



## 14. ACTION SUMMARY

¶ No	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1C	Obed WQ watershed planning	P. David, TDEC (by 12/31)	"State should oppose headwaters dams. Grant ONRW status!"
2A	Mining near Frozen Head	Commiss. Wilson, TDEC	"Thanks for strong stance!" Also, call TCWP re hearings
2B	Fall Creek Falls watershed	Sec. Babbitt, USDI	"Grant the '522' petition!"
2C	Sequatchie Valley pump storage	TVA (by Oct. 7)	"Reservoirs are harmful, uneconomical!"
2D	Scotts Gulf	Gov. Sundquist: Bridgestone	"Support protection efforts!"
4	Shoreline Management. EIS	TVA (by Oct. 15) US rep. and sens., alsomed	"Support Alt. D, but <u>no</u> more developments in buffer strip!" "TVA doing good job, but we much prefer D to C!"
6B	Parsons Branch Road	Rep.Duncan: Gov.Sundquist	"Road would waste \$\$ . Valid arguments exist against repair!"
7A	Cherokee Forest Plan	US Forest Service (by Dec.2	Makesureimportant issues arc in scopefor Plan
8A	Mining in Yellowstone watershed	Pres. Clinton US senators and rep.	"Thanks! --and please followthrough!" "Please cosponsor S.1737 and HR.1846, respectively!"
8B	Omnibus Parks Bill, HR.1296	US representative	"Urge House conferees to remove bad amdis -- pass "clean" bill
8C	Concessions Reform	US senators and rep	"Pass S.309 and HR.773, respectively!"
9B	Logging-without-laws, S.391	Sen. Thompson	"Forest-health 'crisis' is phony. S.391 exemptsfromall laws!
12C	Membership involvement	TCWP	Wehave lots of jobs to be done. Contactus if youcan help

Senator John Doe  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. John Doe  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Pres. Bill Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500  
202-456-1111  
president@whitehouse.gov

Governor Don Sundquist  
State Capitol  
Nashville, TN 37243-9872  
615-741-2001; Fax 332-9711

Dear Senator Doe  
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe  
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President  
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Sundquist  
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist:  
Phone: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-1264  
e-mail: senator\_frist.senate.gov  
Local: 423-602-7977

Sen. Fred Thompson:  
Phone: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3679  
Local: 423-545-4253

Rep. Zach Wamp:  
Phone: 202-225-3271  
Local: 423-483-3366

To call any other Representative or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121.

To find out about the status of federal bills, call 202-225-1772.

## 1. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

### A. **Roland Swain, new Superintendent**

Phil Francis, who became Acting Superintendent following the departure of Lee Davis in mid-May (NL211 ¶1A), went back to the Smokies, but not before he had taken a very important action: halting all new construction until planning documents, such as the Roads & Trails Plan, are finalized. (The helter-skelter of new developments that had occurred within the preceding year or so had been of great concern to us, especially since more seemed in the offing. NL211 ¶1E). In August, we had a good meeting with Kate Richardson, of the Jean Lafitte Natl. Historical Park & Preserve, who had followed Phil Francis as BSNRRA Acting Superintendent, and who will stay until the arrival, in mid-September, of the permanent appointee, Roland Swain.

Swain, who has been the superintendent at Cumberland Island National Seashore, is an experienced and well-regarded resource manager. We look forward to interacting with him.

### B. **Work to start this year on BSNRRA General Management Plan**

When last we reported (NL211 ¶1E), there was some hope that a General Management Plan (GMP) for the BSNRRA might be generated in the not-too-distant future. Only a few days later, NPS approved a late-1996 start for this project! Another piece of very good news is that the person in charge of the GMP will be John Fischer, who had done such a fine job on the Obed GMP. An activity preliminary to the GMP took place in the summer of 1994, when a list of Management Objectives was generated during a big two-day meeting in which various segments of the interested public were represented (NL200 ¶1F; NL201 ¶2E). This list should form the basis for the GMP. As was the case with the Obed, ICWP plans to be intensively involved in the important process, and we urge members to get in touch with us to volunteer their assistance.

### C. **State watershed planning for Obed WQ needs your input**

The Obed will be considered early in the first round of meetings planned by the TN Dept. of Env't and Conservation (TDEC), which has initiated a new Watershed Approach for water quality protection and aquatic-resource management. The meeting on the Emory Watershed (of which the Obed is a component) will be held September 12 in Crossville (comments accepted until 12/31/96).

TDEC's new Watershed Approach is designed to encourage coordination with water users in each watershed and with other water-related agencies. In 1996, information meetings will be held for 9 watersheds, and the state's remaining watersheds will be covered in the subsequent four years. The main purpose of the meetings is not to propose new rules, but to identify issues important for each watershed. We can think of a couple of important issues for the Obed:

- (1) To put an end to the increasing proliferation of little (and not so little) dams in the watershed that steal more and more water out of the Obed WSR. These dams are built to meet alleged local water-supply needs and/or to make lakes for new residential developments. The proposed Clear Creek dam is an obvious recent example, but there are dozens of others.
- (2) To request TDEC to seek Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) designation for the Obed and its major tributaries. This designation provides the highest level of protection in the Antidegradation Statement of the State's "General Water Quality Criteria" under which the 1977 Tennessee Water Pollution Control Act is implemented (NL200 ¶3A; NL201 ¶3), but it must be applied for on a case-by-case basis (NL202 ¶2B). ONRW designation should be very helpful in protecting the rivers from various insults.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** While this NL probably will not reach you prior to the Sept. 12 meeting, we strongly encourage you to provide written comments, which will be accepted until Dec. 31, 1996. You may wish to address the above two points and add any other water-related issues that concern you. Address: Paul E. Davis, Director, Division of Water Pollution Control, Tennessee Dept. of Environment & Conservation, 7th floor L & C Annex, 401 Church St., Nashville, TN 37243-1534.

### D. **Lilly Bluff capsules**

- The contract for construction of the boardwalk on the Lilly Bluff overlook is expected to be awarded this fall. This boardwalk, planned for in the Obed GMP, is needed to protect a federally endangered plant in the area.
- NPS is working to acquire additional land to protect the approaches to Lilly Bluff.
- The overlook has greatly enhanced the popularity of the Obed WSR in Morgan County. In June, a local couple got married there, an event that made it into the papers.

## E. Administrative history for Obed

A good start has been made toward compiling an Administrative History for the Obed Wild & Scenic River (WSR). Summer intern Angela F. Sementelli conducted interviews, studied documents, and wrote up a first draft that briefly records the citizen effort in fighting the proposed Nemo Dam and subsequently winning WSR designation. She also summarizes the staffing history for the Obed WSR, employee actions, land acquisition, and the GMP. This is still a very rough and incomplete draft, but it's a good start that we hope will be built on.

## 2. STATE ACTION ITEMS

### A. Frozen Head: State takes strong stand on mining

Justin Wilson, Commissioner of the Tenn. Dept of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) in July commented to OSM (Federal Office of Surface Mining) concerning the permit application by Addington Enterprises, Inc. to mine Fork Mountain Area Two (NL210 ¶1). Mr. Wilson writes that this "proposal is not compatible as proposed with current rules and regulations authorized by the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act and special protective designations assigned to the Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area." After objecting to several features of the proposal as they would affect the New River watershed, Mr. Wilson then takes special exception to potential impact of the activity on a Class-II State Natural Area [Frozen Head]. "A Class II designation requires that we recognize the special ecological significance of an area that possesses ... attributes ... 'which are unique in scientific value and are worthy of perpetual preservation' (TCA 11-14-105)."

Mr. Wilson asks that OSM consider two options: (a) ask Addington to withdraw the current proposal and submit a revised proposal that addresses several specific concerns expressed in the TDEC letter; (b) schedule a public hearing upon submission of a revised proposal ("The State will not commit formally to revised proposals that seek to mine so near and within the watershed of Frozen Head's Class II boundary without a public hearing.")



**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Sincerely thank Commissioner Justin P. Wilson (TDEC, 401 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37243), and express your hope that, regardless of how Addington

Enterprises revise their proposal, mining in the watershed of, and close proximity to, a Class-II Natural Area will not receive an NPDES permit from the state. (2) Prepare to attend any public hearing that might be called in response to a revised Addington proposal. (Give us your phone number so we can contact you *speedily*).

### B. Fall Creek Falls petition -- It's up to Sec. Babbitt

The SOCM petition (on which TCWP is a co-petitioner) to have the entire watershed of Fall Creek Falls (FCF) State Park and Natural Area declared off-limits for coal mining (under Sec. 522 of stripmine law) has now reached the stage where the Environmental Impact Statement is under preparation (NL211 ¶2C). As soon as the EIS is issued, the decision on whether to grant the petition will be up to Secretary Bruce Babbitt. We need to get lots of mail to him to let him know what is involved.

- For decades, huge stripmine operations have been working in the area, most recently, Skyline Co., a subsidiary of Cyprus AMAX Minerals (the second-largest mining company in the world). Eventually, they would cross the divide into the watershed of the Park.
- The Sewanee coal seam that is being mined in the area is overlain by the toxic Whitwell Shale (¶2C, below). The 522 petition holds that no toxic-materials handling plan has yet been devised that is proven to prevent the release of highly acidic materials when the Sewanee seam is mined.
- The argument is not one of "jobs vs the environment." A recent study by Prof. Arne Mayhew, U.T. Dept. of Economics, has demonstrated that FCF (which has nearly one million visitors annually) is a job creator in terms of tourism. In seven surrounding counties, almost 2,000 jobs and \$26 million in earned wages have been created, and tourists have spent over \$136 million. Unless the tourism experience is spoiled by mining in the watershed (polluted waters, vistas of stripmines rather than wooded gorges), the tourist-related jobs will continue, and to increase with time; by contrast, mining-related jobs will end, once the coal is gone.
- The case for granting the 522 petition is so compelling that organizations as diverse as the Cumberland County Commission, several county chambers of commerce, the Tenn. Federation of Garden Clubs, and the Catholic Diocese of Knoxville are supporting it, in addition to a large number of conservation groups.

A stunning media event was held at FCF on Labor Day weekend. With the help of the East Tennessee Cave Rescue Team, a 100ft-long banner reading "Bruce Babbitt -- don't let the falls down" was unfurled alongside the 256ft-high waterfall from a ledge 50ft down from the lip. Several very powerful speeches were made in support of the lands-unsuitable petition, including one on TCWP's behalf by Jean Cheney.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Secretary Bruce Babbitt (USDI, 18th and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20240) to give him the above message. Here is how you can make it easy for yourself: send a postcard, now being produced by SOCM, that shows a picture of the banner on the falls. To get this postcard (or several or them!), call Maureen O'Connell or Cheryl Brown at SOCM (423-426-9455) and give her your address.

### C. Sequatchie Valley threatened

The beautiful, unspoiled Sequatchie Valley has sometimes been called Tennessee's rift valley. Now it is threatened by four major reservoirs that are part of two pump-storage projects, NE and NW of Dunlap. One is the 1,500 mW Laurel Branch Project (Laurel Branch and McWilliams Creek Reservoirs); the other is the 1,000 mW Reynolds Creek Project (Reynolds Creek and Big Brush Creek Reservoirs).

The idea of pumped storage is to pump water to the upper reservoir during times of day when there is less demand for electricity, then let it drop to the lower reservoir to generate electricity during times of peak power demand. These projects do NOT create electricity; on the contrary, they are major net consumers of electricity.

The proposal is for a private company, Armstrong Energy Resources, to construct and operate the facilities and sell electricity to TVA to meet peak power needs. A scoping hearing was held in Pikeville on August 6. An EIS will be generated by TVA (as lead agency), FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), and the Corps of Engineers. Written comments concerning issues to be considered in the scope of the EIS will be accepted until October 7, 1996. The draft EIS is expected by late 1997 or early 1998.

The EIS will consider both site-specific and cumulative environmental impacts, and reasonable alternatives to the proposal. We suggest that your comments address a number of points.

- There is not only no net power production by the project, but an actual major power consumption. Alternatives should be included that seriously consider reducing peak electricity demand by other means, such as a pricing structure that provides incentives for spreading use more evenly throughout the 24-hour period, or by general power-conservation strategies.
- The reservoirs are very large (some are over 2 miles long and almost 1 mile wide). Together with associated structures (access roads, transmission connections, switchyards, powerhouses, etc), they would destroy a huge amount of lovely land. Because of the large daily changes in water level, the reservoirs would have an ugly shoreline and would not be suitable for water-based recreation.
- One of the reservoirs would cut into the harmful Whitwell Shale (see ¶2B, above), which has been called a "perpetual pollution machine" because, once exposed to air, it undergoes chemical reactions that produce acidic and toxic products and do not stop even after the shale is re-buried. This process would pollute all waters in the area.
- Some of the project would invade the Rock Creek watershed, which, because of its major beauty and other values, has been designated as unsuitable for mining; also, the North Chickamauga Creek gorge, which is being studied for protection.

Chuck Estes, who attended the scoping meeting on behalf of TCWP, reports that many attendees supported the project because of the jobs it would supposedly create during the construction phase. Numerous local people, however, expressed major concerns about the radical threats to their beautiful area and to their water supply.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** By October 7, send your comments to NEPA Administration, TVA, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902, Attn.: Linda B. Oxendine.

### D. Scotts Gulf update

The Scotts Gulf Committee, of which TCWP is a member, is searching for ways to protect about 15,000 acres of the highly scenic gorges and mature hardwood forests of the Gulf (near Sparta, TN) as a State Wilderness Recreation Park. The major problem is that the present owner of the land, Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc., has apparently again entered into a contract with a potential purchaser, Doyle Lumber Co. (NL204 ¶4A; NL207 ¶3B), who is likely to remove a great deal of timber and rock from the area and/or create an exotic game-hunting resort in an effort to recover his contract costs.

The Scotts Gulf Committee recently met with representatives of Bridgestone, who stated that the company will sell only to a buyer who would maintain the property's high environmental quality. Nevertheless, Bridgestone shows no signs of getting out of their contract with Doyle Lumber. The Tennessee Commissioner of Environment & Conservation is said to have contacted Bridgestone to offer the possibility of the state's securing restrictive covenants and/or easements to preserve the Gulf.

Public meetings on Scotts Gulf are continuing around the state, with one planned for Oak Ridge and/or Knoxville in late September. Look for a separate mailing.



**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to the following in support of protection of Scotts Gulf: (1) Gov. Don Sundquist (address on p. 2). (2) Mr. Masatoshi Ono, Pres., Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc., 50 Century Blvd., Nashville, TN 37214.

### 3. OTHER STATE NEWS

#### A. Fern Lake likely to be designated unsuitable for surface mining

The Fern Lake watershed may be on its way to becoming the third Tennessee area to be designated unsuitable for surface mining. Fern Lake has been in place so long that it looks entirely like an unspoiled, natural (rather than man-made) lake. It has become an integral part of the pleasant views to be had from Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. The "522" ("lands-unsuitable") petition submitted to OSM by the National Parks & Conservation Assoc (NPCA) and the City of Middlesboro resulted in an Environmental Impact Statement with several alternatives. OSM has now declared its preferred alternative to be #1, namely, designation of the entire Tennessee portion of the watershed as unsuitable for surface mining. If there is to be any underground mining, it must be done from adits located *outside* the watershed. In April, the State of Tennessee, commenting on the draft EIS, also supported Alternative #1. OSM's preferred alternative must still be ratified by the Secretary of the Interior, but there seems no reason why this should not happen.

The Fern Lake watershed will join the Flat Fork (Frozen Head) and Rock Creek watershed as Tennessee areas designated unsuitable for surface coal mining. Could it be that Tennessee leads all other states in this respect? We must make the record even better by adding the Fall Creek Falls

watershed to the list (§2, this NL). Don Barger, (working for NPCA, and this year also on the TCWP Board) deserves the lion's share of credit for Fern Lake (and probably a ton for Rock Creek as well).

#### B. Anderson County Commission passes pulpwood severance tax

On July 15, the Anderson County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution to levy a 15¢/ton severance tax on trees harvested for chipping. (Small landowners are exempted: they may sell up to 2,000 tons of pulpwood -- about 50 acres -- within 40 years without paying the tax.) The resolution passed by the County Commission must still be ratified by the General Assembly after it convenes in January.

About 60% of the privately owned forest lands in Anderson County belong to just two huge corporations (Champion is one), which pay very much less property tax/acre than does the average county resident. From Champion's share alone, the severance tax is expected to generate about \$70,000 annually for the Anderson County general fund. Besides, it is hoped that the tax will diminish the corporations' profits from woodchipping operations sufficiently to bring about a decrease in the amount of clearcutting that gets done in the county.

A large volume of citizens' phone calls and mail to the Commissioners is credited with bringing about passage of the resolution. So, all of you who called or wrote may feel proud of having helped to bring about this very positive development. You DO make a difference!

#### C. Commissioner Wilson meets with environmental leaders

TDEC Commissioner Justin Wilson invited leaders of regional environmental groups to meet informally with him on August 29. About a dozen of us, along with TDEC and Frozen Head staff, walked up the trail to DeBord Falls where, in the cool of the evening, we sat in a circle on upended sections of logs, surrounding Mr. Wilson. Organizations represented were TCWP, SOCM, TEC, NPCA, EAF, Friends of Frozen Head (and perhaps others?). We thanked him for his stand on the Addingdon proposal (§2A, this NL) and brought up a number of other topics. Among them: the fear that State Parks will be operated for revenue production instead of resource protection (he endorsed a TEC-proposed forum for assigning different roles to different parks); Obed protection (he is potentially receptive to considering

inholdings acquisition from willing sellers); the 522 petition for Fall Creek Falls -- see ¶2B (he wants to see the EIS before commenting); institutionalizing the TN Rivers Assessment Program within his department (he needs more info); clear-cutting threats to the New River watershed (forestry is under the Dept. of Agriculture, rather than TDEC); funding for Natural Areas stewardship; etc. Altogether, we appreciated his giving us so much of his time in a relaxed and open setting, and were impressed by his forthright comments.

#### **D. Division of Natural Heritage**

For our recent Natural Areas meeting (¶12D, this NL), we were fortunate to hear a short presentation by Reggie Reeves, Director of the Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage. The following functions operate within his Division.

- Natural Heritage Program (established by The Nature Conservancy in the early 1970s) which collects and inventories information
- Rivers Assessment Program
- Natural Areas Program (¶3E, below)
- Rare Plant Protection Program
- Environmental Review Program (works on EISs and EAs)
- Ginseng Record.

The Division interacts extensively with other agencies, e.g., with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and TWRA on endangered species. The database on biological resources is also shared with TVA, NPS, etc.

#### **E. State Natural Areas 25 years old**

The Tennessee Natural Areas Preservation Act is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and TCWP can take considerable credit in having brought it about and having worked with sponsor Victor Ashe in drafting some of its important provisions. On August 8, we hosted a public presentation by Brian Bowen, who has been the program's administrator since February 1994.

During the past 25 years, the Natural Areas Program (NAP) has grown to include 47 designated and 53 registered State Natural Areas. The former are in public ownership and are protected in perpetuity under the Act. The latter are owned by private individuals or local governments, and are protected by cooperative agreements that are non-binding and can be terminated by either party on 30 days' notice.

Most of you are undoubtedly familiar with some of our major designated Natural Areas, such as

Frozen Head (only a small part of the acreage is Park, the rest is Natural Area), Fall Creek Falls, Savage Gulf, Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness (within the BSNFRR), Colditz Cove, Ozona Falls, Radnor Lake, and Reelfoot Lake. And, for Oak Ridgers, a good example of a registered State Natural Area is the Cedar Barrens, a City-owned tract that was originally proposed for a shopping mall.

Potential new Natural Areas are usually identified on the basis of an inventory compiled by the Natural Heritage Program. The presence in an area of rare species, rare communities, high-quality representative natural communities, or geologic values are criteria for potential designation. The nomination is then reviewed by the Natural Areas Advisory Committee before being sent to the Commissioner, to be considered for inclusion in TDEC's legislative agenda. Final designation of an area requires an amendment to the 1971 Act.

Management of Natural Areas comes through cooperation with the federal, state, or local agencies that own the land, or with private landowners (in the case of registered areas). Some restoration activities are performed by the State (e.g., restoration of May Prairie). However, The Natural Heritage Division has no funding for a stewardship program for natural areas -- that's something weneed to request from our legislators.

The official 25th-anniversary celebration of the NAP will be held on Oct. 1 in Nashville. An attractive NAP poster will be unveiled, to the printing of which TCWP made a major contribution. The recently reestablished Natural Areas Advisory Committee will be introduced (unfortunately, no TCWP representative was named to this committee at this time, but we were assured of being included next year).

You can read more about the Natural Areas Program in the June issue of *The Tennessee Conservationist*. Request it, plus a very informative 4-page brochure on the program, from the Division of Natural Heritage, Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation, 401 Church Street, 8th floor L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0447. The Division also issues a quarterly newsletter.

#### **F. Aquatic Alterations Permits**

The Tenn. Division of Water Pollution Control has compiled all the general permits issued for the ARAP (Aquatic Resource Alterations Permit)

Program. After being advertised for public comment on 6/17/96, the permits became effective 8/1/96, and will expire 8/1/01. The permits address proposed activities such as road or utility-line crossings of streams, bridge scour repairs, bank stabilization, dredging, herbicides, etc., etc. Most of these permits do not apply if any portion of the activity is located in a component of the National Wild & Scenic River System, State Scenic River, or waters designated as Outstanding National Resource Waters. Waters in these three categories require specialized considerations in lieu of general permits.

### G. Greenways and trails

- As part of the Tennessee bicentennial celebration, the state created a greenways and trails program. Planning grants totaling \$50,000 were awarded to local government agencies on August 1. For info, call Tennessee Greenways, 615-386-3171.
- Morgan County will receive a \$40,000 state grant from the Local Parks & Recreation Program to develop the Coalfield Park Walking Trail. The program was established under the Tennessee State and Local Parks & Recreation Act of 1991, which also sets aside money for acquisition of wetlands, state-park lands, and natural areas.

### H. Dubious honor for Tennessee

The Toxic Release Inventory published June 26 by the EPA, shows that Tennessee is second only to Texas in toxic emissions. In 1993, when Tennessee was 3rd from the top, the weight of emissions was actually greater. However, the reduction in weight is an artifact due to the removal of acetone from the chemicals listed in the inventory.

## 4. TVA's SHORELINE INITIATIVE -- UNDER ATTACK FOR WRONG REASONS

TVA is in process of gathering comments on the Draft EIS of its Shoreline Management Initiative. Let us state at the outset that while we disagree with TVA's choice of Preferred Alternative (§4B and 4C, below), we applaud the agency for the process (highly professional EIS, maximum involvement of the public) and are appalled by the noisy reactions of a group of private landowners who seem intent on employing misinformation in their efforts at government bashing (§4D, below). The comment deadline has been extended to October 15, and we urge you strongly to send in at least a brief communication.

### A. Why this issue is important to us

Under consideration are man-made reservoirs, and we have often fought TVA in the past for creating one or more of these. Now, however, the lakes are here, and a major part of the shoreline is in a natural, or near-natural state, including the several valuable Small Wild Areas (such as the one at Whites Creek in which TCWP maintains a trail).

There are about 11,000 miles of shoreline around 30 TVA reservoirs. TVA manages 265,000 acres. Do we want major parts of this natural shoreline to be replaced by built-up developments? Do we want currently wooded tracts to be turned into lawns? All of us jointly own the public shorelines, yet TVA is hearing disproportionately from the relatively few who were fortunate or affluent enough to have purchased property along the lakes.

### B. Some facts

Below is the average ownership pattern for the 11,000 miles of reservoir shoreline (percentages differ for different reservoirs):

- 21% private residential. Private individuals own down to the water, though TVA has a "flowage easement," allowing it temporarily to flood up to a certain contour line, if required by reservoir operations.
- 17% residential access. TVA owns the shoreline, but adjoining private property owners (i.e., back from the shore) have certain access rights across TVA land to the water.
- 37% TVA-owned-and-jointly managed. Lands behind the TVA-owned shoreline are owned or controlled by developers or other agencies for non-residential purposes (e.g., commercial recreation, industry, resource management).
- 25% TVA-owned-and-managed.

As of 1994, ~13% of the shoreline had been residentially developed. All of the alternatives described in the Draft EIS would allow development of additional percentages of shoreline, but the amount would be different according to which of the above categories are involved, as follows.

Altern.	Category				Total % shore impacted
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	
A	+	+		+	63
B1	+	+		+	63
B2	+	+			38
C1	+	+		40%+	48
C2	+	+			38
D	+	+			38



Thus, three of the alternatives (A, B1, C1) allow development of shoreline that is currently wholly owned and managed by TVA (namely, category (d), above), and, therefore, translate into potential sale or lease of public property to developers. These three alternatives include TVA's "preferred" C1. For this reason, we reject C1, along with A and B1. The more the private shorelines will be developing in the future, the more important it becomes to conserve the unspoiled public lands currently held by TVA.

How about the remaining alternatives, B2, C2, and D? They are listed here in decreasing degrees of development: B2 would apply existing guidelines to developments, C2 would apply more stringent ones, and D would allow only minimal disturbance. On the basis of these criteria, TCWP supports D -- but with certain reservations (see below).

Under Alternative D, TVA would:

- apply a shoreline categorization system that designates use categories and applies protective standards;
- allow only minimal disturbance from any future alterations;
- maintain a vegetative buffer (shoreline management zone, SMZ);
- encourage Riparian states to adopt laws that protect shoreline and riparian vegetation;
- promote donations of conservation easements that protect privately owned shoreline properties.

These are all good reasons for supporting D; but D is not good enough because it would potentially affect almost three times the percent of shoreline that is currently in residential development (13%). Specifically, TVA needs to protect the undeveloped buffer strip (category (b), above) from new developments in addition to the other public lands (categories (c) and (d)).

### C. Our position on the alternatives

1. We oppose the preferred alternative, C1, as well as A, B1, B2, and C2
2. We support Alternative D, provided new developments be restricted to private residential lands (category (a)) and not be allowed in TVA-owned shoreline, including buffer strips.
3. There should be no fragmentation of large blocks of TVA lands.
4. Special resource lands should get special protection (e.g., cove hardwood or bottomland hardwood forests, wetlands, endangered species habitats, cedar barrens).

5. Any additional developments of public lands will be detrimental to plant and animal habitat, wildlife corridors, and recreation, and it will cause such problems as soil erosion and run-off pollution.

### D. Reactions to the Draft EIS

TVA has generated an exceptionally professional and clear Draft EIS (Call 1-800-TVA-LAND for the Executive Summary). They have done an outstanding job of involving the public in the process: 2 years ago they held numerous scoping meetings all over the state, and then sent written questionnaires (which included much pictorial material) to a large segment of the public. The DEIS is based on all of this very extensive input. Recently, TVA has held innumerable hearings on the DEIS, and has just announced 3 additional ones (Winchester, 9/16; Germantown, 9/17; Nashville, 9/19).

Several of us who attended one of the DEIS hearings were appalled at the "me first" attitude that was being expressed by private landowners, and at the misinformation that was being voiced in support of this attitude. Despite the fact that the hearing officer made it clear at the start that the initiative applies only to *future* development (existing permits remain in place and are transferable to future owners), and that it does not affect what landowners could do on their land, there were constant attacks on red herrings. A favorite target was the *future* Shoreline Management Zone, which was claimed to already having resulted in "briar patches" that were "full of snakes." Letters to the papers (several repeat ones from the same people) were full of similar misinformation, which is bound to instill fear in those who haven't had time to study the facts.

These people are not only wrong, but they are very much in the minority (see 14B. above). The huge majority of people enjoy the *public* shoreline of the reservoirs (TVA estimates 1,344,000 annual recreation opportunities). The majority come to the lakes because of the *natural* beauty of the shoreline and would rather see forests than houses, docks, and manicured lawns. They need to be heard from, not only by TVA, but by our Congressional delegation, which, goaded by the residential owners and developers, is already starting to beat on TVA in this critical period when funding is at stake.



**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) By October 15, transmit your comments on the Draft EIS to TVA. You can do this by phone (423-632-1636), or letter (Ms. Tere

TVA, 17 Ridgeway Rd., Norris, TN 37828-0920), or by completing a short questionnaire (request it by calling 1-800-TVA-LAND). (2) Write to your Congressman and Senators (address, p.2), who have to date heard mostly from the "me first" minority -- THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. (3) Send a copy of your letter to one of the Tennessee papers.

## 5. OTHER TVA ISSUES

### A. LBL development plans dropped

TVA's January publication *Preliminary Concepts for a Public Use Plan for Land Between the Lakes* brought an outcry against some of the major commercial developments that were being proposed to make LBL pay for itself (NL209 ¶4A). In response to a letter from TCWP, TVA wrote on 6/25/96: "The concepts have served their purpose ... They are no longer being considered. ... [P]eople value the largely undeveloped state of LBL and want more wildlife viewing and historic site activities."

TVA is still faced with major upkeep (e.g., road and sewer repairs) in the face of radically shrinking appropriations. LBL's annual congressional funding has dropped from \$8.6M to \$6M since 1991. For FY1997, the House bill would fund LBL at \$5M and the Senate bill at \$8M. Since the LBL budget is \$10.5M, even though the work force has already been cut by a third since 1994, user fees will have to make up the difference.

### B. Appropriations

Appropriations for TVA's non-power programs were set at \$97 million by the House (as compared to \$103.3 last year) and at \$113 million by the Senate. The House/Senate difference will be reconciled by a conference committee, but, at best, there won't be any increase over last year. One major target for budget cutting (particularly by the House privatization task force) is TVA's Muscle Shoals Environmental Research Center, but other programs, such as shoreline management and watershed planning, could also suffer.

### C. Air quality progress

A massive "scrubbing" project has cut sulfur dioxide emissions at TVA's Cumberland Power Plant from 200,000 to 20,000 tons a year. This effort is credited with a 30% decrease in sulfate levels experienced in the Smokies during the summer -- the worst season for haze.

## 6. SMOKIES

### A. Sen. Helms pushing for North Shore Road again

Sen. Jesse Helms has introduced S.987 (co-sponsored by Sen. Faircloth), which would mandate the building of the North Shore Road in the Smokies. The bill, in addition, provides for a cash payment of \$16 million to Swain Co., NC; thus the county would get more than the "1943 Agreement" provided for. Knowledgeable folks have estimated that it would cost ~\$125 million to build the destructive North Shore Road.

Helms is trying to schedule a committee hearing in the fall. If that comes about, we will alert some of you to send in letters. If not, we'll wait to see if Sen. Helms gets reelected.

### B. NPS pressured to rebuild Parsons Branch Road

The comment period for the Environmental Assessment on alternatives for the Parsons Branch Road ended on August 23. Almost a hundred letters (including one from the TCWP board) asked that the former primitive one-way dirt road (destroyed by a flash-flood in the spring of 1994 and further damaged by winter storms) be left unrepaired or converted to a trail. A public meeting on August 7 was, however, overrun by local people clamoring for reconstruction of the road. NPS received additional pressures in this direction from Rep. John Duncan, Jr., three other Congressmen, and Gov. Sundquist. Duncan had earlier obtained \$500,000 from FHWA for road reconstruction; this sum would be "lost," he said, unless obligated by 9/30/96 (how is that for fiscal conservatism?).

There are many excellent arguments against reconstructing the road (but at this time we don't know whether they'll do any good).

- Two roadless areas would be combined into a single one, protecting native biodiversity and creating the largest unroaded area in the Southern Appalachians -- still only 1% of the total Southern Appalachian land area;
  - The taxpayer would save \$500,000 right now, and additional money for maintenance in the future (the road is likely to wash out again some day soon);
  - Bear poaching, for which the road was ideally suited, would be diminished.
- Other arguments against reconstructing were listed in NL211 ¶4A.

Several of the arguments that were made by road proponents are invalid:

- the road does not have historical significance and is on no historic registry; it was first opened by the Park in 1966;
- the road would not ease congestion in Cades Cove — less than 2% of the cars that enter Cades Cove exit via Parsons Branch Road;
- not reopening the road would not impede access to the Burchfield Cemetery, because the alternative would allow minimal repairs for limited and scheduled vehicle access from Hiway 129 (with a locked gate at 129)

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** The comment deadline has ended, but Rep. Duncan and Gov. Sundquist should be told how invalid their arguments were. If you write to them (addresses on p.2), send a copy to Superintendent Karen Wade, GSMNP, 107 Park HQ Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738; 423-436-1201.

### C. GSMNP responds to Duncan error about Park funding

Rep. John Duncan, Jr.'s August newsletter, which goes to nearly 300,000 2nd-District constituents, states that the Gt. Smoky Mountains National Park "received a 64% increase in funding in the 10 years from 1986 to 1995, about double the rate of inflation." In actual fact, according to a GSMNP spokesman, the park's budget "has been essentially flat in the last 10 years," receiving slightly more than a 1% annual increase above inflation. Currently, the GSMNP has "a \$5 million maintenance backlog, double the 1988 level, for road work, sewer and restroom remodeling, and trail maintenance."

As we all know, the GSMNP is the only major national park that does not charge an entrance fee, as a result of an agreement between the federal government and the states of TN and NC, made at the time the park was created. In a recent interview with the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, NPS Director Roger Kennedy thought that the states' opposition to the entrance fees was softening, and that 75-80% of Americans, overall, are willing to pay entrance fees, as long as these fees go to the parks. Currently NPS gets to keep only about 15% of the fees. Legislation is needed to increase this amount dramatically, and also to let the parks keep a greater share of the proceeds from concessions operations (§8C, this NL).

Rep. Duncan's August newsletter claims that the Park Closure Commission bill (NL 206 #3), which he supported (NL207 §7A), would not close any parks, but in the same breath he argues against retaining some of the nation's "questionable parks."

## 7. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST PLAN

### A. Issues that need to be in the scope

The scoping period for the Cherokee National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan started August 2 and will end December 2. Information meetings will be held in the following locations: Elizabethton (10/7), Greeneville (10/8), Alcoa (10/10), Tellico Plains (10/15), Ducktown (10/16), Cleveland (10/17), Nashville (10/21).

The Plan now under preparation will determine how the Cherokee is managed for the next decade or longer, so it is vital that all important issues and concerns are included in the scope. We must make sure that the following will be adequately addressed: biodiversity; old growth; old-growth-dependent species; migratory bird habitat; primitive recreation; wildlands protection.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Ask the Forest Service (address below) to send you their current list of issues, as well as their "analysis of the management situation." If you feel that any of the issues listed above (or any others you think are important) are not being adequately addressed, be sure to send written comments to that effect, by December 2, to USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 2010, Cleveland, TN 37320, Attn: LMP COMMENTS.

### B. Southern Appalachian Assessment

The SAA is the most comprehensive assessment that has ever been done in our region. A 2-year multi-agency effort inventoried and evaluated the natural, economic, and cultural state of the Southern Appalachians and resulted in an extremely valuable 5-volume publication. The SAA findings should definitely be made part of the new Forest Plan; say so when you write to the Forest Service (§7A, above).

There are several ways in which you can acquaint yourself with this seminal work: (a) borrow a copy from TCWP; (b) order a copy by calling 404-347-4177 or 704-257-4200; (c) for a list of key findings and potential action steps, contact the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, [safc@interpath.com](mailto:safc@interpath.com), or 704-252-9223.

## 8. NATIONAL PARKS ISSUES

### A. Pres. Clinton takes big step toward averting threat to Yellowstone

Yellowstone, our first national park, has been under serious threat from Noranda (a Canadian mining conglomerate), which was proposing to open the New World gold mine just 2.5 miles from the Yellowstone boundary. The mining would generate massive amounts of acidic waste that would sooner or later drain into the park (NL204 ¶8D; NL205 ¶6F; NL208 ¶5B). In addition to the environmental problems, the project represents yet another horror of the 1872 Mining Law: there would be no royalties paid to taxpayers for \$500-700 million worth of minerals extracted by a private company from federal (national forest) lands; and the proposed addition of 27 acres to the present minesite would bring a laughable \$135 (\$5/acre) into the US Treasury, though these 27 acres contains an additional \$100 million in recoverable gold.

During his August vacation in Jackson Hole, Pres. Clinton announced that the Administration had entered into an agreement with Noranda for a possible land swap. The Administration now has 6 months in which to find assets valued at approximately \$60 million that Noranda will accept in exchange for the New World Minesite.

Bills that would give permanent protection to the Yellowstone headwaters are S.1737 (Bumpers) and HR.1846 (Richardson). The bills would make permanent the 2-year moratorium on new mining claims on 19,100 acres of national forest land announced last August by Pres. Clinton (NL208 ¶5B), and would prohibit the use of federal lands in and around the proposed mine site forming related activities.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Contact Pres. Clinton (address p.2) to congratulate him for taking a major first step to avert the Noranda threat, and to urge him to follow through within the required 6 months. (2) Urge your Senators and Representative (see p.2) to co-sponsor S.1737 and HR.1846, respectively. Also, urge them to oppose the potential slaughter of half of Yellowstone's bison herd that has been proposed by some legislators on the basis of unfounded fear of disease transmission to cattle.

### B. Pass a "clean" Omnibus Parks Bill!

The Omnibus Parks Bill (HR.1296) contains 50 or so elements -- some small (such as minor boundary adjustments for some of the 369 units of our National

Park System), some major (such as establishment, at last, of Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Kansas, and management of the Presidio at San Francisco). None of the elements are controversial, and the bill should have been passed long ago. However, several House members have seized the bill as an opportunity to attach severely controversial anti-environmental amendments. Neither the rest of Congress nor President Clinton would accept these features, and thus the good elements would have to go down the drain along with the bad. The Senate version of the bill, which is "clean," and the House version, which contains the bad amendments, are now in conference.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Tell your Representative (address p.2) to urge the House conferees to remove all offending amendments from HR.1296, letting a "clean" version of the bill come out of committee. Don't delay, time is short.

### C. Concessions reform will help our national parks survive

By simply requiring businesses operating in the parks to compete for that privilege (currently, incumbents have a preferential right), and to pay a fair share of their profits to the Park Service, we could bring badly needed funds to our near-destitute national parks. These simple reforms would come about under the terms of S.309 (Bennett, Bumpers)/HR.773 (Meyers). Special interests have prevented any concessions reforms bill (even poorer ones) from being considered by the Congress, thus keeping the current system in place.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your Senators and Representative to pass S.309 and HR.773, respectively

## 9. OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

### A. Congress' 1997 Budget Resolution

In the last issue (NL211 ¶6B), we brought you at least partially good news about the Administration's FY97 budget proposals for the US Dept. of the Interior (increased funds for park operations, but virtually no land-acquisition funds, except for S. Florida). At the same time, we warned that the Congress might have very different ideas; this has, in fact, happened. The 1997 Budget Resolution passed a few months ago contains some ugly features. Among other things, it proposes to

- open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for oil drilling (again!)

- repeal the 4.3¢ gas tax (thus potentially increasing energy waste and greenhouse gases)
- eliminate operating support for mass transit
- inflict deep cuts into the natural resource budget (contrast this with the Administration proposal, above).

One of a few *good* features of the Budget Resolution is support for increased recreation fees at national parks and a provision allowing the parks to retain these fees.

#### **B. Logging-without-laws still with us**

A switch of only 2 votes was needed to pass a bill to repeal the Timber Salvage Rider (logging without laws -- NL209 §7A; NL210 §7A). A similar fate befell an amendment by Rep. Joe Kennedy to reduce roading in roadless areas. In each case, Speaker Newt Gingrich cast a critical vote.

Sen. Larry Craig's (R-ID) S.391 would enshrine the timber rider's basic intent in permanent law. A phony forest-health "crisis" (NL210 §7A) is being used to promote this bill. Like the original timber rider, S.391 exempts timber sales from critical environmental laws (such as NEPA, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act), effectively eliminates citizen participation in review of national-forest logging, and severely weakens the public's right to challenge irresponsible logging in court. Infinitely worse, however, than the original timber rider (which is in effect through the end of 1996), S.391 would provide a 10-year (!) exemption from compliance with laws.

In responding to TCWP's letter opposing S.391, Sen. Fred Thompson wrote that he "will have [our] concerns in mind on the legislation comes before the full Senate." The senator has been led to believe that the goal of the legislation is to make federal lands less susceptible to fire. Help us inform him that the so-called forest-health crisis is a phony one, that the timber rider has resulted in the harvesting of many more healthy than dead or dying trees, and, above all, that S.391 exempts timber sales from existing environmental laws.

#### **C. Coal-mining capsules**

- Robert Uram has resigned as director of the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM). Uram was not beloved by citizens actively involved in diminishing the ravages of stripmining. An interim director has been appointed. It is unlikely that a permanent one will be named until after the Election.

- While on a recent visit to former Senator Howard Baker, Sen. Bill Frist was given a tour of the Bear Creek Area (tributary to Big South Fork). He thus gained some first-hand knowledge of what abandoned mineland is all about, and what damages acid mine drain could cause (NL207 §2B).
- The Upper Cumberland Development District has passed a resolution urging the Congress to place the Abandoned Mineland Fund "off-budget," i.e., allow the annual full allocation to go the Rural Abandoned Mining Fund (rather than into the General Treasury as has been the case). Over \$1 billion have been collected to date, but little has been used for the reclamation of over 1,000,000 acres of abandoned coal mines in 29 states (including 50,000 acres in Tennessee).

#### **D. A new approach to endangered species protection**

That the Endangered Species Act (ESA) works has been demonstrated by numerous success stories. By letting yet another year go by without reauthorizing the ESA, Congress leaves the program exposed to budget cuts and indirect attacks (such as the recent listing moratorium, NL211 §6A). Several environmental groups (the Endangered Species Coalition) have now formulated a bill for increasing the effectiveness of the ESA. It is called the Endangered Natural Heritage Act.

ENHA would close some of the loopholes of the ESA and would help us get ahead of the extinction curve, providing safeguards for animals and plants *before* they are in critical condition. Provisions of ENHA include establishment of a scientific commission to identify species and ecosystems at risk, protection of habitat essential for the recovery of a listed species, enhancement of plant protection, and encouragement of conservation efforts by private landowners through tax incentives. For more information, contact Roger Featherstone, GREEN, 1101-14th St, NW, #1200, Wash., DC 20005, Ph. 202-789-2844 x290.

#### **E. Farm bill has good features**

The 1996 Farm Bill, signed in April, reauthorizes two important features of the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills: (a) the Conservation Reserve Program, and (b) the Wetlands Reserve Program. The CRP pays farmers to set aside highly erodible lands, which often double as bird habitat. Together, these programs have improved wildlife habitat, restored wetlands, and helped farmers limit polluted runoff from fields and feedlots. One already measurable benefit is that breeding bird numbers have increased by 11 million since 1985 (a

40% growth). The CRP and WRP had been under major attack by several key House Republicans, but the programs were saved by the combined efforts of conservation groups working through Sen. Leahy (D-VT), Rep. Boehlert (R-NY), and the Clinton Administration.

Not only were these major provisions retained, but some other beneficial ones were added that more directly channel the USDA funds to critical environmental needs, and that provide incentives for keeping crops out of the most flood-prone areas. On the minus side, however, was a weakening of the "swampbuster" penalties for farmers who convert wetland to cropland; further, the required consultation with the Fish & Wildlife Service has been eliminated.

### F. Follow-up capsules

- The Auburn Dam (NL211 ¶6L) is dead for now. A House Committee threw out an amendment by Don Young (R-AK) to fund the \$1 billion boondoggle.
- "Sham Reform" of the 1872 mining Law (NL210 ¶7H) is mercifully dead in this Congress. The Patent Moratorium (which stops the \$5/acre land sales under the 1872 mining Law) has been accepted by the House and Senate for another year.
- Mollie Beattie whose departure, for ill health, as director of the US Fish & Wildlife Service we had mourned (NL211 ¶6K), died on June 27, at the age of 49. She was the staunchest possible defender of the Endangered Species Act at a time when this measure was under continuous and vicious attack. One memorable quote: "In the long term, the economy and the environment are the same thing. If it's unenvironmental, it's uneconomical."

## 10. SOME WHO ARE (OR WANT TO BE) IN CONGRESS

Sometime prior to the election, we hope to bring you information on candidates for public office. In the meantime, here are a few little items

### A. TN District-1 questionnaire

Congressman Jimmy Quillen is retiring at the end of this congressional session, and the election in that district is therefore of special significance. At the suggestion of Don Shaffer, one of our District-1 members, we prepared and mailed a questionnaire in time for a response prior to the August 1 primary. Of 21 candidates, 8 responded: 3 Democrats (out of 4 running), 1 Republican (out of 11), 3 Independents (out of 6), and 1 unidentified. Our press release concerning the questions and responses was widely distributed to media in the district, and Don

Shaffer and Linda Modica (League of Women Voters) included the questions in public candidate forums.

The questionnaire covered the following issues: Cherokee National Forest (Quillen's proposal to sell parts to private developers, appropriation to help Forest Service purchase critical inholdings from willing sellers, ending below-cost timber sales, ending clearcutting); adding the Nolichucky to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System; Gt. Smoky Mtns. NP (establishing surrounding zone free of major air-pollution sources, banning flight-seeing helicopters); Big S. Fork and Obed (appropriations for completing land acquisition, increased operating funds for Obed); and opposition to "takings" legislation. Almost all of those who returned the questionnaire responded "correctly" on almost all of the questions.

Unfortunately, Bill Jenkins, the winning Republican (who expects to walk away with the general election), was not among the respondents, but Kay Smith, who won the Democratic primary, did take the trouble to return the questionnaire. All her answers were in accord with conservationists' positions. We would also like to thank all the others who responded: Mack "Scotter" Scott (D), J. Carr "Jack" Christian (D), Arnold Hopland (R), John Curtis (I), James Taylor (I), Mike Fugate (I), and "unidentified."

### B. Five of the Dirty Dozen now named

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV), which will be naming the 12 most environmentally harmful members of Congress prior to the November election, has already published a list of five of them. They are Reps. Helen Chenoweth (ID-1), Caryl Condit (CA-18), Michael Flanagan (IL-5), Frank Riggs (CA-1), and Steve Stockman (TX-9). Condit, leader of the "Blue Dog" Democrats, has a LCV score of 31%, and Flanagan's score is 15%; all the rest scored 0%. There was no shortage of 0% scorers to those from in this present Congress -- 135 of them for 1995 (including 3 in the Tennessee delegation alone, Quillen, Duncan, Bryant)!

### C. Sen. Frist needs to hear other side

In responding to a recent TCWP letter, Sen. Bill Frist has made some statements that indicate we need to make more of an effort to inform him on conservation issues. The following are quotes from his letter. "For far too long, one crucial element has been lacking from the environmental debate -- common sense. Regardless of their good intentions,

current environmental laws have created an unmanageable regulatory burden that stifles job creation, threatens property rights, and unnecessarily harasses private citizens. I promised the people of Tennessee to get government ... off of their land. ... I will work to ensure that the balance between protecting the environment and protecting the rights of businesses and property owners is preserved." The many generalities and catch phrases make it imperative for us to get his ear on specific issues and facts. Sen Frist is, of course, not a candidate in 1996.

## 11. OAK RIDGE & KNOXVILLE ISSUES

### A. Oak Ridge receives grant for another greenway

The City of Oak Ridge has received a grant of \$145,600 from the TN Dept. of Transportation, awarded under the federal Intermodal Surface and Transportation Efficiency Act. (This represents 1.7% of the state's total ISTEA allocation.) The grant to Oak Ridge will be used to construct 1.2 miles of an eventually 4-mile long walking and bicycle trail along Melton Lake Drive, from the Turnpike to Edgemoor Road. Pedestrians and bicyclists currently have to use the road's gravel shoulder or share the roadway itself with 8,200 vehicles/day.

Dan Robbins, chairman of Greenways Oak Ridge, has been talking to City Council and DOE concerning development of greenways on Oak Ridge Reservation lands. Two city greenways are currently in existence, Cedar Hill (assisted by an earlier \$8,000 state grant) and Elm Grove. AND, don't forget that, for over two decades, we have had the 8-mile long North Ridge Trail, which was developed and is being maintained by TCWP in the northern greenbelt - a National as well as State Recreation Trail.

### B. Controversy over the Oak Ridge Reservation

Here is another case (cf ¶ 4 this NL) in which a government agency diligently sought and provided opportunities for public input, developed a plan based on this input, and then got attacked by those who failed to participate in the process and are now clamoring for different conclusions. The case in point is the Common Ground Process that came up with recommendations for future uses of DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR), recommendations now being attacked by segments of City government,

Chamber of Commerce, and real-estate developers. They want residential development.

A recent letter to the editor by Stan Auerbach asks why we need more housing unless we create more high-quality jobs, using the very special resources of the ORR to help us do so. Stan should know. During his many years as Head of ORNL's Environmental Sciences Division, he was instrumental in getting a major part of the Reservation designated a National Environmental Research Park. The NERP is a major scientific and educational resource, and it encompasses many significant features (endangered species, important ecological communities, wildlife corridors, creeks with their flood plains, springs, wetlands, caves, archeological and historic sites), including some designated natural areas. The ORR further provides land for future new research facilities that might be built by ORNL, providing jobs and attracting related, new high-tech industries to Oak Ridge and the surrounding area.

A special bone of contention is the ORR's Freels Bend region along the lake, which city interests are clamoring to develop as a residential parcel. By contrast, the Common Ground Report designates this area primarily for conservation uses. Auerbach's letter points out that the historic Freels Bend cabin and surrounding area have for over 10 years been used as an outdoor training center for ecology and conservation for students up to 12th grade. Currently over 21,000 students annually come to Freels Bend from all parts of Tennessee. Auerbach suggests that the City of Oak Ridge could follow the example of Gainesville, GA, and develop an outstanding Environmental Education Center at Freels Bend.

### C. Turkey Creek Wetlands "compromise" proposed

The Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club has tentatively approved the most recent proposal for a road across the lower end of the 22-acre spring-fed Turkey Creek Wetlands (which are located between I-40, Kingston Pike, and Lovell Rd.). The road, to be built in connection with the proposed Westpointe Commercial Park, has been opposed by a number of groups, leading the City to develop a compromise proposal. The Sierra Club's approval is contingent on various conditions related to this compromise: that the wetlands be buffered from the road by the best existing technology; that the area (which includes significant amounts of contiguous undeveloped acreage containing other, smaller, wetlands) be protected and managed in perpetuity

by Ijams Nature Center; and that a walkway be built along and under the road in conjunction with Ijams' vision of the wetland as an educational environment.

## 12. TCWP NEWS

### A. We have an ISSN Number

The TCWP Newsletter now has an ISSN Number, 1089-6104, issued by the Library of Congress. It is displayed on p. 1, top right. An ISSN (International Standard Serial Number), which uniquely identifies the title of a serial publication, regardless of language or country, is used in libraries for identifying titles, ordering, and checking in, and simplifying the interlibrary loan system. It results in accurate citing by researchers, abstracters, and librarians, and is eminently suitable for computer use. All ISSN registrations are maintained in an international data base and are made available in the *ISDR REGISTER*.

### B. TCWP applies for grant from LMES

TCWP has applied for a \$10,000 grant from Lockheed Martin Energy Systems under its Gifts & Grants Program. This Program accepts applications from charities and non-profit groups each year and considers requests ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. This year, LMES is providing contributions totaling \$250,000 to organizations in this region. TCWP has requested financial support for March for Parks, computer equipment, and additional monies to expand the Executive Director's position from 10 hours/week to 20 hours/week to provide her the opportunity to build membership. A decision on our application is expected in late January 1997.

### C. Numerous thank-yous

A special thank you to TCWP member Ralph Harvey for his efforts on behalf of the Obed Wild & Scenic River through his participation in March for Parks. Ralph was the winning bidder for the transitional kayak donated by the Dagger Canoe Co. and auctioned at our March for Parks picnic. Not that Ralph needed a kayak. He wanted to maximize the amount of money raised for the Obed, so he put in the highest bid for the kayak. But it didn't end there. He advertised the kayak for sale in a classified ad in the Chota Canoe Club newsletter and sold it to a fellow in Detroit, who paid \$50 more than Ralph had paid at the auction. Ralph donated the additional \$50 (on top of the money he had originally bid--and recovered) to the Obed March for Parks fund. Thank you, Ralph, and thanks again, Dagger Canoe Co.!

We sincerely thank the volunteers who "stuffed" NL211 -- Henri and Bettie Levy, Marion Garber, Louise Markel; and those who helped mail the announcement for our 8/8/96 Natural Areas meeting -- Carol Hensley and her two sons.

A very special thanks to the many members who played key roles in recent events:

- Jean Cheney, who gave a public talk on behalf of TCWP at the Labor-Day-weekend event at Fall Creek Falls (¶2B, this NL)
- Chuck Estes, who represented TCWP at the meeting about the proposed pump-storage facilities in Sequatchie Valley (¶2C, this NL), and who is persisting in his important role on the Scotts Gulf Committee (¶2D, this NL)
- Lee Russell, who prepared the questionnaire and letters for the District-1-primary candidates: Eric Hirst, who wrote the press release; Don Shaffer, who did the liaison in the District; and Karen Peterson, who handled questionnaire distribution, tabulation, and everything else
- all TCWP members who participated in the meeting with Commissioner Justin Wilson (¶3C, this NL) -- Jenny Freeman, Don Barger, Don Todd, and Lee Russell
- Jenny Freeman, who hosted a meeting of TCWP leaders with Dodd Galbraith, TN Environmental Policy Office
- Howard and Marty Adler, Maureen Cunningham, Eric Hirst, Bill and Lee Russell, who went to one of the TVA Shoreline hearings (¶4, this NL)
- Jimmy Groton, who wrote TCWP's testimony on the Parsons Branch Road (¶6B, this NL)
- And special congratulations to Don Barger for his key role in winning the Fern Lake "522" petition (¶3A) (even though TCWP didn't play a role in this, and Don was working in his capacity of NPCA's SE Regional Director).

### D. Meetings, past and upcoming

Our 8/8/96 meeting on Tennessee Natural Areas was a great success, with perhaps 50 people in attendance to hear Brian Bowen and Reggie Reeves (¶3D, this NL).

We are hoping soon to have a meeting about Scotts Gulf. And, work on our Annual Meeting program is progressing. We hope Nov. 1-3 is indelibly marked on your calendar.



REMEMBER, TCWP WILL BE ON WUOT'S FANFARE THROUGHOUT DECEMBER (919 FM)



## 12. JOBS, ACTIVITIES, and READING MATTER

- Job opening: The Knoxville Zoo was seeking a Children's Zoo Educator. For information on whether this job is still open, call 423-637-5331, ext. 352; if so, written application is required.
- Sept. 12, 7-9pm CDT, Crossville. Meeting on Emory watershed (includes Obed) by TN Water Pollution Control Div. at Cumberland Mtn State Park cafeteria. For car-pooling or other info, call Lee Russell, 423-482-2153.
- Sept. 21, 8:30-5:30 CDT, Nashville. 1996 Environmental Congress, organized by TEC (TN Environmental Council). Call 615-321-5075.
- Sept. 27, 9-4:30 EDT, Knoxville. One-day course on "Media Relations for Non-Profits," presented by Community Shares; fee \$39. Call 423-522-1604.
- Sept. 28, 9-3 EDT, Norris Dam Reservation. 1996 Clinch River Fest, organized by TVA's Ft. Loudon/Melton Hill/Watts Bar River Action Team. Trout Unlimited, TWRA, and others, to build public support for development of a comprehensive river-corridor-management plan for the Clinch River. Call TVA's Ralph Jordan 423-632-1604 or Kim Pilarski 423-632-4059.
- Sept. 28, 10-3 EDT, World's Fair Park. Knoxville Waterfest, billed as an educational and recreational event by Ijams Nature Center, one of the co-organizers. Contact Peg Beute at Ijams (PBeute@aol.com) or Belinda Woodiel at UT, 974-2151.
- Oct. 5, 9-12 EDT, Bissell Park Walking Trail, Oak Ridge. Healthy Choice American Heart Walk to benefit Anderson Cy. American Heart Assoc. Call AHA at 423-588-7646.
- Oct. 11-13, Cedar Rock Base Camp, NC. Conference on Women's Leadership in the Outdoors, sponsored by NC Outward Bound School. Contact Lisa Foisy, Asheville, 704-299-3366 ext. 147, or 704-437-6124 ext. 21.
- Nov. 1-3, TCWP Annual Weekend, Wesley Woods near Townsend. Details later, but mark your calendar now.
- Nov. 6-8, Gatlinburg, TN. 7th Annual Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere (SAMAB) Conference to be directed to sharing research on

the status of ecosystem health in Southern Appalachia. Call 423-436-1701 or 436-7496; email samab@ix.netcom.com.

- January and February 1997, Bryson City, NC. Nantahala Outdoor Center is sponsoring three Wilderness Medical courses, ranging from 2-25 days in length and \$135-\$825 in tuition fees. Contact NOC, 704-488-2175.
- The Audubon Expedition Institute offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs, as well as one- or two-semester courses. Contact PO Box 365, Dept. P, Belfast, ME 04915; 207-338-5859; <http://www.audubon.org/audubon/aei.html>
- *Southern Appalachian Assessment*, a 5-volume work resulting from a 2-year multi-agency effort, is the most comprehensive assessment that has ever been done in our region. For several ways in which to obtain this publication, see 17B, this NL.
- *Tennessee Wetlands Conservation Strategy, 2nd Edition: Current Progress and Continuing Goals*, published January 1996 by the Governor's Interagency Wetlands Committee and its Technical Working Group. Copies may be obtained from, and comments transmitted to, Dodd Galbraith, TN Environmental Policy Office, 615-532-8545
- *Saving Biodiversity: A Status Report on State Laws, Policies and Programs* was published July 1996 by the Center for Wildlife Law (Univ. of New Mexico) and Defenders of Wildlife. The report is a unique attempt to compile vital information about state efforts to conserve biodiversity. Contact Susan George, Biodiversity Counsel, at Albuquerque 505-277-3197, email smgeorge@uwm.edu.
- *Streamkeeper's Field Guide: Watershed Inventory and Stream Monitoring Methods* is the latest publication by the Adopt-A-Stream Foundation of Everett, WA, which also has other books, videos and posters. Call 206-316-8592.
- *Green Mining Guide* contains a user's guide and contact information for experts in various disciplines who can provide technical assistance to control water pollution and environmental damage from mining. Contact Mineral Policy Center, Washington 202-887-1872.
- *A Moment of Truth: Correcting the Errors in Gregg Easterbrook's "A Moment on the Earth"* attempts to correct Easterbrook's book, which espouses the falsely optimistic view that many environmental

problems have been overstated. \$12 from EDF Publications, POBox 96969, Washington, DC 20077-7254.

- *The Sawtooth Wolves*, by Jim Dutcher and Richard Ballantine is a stunning large-format pictorial documentation of the family life in the wild of a pack of wolves living high in the mountains of Idaho. Published by Rufus Publications, Bearsville, NY, and retailed for \$40 by Barnes & Noble stores

#### WHAT IS TCWP?

TCWP is dedicated to achieving and perpetuating protection of natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. While our first focus is on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of East Tennessee, our efforts may extend to the rest of the state and the nation.

TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to an issue, informing and educating our membership and the public, interacting with groups having similar objectives, and working through the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government on the federal, state, and local levels.

TCWP, 130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Pres. Jenny Freeman, 423-482-5980.

Exec. Dir., Karen Peterson, 423-481-0286 or  
966-2885