

# TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

Newsletter No. 215

March 14, 1997

## Among topics covered in this Newsletter, we strongly emphasize these important actions:

- Support the Ocoee National Recreation Area proposal (§1A).  
(This would protect the entire Polk County portion of the Cherokee NF against clearcutting)
- Save TVA's indispensable resource-conservation ("non-power") program (§2A).  
(This program has enough enemies as is. Now, the TVA Chairman himself is trying to kill it!)
- Support a state bill that would regulate timber cutting on large tracts of private lands (§3A).  
(Timber companies are moving into unregulated states, like ours, and clearcutting huge areas)
- Support a bill that creates an independent, bipartisan commission to control state parks (§3B).  
(Our parks are subject to over-development, loss of buffers, and politicized management)
- Oppose a powerline route that would cut right through the Foothills and ruin Smokies' vistas  
(A more environmentally sensitive -- and *more direct* -- alternative route exists) (§4A)
- Keep oil drilling out of the newly designated Grand Staircase-Escalante Natl. Monument (§5A).  
(BLM must be made to realize that Conoco's plan would violate the spirit of the designation)
- Support a bill that would designate ANWR's coastal plain as wilderness (§5B).  
(This would finally put an end to recurrent attempts to open ANWR to drilling)

The complete Action Summary, including the above, is on p.2, as usual. In the text, the priority action calls are enclosed in shaded boxes. All others have stars in the margin.

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## 8. ACTION SUMMARY

No	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Ocoee National Recreation Area	Rep. Wamp's office	"Introduce bill embodying conservationists' suggestions!"
2A	TVA's non-power program	US Rep. and Senators, and Vice Pres. Gore	"Impose moratorium on TVA's dispersing non-power resources, and implement review of TVA's policies!"
3A	Forest Practices bill	Tennessee Senator and Rep.	"Support SB.1303 (Cohen)/HB. 1346 (Stults)!"
3B	State Parks Management bill	Gov. Sundquist, Tennessee Senator and Rep.	"We support SB.1856!" "Support SB. 1856" (Thank Sen. Gilbert for bill)
4A	Powerline through Foothills	Reps. Duncan and Jenkins Sens. Thompson and Frist	"Urge TVA not to route powerline through Foothills!"
4B	Cochran Creek acquisition	Foothills Land Conservancy	Send contribution (\$330 buys one acre)
5A	Oil threat to new Natl. Monument	Sec. Bruce Babbitt Conoco, Inc.	"BLM must deny Conoco's request to drill!" "We disapprove of your drilling in Natl. Monument!"
5B	Wilderness bill for ANWR	US Senators and Rep.	"Co-sponsor the RotuVento ANWR Wilderness bill!"
6A	TCWP's staff-less transition	Jenny Freeman	Volunteer your services
6F	TCWP's Annual Weekend	TCWP phone or e-mail	Offer to help with any one of tasks

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 532-9711

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; FAX 202-225-3494  
Oak Ridge: 423-483-3366. Chattanooga: 423-894-7400

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. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST AND USFS

### A. Proposed Ocoee National Recreation Area

In the closing days of the 1996 campaign, Congressman Zach Wamp proposed to support legislation that would create an Ocoee National Recreation Area (ONRA) to include all National Forest lands in Polk County in the southeastern corner of Tennessee. With the right provisions, such an ONRA has the potential of encompassing an almost contiguous corridor -- from the Cohutta Wilderness in Georgia to the Smokies -- for the protection of old growth, endangered species, and migration routes for birds and mammals.

Citizen conservation groups (Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, Wilderness Society, Sierra Club and others), are urging Rep. Wamp to support an ONRA that would accomplish the following:

- Designation of the federal portions of the Hiwassee and Conasauga as National Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Expansions of the designated Big Frog, Little Frog, and Gee Creek Wildernesses to their originally proposed size
- Major expansion of the Chilhowee Mountain and Coker Creek Scenic Areas
- Designation of Smith Mountain and Buck Bald Primitive Areas to provide habitat corridors for old-growth-dependent species
- A ban on logging in the Conasauga River watershed
- Elsewhere in the ONRA, a shift in timber harvesting methods from intensive clearcuts to lower-intensity methods (e.g., for hardwood and mixed stands, selection harvest, removing no more than 50% of the canopy; in pure pine stands, natural regeneration using shelterwood techniques).

Rep. Wamp has formed a Regional Planning Committee to establish a consensus approach and formalize details of the proposal. Meanwhile, he is being bombarded by letters and calls from the Timber Purchasing Council and others opposed to the ONRA designation. Thus, it is important that he hear our voices immediately.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Make a phonecall/fax today (numbers below) to support the ONRA. Here are some of the points that can be made:

- This immensely scenic area, which was brought to public attention by the 1996 Olympics, encompasses many valuable natural features (see list above)

- When protected, these lands can contribute in a major way to a high-quality environmental and economic future for East Tennessee
- The ONRA proposal requires no land acquisition -- no cost to the taxpayer.

You can use any of the following numbers:

Washington, 202-225-3271 (ask for Bob Castro), or fax 202-225-3494 (attn. Bob Castro)

Oak Ridge, 423-483-3366;

Chattanooga, 423-894-7400, or fax 423-894-8621.

### B. Forest Service denies our appeal

[Based on contribution by Jenny Freeman]

In December, TCWP joined in an appeal against a timber sale on Unicoi Mountain that would allow timber harvest and road building deep within the Coker Creek watershed, in an area named among Tennessee Mountain Treasures (NL214 178). The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has denied our appeal. This is the latest in a series of cases in which the USFS has acknowledged that the major flaws pointed out in an appeal do exist, but has nevertheless affirmed the project decision (i.e., denied the appeal), stating merely that the flaws will be mitigated. Thus we are given no time to comment or appeal.

We have turned to the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) to analyze this trend of appeal denials, and to determine whether the USFS is violating the intent of NEPA. Should not another FONSI be generated? The SELC is actively reviewing the issue, and we will keep you informed of their decision on what to do next.

### C. New Chief for US Forest Service

Mike Drombeck, new chief of the US Forest Service, is a professional forest biologist, and this background engenders the hope that he may be able to change some of the Service's long-entrenched timber-harvest emphases. Pessimists, on the other hand, point out that former USFS chief, Jack Ward Thomas, the first wildlife biologist ever to head the agency, resigned in November (after 3 years of service), frustrated by political quarrels over logging policy. Thomas, however, was forced to preside over the cuts mandated by the infamous "salvage" timber rider, and this rider will no longer be in effect under Drombeck (unless industry forces manage to make Congress extend it).

## 2. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

### A. Stop TVA from killing its own non-power program

While TVA's power operations are self-supporting, the agency's resource ("non-power") budget requires annual Congressional appropriations. The Valley's citizens and Congressional delegation have, over the years, become used to having to fight recurring attempts to severely cut, or even eliminate, the non-power program (see, e.g., NL204 ¶7A). No one, however, could have predicted the recent bizarre action of TVA's top management, which seems to be trying to destroy part of its own agency, specifically that part which comes closest to fulfilling TVA's originally mandated resource-conservation mission -- the non-power program. Without first consulting with, or even notifying, the Valley's congressional delegation, Chairman Crowell announced in January that TVA favors cutting off its appropriated funding after FY98. He has thus played right into the hands of TVA's long-time enemies in Congress.

In case you are not familiar with what the non-power program encompasses, here are a few examples of activities and capabilities that TCWP has greatly appreciated.

- The Small Wild Areas program that identifies and protects ecologically or scenically significant parcels of TVA lands around the lakes. The one we are most familiar with is the Whites Creek Small Wild Area on Watts Bar Lake, on which TCWP maintains a trail.
- Lakeshore management that exerts control over indiscriminate and inappropriate land uses. Without this control, industrial or junky commercial developments might spring up at random around the lakes, without regard to other considerations. There are 265,000 acres of public lands around the reservoirs, in addition to 170,000 acres in Land Between the Lakes.
- Tremendous expertise in regional water-resource planning, such as that currently being used for helping to solve water-supply problems for the Cumberland Plateau, thus avoiding continuous water theft from the Obed.
- Special expertise in ecology, history, and archeology that helps to identify areas in need of protection, e.g., the Worthington Cemetery site, which was originally zoned for industrial development and is now a natural area.
- Help provided to other agencies, such as that given to the National Park Service when TVA improved the small access site to Clear Creek at Jett Bridge.

- Expertise and research on environmental problems, forestry, etc.
- Well-planned and environmentally-compatible public access and recreation sites (picnic areas, campgrounds) for the reservoirs.
- The forging of community partnerships, e.g., River Action Teams.

Recently, TVA's top-level management has become dissociated from the staff (which is responsible for the excellent resource activities enumerated above) and from Valley citizens. It is letting commitment to its power program overshadow its natural-resource stewardship mission. One very disturbing trend is the recent flurry of land sales; TVA is essentially conducting an auction of some very valuable property owned by the people of the United States and intended to be held in the public trust.

What can be done? A coalition of Valley citizens has issued a joint statement that calls for a moratorium and a policy review. The moratorium shall apply to all TVA activities that involve transferring and/or dispersing non-power resources (e.g., land sales, staff terminations), and that may compromise TVA's ability to carry out its mandated broad resource conservation mission. It shall remain in place until a policy review -- conducted independent of TVA's current top management, and incorporating provisions for public participation -- has examined TVA's current mission, policies, and actions. (For more information, call toll-free 1-888-234-9882.) To carry out such a policy review of both the power and non-power programs, Congressman Bob Clement (D, TN, a former member of the TVA Board) has proposed creation of a two-year regional commission.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** To try to protect TVA's mandated natural-resource stewardship mission, we must, without delay, call on our elected federal legislators and on Vice President Gore and urge them to (a) impose the moratorium outlined above, and (b) to implement an independent policy review in a timely and effectual manner. See p.2 on how to contact Members of Congress. V.P. Gore can be contacted at the White House, Washington, DC 20500. Phone 202-456-7125.

### B. Shoreline Management Initiative (SMI) revisions

After comments received in 16 public meetings (attended by 3,000 people), 350 letters, and 1,000

completed questionnaires, TVA decided to reexamine several of the proposals and concepts presented in the Draft EIS. (NL212 14). Among these are the proposed performance deposit for docks; the structure registration fee, proceeds from which were to be used for erosion control, litter cleanup, and other lake improvement work; and the management of the shoreline buffer zone (i.e., the TVA-owned water-front lands situated between private tracts and the shore).

The SMI Team is also reexamining the 6 alternatives presented in the DEIS. TCWP opposed TVA's preferred alternative C1 and supported a more stringent version of alternative D (minimum development, with none of it involving TVA-owned shoreline). Later this year, TVA will publish a summary of public comments and the agency's responses. Information sessions will be held on how the original SMI proposals will be modified.

### **C. Comments on plans for Columbia Dam lands**

TCWP submitted written comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on "Use of Lands Acquired for the Columbia Dam component of the Duck River Project," strongly supporting Alternative D for the lands and Option 2 for the dam structures (NL212 78A). Under Alternative D, virtually all of the lands purchased by TVA for the now defeated reservoir would be turned into a resource-management area. Option 2 would truncate the useless dam structure and stabilize the existing flood profile. According to reports we have heard, quite a few organizations and individuals expressed preferences similar to TCWP's.

The State of Tennessee's comments, sent by Justin Wilson (formerly IDEC Commissioner and now Deputy to the Governor for Policy), also unequivocally support Option 2 for the dam. With regard to the fate of the lands, the comments are more complex (perhaps because they are based on contributions from several different state agencies), and do not name any of the specific alternatives described in the DEIS.

The letter states that "much of the ... lands have significant conservation or human resource value and merit special protection...." Thus, the state has identified "12 potential new natural areas containing numerous rare, threatened or endangered species and habitats," as well as 297 prehistoric sites and 28 historic structures. "Gov. Sundquist feels strongly that these facts require TVA to

guarantee special protections for the biologically rich and diverse river corridor and significant portions of upland areas." In support of public recreation on the TVA lands, the letter states that "greenways, horse and biking trails, canoeing, wildlife viewing, and hunting are popular uses that can be managed compatibly."

With regard to ownership/management, the letter recommends that "local or state agencies should be considered for transfer (not sale) of the TVA lands for multi-recreation use, preservation or other public uses. ... TVA should first consider all realistic public uses before any TVA land is transferred or sold. ... TVA should require the receiving entity to hold these lands in trust to allow thoughtful ... planning with local interests for future land uses."

Several of the statements pertain to upland parcels. Thus, "non-contiguous upland parcels may be sold to purchase private parcels ... to create a contiguous Duck River corridor." Elsewhere, the letter recommends that TVA allow upland parcels to be used for such public facilities as schools and community centers. It is important to note that neither industrial nor residential developments are recommended. The following sentence seems to sum it up: "The State's first and overriding interest is the protection, potential enhancement and possible expansion of the Duck River corridor."

## **3. STATE NEWS: TWO EXCELLENT BILLS TO SUPPORT**

### **A. Forest Practices Act, SB. 1303/HB. 1346**

Many large timber companies, now facing stronger forest practices laws in the northwest and northeast, see the unregulated southern states as a new opportunity for extensive logging. Timber harvesting on privately owned lands in Tennessee has recently assumed alarming proportions. Chipmills and other wood processing plants, operated by Champion International, the Huber Corp., and others, will consume (mostly by clearcutting) huge acreages of timber owned by these companies and/or by other landowners. (Champion alone has already bought 85,000 acres in Campbell and Anderson Counties and plans to purchase altogether three times as much).

Tennessee has no law regarding timbering -- only voluntary "Best Management Practices"

(BMPs) over which there is no regulatory authority and which are very often not followed. The state, further, has no method for tracking timber harvests or for diagnosing overharvesting until it is too late. This almost inevitably results in environmental disaster. It also causes great economic damage. Thus, as shown by several studies, conversion from saw timber to pulpwood leads to major job losses (e.g., in Alabama, the number of jobs created by an investment of \$1,000,000 in chip mills, sawmills, or furniture industry, was, respectively, 1, 8-10, or 40).

SOCM (Save Our Cumberland Mountains), after considerable study and deliberation, has produced a carefully thought-out and practicable bill for which the rest of us are most grateful. This "Tennessee Forest Practices Act," SB.1303/HB.1346 was filed in the Senate by Sen. Cohen, and in the House by Rep. Stulce and others.

Landowners harvesting less than 20 acres per year are exempt from the bill's provisions, except that those doing so for commercial purposes need only to submit information on where and how many acres they plan to cut. For landowners harvesting more than 20 acres per year, the following provisions apply.

- Landowners must submit a Harvest Plan (where, how, how much, location of streams and roads, etc.), to be reviewed by the Div. of Forestry (DoF) which will grant or deny a permit;
- A master logger license will be mandated for operations requiring a Harvest Plan;
- BMPs for erosion- and stream-protection will be formulated and will become mandatory;
- DoF can enforce the Act by issuing notices of violation and assessing fines up to \$5,000 for each day of violation;
- The landowner must give notice to those who own land adjacent to the cutting site, and other citizens may also request copies of notices and of harvest plans. Interested citizens or public agencies can file comments with DoF;
- DoF will be returned from the Dept. of Agriculture to its historical position in the Dept. of Environment & Conservation (TDEC), which houses other regulatory divisions, such as the one overseeing water quality;
- The amount of harvesting will be tracked by annual surveys in each county;
- Permits for chip mills and other large facilities using pulpwood may be denied if surveys indicate that there would be a net drain on forest resources;
- The additional cost of administering the act will be met by a severance tax on pulpwood (not on saw timber) of no less than 3% of stumpage value.

By several of its provisions, the bill recognizes the economic importance of "value-added" industries (sawmills, pallet, flooring and furniture companies), which use longer-growing saw timber, are compatible with sustainable forest practices and healthy ecosystems, and produce lots more jobs (see above). This, as well as the less-than-20-acre exemption, is an important point to communicate to legislators.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact your state senator and representative to let him know of your support for SB.1303 (Cohen)/HB.1346 (Stulce). Unlike earlier toothless bills, which would have simply created the illusion of there being a law on the books, this important and carefully-thought-out bill would prevent the environmental and economic disasters caused by excessive and damaging pulpwood harvesting. The enclosed Political Guide lists phone numbers and addresses in Nashville; or call your legislators at home over the weekend (e.g., Gene Caldwell at 423-457-0499; Randy McNally at 423-483-5544).

## B. State Parks bill, SB.1856

[Contributed by Jenny Freeman, with credit to Morgan Simmons' *News-Sentinel* article of 3/9/97.]

Senator Bud Gilbert (R-Knoxville) has introduced a bill that outlines a fundamental restructuring of the way Tennessee state parks are financed and organized. Gilbert, who chairs the Senate Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee, demonstrated his interest in this matter when he attended a day-long forum in November 1996 that was devoted to the examination of state-parks issues (NL214 ¶3A). On that occasion, the senator heard from a wide array of park users — from hikers and birders to horseback riders and RV campers. All came with the same message, "Parks need better stewardship and services."

Long concerned about parks issues such as inappropriate development (like golf courses and swimming pools), loss of buffer areas, and erosion of professionalism among park employees, TCWP was one of the organizations (along with Tennessee Environmental Council [TEC] and Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association) that developed the idea of the forum.

Senator Gilbert's State Parks Bill would place the operation and control of state parks with a new independent, bipartisan commission modeled after the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission. This

15-member body would include the Commissioner of Environment & Conservation and the Commissioner of Tourism. The other 13 people would represent a cross-section of qualified citizens, with 9 of them appointed by the governor from a pool of candidates submitted by the Tennessee Conservation League and TEC. The Commission would employ an executive director with professional experience in park management; park employees, likewise, would be degree professionals.

At the start of its tenure, the Commission would be charged with developing a 15-year master plan that covers all aspects of parks management, including a financial plan, a balanced-use plan, and a maintenance plan. The master plan would have to be approved by the House and Senate environment committees, and then by the Legislature at large, providing ample opportunities for public involvement. The Plan would also be distributed statewide for public comment. Individual plans for each of the state's 51 parks would be revised every five years, and a report card would be issued.

To allow the state parks to be financially self-sufficient, the Commission is given the authority to develop an independent source of funding, possibly through user fees, such as parking fees.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Thank Senator Gilbert for introducing this bill (address and phone No. in enclosed Political Guide). (2) Tell Governor Don Sundquist (address on p.2) that you support the State Parks Management Bill, SB.1856, as drafted by Sen. Gilbert.

#### **C. Committee assignments for Oak Ridge legislators**

Our state senator, Randy McNally, will again serve on the Senate Environment Committee. He is also the number-two person on the Finance Committee. Our new representative, Dr. Gene Caldwell, will serve on the House Education Committee and on the Health and Human Resources Committee. Consult Part 2 of our Political Guide, enclosed with this NL, on how to get in touch with your state legislators.

#### **D. Scott's Gulf activities continue (Based on a contribution by Chuck Estes)**

Activities continue for acquiring 15,000 acres that encompass the Caney Fork River gorge in White County known as Scott's Gulf. Word about

the project is being spread through an excellent slide show (TCWP's Chuck Estes has given numerous presentations, the latest one in Lexington, KY, where he drove after work a couple of nights ago). Fund raising efforts are under way: T-shirts are being made, and an excellent dinner theater is being produced - see T6E for one coming to Oak Ridge!

The Scott's Gulf Committee recently decided to reorganize as the Friends of Scott's Gulf. The governor has indicated that he would like to see a "Friends" group for each state park. The new designation allows us to say "Here is the Friends group; where is the park?" It will also allow the organization to provide the same support and focus that other "Friends" groups have provided for their areas, and will qualify the group for a tax-exempt status. Membership fees have been set at \$10, and a newsletter is planned. TCWP has been a member of the Scott's Gulf Committee and will be a board member of the new Friends of Scott's Gulf organization.

#### **4. SMOKIES AND SURROUNDINGS**

##### **A. Proposed powerline would scar vistas**

[Source: Foothills Land Conservancy]

TVA is proposing to build a high-capacity powerline from Alcoa to Pigeon Forge. Instead of taking the most direct route and utilizing existing rights-of-way, TVA plans to build the line over Chilhowee Mountain and the Foothills Parkway, via the Townsend area, right through the heart of the Foothills.

The project would require the bulldozing of over 18 miles of new right-of-way and the erection of steel structures as tall as 100 ft in some of the most scenic and sensitive areas of the country. Vistas from the Foothills Parkway and from the Great Smoky Mtns. National Park would be permanently scarred. Thousands of acres of forested wildlife habitat would be permanently disrupted, including critical fall feeding grounds for the black bear.

The more reasonable, environmentally sensitive, alternative would route the powerline by the more direct route along the northern edge of the Foothills, utilizing existing rights-of-way where possible.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Representatives Duncan and Jenkins, and to Senators Thompson and

Frist (addresses on p.2), and tell them to urge TVA to come up with a plan for the powerline that does not damage our Foothills and our vistas from the Smokies.

## B. Donations still needed for Cochran Creek acquisition

The Foothills Land Conservancy (FLC) is attempting to purchase a 1,516-acre tract on the SE slope of Chilhowee Mtn., west of, and contiguous with, the previously acquired Abrams Creek tract. This is part of FLC's broader effort to create a buffer zone between the Gt. Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park and the rapidly developing Tennessee Valley. The total purchase price of this Cochran Creek tract is ~\$500,000 (i.e., ~\$330 per acre), but if the amount is not raised before the 6/13/97 deadline, the purchase will become much more costly. Donations may be sent to FLC, 307 S. Washington St., Maryville, TN 37804. In addition, proceeds from the sale of a striking topographical poster of the Smoky Mountains will go to the FLC. The poster is available for \$20 at various locations at Knoxville, Maryville, and Gatlinburg (call 423-681-8326 for info), or for \$25 directly from the FLC.

## C. Smokies air pact still up in the air

It has now been a year since the State of Tennessee unilaterally abandoned a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the US Dept. of the Interior. Under this MOU, the Great Smoky Mtns National Park would be given early notice of industry proposals that could potentially pose an air-pollution threat to the Park. The GSMNP would then inform the permit applicants about the type of data that were required to determine whether the proposed development would indeed pose a threat. The State abandoned the MOU when Eastman Chemical Co. and the Tennessee Association of Business argued that it was unfair to Tennessee companies.

Following a tremendous popular and editorial outcry against the State's rescission of the MOU, Gov. Sundquist appointed a panel to develop another information-sharing agreement between the State and GSMNP. The panel, chaired by Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe, proposed that the State operate in the spirit of the original MOU until a new one is crafted. This condition was accepted by the State, as represented by Justin Wilson, Sundquist's special advisor and formerly

head of the Dept. of Environment and Conservation. So far, this interim state of affairs has not been tested by new air permit applications from major pollution sources.

## 5. NATIONAL ACTION ITEMS

### A. Major threat to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Only a few months after Pres. Clinton designated the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, oil drilling threatens its very heart, the Kaiparowits Plateau. On February 11, Conoco Inc. claimed a right to drill 2 wells under leases it holds within the monument, and there is little doubt that if oil is found, Conoco will demand to drill additional wells and to construct all the appurtenances of an oil operation (drill pads, storage tanks, haul roads waste pits, pipe lines, power lines, etc).

The monument is closed to all new oil and gas leasing. Conoco claims that under its existing leases it holds a right to drill regardless of environmental damage or public concern.

In designating the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument last fall, Pres. Clinton declared that the area was created solely for the protection of its natural and historical wonders. But the big unknown is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency that has not heretofore been in charge of any national monument. Is BLM capable of protecting the area entrusted to its care? Does BLM think that an oil field is consistent with the Presidential proclamation? Can drilling for oil be construed as adequate protection of natural resources? If BLM doesn't object to oil fields, to what does it object?

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Contact Sec. of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and ask that the BLM respect Pres. Clinton's proclamation and deny requests for drilling in the Monument (Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, Washington, DC 20240, Phone 202-208-7351). (2) Let Conoco know that the public disapproves of their effort to drill in a National Monument. (Corporate HQ, 218-293-1000; Customers' number, 1-800-624-6440; Archie Dunham, CEO, 600 North Dairy Ashland, Houston, TX 77079).



## B. Permanent protection needed for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Last year, it took special last-minute action by Pres. Clinton to keep ANWR's coastal plain from being opened to oil & gas exploration (NL213 ¶1E). This year, the Alaska Congressional delegation has announced that it will once again attempt to include ANWR leasing into the budget agreement between Congress and the President. Alaska's Sen. Murkowski and Rep. Don Young are both powerful committee chairmen, so the threat is quite real.

The 1.5-million-acre coastal plain, which lacks the legislated protective features accorded to the remainder of the 19.8 acre Refuge has wildlife resources unparalleled elsewhere in the USA. In addition to constituting the calving grounds for the important 160,000-member Porcupine herd of caribou, the coastal plain is home to polar bears, grizzly bears, muskoxen, Arctic wolves and fox; and it provides nesting sites for 135 species of migratory birds. The coastal plain contains the last 10% of Arctic coastline in America that is protected from oil drilling. And the amount of oil that might be extractable even under optimistic projections would satisfy America's appetite for less than 200 days; we could save more oil than that every year by simply inflating our tires to proper pressure.

An Arctic Refuge Wilderness bill, named the "Morris K. Udall Wilderness Act" has been introduced by Sen. William Roth (R, DE) and Rep. Bruce Vento (D, MN). Passage of this bill would ensure permanent protection for this irreplaceable wilderness area.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact your Representative and both Senators (write, phone, or fax - see p.2) and urge them to co-sponsor the important ANWR Wilderness bill. You may wish to cite some of the information from above concerning the richness of the natural resource and the lack of real need for the oil.

## 6. TCWP NEWS; LOTS OF NEW DIRECTIONS

### A. New directions for TCWP

(Contributed by Jerry Freeman)

Prompted by the resignation of our latest Executive Director in a long line of excellent Executive Directors (¶6B), several Board members met in January to reexamine the overall direction of

TCWP. The ideas developed were subsequently enthusiastically adopted by the entire Board, which is hopeful that proposed actions will rejuvenate the organization and bring us a host of active new members.

Instead of immediately searching for a new Executive Director, we are in the process of writing at least two grants to foundations. Our applications request funding to hire a full-time staff person for 18 months, at a professional salary. This person would develop membership, establish a long-term funding base, increase and organize volunteer participation, and assist with the Newsletter. The many issues TCWP routinely tackles would continue to be addressed by this staff person with the help of volunteers.

With the assistance of Jean, spouse of Board member Don Barger, and a professional grant writer herself, we have selected the Lyndhurst Foundation in Chattanooga and the Turner Foundation in Atlanta as the first two foundations we will approach with a proposal. Several Board members are participating in writing the grant applications, and the first one (to Lyndhurst) will be submitted by April 1. If we are successful, we hope to have our new staff person in place in the fall. Lyndhurst has given us encouragement that our proposal will be favorably received and at least partially funded. Lyndhurst funded the Tennessee Rivers Assessment this way, with matching monies from the Tennessee Valley Authority and in-kind support from TDEC.

We will keep you informed on our new initiative; in the meantime, Board members have had to pick up the myriad duties our Executive Director would have been performing over the next few months. If you want to volunteer to help us through this staff-less transition period, call Jerry (482-5980, evenings).



### B. We are minus an executive director

Karen Peterson ("KP"), our so effective part-time executive director, left at the beginning of February to go into private consulting work. In light of the new directions the TCWP Board has decided to pursue (see ¶6A), we will be temporarily without an executive director and will attempt to handle our business through board members and other volunteers (who, we hope, will come out of the woodwork). One victim of this decision had to be the March for Parks, which, for the first time in 6 years, will not be held (last year's was a particularly outstanding success, thanks to KP). We

hope to resume this event in 1998. In the meantime, hold on to the money you would otherwise have pledged for the March -- it will be needed in connection with our new plans.

### C. New Board member

In January, James Wedekind joined the TCWP Board of Directors, replacing Lance McCoid, who retired at the end of 1996. James, a geologist employed at CDM Federal Programs, lives in Knoxville with his wife Mary Swanson. A hiker and would-be paddler, he has a keen interest in outdoor, and especially wilderness, issues. He helped research and write a recent edition of the Hiking Guide to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

### D. TCWP enters cyberspace

(Contributed by Eric Hirst)

Thanks to the computer wizardry of Bruce Helton and the services of the Knoxville-Oak Ridge Regional Network, TCWP now has a home page on the Internet. Look for us at <http://www.kornet.org/tcwp/>

Our site contains basic information on TCWP as well as the latest newsletter and a background piece on TCWP's history. We plan to add a section on current hot topics and another one providing links to other local, regional, and national environmental organizations.

We also have an email address:

TCWP@kornet.org. Feel free to contact us by email instead of, or in addition to, by telephone. In particular, we'd like to hear your comments and suggestions for improvement of our new internet site.

### E. Scott's Gulf Mystery Event, May 17

A dinner theater is being planned for Saturday, May 17 in Oak Ridge. The funny, well-written and wonderfully acted play will be presented by a professional theater group, and dinner will be served. Your donation to attend this event provides an excellent opportunity to support the Scott's Gulf acquisition while having a fun time. The exact location and hour of the event was not available at the time of Newsletter publication, but a separate flyer will be sent to members. Mark the date on your calendar now. If you need additional information, contact Chuck Estes at (423) 482-7374 (evenings).

### F. Annual weekend: we'd welcome volunteers

Remember to reserve Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 for a great TCWP weekend at Fall Creek Falls. This is one of our very best state parks and should be lovely at that time of year. It is also easily reached from Nashville, Chattanooga, and the Knoxville area. Lodging (at one of the group camps) will be comfortable, but only about half the cost of last year's. Our Saturday morning program may focus on state-park issues, and there will be a choice of outings, plus evening activities.



Especially in view of our temporary lack of an executive director, we would most welcome volunteers to help with one of the following tasks: (a) arrange for food (catered? cooked by us?), (b) plan the Saturday morning program and perhaps an evening talk, (c) plan the outings, (d) plan "baby-sitting" activities, (e) produce the printed advance announcement and the registration pamphlet, (f) help with registering attendees. Each of these is a one-shot, concrete, task by which you can help TCWP. See box at end of NL for number you can call to volunteer; or send an e-mail to our new address, TCWP@kornet.org

### G. Memorial for Edward Olszewski

TCWP member Bob Olszewski's father died in early February, and the family requested that any contributions in his memory be sent to TCWP to enhance and protect the hiking experience in the Smokies. An Olszewski memorial fund has been set up within the TCWP treasury, and the Board, in consultation with GSMNP staff, will determine the most effective ways in which to use it.

### H. Special mentions

Special thanks to Bruce Helton, son-in-law of Board member Frank Hensley, who helped get TCWP onto the web (p. 6D, above), to Frank for recruiting Bruce, and to Eric Hirst, who worked with Bruce in bringing it all together.

Brain storming on TCWP's future directions and on grant proposals is being done by Jenny Freeman, Eric Hirst, Don Barger, Chuck Estes, and Lee Russell. Our gratitude to Don Barger's wife Jean, who shared her expertise on grant writing with this group.

Chuck Estes is flitting all over the state, and even to neighboring states (T3D), to promote Scotts Gulf protection.

Our sincere thanks to the following who assembled NL214 on 1/22/97: Frank Mensley, Harry Hubbell, Charlie Klabunde, Karen Peterson, Hal Smith, and Fred Sweeton.

## 7. JOBS, ACTIVITIES, and READING MATTER

- Job Opportunity. Community Shares of Tennessee (based in Knoxville), which raises funds for social-change and environmental groups, is looking for a new Executive Director. Salary \$28,000-30,000. Call 423-522-1604 or fax 423-522-5281 for info.
- May 17, Scott's Gulf Mystery Event, Oak Ridge (flyer coming, see ¶6E).
- Oct. 31 - Nov. 2. TCWP Annual Weekend, Fall Creek Falls State Park (¶6F).
- U.T. is offering a B.A. degree in Environmental Studies as a joint program of the Dept. of Environmental Studies and the UT Evening School at Knoxville. For info call 423-974-4483 or 423-974-6007; or e-mail the head of the program, [byerly@yoda.cc.utk.edu](mailto:byerly@yoda.cc.utk.edu)
- Hiking Trails, of the Great Smoky Mountains, by Kenneth Wise (UT administrator and long-time hiker), organizes trail descriptions roughly by major watersheds. In addition to all the pertinent data, each trail description includes historical and natural anecdotes. Several descriptions of manways and off-trail routes are also included in the book, which is published by UT Press as part of their Outdoor Tennessee Series.
- State of the World 1997, by Lester R. Brown et al., is the latest of the annual offerings by Worldwatch Institute. In addition to being widely used as desktop references on worldwide environmental issues and trends, these books also include cutting-edge analyses of selected issues. The 1997 book itself costs \$13.95 (less for multiple copies); a membership, which includes the book plus 6 special-issue papers published at intervals, costs \$25. Call 1-800-555-2028.

See P. 12 for  
important action item  
just received.  
(also, an update on ¶14C)

### WHAT IS TCWP?

TCWP (Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning) 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 (evening).  
e-mail: [TCWP@kornet.org](mailto:TCWP@kornet.org)  
On the web: <http://www.kornet.org/tcwp/>

# HELP DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF OUR ROADLESS AREAS Will There Be Additional Wilderness Areas?

High Irwin

The Southern Region of the Forest Service is currently drafting guidance for evaluating roadless areas for wilderness. This guidance will help determine what recommendations the Forest Service makes for future wilderness during the forest management plan revision that are occurring in the region.

The guidance will provide direction on how the forests estimate such crucial factors as wilderness demand and wilderness capacity. These in turn will determine the "need" for additional wilderness.

In addition, the guidance will determine factors for roadless area evaluation and how these factors are presented in the environmental evaluation. This will be critical in whether specific areas are recommended for wilderness or not.

The current draft is open for public comment and review until March 31, 1997. The timber industry and anti-wilderness forces have been very prominent at public meetings where roadless area guidance was discussed. It is crucial for those interested in protection of roadless areas and designation of future wilderness to be heard on this issue. You can make sure the Forest Service understands that wilderness is important to you and that our high quality wildlands should be protected as wilderness.

## Important points to make:

- **Wilderness Demand** should be based on information showing wilderness demand in the Southern Region will dramatically increase as the region continues to grow (1990 RFA). Reliance should not be placed on figures that lump wilderness demand for the whole nation together (1995 RFA), ignoring the tremendous growth of the region and the accessibility of our forests to the major population centers of the East. Wilderness demand should NOT be based on inaccurate and arbitrarily determined local wilderness use data (RDM data).
- **Wilderness Demand** by future generations should be considered as well as the shorter term demand.

- **Wilderness Recreation Capacity** should be based on peak use rather than generalized use spread out over the year. Areas that have light use during mid-week in the middle of winter may have extremely heavy use on summer weekends. This peak use is a more accurate measure of overuse and should be used to determine capacity.
- **Other Recreation Opportunities.** Primitive and Semi-primitive areas should not be used as a substitute for wilderness demand. Many of these areas are not available for the type of recreation that wilderness provides and do not provide the quality of experience wilderness provides.

- **Sediment** is more dependent on physical and topographic features of particular roadless areas than by gross acres of core areas (upland/semi-primitive ROS core acreage). Core area calculations should also account for the fact that in many cases core areas acreage will increase if wilderness is designated and roads closed. Adjacency of

Just received  
Important wilderness alert  
Deadline March 31!

other wilderness and wildland areas should also be considered. Being a part of a cluster of wildlands can dramatically increase the solitude of an area.

**Rare Species:** Occurrences of state listed rare species and Forest Service Sensitive Species should be described in evaluating the biological value of areas for wilderness designation. Species that are associated or correlated with wilderness or roadless habitat should be identified. Misleading conclusions in the Southern Appalachian Assessment that implies that rare species are not dependent on wilderness or roadless areas is based on a narrow subset of species and can not be generalized to all species or all rare species. The association of important species such as black bear with unfragmented habitat should be used in evaluation of areas for wilderness.

**Scientific/Educational values** for wilderness should include the need for numerous examples of ecosystem types rather than single showpiece examples. The availability of wide representation of ecosystem types in wilderness is important for research. The availability of these areas is important for institutional purposes (university, high school, elementary school, and individual study). It is not sufficient to have single examples of ecosystem types. Ecosystems need to be well represented and accessible to a broad range of people. Well represented examples of ecosystem types are also needed to provide buffer against catastrophic events and the natural fluctuations of ecosystems.

**Challenge** should emphasize the unique opportunity that wilderness provides in experiencing nature directly rather than a discussion of life-threatening situations. Certainly danger is an element of challenge, but it is not the one most of us value most in the wilderness experience. Challenge should not be evaluated in terms suggesting the area may be a good setting for the next action-adventure movie; evaluation should give an indication of whether the area offers the opportunity to experience the dynamics of nature.

Help make sure that the public revision process does not begin with the cards stacked against wilderness. Write your comments today (comments should be postmarked by March 31, 1997) to:

**Bill Hughes**  
U.S. Forest Service  
Southern Region  
1720 Peachtree road NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30367-9102

UPDATE on 9/10:  
Agreement now in place. Details next time