

The following Tennessee river areas are recommended for inclusion in a National Scenic Rivers System. They are included in the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Bill, but these three in particular are also especially worthy of serious consideration for national scenic river status. All three have already been so recommended by the Tennessee Department of Conservation, the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission, and the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. Members of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association have had long experience with all three of these rivers.

1. **Buffalo River**—The entire river.—This river was one of those studied and favorably recommended by the study team of the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. In 1965 the 84th General Assembly of Tennessee passed Senate Joint Resolution No. 24 which urged the Department of the Interior and Congress to include the Buffalo River as a national wild river and offered state assistance in carrying out the development program. Bills introduced by U.S. Representatives Anderson and Fulton include this river in those designated for immediate scenic river status. The TVA is cooperating with the State of Tennessee in developing plans to administer this river as a scenic float stream.

2. **Big South Fork of the Cumberland and its tributary Clear Fork**.—This river also is one of those studied by the BOR. The study team concluded that it was perhaps the finest wild river in the eastern United States. With that endorsement, little more needs to be said. The river is well known to canoe clubs, and this year it will be the site of the U.S. Canoe Association's national championship down-river marathon.

3. **Obed River and its tributaries Clear Creek and Daddys Creek**.—The Obed is the principal stream in the Emory River watershed. The scenic qualities of this river, which are equal to those of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland, have been described at length in the January 1968 report of the TVA-Emory River Watershed Development Association, which states: "The combination of forest setting, mountain peaks, deep river gorges, scenic streams, interesting waterfalls, rock formations, caves and plentiful game and fish make this area unique within the Tennessee Valley if not the eastern United States . . . The central feature of this area's uniqueness is the gorge of the Emory and Obed Rivers . . . the most scenic are the Obed River and its major tributaries—Clear Creek and Daddys Creek. These streams form almost a 100-mile system of rugged waters which change complexion with the seasons. Sheer rock walls encase these streams in canyons up to 500 feet deep and create spectacular views." TVA is engaged in further studies on the scenic potentials of keeping the river free-flowing. A large part of the adjacent lands are owned by the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission. (A 1939 TVA report concluded that a major dam on the Obed was nowhere near economically feasible and a reappraisal just completed by TVA has reached the same conclusion. An independent study by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1948 arrived at even lower benefit-cost ratios.)

If the bill eventually recommended by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is one which designates for immediate inclusion only a limited number of non-controversial rivers, and only those already studied by the BOR, then the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association would suggest placing the Buffalo in this category, but would also strongly recommend that the Big South Fork of the Cumberland and the Obed be included in a study category and be given protection during the study period. If, on the other hand, a more inclusive bill is acceptable, then Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association recommends that all three river areas be designated for immediate scenic river status.

STATEMENT OF LIANE B. RUSSELL, TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Mrs. RUSSELL. Mr. Chairman, chairman of the full committee, and members of the committee, I am Liane B. Russell, president of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, an independent nonprofit conservation organization founded in 1966 and dedicated to the preservation of Tennessee superb natural environment. We appreciate the privilege of being permitted to express our views before the subcommittee.