

## Newsletter No. 209

February 5, 1996

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ENCLOSURES: (1) Political guide; (2) Membership involvement form

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

## 11. ACTION SUMMARY

No	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1B	Plateau water-supply study	TVA	"Put me on mailing list!"
2A	State Parks "whitepaper"	TCWP	Offer to help us draft this
3B	Scotts Gulf protection	Chuck Estes (TCWP)	Offer to help
4A	Land Between the Lakes	TVA	Send your comments on the "Concepts" by Feb. 15
4B	Duck R. Development Agency	Sen. Haynes; Rep. Kernell	"Terminate TUDRDA's existence!!!"
6A	Cumberland Gap Natl. Hist. Park	OSM	"Fern Lake should be designated unsuitable for mining!"
7A	Logging without laws	US Representative Pres. Clinton	"Co-sponsor HR 2745 -- repeal the timber rider!" "Put your weight behind repeal of timber rider!"
7B	Forest biodiversity	US Representative	"Co-sponsor HR 2407 -- Forest Biodiversity bill!"
7C	Fake wilderness proposal for Utah	US Rep. and Senators Pres. Clinton	"Oppose HR 1745/S.884!" "Co-sponsor HR.1500!" "Hold firm on promise to veto HR.1745/S.884!"
7D	Jet boats on Wild & Scenic River	US Rep. and Senators	"Oppose S.1374/HR.2568 -- jet boats on W&S Snake R.!"
7F	Budget bill riders	President Clinton	"Do not accept compromise that continues mineral giveaways, or opens ANWR to oil & gas exploration!"
9A	Political Guide	TCWP	Save it in an accessible place; use it often!
9C	Lots of planned, special activities	TCWP	Plan to attend as many as you can: 2/13 (State Parks), 3/15 (Membership), 3/30 (Worthington), 4/20 (March for Pks), 5/23 (Natural Areas), 6/1 (Whites Creek)
9F	Membership involvement	TCWP	Return the enclosed sign-up sheet (colored page)

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. Frist: 202-224-3344, FAX 202-228-1264, local 423-602-7977, e-mail: senator\_frist@frist.senate.gov;  
Sen. Thomps on: 202-224-4944, FAX 202-228-3679, local 423-545-4253;  
Rep. Wamp: 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

### A. Obed Water Resource Management Plan getting under way

The excellent General Management Plan (GMP) for the Obed WSR, which was finalized in June 1995, prescribes the framework and general directions for more specific plans that might be generated subsequently. The first of these is the Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP). The National Park Service has contracted the Obed WRMP out to TVA, and on December 12, the two agencies hosted a meeting to solicit comments for the scoping process. A number of TCWP members attended (Don Barger, Don Todd, Chuck Estes, Frank Hensley, Bob Luxmoore, Lee Russell), and TCWP subsequently submitted written comments.

Our comments cited this key objective from the GMP: "To achieve and maintain the highest water quality -- using current State water quality standards as a minimum -- and a free flowing condition where both quality and quantity provide optimum conditions for the preservation of the river system's naturally diverse and native aquatic life and also for swimming." Based on this, NPS should take the following actions in connection with the WRMP:

- Formally request the State's highest water-quality designation, namely "Outstanding Natural Resource Waters," for all the streams in the Obed watershed.
- Conduct baseline studies to characterize the biodiversity of the river system's aquatic and riparian plant and animal communities.
- Provide a scientific assessment of where in the system, and how, this biodiversity is being impacted at the present time, and what conditions are most likely to affect it adversely in the future.
- Inventory sources of pollution within the Wild & Scenic River boundary and within the watershed as a whole.
- Include water quantity *along with* water quality among variables and endpoints to be studied.

To fulfill its mandate to keep the resource "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations," NPS will need to

- try to determine not only current conditions, but also those that existed at the time of enactment of the authorizing Act in 1976.
- determine how much water has already been taken out of the river system by impoundments or other means,

- assess probable effects on biodiversity and on recreation that have already occurred and/or are likely to occur if current trends continue

In our comments, we also urged interactions between NPS and other agencies that have jurisdiction and/or influence over water-quality or water-quantity issues in the Obed watershed, including the TN Wildlife Resources Agency, the Office of Surface Mining, the TN Dept. of Transportation, and the TN Dept. of Agriculture. Finally, NPS should examine its own activities in the light of how they affect water resources in the Obed WSR. Most important among these is the wording of the easements currently existing within the WSR boundary. There are strong indications that this wording should be changed to provide better protection for the river system.

### B. Plateau water-supply study continues

The original Clear Creek dam proposal by the Catoosa Utility District, thanks to our efforts became the Catoosa Utility District Regional Water Supply Project (NL208 ¶1A; see NL207 ¶1B for earlier NL references that cover the history). A full-fledged Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is in process of being generated by TVA (in cooperation with RUS, the Rural Utilities Service), and the scope has been greatly broadened to include numerous alternatives, a larger area, and a longer time frame. Basic premises for the scope of the study are that, (a) it must address water-supply demand not only for the entire Catoosa Utility District, but for the Upper Cumberland Plateau region, and (b) that the consideration of *downstream* impacts must be paramount, especially impacts on the Obed National Wild & Scenic River.

The State of Tennessee has now taken an interest in the scope of the EIS. In mid-January, several TCWP members (Don Barger, Lee Russell, Linda LaForest, Joan Burns, Karen Peterson) met with Ben Smith, a former official in the State Planning Office, and now a consultant to the State on this issue. Ben presented very reasonable arguments for further enlarging the scope of the study with additional alternatives, and for specifically considering the needs of the City of Crossville for a long-term reliable water supply. It is TCWP's position that if any additional short-term alternative be included in the scope (e.g., a dam on another watershed), this must be clearly defined as being only Step-1 of a long-term plan for a regional supply that everyone can agree to up-front.

\* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Dan H. Ferry (Water Resource Projects and Planning, TVA, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902-1499) and ask to be put on the mailing list for future communications relating to the Catoosa Utility District Regional Water Supply Project.

### C. *Problems in paradise*

- Considerable destruction of Park property (portable toilets, information displays, bridge accesses) took place within a short period a couple of months ago. It may have been an elaborate Halloween prank (the timing was about right), and it may have been perpetrated by the same very small number of people who enjoy vandalizing parked cars. At any rate, it doesn't appear to have been an expression of overt animosity toward the Park.
- TWRA appears to be doing major bulldozing of what had been small dirt roads and jeep trails within the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, clearing them to 25-30ft widths. According to reports we have received, no silt fences or other environmental-protection measures are employed during this activity, which therefore could cause significant siltation in Daddys Creek, Obed, and tributaries.
- A small group of people appeared at the WRMP scoping session (§1A, above) to loudly voice negative sentiments that were clearly based on misconceptions. NPS staff has since met with some of these folks and given them documents (e.g., the GMP) that should convince them that the government isn't about to seize their lands (which are well outside the authorized purchase boundary), or to tell them how to run their lives. Such meetings can only be beneficial.

### D. *This year's March for Parks to benefit Obed WSR*

Ever since TCWP began sponsoring the March for Parks in our area, this annual event has been held in the Big South Fork NRRRA, and the money raised has gone to benefit BSF projects (last year, the maintenance and improvement of the John Muir Trail). In 1996, it's definitely the Obed's turn. We are currently consulting with the site manager on where the dollars we hope to raise would be most needed (how we wish we could raise enough to pay for another ranger! - the Obed has only one at this time). The event itself will be held within the Obed WSR boundary. Look for a special mailing soon, and plan to participate.

## 2. STATEPARKS

### A. *State Parks Forum*

In an Administration that looks upon the state park system strictly as a revenue-making venture, the outlook for Tennessee's parks is even worse than before. The concepts of natural-resource protection, of scientific basis for decision making, and of managing different parks in different ways according to their intrinsic values have gone totally by the wayside. State park management positions have been politicized (removed from civil-service status, NL207 §3C) and additional golf courses are being considered (§2B, below).

Our efforts to examine these issues in a public forum may be coming to fruition, now that TRPA (Tenn. Recreation and Park Assoc.) has tentatively agreed to sponsor a meeting on state-park related problems (no date set yet). TCWP's contribution will be to write and distribute a "white paper" on state park management and funding philosophies, and on our vision of the role and proper use of the system. If you can help us with this, please get in touch with Jenny Freeman (482-5980 or 482-1065)

### B. *Golf courses -- again!*

Last year at about this time, we were trying to battle the golf courses the State was planning to develop in four state parks under a \$20 million general obligation bond (NL202 §2E; NL203 §2B; NL204 §3; NL205 §2A). We lost the general case we had filed in Nashville Chancery Court, but there was at least a slight shift in the locations for which the 4 golf courses were planned. Originally, they were to go to Panther Creek, Natchez Trace, Chickasaw Bluffs, and Cumberland Mountain SPs. After Morristown groups, managed to defeat the Panther Creek State Park proposal, Harrison Bay SP became a substitute. For a while, it looked as if Roan Mountain SP might become a replacement for Natchez Trace (NL207 §3C). In the final approval list, however, Tims Ford SP took its place. With the exception of Cumberland Mountain SP, the locations that have now been approved are not severely damaging environmentally, but the other arguments against golf courses in state parks remain (NL204 §3).

Therefore, we look with extra misgivings at the story that the Sundquist Administration may be planning to pick four additional state parks for golf-course development. Our efforts in connection with the State Park Forum (§2A, above) now gain additional urgency.

### C. Friends groups organizing

Friends groups have been formed for some of our state parks, and, with one exception we know of, they have natural-resource protection very much at heart. Friends of Norris Dam SP is hosting a meeting February 13 (7 p.m. at the Park office building just off hiway 441, W of dam) at which Don Berger (NPCA Southeast Director, and New TCWP Board member) will speak. Friends of Panther Creek will also attend, as will the steering committee that is currently forming Friends of Cove Lake SP. You are invited!

## 3. OTHER NEWS AROUND THE STATE

### A. State legislature is in session

The second half of the 99th General Assembly went into session on January 9 and is expected to adjourn sometime after mid-April. The composition of the legislature is pretty much the same as in 1995, including committee chairs (who were chosen last year). PLEASE SAVE THE POLITICAL GUIDE THAT ACCOMPANIES THIS NEWSLETTER AND KEEP IT ACCESSIBLE!

Several bills have been held over from last year, most importantly the Audit Privilege bill, SB 1135/HB 1745 (see NL205 ¶2; NL207 ¶3). This would give businesses and corporations the privilege of secrecy about polluting activities, and would grant them sweeping immunity from civil and criminal prosecution. The bill passed the Senate with some, but by no means enough, mitigating amendments. A House subcommittee chaired by Rep. Doug Jackson (D-Dickson), after conducting thorough and objective hearings on the bill, ordered further study. -- Also held over was the Environmental Boards bill, SB 207/HB 1336, which would add an environmental representative to the Water Quality Control Board and one to the Air Pollution Control Board.

Key legislators need to be contacted on the matter of terminating the existence of the Upper Duck River Development Agency (TUDRDA), which is spending appalling amounts of taxpayers' money to promote unjustifiable and harmful dam projects in the area. Please see ¶4B, this NL.

Any new bill (except for local bills and resolutions) must be filed by the 10th working day, so we should know very soon what problems (or opportunities) we may face. TCWP is currently

constructing a phone tree that will hopefully help members react in a timely fashion (often, state bill move very fast and without much warning). Incidentally, the Oak Ridge League of Women Voters sponsors "Breakfast with Our Legislators" at 3-week intervals. Upcoming dates are Feb. 5, Feb. 26, March 18, April 8. All are held 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the Oak Ridger's advertising room. This is a good way for you to express opinions on legislation.

### B. Scotts Gulf -- maybe a new ballgame

Scotts Gulf (NL204 ¶4A, NL207 ¶3B), which encompasses the spectacular gorges of the Caney Fork River and its tributaries, is again on the market, since the owner, Bridgestone Tire and Rubber Co. decided not to extend the option that had been held (and renewed several times) by the Doyle Lumber Co. In view of what had been Doyle's various plans for the tract (hunting club or shooting introduced exotic game species, resort community with condos, logging), this is potentially good news.

The coalition of local citizens and conservation groups, of which TCWP is a member (with Chuck Estes as our representative), is hoping to get the State interested in acquiring ownership of the parcel, and is currently engaged in opening channels to the appropriate state agencies. The tract is well suited for dual management zones, with the gorges ideal for wilderness recreation, while the uplands could become a Wildlife Management Area. The problem, as always, is money (perhaps \$5-7 million required), which the state would have to handle without federal assistance, since the State Grants portion of the Land & Water Conservation Fund has been zeroed (¶7, this NL). Although the state has some acquisition funds at its disposal, there is much hustling for priorities; and even if state funds were to become available, the process will be slow. Consequently, the Scotts Gulf coalition, through TCWP, has created a mechanism for collecting private moneys, if necessary, to help purchase that portion of the tract that encompasses and immediately surrounds the gorges. (Someone may try to encourage Bridgestone to donate land to the state as a bicentennial gift, but no one wants to bet on that!)

✱ WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you want to help in Scotts Gulf preservation efforts, call either Chuck Estes (423-462-7374) or Paul Miller (615-526-9259 or 372-9811).



**C. Champion chip mill will eat ~10,000 acres of trees annually -- more acres later?**

TCWP was one of a coalition of three groups that appealed issuance of an Air Quality permit for Champion's new Caryville chip mill (now under construction 1/2 miles west of the Huntsville-Oneida exit from I-75), arguing that an EIS and an ESC were required. The appeal was unfortunately dismissed at the end of the third day of hearings. We were most ably represented by attorney David Stuart, who deserves our sincerest appreciation for putting in a great deal of his own time, and being highly communicative with us.

Under the conditions of the permit, Champion is allowed to chip 462,000 tons of wood per year (namely, 362,000 tons of trees and 100,000 tons of "residual" chips). A Champion official testified under oath that wood for the mill would come from close to 10,000 acres "harvested" (read clear-cut) annually, of which about 25% would be on Champion's own lands (85,000 purchased last year in Anderson, Campbell, and Scott Counties), and 75% on other private and public lands. But that's only the beginning; the Caryville chip mill is capable of processing about 7x the presently permitted rate, indicating Champion's intention to step up the clear-cutting in the future.

Experience has shown that for every 6 jobs created by a chipmill, 80 jobs are lost in tourism and traditional hardwood industries. Thus, Champion's promise to create about 90 jobs (4-6 in the mill, the rest in the woods, with a workforce drawn from 6-7 counties) translates into a net loss of ~1200 jobs.

The Champion situation is but one example of the sudden huge growth of clearcutting in our area. Exhausted from the successful struggle that led to TVA's denial of permits for chipmill-related barge-loading facilities (NL192 ¶6A; NL197 ¶3), we have perhaps not done enough about the subterfuges that let the chip-mill business go on expanding. One example is *whole-log* barging down to chipmills on the Tenn-Tom (out of TVA's jurisdiction) - then on to Japan.

**D. Tennessee Natural Areas System 25 years old**

In 1971, after two years of effort by TCWP and other supporters, the Tennessee legislature passed the Natural Areas Act, which established two classes of natural areas, with different stringency of

protection criteria. The Act also created a mechanism whereby private or other non-state lands can be registered as natural areas (e.g., the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens). How is the system faring 25 years later? TCWP is sponsoring an anniversary meeting featuring Brian Bowen, the Tennessee Natural Areas Administrator, and other speakers. Mark May 23 on your calendar; other details later.

**E. Protection of Upper Clinch River**

The first 70 miles of the Clinch River are free-flowing and largely rural, and they are home to more species of mussels than are found in the entire European continent. The river is, however, threatened by siltation and nonpoint-source pollution, especially agricultural runoff.

Last January, the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) placed its first-ever on-site field representative in the area, and (in partnership with the Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation Project) established an office in Sneedville. TNC's Leslie Colley is working with area landowners on projects that will improve the condition of their land and livestock while protecting and improving the health of the river. Cooperative Management Agreements are the major implementation tools. TNC can secure needed technical and scientific assistance from various government agencies, and can help landowners with advice on getting funding needed for specific projects. Among actions in progress: renovating an old spring so a small hog lot can be moved away from the river; refurbishing an old pond to provide a water source for a herd of cattle that can then be fenced off from the river; planting woody shrubs to stabilize river banks that have been churned up by cattle. TNC's continuing presence in the area, and Leslie Colley's involvement in the community is generating support from originally suspicious local landowners.

**F. Knox Greenways**

The Knox Greenways Coalition reports opening four new greenway trails in 1995. They are the West Hills Greenway (with a 0.7 mile segment open to date); the Pellissippi Greenway (which extends ~1 mile from the Pellissippi State Community College); Adair Park (currently a 0.4-mile loop); and Lakeshore Trail (2.2 miles circling the Lakeshore Mental Health Institute). For more info, call 423-584-0045.

#### 4. TVA

##### A. Land Between the Lakes -- your comments needed

The Congress recently reduced TVA's non-power resource budget by 28% below last year's level (NL207 §6B). The reductions were made in specific projects. Thus, the Muscle Shoals projects were eliminated altogether, and the LBL budget was severely cut. Now TVA is looking for ways to decrease federal spending at LBL.

LBL, the long, relatively narrow area of land between Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley, was designated a National Recreation Area in 1963. Its 300 miles of undeveloped shoreline surround ~170,000 acres of rolling, forested hills, abundant with wildlife. These attributes are threatened by most of the proposals in the recently published *Preliminary Concepts for a Public Use Plan*, for which comments are being solicited.

Currently 70% of LBL's funding comes from federal appropriations, and 30% is generated at LBL, mostly through charges for visitor services. Under the five suggested "Concepts," the goal is to have earned revenues supply 80% of the budget. Unfortunately, one way to achieve this is to turn the natural oasis into a location for numerous developments, such as full-service hotel resorts, campground and cottage resorts with beach parks and marinas, conference center, golf courses, off-road vehicle areas, food services, field sports area, festival area, starlight theater, swimming pool, numerous (up to 30) huge boat ramps, etc., etc. Illustrating Concept #5, the most developed one, is a sketch of the LBL Heritage Park that looks like Disneyland. Under that same Concept, visitation is projected at 4,000,000; it is currently 2,500,000.

Current services (presumably staffing?) would be retained under Concept #2; while some would actually be eliminated under Concept #1, specifically, horseback camp and stables, the Heritage and Wildlife Centers, and the ORV area. Concepts #3, 4, and 5 add increasing numbers and kinds of the developments listed in the preceding paragraph (some of the worst ones would not happen in #3). To defray the cost of public-use operations, Concepts #1 and #2 would utilize respectively <5% and <10% of the land for private leases for currently unspecified uses (residential?).

Thus the Concepts fall into two groups: #1 and 2 versus #3, 4, 5. Beyond rejecting the most intrusive

proposals in each group, (#2, 4, 5), the choice is between (a) the least development but some private leasing (#1), and (b) a fair amount of development without private leases (#3). What would you go for?

✳ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Send comments by February 15 to TVA, Land Between the Lakes, 100 Van Morgan Drive, Golden Pond, KY 42211-9984. TVA is asking these questions:

- Do you have comments regarding the need for public recreation lands, like LBL, to become more financially self-sufficient? [Ask yourself whether this could become a precedent for other NRAs, etc.]
- Do you have comments regarding possible changes in LBL activities and/or services?
- How would possible changes at LBL affect your interest in visiting LBL?

##### B. TUDRDA should cease to exist

It was the Upper Duck River Development Agency (TUDRDA) that persuaded TVA to plan Normandy and Columbia Dams. Normandy was constructed, despite strong evidence that it was not justifiable, but Columbia was stalled when only half built, and will never be finished. TUDRDA is now agitating to have TVA transfer the land it had purchased along Fountain Creek (a Duck tributary just upstream of Columbia) for a Fountain Creek reservoir (NL205 §4A; NL208 §4A).

TUDRDA, formed in the 1960s by a group of businessmen and politicians, managed to get state legislative designation and tax-free status in 1965. The agency is up for review in the current legislative session, and a very strong case can be made against its continued existence. TUDRDA has never shown that there is a water-supply or water-quality problem in the Upper Duck River Area, and yet it uses these scare tactics as an excuse to stay in business and to spend appalling amounts of taxpayers' and water users' money. Marjorie Collier of Tullahoma has written a detailed, extensively researched, analysis of TUDRDA's shady financial and political dealings over the past 30 years (if you want a copy, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to TCWP).

✳ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to (a) Sen. Joe M. Haynes, Chairman, Senate Government Operations Committee (5 Legislative Plaza, Nashville, TN 37243), and (b) to Rep. Mike Kernell, Chairman, House Government Operations Committee (38 Legislative Plaza, Nashville, TN 37243). Urge them to terminate the existence of TUDRDA, which is spending appalling amounts of taxpayers' money

on promoting projects that have no justification. Send copies to your own Senator and Rep.

### C. **Energy Vision 20/20 revised**

A frequent criticism of TVA's draft long-term integrated resource plan (*Energy Vision 20/20*) was that it paid minimal attention to energy-conservation and energy-efficiency initiatives, demand-side management, and renewable energy sources. Numerous comments (over 3,300 at public meetings alone), including some from TCWP (NL207 ¶6A), caused TVA to make some changes for the final version of the Plan, issued during the latter half of January. Key revisions are as follows:

- Increase the goal for energy savings through conservation measures from 1,450 to 2,260 megawatts by the year 2010.
- In the next 5 years, investigate the potential for a wind-power project.
- In the next 5 years, investigate a biomass-generating facility that uses wood wastes or crops.

The TVA Board will take a final vote on the plan in February.

### D. **Section 26(a) in operation**

Sec. 26(a) of the TVA Act requires the agency's review and approval of all applications for construction proposed in or along the Tennessee River or its tributaries. Last year, the Carolina Trout Company approached TVA with a proposal to raise trout in three TVA lakes (Fontana, Hiwassee, and Appalachia), using pens constructed of netting suspended from floating platforms. In accordance with NEPA, TVA conducted a review to evaluate potential environmental impacts and to obtain public input. Over 1,800 responses opposed the proposal on grounds of environmental, aesthetic, or recreational considerations. In January, the request was denied by TVA.

### E. **A plug for TVA's Small Wild Areas program**

The 1/23/96 issue of *Inside TVA* contains a special section on TVA's 1995 Annual Report. Among activities covered is the agency's shoreline policy, and the illustration accompanying this section is a photo of Bill and Lee Russell in their canoe on Watts Bar Lake. Lee is quoted as saying, "White's Creek Small Wild Area is a beautiful example of what a small wild area can do. It keeps the shoreline natural, protects the landscape, and preserves habitat for endangered species." TVA's natural areas programs need all the encouragement we can give.

## 5. **SMOKIES AND CHEROKEE**

### A. **Report from the GSMNPark Unity Meeting**

[Contributed by Patrice Cole]

Two of TCWP's Board members and representatives of other groups learned much from the January 27 Unity Meeting sponsored by the superintendent and staff of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP).

The park staff described the national park system, budget trends over recent years, the functions and responsibilities of the GSMNP staff, the way the GSMNP budget is allocated, and the park's effects on the local economy. It was estimated that \$689 million are spent locally each year by the 9 million tourists visiting the park, and an additional \$9 million by the 200 year-round park employees. Numerous facts illustrate the ecological value of the park: it contains over 130 tree species (more than all of northern Europe), is the only known habitat of several species (especially plants), is the largest upland wilderness in the eastern U.S., and can accurately be called the "salamander capital of the Western Hemisphere."

Between 1985 and 1993, the GSMNP's effective budget (after inflation) increased only 14% (less than 2% per year). During this same period, not only has visitation increased steadily, but it has become less seasonal than it used to be. Visitor services that used to be concentrated in the summer months are now required more throughout the year. The effect of increased demands on more-or-less static resources include slower response to emergencies (there is now one ranger per 400 square miles of park at times), a reduction in the project to eliminate non-native hogs, and less attention to the maintenance and improvement of the 250 miles of trail that are in poor condition. The park staff is responding to this situation by looking for more effective means of using volunteer help, developing new partnerships (especially with gateway communities), and increasing non-federal revenues. But park superintendent, Karen Wade, indicated that park visitors will probably have to expect less in the way of services.

There are bills before Congress that would allow parks that collect entry fees to retain much, or all, of the money. Currently, the entry fees collected by a park go into the general U.S. treasury. Of the 54 national parks with road access, the Smokies is the only one without an entry fee. Provided the rules were changed so that most of the



money collected would remain in the park's budget, GSMNP would consider pursuing the necessary authority to initiate entrance fees.

*Update on Person's Branch Road:* GSMNP has received 60 individual letters opposing re-opening of the road. Five letters, including two from Congressman Duncan, and a petition with 5600 names have been received asking that the road be repaired. The park is planning to conduct an Environmental Assessment (and perhaps an EIS) to evaluate all the options for the road that have been suggested by the public or identified by park staff. Eligibility for emergency funds for road repair will expire in 1996.

*Update on Elkmont structures:* The Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer has not concurred with the NPS proposal to remove the 79 structures, so the park service is preparing a case report for submission to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. NPS still intends to remove these structures.

*Planning:* The park is looking for means to develop a comprehensive Cades Cove Development Concept Plan to direct future management of Cades Cove's historic and natural environment.

*Backcountry:* A backcountry management strategy has been issued by the GSMNP, recommending ways for enhancing the backcountry users' experience while protecting the parks fragile resources. Relocation or closure of certain trail sections is recommended in places where the nature and magnitude of use is incompatible with the physical aspects of the location (e.g. soils, slope, drainage).

## B. The SAA and Forest Plans

The interagency Southern Appalachian Assessment was slowed down by the government shut-down and the weather. The four technical reports and the summary report are now expected by early March. This delay is having a domino effect since several individual Forests - including the Cherokee NF - were awaiting SAA completion before continuing their Forest Plan Revision. Notice of Intent is expected to be published in April, and this will begin the formal 120 day comment period. We urge any interested members to request being placed on the mailing list (write Robert Joslin, Regional Forester, USFS Southern Region, 1720 Peachtree Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-9102).

## 6. STRIPMINE NEWS

### A. Fern Lake "unsuitability" petition

Fern Lake in the Little Yellow Creek watershed is the public water supply for Middlesboro, KY. It is also an integral part of the scenic vistas from Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (NHP). In 1994, the City of Middlesboro and NPCA (the National Parks & Conservation Assoc.) filed a petition with the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to designate 5.9 square miles of the Little Yellow Creek watershed (the Tennessee portion) - including about half of Fern Lake - unsuitable for surface coal mining operations under Sec. 522 of the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. [Note: a separate petition was filed with the State of Kentucky for the Kentucky portion of the watershed. The state has ruled that, among other things, the operator must secure approval from the National Park Service before he can consider mining.]

OSM has just issued its Petition Evaluation Document (PED)/EIS which agrees with a large number of the Fern Lake petition's allegations. For example, OSM agrees that stripmining would impact the recreational experience of visitors to Cumberland Gap NHP, and that "similar esthetic values and recreational opportunities at other public lands would not provide an appropriate substitute to those found at the Cumberland Gap NHP." This and several other findings clearly indicate that the area is appropriate for "unsuitability" designation. However, it's still a political decision.

A hearing on the PED/EIS will be held at Middlesboro on March 12, and written comments may be mailed until March 26. For inquiries (including requests for the document) and comments, contact Willis Gainer, OSM, 530 Gay Street, Suite 500, Knoxville, TN 37902. TCWP director, Don Barger, is available to provide more information about the petition (call Norris, 423-494-7008). OSM will announce its choice of alternatives some time after the close of the comment period.

### B. Fall Creek Falls petition

Because harmful mining in an area that contains the notorious, acid-producing Sewanee coal seam is moving ever closer to Fall Creek Falls State Park, SOCM and TCWP petitioned to have the watershed and watershed of the Park and Natural Area declared unsuitable for surface mining. In October, OSM (Office of Surface Mining) declared

the petition to be complete and initiated the NEPA process, the first step of which is to determine the scope of the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). The public comment period for scoping comments just closed, and the draft EIS is expected to become available some time in the fall. Your input will again be required at that time, and we'll keep you informed. For additional information call Steve Taylor at SOCM (423-426-9455) or at home (938-0466).

### C. Budget cuts will worsen stripmine damages

The Interior Appropriations bill was vetoed by President Clinton and is currently part of the budget negotiations. Among the many damaging provisions Congress included in that bill (97), this NL, one of the most devastating is the drastically reduced spending level for the federal Office of Surface Mining. Because OSM implements the regulations promulgated under the 1977 Surface Mining Act, the cuts would have the effect of emasculating this law. Among damaging consequences to Tennessee might be efforts to return primacy (i.e., control) to the state, which has never had either the funds or the will to run a good regulatory program.

Totally zeroed out of the FY 1996 budget is RAMP (the Rural Abandoned Minelands Program). Under the 1977 Surface Mining Act, a small tax is levied on current coal mining to fund the reclamation of abandoned coal mines. Thus, there is earmarked money "in the bank" - but it is not being allowed to pay for orphan-mine reclamation. (This is analogous to the situation with the Land & Water Conservation Fund, which has piles of money "in the bank" that the Congress refuses to appropriate for its designated purpose - land acquisition.)

## 7. NATIONAL ISSUES

### A. Stop Logging without Laws; repeal the rider!

The timber industry's assault on the remnants of old growth in our national forests, always relentless, became vicious last year with attachment of the timber-salvage rider to the rescission bill (NL205 §6B). This rider mandates that public forests be cut "to the maximum extent feasible" ... "notwithstanding any other provision of law" [including judicial orders]. Responding to public outcry against the timber rider, Pres. Clinton vetoed the rescission bill in early June; but the substitute version he signed in late July still had the

timber rider in it. What this means is that, until the end of 1996, the Forest Service and BLM are required to award as many "salvage" timber sales as they possibly can, above and beyond the normally programmed levels; thus, total logging, in total absence of law.

After the rescissions bill with its timber rider was finally signed, things got even worse. By means of a law suit, a consortium of timber companies forced the Forest Service and BLM to release immediately all federal timber sales ever offered in Oregon and Washington, at their original price, and without complying with environmental laws. This means that sales that had been withdrawn by the Bush, Reagan, and earlier Administrations because of their devastating environmental impacts are now being released. From October on, putative "salvage" sales have popped up throughout the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, California, etc. The timber industry is cutting as fast as possible to create a fall accompli by the time the public becomes aware of the destruction that has been wrought. What a charade for a Congress that supposedly wants to balance the budget to pass a law that will cost the Treasury millions in terms of very-much-below-cost timber sales! The timber rider, in fact, states explicitly that "salvage timber sales ... shall not be precluded because the costs ... are likely to exceed the revenues." Further, the whole-sale forest destruction and the concomitant damages to rivers and streams will put thousands of people out of work who depend on fishing, recreation, and other forest-related income.

But perhaps something can be done. A bill, HR 2745, has been introduced that would repeal the Salvage Rider. It is called the Restoration of Natural Resources Laws on Public Lands Act and had gained 81 sponsors by mid-January.

✱ **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** (1) Urge your Representative to co-sponsor HR 2745. (2) Contact Pres. Clinton and urge him to put his full weight behind a repeal of the rider. The President needs to rebuild bridges burnt when he signed "Logging without Laws." (Addresses on p.2.)

### B. A bill to protect forest biodiversity

About 75 million acres of federal lands are being commercially logged, and the agencies involved have had a 30-year policy of clearcutting and heavy salvage logging, instead of selection management and the objective of preserving biodiversity. An attempt to bring about a basic shift in policy is embodied in the Forest Biodiversity Act,

HR 2407, introduced in September by Bryant (D-TX) and Shays (R-CT). This bill:

- requires five federal agencies to maintain native biodiversity in all forest stands, and create an opportunity for restoring biodiversity
- ban seven-logging on federal lands
- bans logging and road building in roadless areas
- creates an independent Committee of Scientists with authority to advise on policy.

\* WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Representative to co-sponsor HR 2407 (addresses on p.2)

### C. Utah's fake "wilderness" proposal -- a terrible precedent for wilderness anywhere

[Source: Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance]

There is overwhelming citizen support in Utah and elsewhere for HR 1500 (Hinchey), which would designate as wilderness 5.7 million of 22 million acres managed in Utah by BLM. Ignoring this, Rep. Hansen (of Park-closure-commission fame) and Senators Hatch and Bennett are sponsoring a fake wilderness bill, HR 1745/S 884, that is aimed not only at carving up the best of Southern Utah's superlative wilderness, but at blowing apart the meaning of wilderness itself.

It is bad enough that the Hansen/Hatch bill designates 4 million acres less than the Hinchey bill; it sets out specifically to destroy these 4 million acres by:

- preventing BLM from managing the lands to retain their wilderness character (instead, specifically opening them to coal and gold mining, off-road vehicles, tar-sand development),
- forbidding BLM from ever again recommending any of the lands to Congress for wilderness designation.

And how about the 1.8 million acres that the Hansen/Hatch bill does (nominally) designate? They would be specifically opened to such developments as communications towers on high peaks, antennas and microwave repeaters, dams and pipelines (the bill's language allows for dam construction in 7 areas); and would promote such activities as ORV recreation, jet skis, excessive grazing, heavy-equipment use, and military overflights. In fact, the so-called wilderness would receive less protection than is now accorded by law to other BLM lands (that are not designated wilderness). It is clear that if this bill were to pass, it would have profound implications for the wilderness ideal in general.

This is what has happened in the Congress thus far.

- Secretary Babbitt testified very strongly against HR 1745/S884
- The Senate version barely squeaked through committee
- Rep. Hansen sat on the House bill for months, then waited for the moment Rep. Hinchey (sponsor of the rival HR 1500) was in Bosnia to send HR 1745 to the Rules Committee
- Hansen got the Rules Committee to waive the usual 72-hour period between clearance by Rules and floor action
- 20 minutes before debate was to start on December 14, Hansen pulled his bill. The reason? A headcount had shown that 43-46 Republicans were ready to join the vast majority of Democrats in voting to defeat the bill.

Hansen may very well try to bring his bill back in 1996, and we must convince our legislators that it is dangerous, and that an excellent alternative bill is available.

\* WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Contact your Rep. and Senators to let them know that HR 1745/S 884 is a terrible bill, with far-reaching adverse implications for the Wilderness System as a whole; urge them to co-sponsor Hinchey's HR 1500 (and thank Reps. Bart Gordon and Harold Ford for having done so already). (Addresses on p.2 and enclosed Political Guide.) (2) Communicate with the White House and urge Pres. Clinton to stand firm on his resolve to veto HR 1745/S884, should it pass. (3) To keep updated, write Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, 1471 South 1100 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84105-2423.

### D. Rivers: threats and protection initiatives

Jet boats in WSR - Jet boats would be given almost unlimited access to the 71-mile-long Wild & Scenic River stretch of the Snake River under a bill (S1374/HR2568) sponsored by Idaho, Oregon, and Washington legislators. The proposal would in effect establish what might be dubbed a "national motorized area." It threatens to subvert an 8-year planning process for the Hells Canyon portion of the Snake WSR, which lies within a National Recreation Area under jurisdiction of the US Forest Service (transfer of Hells Canyon to the National Park Service would lead to more sensitive management). The main danger of the bill is the precedent it might set for other Wild & Scenic

\* Rivers. Urge you members of Congress to oppose S 1374/HR2568.

**Wild & Scenic River Council.** -- The interagency National Wild & Scenic River Council was established in April. Made up of all the major federal agencies that have jurisdiction over components of the Wild & Scenic River System, the Council will address improvements in managing wild & scenic river, and ways to speed the process by which new rivers are added to the system.

**Watershed 2000.** -- RIVER NETWORK has developed a 5-year strategic plan, Watershed 2000, for citizen watershed action to reverse the decline of rivers and watersheds. The goal is eventually to have an active citizen watershed council in every one of America's 2000 watersheds (in 400 of them by the year 2000). Each Council will develop a science-based strategy for action, will engage in a working relationship with key interest groups, and will persuade the public that their own well-being depends upon the health of rivers and watersheds. For more info or offers of help, contact RIVER NETWORK (PO Box 8787, Portland, OR 97207-8787, 1-800-423-6747).

### E. Fake concession "reform"

Among the several dangerous "riders" attached to the budget reconciliation bill (which Pres. Clinton vetoed and is currently in negotiations over) is one that purports to reform concessions policy, but in fact makes it infinitely worse than it already is. Many national park concessions (food, lodging, stables, etc.) are in fact huge monopolies. An outrageously low percentage (3%, on average) of the >\$600 million annual earnings goes back to the government -- and even that doesn't go to the Park Service but to the general Treasury.

Rep. Hansen (R-UT) and Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) worked with the concessions industry to draft this rider which would:

- essentially cement the existing national parks concessions in place for the next 30 years (through long-term contracts that avoid competitive bidding);
- remove NPS control over prices charged (concessionaires could charge whatever they wished);
- extend the practice to other federal lands agencies;
- increase visitor entrance fees (we are not opposed to increasing visitor entrance fees *per se*, but not until (a) the concessionaires are made to pay their fair share, and (b) the entrance fees go back to NPS, instead of to the general Treasury).

Concomitant with pushing their fake reform agenda, Hansen and Murkowski have blocked action on a real concessions-reform bill by Sen. Bennett (R-UT) and Rep. Meyers (R-KS). The latter resembles a measure that in 1994 passed both Houses by a 9:1 ratio (it got held up by the end-of-session gridlock). What happens next will depend on the outcome of the budget bill negotiations, so there is currently no recommended action for us.

### F. The give-away of our mineral resources

Regarding Mining Law reform, a win on one front (Interior Appropriations bill), may be undone by a loss on another front (Budget Reconciliation); but everything is up for grabs until the budget negotiations are completed. For the Interior Appropriations bill, the House, after much back-and-forth action (NL207 §8D; (NL208 §6F) approved the Conference Report, which contained provisions to renew the moratorium on issuing "patents" (mineral giveaways) under the 1872 Mining Law. The Interior Approps bill was, however, disastrous in many non-mining areas (§7), this NL), and was vetoed by President Clinton in December. Its future won't be clear until the budget negotiations are over.

On the other side, the massive Budget Reconciliation bill contains the mining industry's "sham mining reform" package, which would kill this moratorium and reopen the floodgates to massive giveaways. Thus, over \$15.5 Billion-worth of publicly-owned minerals would be given away -- mostly to multinational mining conglomerates -- for what the Congressional Budget Office estimates would be a return of only \$850,000 annually to the Treasury, i.e., \$0.00085 Billion. In vetoing the Budget Reconciliation bill in December, President Clinton cited the sham Mining Law reform as one of his reasons. The President then produced a counterbill which called for eliminating the mining industry's current sweetheart tax break, the mineral depletion allowance. The future of the mining provisions in the budget bills will remain unclear until the budget negotiations are completed.

\* **WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Thank President Clinton for his vetoes and urge him not to accept any compromise that continues the mineral giveaways. While you are about it, be sure to do the same thing on the subject of not opening the Arctic Refuged to oil & gas drilling (NL207 §8E; NL208 §6A).

(Addresses on p. 2 and in the enclosed Political Guide.)

### G. Will Congress change its tune on the environment?

Recent public opinion polls about environmental policies have some Republicans worried. Linda DiVall, a leading Republican pollster, recently furnished Congressional party leaders with a 13-page summary of a national poll that indicates that, by 2:1, the public has more confidence in Democrats than in Republicans to protect the environment (even among Republican respondents, 55% did not trust their party to do so, while among Democratic respondents, 72% trust their party). On a question of how people felt about members of Congress who had voted to slash the EPA budget by one-third, 46% would vote against such an incumbent, and only 35% would vote for him/her. While people thought there was too much regulation, in general, they did not apply this sentiment to environmental regulations: only 21% thought environmental laws had gone too far, while 36% thought they had not gone far enough. Conservative pollster Frank Lutz found that 62% of voters think environmental protections are more important than cutting regulations. Another poll, conducted by *Money* magazine, showed that in a ranking of 41 factors on a 1-to-10 scale, clean water came in at the top (8.9), and clean air second (8.7). None of the other high-ranked factors (e.g., a low crime rate) scored higher than 8.0.

Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) has organized a pro-environment faction of moderate Republicans in the House, 30 of whom wrote to Speaker Gingrich: "If the party is to resuscitate its reputation in this important area, we cannot be seen as using the budget crisis as an excuse to emasculate environmental protection." These Republicans deserve all the support their electorate can give them. But much of the Republican leadership is not buying their advice; they see the problem not with their agenda, but with the way they have explained it (see NL208 ¶6E for the cynical advice that was sent to party members on how to beef up their environmental image and counteract "the environmentalist lobby and their extremist friends in the eco-terrorist underworld"). The Head of the Republican Conference in the House blames "distortion of our record by the Administration and by radical environmental groups who want to continue to over-regulate the economy." Many of the party's leaders are among the most vigorous advocates of the evisceration of environmental laws

that have been a thorn-in-the-flesh for industries, such as mining, oil & gas, and logging — industries that have financially supported many election campaigns.

What can be expected from Congress in 1996? Most knowledgeable people expect few if any good bills, but perhaps a chance to stop really bad ones. Among the stoppable ones may be the sham Mining Law Reform, federal "takings" bills that would compensate landowners for property devalued by environmental regs (Arizona and Washington both have rejected State "takings" referenda), the proposal to wrest the new Mojave National Preserve from the Park Service and give it to BLM (where it could be exploited), and a wetlands bill that defines away most wetlands and greatly diminishes protection for the rest. The important Endangered Species Act reauthorization (¶7H, below) is up for grabs. Republican moderates (Gilchrist-NY, Morella-MD, Boehlert-NY, Castle-DE, Shays-CT, Greenwood-PA, Weldon-PA) have offered a bill that — while not perfect — is a true alternative to the dangerous Young-Pombo bill.

It is widely believed that the recent win of Ron Wyden over Gordon Smith in the special Oregon election to fill Sen. Packwood's seat owes a great deal to environmental matters. Wyden, a former Congressman had a 100% voting score from the nonpartisan League of Conservation Voters, while Smith, a multi-millionaire and former state senator had a score of only 4% from the Oregon LCV. In his business, too, Smith had been a convicted polluter. The environment was a top issue in the campaign. Wyden's win is especially meaningful in view of Smith being more charismatic, more of an orator, and above all much more heavily funded than Wyden (he contributed \$1.5 million of his own money to the campaign).

### H. Endangered Species Act myths

In NL207 ¶9A, we brought you the excellent responses by Mollie Beattie, head of the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), to misconceptions that have been spread around about the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Not only misconceptions but truly wild stories are being circulated by people such as Rep. Pombo (R-CA), cosponsor of the anti-ESA Young-Pombo bill (HR 2275) (NL208 ¶6B). How do you like this one: motorists who drive through puddles may be fined for damaging endangered fairy shrimp habitat? And how about this one: the FWS forced geese to vomit so see if they had eaten endangered Kanab snails, then fined the landowner \$50,000 per eaten snail? And here is

Rep. Helen Chenoweth (R-ID): "A species goes out of existence every 20 seconds; surely a new species must come into existence every 20 seconds." If you have access to the Internet, look for "Top 10 lies about the ESA" at <http://www.envirolink.org>.

Calvin and Hobbes (in the comic strip), strolling through the forest: "I was reading about how countless species are being pushed toward extinction by man's destruction of forests ... Sometimes I think the surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that none of it has tried to contact us."

### J. Land acquisition funds -- from bad to terrible

[Source: Common Ground, Jan./Feb. 96]

In addition to ordering drastic funding cuts, the Interior Appropriations bill had (has?) a bunch of dangerous riders attached to it that caused it to be vetoed. As we go to press, no compromise has been achieved on this bill.

Regardless what happens to the riders, it is likely that there will not be any changes in the appropriations under the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which are the moneys by which parklands are acquired. The last good times for the LWCF were during the Carter Administration. Ever since then, it's been on a fairly steep downhill slope, and this year, it has almost ceased to exist. Overall, the fund went from \$235 M in FY '95 to \$140 M in FY '96, with cuts taken by the various agencies as follows:

Agency	Change from FY '95
BLM	-14%
Fish & Wildlife Serv.	-45%
Natl. Park Serv. (total)	-44%
state grants	-100%
Forest Service	-37%
LWCF Total	-40%

Here are some other cuts in the Interior appropriations.

- National Biological Service cut by 15%, and -- what's worse -- eliminated as a separate entity, by being merged into the U.S. Geological Survey.
- OSM funds for regulating stripmining cut 27%.
- Endangered species spending cut 16%.
- Forest Service wilderness management funds cut 39%!

## B. OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

In 1980, the US Department of Energy created a National Environmental Research Park (NERP) on DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation for the purpose of conducting landscape-level research on potential environmental impacts of new and developing energy technologies. This NERP (along with the GSMNP) is also part of the Southern Appalachian International Biosphere Reserve Network of global ecological research sites. These facts were pointed out by the Friends of ORNL in their comments on DOE's Common Ground draft report. The Common Ground Process is designed to make recommendations to DOE concerning future land uses for the Oak Ridge Reservation. The NERP occupies about 40% of the Reservation.

The Friends of ORNL criticizes the draft report for not recognizing the historical role and broad mission of the NERP, which contribute to making Oak Ridge a renowned center for environmental research. The draft report is further criticized for not recognizing the highly significant educational role of the 35,000-acre Oak Ridge Reservation, which should command at least equal status with business and industrial uses. For further information about the Common Ground Process, contact Gary Bodenstein, Common Ground Process, PO Box 2003, MS 7169, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-7169.

## 9. TCWP NEWS

### A. Political Guide

With this Newsletter, we are enclosing our annually updated Political Guide. It contains lots of information that will help you contact both State and Federal legislators and agencies. We urge you to keep this guide in a very accessible place (perhaps with your phone directories?) and use it often.

Our sincerest thanks to Lynn Wright, who this year, again, worked very hard to update the information.

### B. New Executive Director

As we had feared, Linda LaForest's husband was transferred to Paducah, and Linda had to leave her executive director position at the end of January (though she may continue working for TCWP in some special capacity while at Paducah). We are

special capacity while at Paducah). We are fortunate to have been able to recruit a new part-time executive director, Karen Peterson, and we welcome her into the TCWP family.

Karen, who lives in West Knoxville, got her BA in economics from California State Univ, and has 2 years of graduate coursework in economics. Much of Karen's work has been related to energy issues. Thus, for 6 years, as policy analyst for the Energy & Natural Resources Group of a large law firm, she specialized in environmental and public planning issues associated with siting alternative power generation facilities. Subsequently, she has monitored and analyzed regulatory proceedings for various clients.

### C. Lots and lots of activities planned



- TCWP is sponsoring and/or participating in a large number of upcoming activities
- February 13, 7 p.m., TCWP's Board member Don Baiger will speak to State Parks "Friends" groups at Norris Dam State Park (office bldg) (see ¶2C, this NL)
  - March 15, TCWP General Membership meeting and birthday party (see ¶9D, below)
  - March 30, 9 a.m., cleanup and maintenance in the Worthington Cemetery Natural Area, Oak Ridge. This is part of TVA's "River Rescue" day. (For details, check the newspapers, or call the TCWP office, 481-0286).
  - April 20, March for Parks in the Obed National Wild & Scenic River (see ¶1D, this NL, and expect to get a special mailing)
  - May 23, meeting to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Tennessee Natural Areas System (see ¶3D, this NL, and look for details in our next NL)
  - June 1, Whites Creek Small Wild Area hike/cleanup/maintenance (look for details in our next NL)
  - October or November, our Annual meeting -- a special celebration this year of our 30th anniversary
  - Sometime in the fall, the State Parks forum (see ¶2A, this NL).

### D. General membership meeting and "birthday party"

To complement our annual weekend, which is always held in some scenic spot and combines a program of invited speakers with outings and social activities, we are this year planning an evening meeting in Oak Ridge (March 15). This will provide the opportunity for our members to get

informed about, and discuss, TCWP activities, and to look at future courses of action. The fledgling committees we are attempting to form to further our cause will report on their objectives and mode of operating.

Because this year marks our 30th anniversary, we are billing this as Part 1 of our birthday party (the Annual Weekend will be Part 2), and will include refreshments, a program, and time for socializing. Look for a special mailing about details, but mark your calendar now. To remain a vital organization, we need the participation of a broad part of our membership.

### E. End-of-year appeal highly successful

We were overjoyed by the huge response to our end-of-year appeal. Almost 80 of you responded and sent in contributions totaling over \$6,000 for TCWP, plus \$500 for the Friends of the Obed network. Some of these were given in memory of Ruth Moore and in memory of Elizabeth Arnold, beloved TCWP members who died in 1995 (NL204 ¶10E; NL208 ¶7G).

The contributions are especially important because they help pay for our executive director, office rent and phone, and some of the necessities of modern life that are related to computers. All of these are needed if we are to stay effective (we were worried because our bank balance had been steadily shrinking), and become even more so. Individual donors are receiving notes of appreciation, but we want all of you to know how grateful we are, and how much your gifts will count toward our effectiveness.

### F. Membership involvement

As you know, the environment is up against it these days, and needs all the help it can get. In an effort to stimulate membership involvement to make us a more effective as well as more broadly-based organization, we are enclosing a sign-up sheet (colored page) with this NL. Please take a minute to look it over; we hope many of you will respond.



### G. We thank our volunteers

On November 29, NL 208 was assembled by Melinda Compton, Anna George Dobbins, Frank and Catherine Hensley, Marge Olson, and Danette Salpas. The following week, Oddy Curtis and Hal Smith stuffed envelopes for our end-of-year appeal for contributions. We are grateful to them all.

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## 10. ACTIVITIES and READING MATTER

- February 13, 7 p.m., Norris Dam State Park (office bldg - just off Hiway 441, W of dam). TCWP's Board member Don Barger will speak to State Parks 'Friends' groups (¶2C, this NL).
- February 26, March 18, April 8, all from 7:30-8:30 a.m., "Breakfast with our Legislators," The Oak Ridge, Advertising Room. Sponsored by O.R. League of Women Voters.
- March 15, TCWP General Membership meeting (¶9D, this NL).
- March 30, TCWP cleanup and maintenance in the Worthington Cemetery Natural Area, Oak Ridge (call TCWP office, 481-0286, for details).
- April 6, Knoxville, 4th Annual Greenways 5k run and 2-mile walk, a fundraiser for the Knox Greenways Coalition. Pre-registration by March 27. (Call Will Skelton at 521-6200 (work) or 523 2272 (home).
- April 12 & 13, Nashville, 3rd Annual Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Symposium, Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville. (Call Lee Patrick, 615-352-6299).
- April 20, TCWP's March for Parks in the Obed National Wild & Scenic River (¶1D, this NL)
- May 17-19, Naturalist Weekend in the Smokies. Call Great Smoky Mountains Inst. at Tremont, 423-448-6709.
- May 23, meeting in Oak Ridge to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Tennessee Natural Areas System (¶3D and ¶9C, this NL)
- May 23-26, Nauvoo, AL (Bankhead Natl. Forest), 10th Annual Forest Reform Rally. (Contact 1996 Forest Reform Rally, 5952 Royal Lane, Suite 168, Dallas, TX 75230.)
- June 1, TCWP's Whites Creek Small Wild Area hike/cleanup/maintenance
- *Funding worth fighting for: Your Guide to Proposed Reductions for environmental spending in Congress' Budget and Appropriations bills*, compiled by the National Wildlife Federation, analyzes the impact of funding cuts and anti-environmental provisions present in the Budget Reconciliation bill and

various appropriations packages. (Call NWF, 202-797-6800.)

- *Land Letter*, published by the Conservation Fund, is a biweekly newsletter covering national land policy for professionals in government and conservation organizations. For a sample, call 703-522-8008.
- The National Wildlife Federation's 1966 *Conservation Directory* is the most comprehensive and up-to-date listing of organizations, agencies, and officials concerned with conservation, education, and natural-resource management. (For single copies, \$25 + \$5.25 shipping. Call 1-800-432-6564.)
- Robert S. Devine's, "The Trouble with Dams" in the July 1995 issue of *Atlantic Monthly* focuses on several areas where millions or billions of \$\$ of taxpayer money support environmentally harmful water projects, such as dams, levees, lock systems, and irrigation projects.
- Americans for the Environment publishes a series of "user-friendly" guides and resources to aid with public education and electoral skills. Subjects include lobbying strategies, media advocacy, fund raising, justice resources, guide for teachers, jobs, etc. Prices range from \$2-15, most are less than \$10. (Americans for the Env't., 1400 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Phone 202-797-6665, fax 202-797-6646.)
- If you have access to the internet, look for the American Resources Information Network's home page, <http://world.web.net/%7earin/index.html>. This tracks the status of "takings" legislation in Congress and all 50 states, informs you how to contact your legislators electronically, etc. Also look for <http://www.ewg.org>, home page for the Environmental Working Group, an environmental research group in Washington.

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### 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.

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TCWP, 130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
Exec. Dir., Karen Peterson, 423-481-0286

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## HELP!!!

Eleven people on the Board -- active though they be, and one (very-)part-time executive director, can achieve a lot, but not anything like what our organization *could* be achieving. We have a wonderful membership: you are concerned, informed, intelligent, and financially generous. It is our belief that many of you would be more than willing to also contribute some of your time to help our cause.

Some of our members are terribly busy, others have more time at their disposal. Therefore, we suggest below a menu of opportunities, with time involvements ranging from a couple of hours a year to a few hours per month. Check any that you *might* be willing to help with (it does not commit you). If you check more than one item, you can choose among them later, after we talk to you and explain the jobs in more detail. [P.S.: Chances are you would like the other people you would be working with.]

May be willing  
to help

### One-shot deals

- Help stuff one mailing per year
- Help organize March for Parks
- Help develop State Parks "white paper"
- Help organize one meeting (e.g., General Membership, or Annual Weekend)
- Help organize one service outing (e.g., North Ridge or Whites Creek Trails, Cedar Barrens, Worthington cleanups)

### Regular but light

- Help executive director in the office one hour a week (or two hours every fortnight, or whatever)
- Be willing to transmit phone messages when action is needed fast (e.g., an upcoming piece of legislation)

### Work on a service committee

- Membership development (identify members willing to help in various ways, attract new members and encourage them to become involved, thank volunteers, etc.)
- Programs and outings (develop a schedule, recruit speakers, select a meeting site, etc.)
- Finance (track revenues and expenses, brainstorm possible funding sources, etc.)
- Media and publicity (inform public about "CWP and its activities, develop media contacts, distribute news releases, etc.)

### Work on an issues committee

- Obed and Big South Fork
- State Parks and Natural Areas
- River preservation
- Scotts Gulf
- Smokies
- Oak Ridge issues (greenbelts, etc.)
- Others, as they arise

(Just fold the form when you are through; it is pre-addressed, all you need do is add a 32¢ stamp.)

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32¢  
stamp

TCWP  
130 Tabor Road  
OakRidge, TN 37830

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