

(H.R. 90) or "natural environment rivers" (H.R. 8416). Because they are the wildest rivers we have in the East, we believe that they should be given more protection than is at present afforded the intermediate categories by the bills under consideration. Specifically, we believe that no new road access should be permitted to rivers of this type, and that "compatible resource uses" (H.R. 8416) should be strongly restricted.

2. We believe that the protection given to rivers in the system against the building of dams and other water resources projects should be as strong as possible. The wording of the bill should specifically:

(a) Prohibit construction, operation, or authorization of all projects, regardless of whether or not such projects are connected with production of power;

(b) Apply to projects affecting a river, as well as to projects located directly on a river;

(c) apply to scenic river areas established by State law.

We recommend that, in addition to referring to "federal agencies" in general terms, the bill should specifically name those agencies most often involved in water resource projects, such as the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, TVA, Federal Power Commission, etc.

3. We strongly believe that all protection afforded to rivers designated as initial units of the system should also be afforded to all rivers listed in the bill for future study.

4. We believe that the width of the strip of land on either side of a river that is included in the system should be wide enough to afford effective protection of the scenic qualities of the river and, wherever possible, should include at least the entire scenic vista from the river. The extent of river-adjacent protected areas should be greater than it is in H.R. 6166. In many places, it would be beneficial to permit acquisition of scenic easements extending up to 2 miles on each side.

5. Since many more rivers will need to be preserved than can be designated in a national bill, we believe that the legislation should give encouragement and assistance to the individual States in creating State scenic rivers systems (see H.R. 90, Sec. 5). Rivers designated by a State legislature should be eligible to become part of a national scenic rivers system (see H.R. 8416, Sec. 2(a)(ii)). Protection against federal water resource projects should clearly apply to State scenic rivers (see H.R. 90, Sec. 6(a)(3)).

6. We believe that liberal provisions should be made for later additions of rivers to the system.

7. We urge that appropriations be adequate for rapid acquisition of lands and interests therein. Particularly our Eastern rivers, which do not often lie in federal lands, are endangered by commercial exploitation and must be protected very soon.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING TENNESSEE RIVERS

We believe that Tennessee is blessed with some of the most beautiful rivers in the Eastern United States. Notable among these are the sandstone gorge rivers of the Cumberland Plateau, which cut sheer canyons up to 500 feet deep; and the pastoral rivers flowing through rich farmland and beside lushly wooded hills. Some of these rivers are located in the most sparsely populated areas of the East; yet they are within driving distance of the big population centers. For these various reasons, we strongly urge the inclusion of several Tennessee rivers in a national scenic rivers system, and particularly the following three:

Buffalo (entire river)

Obed (including Clear Creek and Daddys Creek)

South Fork of the Cumberland (including Clear Fork River).

1. The *Buffalo*, in middle Tennessee, is a favorite pastoral float stream. This river is designated for national scenic river status in Mr. Anderson's H.R. 6588 and in Mr. Fulton's recent bill, and is listed to be studied within three years in Mr. Saylor's H.R. 90. It is listed in the study categories of H.R. 6166 and of the Senate-passed bill S. 119. A survey of the river has been made by the federal Wild Rivers Study Team and a favorable recommendation resulted. 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* as a national wild river and offered State assistance in carrying out the program. The Tennessee Game and Fish Commission has also endorsed the *Buffalo*