

as worthy of inclusion in a national system. The TVA has expressed its intention to assist the State of Tennessee in developing the Buffalo as a scenic river.

2. The *Obed River* system, including the Obed and its major tributaries, Clear Creek and Daddys Creek, should be included in their entirety. These are sandstone gorge rivers of outstanding beauty, flowing through dramatic, lushly vegetated canyons topped by sheer cliff faces. The Obed system is completely undeveloped, no human habitations are visible from the rivers, and access is limited. About one-third of the shoreline is in public ownership, lying in the Catoosa Wildlife Management area of 80,000 acres, owned and managed by the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission. The Obed system contains about 100 river-miles of magnificent wild scenery, outstanding recreation value, and crystal-clear waters. We believe it is eminently suited for scenic river status. BOR study of the Obed has been requested.

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. This Board, together with other organizations, sponsors the annual South Fork Canoe Race which attracts participants and visitors from many States. The U.S. Canoe Association will this year, hold its national championship downriver marathon on the Big South Fork.

All three of the rivers named in our testimony were recommended for scenic river status by the Tennessee Department of Conservation and the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission in a statement submitted in 1967 to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. They were suggested for immediate inclusion in a national scenic rivers system in a joint statement to the same Committee by Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association. They are among the rivers listed in the Tennessee scenic rivers bill now pending in the State Legislature.

The membership of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning contains persons expertly qualified in various fields related to the study of rivers, such as geology, ecology, forestry, fish biology, hydrology, and planning. We have some experience with rivers throughout the country, and we have intimate knowledge of the specific rivers for which we seek preservation. Our testimony is backed by this knowledge.

We respectfully recommend that the above listed three rivers be included in a national scenic rivers system, either as initial units of the system or by designation for study as potential additions.

STATEMENT OF EAST TENNESSEE WHITE WATER CLUB, BY RICHARD E. REED,
PRESIDENT

The members of the East Tennessee White Water Club feel that the preservation in their natural state of our remaining free-flowing streams and rivers is urgently needed. We endorse the statement made by the Wilderness Society and hope that the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation will report favorably a bill which contains effective protection for scenic rivers throughout the United States. Our organization feels that Rep. Saylor of Pennsylvania has introduced in his Scenic Rivers Act, H.R. 90, the essential features of such legislation.

Due to water pollution, impoundments, road building, and real estate development, the number of rivers and smaller streams that would qualify for scenic river status is rapidly diminishing. This is particularly true in the Eastern United States. We recommend that a National Scenic Rivers System be established at the earliest possible date.

Two prime candidates for inclusion in a Scenic Rivers System are the Obed and the Big South Fork of the Cumberland Rivers, located in East Tennessee. These two rivers are within a day's journey of several heavily populated areas. The dramatic gorges of these Cumberland Plateau rivers are unique in the United States. They must be preserved for future generations to enjoy.