]

The company requested a temporary work order, but Judge Torbett ruled on January 7 that the operation cannot reopen unless and until an effective long-term handling plan can be approved. Each side has 30 days to submit written arguments and the court will issue a final ruling on March 1. This will be a precedent-setting case in more ways than one because the apparently untreatable Sewanee Coal Seam is found in several locations.

## 5. THE ELECTIONS AND OTHER POLITICAL NEWS

**A. The top of the ticket, and the cabinet appointments**

If you read our last Newsletter's summary of the non-partisan League of Conservation Voters (LCV) profiles of presidential and vice-presidential candidates (NL190 ¶1A), you will understand why the country's environmental community is pleased, excited, and challenged by the Clinton-Gore victory. Significantly, Clinton/Gore won almost every state in which Bush had warned that the Democrats were "environmental extremists" whose election would cost jobs. There will undoubtedly be anti-environment pressures brought on the new administration, so environmentally-concerned citizens may wish to write the new President, commending him on his position that sustainable economic development and a healthy environment can, and indeed must, co-exist.

Already, we can take heart from several of the cabinet appointments. Bruce Babbitt is a great choice indeed for Secretary of the Interior, judging not only from his fine record as former Governor of Arizona, and the positions he took as a 1988



Presidential candidate, but from the extensive and effective work he performed as President of the League of Conservation Voters, to which he devoted about 2/3 of his time for \$1 per year. ~ Another promising appointment is that of Carol Browner to head EPA. Browner had worked as Sen. Gore's top legislative aide until two years ago, when she joined Gov. Chiles' administration to strengthen environmental regulations in Florida. While still working in the Senate, she played a major role in winning a federal moratorium on oil drilling off the Florida Keys. ~ Finally, several TCWP members who know him personally will be thoroughly delighted with the choice of Jack Gibbons as Presidential Science Advisor (Head of OSTP). After working as a physicist at Oak Ridge National Lab, Jack became director of U.T.'s Energy & Environment Center, and finally moved to Washington to head the Office of Technology Assessment, a job he has held for the past 13 years. OTA conducts studies on scientific, technical, and social issues at the request of Congress, and Jack established a wonderful working relationship with a number of key legislators, including Sen. Gore. Incidentally, Jack has been an active TCWP member for many years.

Other appointees to cabinet positions that are important to environmentalists are more difficult to evaluate, mostly because less is known about them. Hazel O'Leary will head DOE, after it was widely expected that the job would go to Sen. Timothy Wirth, a staunch advocate of energy conservation and environmental protection. Candidate Clinton had said he wanted to wean the nation from its reliance on coal and oil by converting to cleaner alternative energy sources, to encourage energy efficiency and energy conservation, and to expand the market for pollution-control technologies and services. Mike Espy (with LCV ratings ranging from only 26-43 over the past 3 years) will be Secretary of Agriculture, but the important appointment to look for there is who will be chosen as head of the U.S. Forest Service.

#### B. Senate/House wins/losses

Pro-environment candidates won in a majority of races; e.g., 64% of the candidates supported by LCV were elected. The percentage was even higher (67%) in the case of 52 LCV-supported candidates running for open seats, who will become freshman members of Congress. Greatly welcome were the elections of new Senators Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Patty Murray, Carol Mosely Braun, and Russ Feingold. Several House victories have particular significance for environmental legislation. Among these is the reelection of Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA), an environmental champion who chairs the committee that has jurisdiction over the Endangered Species Act, wetlands issues, and ANWR.

Unfortunately, there were also some losses of long-term environmental stalwarts, such as Sen. Wyche Fowler and Representatives Jim Jontz, Peter Kostmayer, Gerry Sikorski, Tom Downey, and Bill Green. The defeat of Sen. Terry Sanford will hurt us on Smokies issues (see ¶2A, this NL), and the failure of challenger Les AuCoin to defeat Sen. Bob Packwood means continuation of an uphill fight for ancient-forest preservation. Wayne Owens' failure to gain the Utah senate seat was also a sad disappointment.

#### C. The Tennessee situation

The Nation's (and our) gain of an outstanding vice president, means our loss of an outstanding senator. Harlan Mathews will serve only as a caretaker of the seat for the next two years, and it is hoped that he will perpetuate Sen. Gore's positions. Because he is new to Washington, he does need to hear from us on issues that concern us, especially since he will serve on the important Energy and Natural Resources Committee. TCWP had written to Gov. McWhorter recommending appointment of Rep. Jim Cooper, who has a good environmental record (see below) and has been helpful with the Big South Fork NRRA; Cooper may run for the senate seat in 1994.

All incumbent Tennessee representatives were reelected. This may be a good time to look at their LCV (League of Conservation Voters) score for the past three sessions.

	1992	1991/92	1989/90
Oullen(R)	6	3	6
Duncan(R)	6	7	28
Lloyd(D)	25	32	50
Cooper(D)	63	70	78
Clement(D)	38	46	61
Gordon(D)	56	55	83
Sundquist(R)	6	7	28
Tanner(D)	25	28	56
Ford(D)	63	70	72

"Tennessee Conservationists for Clinton-Gore" sent out mailings in October. Among the roughly 60 prominent Tennessee conservationists listed on the letterhead were the following whose names may be familiar to TCWP members: Bob Allen, John Doyal, Jenny Freeman, Hugh Irwin, Barbara Kelly, Russ Manning, John McFadden, Ray Payne, Mack Prichard, Bill and Lee Russell, John Sherman, Will Skelton, Arthur Smith, and John Williams.

#### D. Environmental initiatives

On Election Day, voters approved 60% of the 20 major environmental initiatives on state and local ballots. Counting all of 1992, the record for environmental initiatives was 18 wins and 12 losses. This ratio far surpasses the average success rate for ballot initiatives in general, which has been just 36% since the turn of the century.

## 6. FORESTRY ISSUES DISCUSSED AT TCWP ANNUAL MEETING

In addition to other activities (for which see ¶9B), our annual meeting featured four excellent speakers who discussed various forestry issues. The following are highlights from their talks, in the order in which they were given.

**Bob Mitchell**, much of whose talk addressed the chip-mill threat, represents the Tennessee Hardwood Coalition, made up of 70 companies with over 6,000 employees. Altogether about 60,000 jobs are supported by the Tennessee hardwood industry (furniture and pallet makers, sawmills), which generally uses mature trees that are harvested by selective cutting with the aim of maintaining a continuous supply.

By contrast, the paper-and-pulp segment of the wood industry (chip mills) goes for maximum fiber value from pulpwood through clear-cutting: the ratio of softwood to hardwood used by this industry was 90:10 in the mid-eighties, but is now 50:50. Chip-mill operators claim that they use only crooked, low-grade timber. In fact, their machinery will not handle crooked trees, and the mills use immature high-grade pole timber. A typical chip mill (which employs relatively few people) runs only 5-7 years before it needs major investments; at that time, the owners pick up and move out of the region they have cleared. The non-sustainability of the forest resource is illustrated by the following figures: if the procurement area for the mills were to be within a 60-mile radius, the growth/harvest ratio would be 3.2/4 (i.e. less than 1); if the radius is 45 miles, the ratio would be only 1.8/4 -- a devastating resource depletion. It becomes even worse in terms of what is left for the hardwood industry when it is considered that less than 50% of the hardwood actually growing is available. Bob also pointed out that the area that would be devastated by the chip mills currently supports a \$300 million tourist industry, most of it based on the natural beauty of the region.

**Mary Kelly** talked about the Western North Carolina Alliance she helped found 10 years ago, and which she now serves as executive director. WNCA was formed by citizens concerned over proposals to open massive oil & gas leases in the national forests of western NC (the leases did not come to pass); and the group has remained very much involved in national forest issues. For example, they appealed the Land Management Plans for the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs (which called for nearly 100% clear-cutting), and the revised drafts are an improvement, though still not good enough. WNCA also monitors individual timber sales and has formed chapters corresponding to ranger districts ("district watchers"). Mary stressed the importance for organizations to build a broad grass-roots base, rather than to put all their reliance

on staff. She also recommended that citizens work more closely with Forest Service personnel, starting at the ranger level.

Tying right into Mary's last theme, part of the talk by **John Ramey**, supervisor of Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest, addressed "ways in which we can work together." He urged us to get involved, to comment early on proposed regulations (e.g., the proposed changes in the appeals procedure) and on EAs (or EISs) on timber management, special uses, etc.

One prime example of where citizen action is needed is for the designation of Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) within the Cherokee National Forest. The Nolichucky River was recommended by the Forest Service for WSR status as long as 6 years ago, and the Tellico, Hiwassee, and Conasauga have been found eligible. It takes Congressional action, however, to add a river to the WSR System; and that, in turn, takes citizen support. HERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO (see p. 2 for addresses of your senators and representative). We must also work to get some land acquisition appropriations for the Cherokee NF, which has never had a line-item appropriation for such purposes (except for the Appalachian Trail). There are critical inholdings that need to be purchased, and we'll try to get you more information on this later. Other national forests in the southeast got a total of almost \$15 million for FY 1993.

Mr. Ramey also talked about trends in the Forest Service overall, the history of the Cherokee NF in particular (it was designated in 1936), and about what he felt were currently the major issues. He rated user conflicts as the No. 1 issue. Timber management was No. 2, and law enforcement No. 3 (urban crimes are moving into the forest).

**Buzz Williams**, the southeastern coordinator for AFSEE (Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics) brought our formal program to a close by also urging us to work with the Forest Service, where possible, and to get involved in Forest Service issues. For example, the new perspectives in ecosystem management that are based on good science must be encouraged. Rangers and forest supervisors too, want to protect the resource, but this has not happened in our region, the reason being that there are Congressionally-mandated timber targets, and that managers are rewarded for meeting these political targets (NL190 ¶5E). Here in the southeast, we have one of the most diverse forests in the world, and it is therefore particularly important for us to protect what little biodiversity we have left. Groups like TCWP need to find out what needs protection (look at watersheds to start with ecosystem management), must raise public awareness, and must help the Forest Service to regain its conservation leadership role.

## 7. WRAP-UP OF 1992 CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS: 1993 PROSPECTS

### A. Ancient Forests

Action on a forest bill stalled in June, when House Speaker Foley pressured several member of the House Interior Committee to drop their support for a relatively strong measure sponsored by Chairman George Miller (NL 189 §8B). Later in June, a measure similar to Miller's was introduced in the Senate by Leahy and Adams. These bills may become starting vehicles in 1993. In the meantime, the courts have affirmed the need for forest protection. In the fall, the Fish & Wildlife Service listed the marbled murrelet as threatened species. This seabird nests in Pacific coastal forests that have been decimated by clearcutting.

### B. Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Although authorization for the ESA expired in November, Congress voted to continue funding through FY 1993, and battles for reauthorization will undoubtedly take place this year. A reauthorization bill by Gerry Studds, chair of the House Merchant Marines and Fisheries Committee, which would strengthen the Act in a number of ways — especially by including some critical habitat protection (NL 189 §9A) — garnered 107 co-sponsors. Studds is returning as committee chair, and his bill may be used as a starting vehicle for 1993. Look out, however, for a rival bill containing ESA "reforms," that would actually weaken the Act; this bill will be reintroduced in both House and Senate in 1993, and we will need to educate legislators about this deceptive measure.

### C. Wetlands protection

Two bills under consideration last year (Hayes/Breaux) would have greatly weakened Sec. 404 of the Clean Water Act (which regulates the dredging and filling of wetlands) and thus accelerated wetlands loss even beyond the current 290,000 acres/year. Unfortunately, six Tennessee Congressmen were among the sponsors: Quillen, Duncan, Gordon, Clement, Sundquist, and Tanner (the starred ones are members of the Public Works Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Clean Water Act). A strong Wetlands Reform Act (Edwards) was introduced and attracted 82 sponsors by the end of the year — not one of them from Tennessee. We must certainly try to do something about this (see below).

In 1991, the Bush Administration proposed revisions in the wetlands delineation manual that would have narrowed the definition of wetlands so as to leave half the nation's wetlands without protection. In 1992, public pressure forced the administration to reconsider the revisions, and Congress authorized funding for a National Academy of Sciences study on how to identify and define wetlands.



**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** The Tennessee Congressmen who co-sponsored the bad Hayes bill last year must be persuaded not to do so this year. Try to convince them, as well as the presently uncommitted Representatives (Lloyd, Cooper, Ford), to become co-sponsors of the good Edwards bill. That bill strengthens wetlands protection, expedites and otherwise improves the permit process, affirms existing exemptions for agriculture, and creates tax incentives to encourage the protection of privately-owned wetlands. Wetlands filter and purify surface-water runoff, provide critical ecosystems, and support millions of migratory birds.

### D. Other Bills that did not pass

- Wilderness designation for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).
- The California Desert Bill (NL 187 §7A).
- A provision to raise grazing fees on public lands. (Note that the current fee of \$2/cow/month represents scarcely 1/3 the government's cost of managing the land, and is only about 1/5 the average grazing rate charged on private range lands.)
- The Montana Wilderness Bill, which was bad (NL 187 §7B), and the Colorado and Alaska Wilderness Bills.
- Reform of the 1872 Mining Law (NL 188 §9D).
- The National Park Concessions Bill (NL 185 §9A).
- Elevation of EPA to Cabinet status (this may very well happen under Pres. Clinton).

### E. Some Bills that passed

- The Energy Bill (NL 188 §10A; §4A and 4B, this NL).
- Reform of water use in California, reserving 1.5 million acre-feet of Central Valley Project water for environmental purposes.
- A number of river-related bills, for which see §8A, this NL.
- Addition of land to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.
- Moderate increases in funding for international family planning.

## 8. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

### A. River protection in 1992

The following is excerpted from a year-end summary by American Rivers (AR, formerly the American Rivers Conservation Council), a national organization devoted to river protection.

Additions to the Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) System included 28 river segments, totalling over 1,000 miles; 14 of these segments were in Michigan, 6 in Arkansas, the remainder in California, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Studies were authorized for another 19 river segments totalling 850 miles. Study status protects rivers and adjacent

lands for a minimum of 16 years; after a river is found eligible, it takes an Act of Congress to add it to the System.

A large number of rivers on public lands were found to be eligible for WSR designation, including 114 in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska and >120 within management units of the National Park Service. An additional >50 rivers on federal lands in the west were given interim protection as part of the Forest Service and BLM planning process.

Congress adopted a flow regime for Glen Canyon Dam that will permanently stop destructive water releases that were eroding the beaches and associated ecosystems of the Colorado within the Grand Canyon.

The National Park Service's Technical Assistance Program for Rivers and Trails was increased by 20% to over \$7 million. This growth in the program should allow NPS to place dozens of technical advisors in the field to assist with state and local grassroots protection efforts.

**B. Administration attempted to exempt Alaska from wetlands protection**

Accommodating the oil industry and other businesses, the Bush Administration in October (just before the election) proposed a regulation that would exempt 1.7 million acres of Alaska's wetlands from full protection of Sec. 404 of the Clean Water Act. The proposed regulation would do away with the requirement that developers must avoid filling wetlands where alternatives exist, and must compensate for wetland losses by restoring or creating other wetlands.

The 1.7 million acres proposed to be exempted include all 345,000 acres of highly valuable coastal marshes. Alaska's renowned fisheries (which support 70,000 jobs, as well as subsistence for 110,000 Natives) thrive because wetlands filter surface runoff and provide critical feeding and rearing habitat for fish. The wetlands also play a vital role in sustaining huge migratory bird populations.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** About 70% of the nation's remaining wetlands are in Alaska. We must do a better job of protecting wetlands there than we have done in the Lower 48. The comment period on the proposed regulation ended December 21; however, a 90-day extension was requested in numerous testimonies, and it may now be in effect; call Melinda Pierce of the Alaska Coalition (202-547-1141 for info). If comments are still being accepted, send them to Mr. Gregory Peck (yes!), Chief, Wetlands Alaska Docket (A-104F), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460

**C. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility - PEER**

PEER is a new organization that will allow all government land managers and environmental

protection agency employees to join together in one, powerful, united voice for change. The new organization is an extension of AFSEE (Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, see NL190 #5E; #6, this NL). While AFSEE is focused on the Forest Service, other agencies have other types of issues; but PEER, like AFSEE, will concentrate on encouraging employees to speak out for environmental ethics and to pressure agencies to uphold laws and the public trust. PEER will support individual employees who speak out within their agencies and in the government at large. The PEER address is PO Box 428, Eugene, OR 97440.

**D. "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity"**

A 4-page document signed by 1,575 prominent scientists worldwide, including 99 Nobel prize winners, warns that "no more than one or a few decades remain before the chance to avert the threats we now confront will be lost and the prospects for humanity immeasurably diminished." Among the greatest dangers cited were ozone depletion, waste of water, poisoning of the ocean, damage to farmland, deforestation, loss of plant and animal species, and human population growth. Natural systems can no longer absorb the burden of current human practices.

The document called for action in five areas: (a) Controlling activities that damage the environment, such as use of coal or oil, deforestation, and poor farm practices. (b) More efficient use of energy, water, and other materials. (c) Stabilizing the human population. (d) Reducing, and eventually eliminating, poverty. (e) Equality for women, including assuring the right to abortion. (e) Reducing violence and war. The appeal was coordinated by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

**2. TCWP NEWS**

**A. Upcoming TCWP events: we hope you'll participate**

**1. Whites Creek Trail work trip, January 23.**

The Whites Creek Small Wild Area, which was set aside by TVA almost 10 years ago all the urging of TCWP, consists of forest-covered ridges and deep coves along the shores of Watts Bar Lake. TCWP assists in maintaining the attractive, varied trail that winds through the area. Whether or not you plan to help with needed trail maintenance, come and join us for the lovely 3 to 4-mile hike (and bring family and friends). A short but important segment of the trail leaves TVA lands to climb through a Bowaters pine plantation to a viewpoint. This segment has grown up into a jungle of blackberry brambles, and we will probably have to remove it -- a new challenge.

If you wish to carpool, meet at 9 a.m. EST at Big Turtle Park (on the Oak Ridge Turnpike, just west of Traffic-light #15). To go to the trailhead on your own, take US 27 south from Rockwood, checking your odometer where US 70 parts from US 27 (stay on US 27). About 4.2 miles beyond, you will cross a newly constructed double bridge over Whites Creek. Almost exactly 2 miles beyond the bridge, turn left at Roddy, and proceed 1 mile to a parking area at the shores of the lake. We will assemble there at 10 a.m. EST. Bring a lunch, canteen, and raingear. If you wish to assist in trail maintenance, bring a plastic garbage bag and vegetation clippers. For more information, call Judith Barlow, Norris 494-9421, or Knoxville 632-1592.

2. Sadler Batten work trip: to be scheduled (check paper for date).

3. March for Parks, April 17: We will participate in this nationwide event, which raises money for various park projects (two years ago, our March raised money for water-quality monitoring equipment in the Big South Fork NRA). Details of the April 17 event will be announced in the next Newsletter.

4. Annual Meeting, Pickett State Park, November 5-7. Mark your calendar now--we're bound to have a fine meeting.

## B. Annual Meeting report

The 1992 TCWP Annual Meeting was held October 23-25 at Monteagle, in the Southern Cumberlands. We were blessed with magnificent weather that allowed us to enjoy the peak of the fall colors. The Saturday morning program on a variety of forestry issues, addressed by four outstanding speakers, is summarized in ¶6 of this NL so that those of you who could not attend (too many!) can at least get the flavor. During the program, Judy Roitman ably entertained the kids in an adjacent room. There was a choice of two hikes Saturday afternoon (Raven Point or Foster Falls to Little Gizzard Creek -- what fabulous gorge views for both!), as well as a choice of two activities on Sunday (a hike down the Big Fiery Gizzard gorge or a field trip to the proposed dam site -- see ¶3C, this NL). Friday and Saturday nights, there was a slide show (10° from the North Pole); Saturday night before dinner we had a pleasant social hour; and after dinner we gathered around a huge bonfire on the grounds and sang, accompanied by Webb VanWinkle's guitar (but we must admit that several of our people stayed indoors, glued to the TV set to watch the final game of the World Series). The Dubose Center food was excellent, and the accommodations very good. A great deal of the credit for organizing this super meeting goes to our executive director, Joan Burns.

## C. Results of TCWP Elections

During the Annual Meeting, the slate of nominees was elected by acclamation. In case you lost NL 190, these are the people who will represent you in 1993.

President: Jenny Freeman

Vice Pres.: David Adler

Secretary: Maureen Cunningham

Treasurer: Charles Klabunde

Directors (\*designates newcomers to the Board):

Patrice Cole\*

Charles Coutant

Jim Groton\*

Eric First

Fred Holtzclaw

Neil McBride

Lee Russell

Nominating Committee:

Dick Ambrose

Bob Luxmoore (chair)

Lynn Wright

## D. TCWP fund raising

1. We are deeply grateful to the many of you (about 50 checks, to date) who responded to our direct-mail year-end appeal, even though it came so late (see ¶9E). The appeal will probably raise over \$2500 in special contributions (additional to dues).

2. TCWP has been looking into the possibility of joining some work-place-giving activity, but we need feedback from members before we can make a decision. We clearly do not qualify for United Way, which is the mode of giving at several of the big work places in this area. Do any of you work for employers that allow donations to be made through Community Shares, or through Earth Shares? We would be most grateful if you could let us know, because it is the easiest way we have of finding out which employers do what. Call Joan Burns at 481-0286 or 482-5735, or drop us a postcard at the address shown at the bottom of p. 1.

3. Sam's Wholesale Club has made a donation of \$350 to TCWP, as part of their program to contribute to conservation groups in their service area. We are most grateful!

## E. Excuse for delays

This Newsletter is late (and our year-end appeal was late) because your editor had an operation in November. It was a total hip replacement from which she appears to be recovering (after a setback), though more slowly than expected. She hopes to hike with some of you in a few months!

## F. Miscellany

\* If you have not already paid dues, a billing is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please pay without delay -- it saves us money and time.

\* We should like your suggestions on meetings and/or outings you would like to see us sponsor. If you have not participated in our annual meetings lately, let us know whether there is something we could do to make them more to your liking. Call Joan

Burns at 481-0286 or 482-5735, or drop us a postcard at the address shown at the bottom of p. 1.

- When you respond to one of our "action calls" and write a letter to a legislator, etc., we would love to have a copy. It is very hard for us to gauge what kind of effect our action calls might be having. Do a lot of people write? Does nobody?
- On the matter of the TVA land on Melton Hill Lake that includes the Worthington cemetery (NL190 §8A): the City of Oak Ridge has recently zoned it greenbelt. TCWP has offered to clean up the area, to make it into an urban wildlife sanctuary, and to develop an environmental-education-study program within it that would be available to students of Oak Ridge and Anderson County schools. TVA is currently considering the request.
- On October 29, TCWP was one of 6 groups that participated in a panel discussion ending a U.T. course on environmental-protection issues. Sam Brown of WKXT-TV was the moderator.

#### G. We thank our volunteers

We are grateful to the following people who helped assemble Newsletter 190 on October 19: Dick Ambrose, Jean Bingham, Chuck and Lola Estes, Harry and Sylvia Hubbell, Charlie Klabunde, Ed Sonder. Likewise, our gratitude to the following who assembled the fund-raising mailing in December: Dick Ambrose, Don and Vera Davis, Henri and Bettie Levy.

#### 10. ACTIVITIES; READING MATTER

- January 23, 10 a.m., TCWP hike and work trip in Whites Creek Small Wild Area. (See §9A, this NL.)
- April 17, March for Parks event organized by TCWP. (See §9A, this NL.)
- April 23, 24, East Tennessee Environmental Conference, organized by the Knoxville Junior League. Details later.
- May 14-16, Spring Naturalist Weekend, focusing on the natural history of the Smokies (a combination of hikes and lectures). G1. Smoky Mtn. Inst. at Tremont, Rt. 1, Box 700, Townsend, TN 37882; 615-448-6712.
- Nov. 5-7, TCWP Annual Meeting, Pickett State Park.
- The Clean Water Network, which includes hundreds of organizations nationwide, has issued the *National Agenda for Clean Water*, a detailed outline of how the Clean Water Act should be strengthened. For a copy, contact Robyn Roberts, Clean Water Network (1350 New York Ave NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005, phone 202-624-9357).
- The Corps of Engineers has issued an Environmental Assessment of the control of zebra mussels and related species at facilities operated by the Corps or by TVA. The Corps has issued a FONSI (finding of no significant impact) and thus does not plan an EIS. Comments on the EA are due

by January 22. (Contact Mr., Richard Tippitt of the Corps Nashville District, 615-736-2020.)

- AARP (the American Association of Retired Persons) runs a Volunteer Talent Bank, which refers volunteers to environmental groups and agencies. A computer database matches potential volunteers with appropriate volunteer positions. (Contact AARP Volunteer Talent Bank, Dept. MM, 601 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20049.)
- Americans for the Environment (AFE) trains grassroots environmental volunteers in how to participate in, or manage political campaigns. (AFE, 1400 - 16th Street NW, Box 24, Washington, DC 20036-2266; Phone, 202-797-6665.)
- EarthAction is an international partnership of citizen groups, designed to mobilize global public pressure for a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world. Each month, participating organizations receive an EarthAction Alert focusing on one concrete issue (e.g., protecting our ozone shield) and suggesting key decision-makers to contact. (In North America: EarthAction's address is 30 Cottage Street, Amherst, MA 01002.)
- The Audubon *How to Make a Difference Video #2: Wetlands*, is available for \$9.95 from Activist Video, National Audubon Soc. (700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003). You can also order (for \$5) a Wetlands Tool Kit, containing fact sheets, a brochure, and skill-building fact sheets. (Shipping is \$3 additional, whether you order the video or one or both items.)
- *Process to delineate boundaries and implement management strategies for the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Program* is the report of two meetings conducted in November 1990. For info, call Bob Allen, Tennessee Scenic Rivers Administrator, 615-632-0034.
- 1993 *Conservation Directory* lists environmental departments and agencies of the US government, State agencies, citizens groups, national parks, wildlife refuges and forests, and numerous other items, all helpfully indexed. \$18 (plus \$4.85 shipping) from National Wildlife Federation (1400 - 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-2266; phone, 1-800-432-6564).
- *Automotive fuel economy: how far should we go?* is the report of a committee convened by the National Research Council and published by the National Academy Press (2101 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20418).
- *Ten Ways to create jobs, save the economy, and protect the environment* is an effective one-page fact sheet available (free) from Friends of the Earth (218 D Street SE, Washington, DC 20003, phone 202-544-2600).
- Three new fact sheets relating population growth to forests, wetlands, and wildlife are available (free) from National Audubon Soc. (666 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, Washington, DC 20003, phone 202-547-9009).

[continued on page 2]