

waters. We believe it is eminently suited for scenic river status. BOR study of the Obed has been requested.

Congressman Anderson in his statement to the subcommittee has endorsed inclusion of this river among the rivers listed for detailed study in the national bill.

3. The Big South Fork of the Cumberland and the Clear Fork River, its southwestern tributary, represent one of the most outstanding wilderness river systems in the eastern United States. Its watershed is heavily forested, and the river gorges are almost totally removed from civilization. It was studied by the Wild Rivers Study Team of the BOR and given an excellent recommendation as a scenic river in a preliminary report of 1964. The Scott County Conservation Board, set up under State law and with technical services provided by the Tennessee Department of Conservation, has endorsed the wild rivers principle for this river and we respectfully recommend that the above three rivers I have named—Buffalo, South Fork and Obed—be included in a Scenic River bill, either as initial units of the system or by designation for study as potential additions.

Thank you.

(Statements of Mrs. Russell and Richard E. Reed, president of the East Tennessee White Water Club follow:)

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

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am Liane B. Russell, President of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, an independent conservation organization founded in 1966 and dedicated to the preservation of Tennessee's superb natural environment. Our organization has been working diligently ever since its inception for maintaining the free-flowing character of several of our rivers and for protecting their natural environment. We had a major part in the introduction, this year, of a Tennessee scenic rivers bill now pending in the State Legislature.

We are hopeful that the present hearings signify that national scenic rivers legislation will soon be forthcoming, and we thank the Committee for the chance to testify. Free-flowing rivers are not only among our finest but also among our fastest vanishing resources. Unless we act very fast, our children will not know the beauty, the peace, and the renewal of spirit that comes from a living, natural stream.

It is most gratifying that several good bills to establish National Scenic Rivers Systems have been introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives. The first part of our testimony will deal with some of the general features of these bills; the second will make recommendations concerning three specific rivers in Tennessee which we consider highly worthy of national scenic rivers status.

A. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Although, after careful study of the various bills, we have definite views on most of their detailed features, we shall here express ourselves only on those we consider most important.

1. We believe it is essential for rivers in the system to be classified according to certain criteria used for their inclusion; and that this classification should then determine the degree of restriction with which the river areas are administered. Areas associated with the "wild river" category of H.R. 8416, or Class I of H.R. 90 should be managed as true wilderness, in accordance with the concepts embodied in the Wilderness Act of 1964. At the other end of the scale, there is also need for classifications such as Class III (H.R. 90), "historic and cultural," and "pastoral" (H.R. 8416). Many of our Eastern rivers fit this latter group of categories. However, many other Eastern rivers, and among them the most scenic, would fit the criteria of some intermediate category, such as Class II