

JUNE 1997 NEWSLETTER

Speakers Emphasize Community Assistance and Partnerships

There were 10 speakers at SAMAB's annual Spring Planning Meeting held at the North Carolina Arboretum on April 28 and 29. The common theme was community assistance programs and building partnerships through cooperation, integration, and public involvement.

Allen E. Pigg of the U.S. Forest Service in Atlanta urged SAMAB to advocate public participation in all SAMAB activities. Pigg is regional manager of the Forest Service's rural community assistance program. "Keep people in mind and don't be absorbed just in programming," Pigg said. He described the economic development program under way in Southern Appalachia. Action teams are formed in various communities. They develop proposals for funding needed projects, with the funding coming not just from the federal government but from private sources, too. The Forest Service uses a 50-50 cost-sharing formula in its community assistance program. Grants from foundations and other sources are solicited. Technical and financial assistance also are offered. Pigg outlined steps to be taken in seeking grant money. These include: Get well organized, identify leaders and get them on an action team, identify the community's needs and opportunities, select ideas that will work, resolve conflicts and develop common ground, focus on the whole community, prepare a community plan and submit it for funding. The objective of the rural community assistance program is to strengthen communities and enhance the quality of rural life in ways that will last. To do this, long-term solutions, not short-term "fixes," are sought. Other objectives of the program, Pigg said, are to protect the environment and sustainable resources. He pointed out that the economic and social vitality of America's rural communities is essential to the nation's growth and prosperity, SAMAB can help, Pigg said, by cooperating with the rural community development program, coordinating and by integrating these into the SAMAB work plan.

Partnerships For Conservation - Dana York, Partnership Liaison for the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service listed strategic initiatives for building partnerships. She said it is important that communities be motivated to promote healthy watersheds for a clean and abundant water supply and sustainable agriculture. Competing demands for water use are increasing, she said, and these make the problem more complex. Conservation is also essential. Soil erosion has been reduced because of better conservation practices, but constant improvement is needed. Buffer strips --strips of farm land kept in permanent vegetation to intercept pollutants --can conserve the soil. They also enhance wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and enrich the aesthetic appeal of farmlands. These strips of perennial vegetation, alternated with wider cropland strips farmed on the contour, reduce sheet erosion and the movement of pesticides and sediments into the water. She said the Natural Resource Conservation Service is also encouraging the conservation of wetlands on agricultural lands. This improves wildlife habitat and produces other benefits. A grazing land initiative is also in place to curb erosion of rangeland soils, and a croplands initiative improves production of crops. Her agency's goal, she said, is to cut by one-third the acres of erodible land in the region. Other initiatives, York said, are to get more community involvement through strong, effective grassroots partnerships.

Mass Effort Helps Rural People- David Seivers, Tennessee Director of the USDA's Rural Economic and Development Agency (REDA), said a "mass effort" is under way in his agency to improve the quality of life in rural communities. Twenty Tennessee counties are considered poor, he said. His agency provides long-term loans at 1 per cent interest to people in such poverty areas so they can improve their houses. The agency also provides low-interest loans so people can make their homes safer. Our role is to be a partner in helping rural communities advance economically and environmentally," Seivers said. He mentioned numerous REDA programs

focused on community assistance. He said that TVA works with REDA in an effort to get financial and technical assistance to rural communities. REDA also works with regional development teams. Partnerships between agencies play a major role in improving rural community life. EDA Creates Job Opportunities - Bob Sheppard of the Land of the Sky Regional Council representing the Economic Development Authority, described programs in the four counties for which he is responsible. These programs offer communities assistance in generating new jobs and otherwise stimulating industrial and commercial growth in economically distressed areas, both rural and urban. Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds projects such as water and sewerage expansion to serve industry and commerce, access roads to industrial parks, and port improvements. Among other things, the EDA funds a network of 12 Trade Adjustment Centers, provides grants for economic development, and offers technical assistance to help communities solve specific economic development problems. It also provides grants to help colleges and universities address economic development problems in their service areas.

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Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Works As Partners - Community outreach is a key feature of the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, according to Recreation Planner **Chris Abbett**. The RTCA Program helps citizens, organizations, and agencies protect local resources and develop "close-to-home" outdoor recreation opportunities. RTCA uses the skills of planners and landscape architects to offer assistance to communities and neighborhoods to promote recognition of valuable natural, cultural, and recreational resources throughout the southeastern states. Some recent examples of RTCA projects include: river assessment studies, trail planning, the preservation of abandoned railroad strips for hiking or biking trails, and greenway planning. Abbett said three things make the RTCA's work noteworthy. First, they don't tell communities what to do but, rather, act as a partner. They only go into a community when invited. Second, RTCA encourages citizen-based planning through workshops and the staff can help sponsors organize and carry out a variety of workshops to meet the community needs. Third, the RTCA helps establish working partnerships among citizens, government agencies, and private organizations.

Partnerships In North Carolina - Jeanne Robbins of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Raleigh, North Carolina described several water resource initiatives, emphasizing cooperative programs that utilize state and federal resources. There is a 50-50 cost-share arrangement with local communities for collecting data and hydrologic research. Robbins pointed out that 17 major rivers in the state supply drinking water to users in North Carolina and adjoining states. The USGS in cooperation with other agencies keeps streamflow records at about 183 sites and collects water quality data at more than 60 stream and lake locations. Attention is given not only to water supply and water quality, she said, but also to recreational and wildlife benefits provided by the rivers and lakes. Robbins stated that North Carolina has a record of interagency cooperation that goes back 100 years, citing the 100 year old records from the gauge station on the French Broad River.

Work Remains On Assessment - Joe Clark, Director of the Biological Resources Division Appalachian Laboratory, of the USGS at the University of Tennessee, spoke about the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAA) completed last year. "I would submit to you that the assessment is just beginning, he said. "We have really only scratched the surface" in terms of exploiting the vast amount of data collected. He said the real value of the assessment will be realized by grasping the predictive capabilities of the data and using these in a more pro-active way. He pointed out that Frank van Manen has been hired by USGS to replace Karl Hermann. Mr. van Manen brings to the agency expertise in wildlife biology and Geographic Information Systems and is working on several projects utilizing the SAA data set.

Sustainability At The Local Level - Karen Holloway, program analyst with the Appalachian Regional Commission, said "SAMAB is a vehicle for achieving sustainability at the local level." She said that areas in which SAMAB would be more useful include the fields of health and education, economic programs, and resource conservation. Ms. Holloway stated that the President's Council on Sustainable Development recommended the creation of partnershipsto achieve sustainability. There is a need to help people in Southern Appalachia learn how to compete, develop a sustainable economy, and work more closely together. Five ARC goals for the next decade were presented: (1) To reduce the school dropout rate and generally improve education so that graduates will gain skills necessary for a good quality of life. (2) Insure adequate access to telecommunications and improve access to safe drinking water and good housing. (3) Double the number of leadership development programs in the region. (4) Increase business start-ups and increase opportunities for international trade and (5) Reduce infant mortality and improve access to good health care.

TVA's Focus on Clean Water - Forrest Rich, education specialist for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), described that agency's Clean Water Initiative, which began in 1994. Several multi-disciplinary teams are focusing on key watersheds, assessing their physical and biological condition and the prevalence of toxics and bacteria in fish. Rich said the teams work closely with the affected communities, consulting people to see what their interests and concerns are for a particular stream. "We take a comprehensive approach," Rich said. "We get community partners involved at the very start." TVA's Clean Water Initiative won the prestigious Hammer Award sponsored by Vice President Al Gore. The award is presented to government organizations that demonstrate innovative methods of promoting a sustainable environment.

TVA's Partnerships For The Economy - Phillip Hyatt of TVA's Economic and Community Development Program followed. He said the program has been refocused to embrace partnership as a key element. An Economic Development Loan Fund has helped leverage more than a billion dollars in additional business investments in the region. It is expected that within five years more than 12,000 jobs will have been created. Hyatt said TVA goes into communities and identifies what is needed to improve the economy. Experts from TVA's "business incubator" program then provide technical assistance. Input from local citizens is obtained. A "Quality Communities Initiative" helps local citizens increase their ability to compete. TVA provides communities a strategic plan for improvements. Another program provides financial assistance to counties with low per capita income to help them with economic development projects, particularly in industrial expansion.

Planning for Community Enhancements - Kaye Batey of the Federal Highway Administration (FHA), described results of an enhancement fund her agency maintains for improving highway landscapes. She said the FHA's ISTEA transportation planning includes enhancement projects for pedestrian and bike trails, landscape design, and historic preservation efforts such as reresoring abandoned railroad stations to provide reminders of an important era in American history.

Karen Wade Urges SAMAB To Move Forward

Karen Wade, Superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and chair of the Executive Committee, encouraged SAMAB to "move ahead" at the annual Spring Planning Meeting. In opening the session, she urged the cooperative to focus on just a few projects that have been given high priority by at least two member agencies. She said SAMAB should concentrate on "high-profile" work such as the Hiwassee watershed improvement project in which TVA is taking the lead. SAMAB should define both long-term and short-term projects and do more to gain private-sector participation, she said. Wade also enlisted the support of the Southern Natural Resource Leaders group. She said the group would be asked for guidance and assistance to help SAMAB plan its future directions.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The SAMAB Executive Committee's next meeting will be held August 14 at the U.S. Forest Service office in Gainesville, GA. SAMAB's Annual Fall Conference will be held Nov. 5, 6, and 7 at the Holiday Inn in Gatlinburg.

SAMAB SPRING PLANNING MEETING: FOCUS GROUPS IDENTIFY PRIORITY ISSUES

Three focus groups led by SAMAB committee chairs were instructed to identify high-priority issues for SAMAB. Each group was responsible for developing ways to follow up on the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAA), to develop proposals and identify funding sources for projects, and to promote assistance to local communities. The sessions dealt with sustainable communities, exotic species, water and air quality, environmental education, riparian habitat, and habitat restoration. The Sustainable Communities focus group was facilitated by [John Peine of the Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey](#), chairman of SAMAB's Sustainable Development Committee and [Ruthanne Mitchell, National Park Service](#), SAMAB assistant and chair of the Cultural and Historical Resources Committee.

Issues discussed included: Increasing development and population growth. How the SAA database can be used to assist local community leaders. What "sustainability" really means. How the SAMAB Cultural and Historic Resources Committee can advocate the preservation and protection of historical resources and cultural heritage as an element of sustainable communities? Increasing SAMAB participation from private citizens. Using the SAA database to development of county atlases.

Decisions made by this committee, subject to Executive committee approval, were: Cultural and historical information will be added to the SAMAB web site, providing links to existing pages for the National Register of Historic Places, State Historic Preservation Offices, State Arts Agencies, and Appalachian Studies programs at colleges and universities. Sponsor a workshop to determine what indicators of sustainability are best for use at the community and county level. Explore the possibility of forming a university consortium to assist in the development of sustainable communities. This effort will be also help us develop SAMAB's Annual Work Plan and integrate the work of all SAMAB standing committees, drawing upon the faculty, staff and facilities of regional universities. [Terry Seyden of the U.S. Forest Service](#) and [Katherin Baer of the Upper Chattahoochee River Keeper](#) organization reported on the discussions related to: Seyden said species of special concern include the black bear and the red wolf. Involved agencies are looking for new areas in which to reintroduce these animals. He suggested that SAMAB sponsor an education program on reintroduction of the elk to this region. Of concern, also, is the loss of hemlock trees in the region. He suggested that the Executive Committee be asked to

convene a group quickly to develop a strategy for combating hemlock loss. The issue could also be included in SAMAB's Fall Conference, he said. Seyden said a brochure on native plants is needed. Katherine Baer reported on air and water quality issues and on habitat restoration. Baer suggested that SAMAB develop grant proposals for addressing these issues and provide environmental education materials. She said SAMAB could catalog and package materials for various groups, and report successes achieved in riparian restoration. Baer also suggested that SAMAB include citizen groups in the cooperative. This focus group also recommended a symposium be scheduled at SAMAB's Fall Conference on riparian restoration in the Southern Appalachians. This would be followed by a workshop, if needed. It was also recommended that an information clearing house be established. It would give out information on potential funding sources and list contacts with other watershed groups.

Executive Director's Report: SAMAB Concerned About Congressional Hearings

Congressional criticism of the Man and Biosphere program is a cause of major concern to all of us who appreciate the value of SAMAB's activities. As Tommy Gilbert described it so well and as Dr. Roger Soles' article elaborates, there seems to be a "conspiracy of misinformation" that is seriously affecting the public's trust. We all need to be aware of this and be prepared to answer these charges with factual information. Other items of interest are:

- Participated in a briefing of Congressional staff in Washington D.C. At the briefing, Foundation President Bob Kerr asked Congress to support a \$1.5 million grant to the SAMAB Foundation. Charles Van Sickle, Randy Phillips, and Briane Adams also participated.
- Attended several meetings in Washington on a proposed "Sustainability Indicators" workshop.
- Attended a planning meeting of the Biosphere Reserve Directorate in Washington where it was proposed that U.S. MAB provide \$250,000 to \$300,000 to support Biosphere Reserves in FY 1998.
- The Wilderness Conservancy in Mountain Lake, Virginia, has asked to be considered a Biosphere Reserve Unit of SAMAB. Discussions with them are underway.
- Participated, along with Bill Gregg, in a two-day workshop in Gustavus, Alaska, on how to make the Glacier Bay-Admiralty Island Biosphere Reserve more effective. They were particularly interested in the SAMAB experience.
- The U.S. Geological Survey has issued a call for proposals to assess the value of inter-organizational cooperation and data-sharing. Projects will contribute to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), an initiative of the Clinton administration. NSDI fosters partnerships among federal and non-federal organizations to make geographic data available. NSDI provides matching funding to federal agencies in partnership with state, local, and tribal governments and with nonprofit and profit-making organizations. A maximum of \$40,000 is available to each applicant and a total of \$350,000 will be awarded. Dr. Joseph D. Clark, director of the Biological Resources Division, Appalachian Field Laboratory, of the USGS, will prepare a proposal for SAMAB.

LAND SOVEREIGNTY ACT A CAUSE FOR WORRY

We all should be concerned about the Land Sovereignty Act," Tommy Gilbert, National Park Service-retired, advised the SAMAB Spring Meeting. This and other bills now before Congress would cut off funding for Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programs, and terminate and prohibit Biosphere Reserves he said. Gilbert, who was instrumental in development of the international biosphere reserve program, recommended that SAMAB launch a campaign to get accurate information about the value of the MAB program into the hands of the people. He labelled attacks on the MAB program "misinformation," and called for an organized strategy to "get the word out and set the record straight." Gilbert said the President would doubtless veto the proposed Land Sovereignty Act and similar bills now in Congress, "but the damage has already been done." He said it may be impossible to establish new Biosphere Reserves in other parts of the country.

People need to hear the right information, cautioned Terry Seyden. His thoughts were supported by John Peine who remarked on the serious questions being asked about the MAB program that need to be considered. He said, "The SAA is a wonderful testimony to what we are truly about." Executive Director Hubert Hinote, who chairs the USMAB Directorate on Biosphere Reserves, urged the Executive Committee to prepare a strategy to provide accurate information about the U.S. Man and the Biosphere This is being done. Said Gilbert: "It will definitely take an organized effort to turn this around." *See insert prepared by US MAB's Dr. Roger Soles for

additional information.

Briggs Does It Again: NC Arboretum Provides Excellent Support SAMAB's Spring Planning Meeting was held at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, which is managed by George Briggs. He welcomed the group, pointing out that the gardens have been expanded. Visitation increased 243 percent in 1997 as compared to the previous high in 1993. Improvements at the Arboretum were obvious to the SAMAB visitors. Some 5,500 spring bulbs have been planted in the entrance plaza to greet visitors. More groups are now choosing the Arboretum as a meeting place. SAMAB Executive Director Hubert Hinote expressed deep appreciation to Briggs for providing SAMAB such a congenial place to meet.

SAMAB Cites Phillip Gibson For Contributions Phillip Gibson was presented a beautiful framed picture of a Smoky Mountains scene in recognition of his hard work for SAMAB. Gibson served as assistant to the Executive Director from July 1995 to February 1997. Executive Committee Chair Karen Wade made the presentation. She pointed out that Gibson was the first assistant Executive Director Hubert Hinote ever had, and "he defined the job." "He has endeared himself to SAMAB," she added. The presentation was made on April 28 at SAMAB's annual Spring Planning Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina. Gibson now serves the Western North Carolina Tomorrow group.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON SAA FOLLOW UP

At its meeting April 29, SAMAB's Executive Committee discussed the Southern Appalachian (SAA) data base: (1) ways it could be made available to a wider audience. Nancy Herbert, of the U.S. Forest Service, said a simpler version of the GIS software is needed. Those who access the database via the Internet need a more user-friendly computer program than the current ArcView computer software. (2) uses of the SAA GIS data base: many uses are being made of it according to Joe Clark. Moreover, a regional workshop to explore ways of using the SAA data base is being planned July 15-17 at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. It is to be sponsored by the White House's Sustainable Indicators Interagency Task Force and SAMAB. The objective is to identify community-level indicators of sustainable communities using the SAA data base. (3) Maintaining the SAA data base: Executive Director Hubert Hinote said a system is in place for updating the data base periodically through the USGS Biological Resources Division, Southern Appalachian Field Office at the University of Tennessee.

A workshop on global climate change is planned for the Southeast on June 24-27 at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. The Workshop on Climate Variability and Water Resource Management in the Southeastern United States is sponsored by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Geological Survey. Emphasis will be on water and water-related issues as identified by representatives of federal, state, and local governments.

Next was heard a proposal from the SAMAB Foundation that SAMAB acquire an exotic species education coordinator. Exotic species are threatening the stability of the Southern Appalachian ecosystem, according to the proposal. Researchers say the number one threat to forest health in southern Appalachia is the introduction of exotic species. These include the balsam wooly adelgid, the hemlock wooly adelgid, and the gypsy moth. Fraser firs, hemlocks, and oak trees are being affected. An education coordinator could develop educational materials, traveling exhibits, slide shows, and technical materials to combat the problem.

The Executive Committee heard also that the Southern Growth Policy Board (SGPB) plans a conference on the

future of the South June 22-24 in Nashville, Tennessee. Speakers will include Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist, Frederick Smith, president of Federal Express Corporation, author Peter Applebome, and Richard Riley, former governor of South Carolina and now U.S. Secretary of Education. The SGPB specializes in creating strategies for economic development. Executive Director Hubert Hinote said it typically does not feature natural resources issues. Still, SAMAB needs to find ways to link its efforts with them and will send a representative to the conference.

The Executive Committee next heard of a proposed video program to be produced by the USGS. Tentatively, it is titled "The Geologic Story of the Southern Appalachians," and will run close to 30 minutes. Total costs are estimated at \$100,000. **SAMAB's Environmental Education Committee** will review the proposal.

Executive Committee Chair Karen Wade wrote a letter to superintendents of National Parks in the SAMAB region, encouraging their participation in SAMAB's standing committees' programs and activities. They were also invited to participate in SAMAB's Fall Conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

John Peine, who chairs SAMAB's Sustainable Development Committee, is editing a book on ecosystem management for sustainability that features the SAMAB Cooperative. SAMAB endorsed the publication earlier. Discussion of SAMAB's committee structure followed. Executive Committee Chair Karen Wade conceded that the use of focus groups at the Spring Planning Meeting may have caused confusion about the role of SAMAB's standing committees. She asked whether SAMAB should shift entirely to the use of focus groups rather than standing committees. There was extensive discussion of this issue with the decision being made to keep both the standing committees and occasionally to use the focus groups.

Suzette Kimball, the NPS associate regional director for natural resources and science, discussed potential NPS ecosystem initiatives. She said this is an extraordinary time for federal resource management agencies because there is growing demand for scientific expertise, significant organizational change, and limited resources for science. This presents opportunities for innovation, she said. The benefits of Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units, which involve partnerships with universities and other entities, include a broadened scope of scientific services, multi-disciplinary problem-solving, increased collaboration among federal agencies and individual scientists, increased technical assistance to resource managers, and reduced costs.

The Executive Committee reported results of its meeting to the plenary session that followed. Karen Wade asked leaders of the focus groups to submit written reports of their meetings. These will be circulated to the standing committees so they can prepare work plans based upon the priority issues identified by the focus groups.

Misinformation about Biosphere Reserves

Dr. Roger Soles, Executive Director U.S. MAB Secretariat

Some individuals and organizations have been seriously misinformed about the nature of the Biosphere Reserve element of the U.S. MAB Program. Here are some of the more recent charges that we have heard concerning biosphere reserves. I have condensed some of the charges into common categories because of their similarities. 1

Charge Number 1: When an area receives biosphere reserve recognition, the United Nations will control the area, or the USA "loses sovereignty" over the area, etc.

Answer: The idea that the United Nations is taking over U.S. lands, private and public, is completely false.

Neither the United Nations nor any other international body has any authority over public or private U.S. lands which have received recognition as biosphere reserves.

Only voluntary guidelines exist for biosphere reserves. No international biosphere reserve treaty or biosphere reserve convention exists. In 1995, managers from Biosphere Reserves around the world, representatives of conservation groups and scholars met in Seville, Spain, to set a voluntary framework for international science and conservation cooperation. Among the documents they produced were The Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves and the Statutory Framework for the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The Introduction for this "Framework"; states:

"Biosphere Reserves, each of which remains under the sole sovereignty of the State where it is situated and thereby submitted to State legislation only, form a world network in which participation by States is voluntary."

Furthermore, Article 2, paragraph 1 of that "Framework" states, "Individual Biosphere Reserves remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the States where they are situated. Under the present Statutory Framework, States take the measures which they deem necessary according to their national legislation"

This fact was also recognized by the Congressional Research Service's CRS Report for Congress on June 6, 1996. In that report to Congress entitled "Biosphere reserves: Fact Sheet" it noted: "Biosphere reserve recognition does not convey any control or jurisdiction over such sites to the United Nations or to any other entity. The United States and/or state and local communities where biosphere reserves are located continue to exercise the same jurisdiction as that in place before designation. Areas are listed only at the request of the country in which they are located, and can be removed from the biosphere reserve list at any time by a request from that country."

In sum, neither the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, (UNESCO) nor any other U.N. body has jurisdiction over any U.S. Biosphere Reserve.

Charge Number 2: Biosphere reserves will restrict property and land use rights and lower land values.

Answer: There are no economic or scientific studies which show any detrimental effect of biosphere reserve status on the use and value of non-Federal lands located in the vicinity of a biosphere reserve. Neither is there any evidence that any restrictions were placed on any private lands in the vicinity of a biosphere reserve because it was a biosphere reserve.

In testimony given to Congress last year on "A Bill to Preserve the Sovereignty of the United States Over Public Lands" (H. R. 3752), not one of the witnesses was able to cite any actual or observed increased land use restrictions or any decrease in the value of any private property in the vicinity of a biosphere reserve. (See "Sovereignty Over Public Lands", Hearings before the Committee on Resources, House of Representatives, 104th Congress, Second Session on HR 3752, September 12, 1996 - Serial No. 104-98, Washington DC).

Within the biosphere reserve program there is no authorization for the "taking" of anyone's land, nor for the placing of any legal restrictions on private land use and individual land rights.

Charge Number 3: Biosphere reserves will circumvent the Constitution and infringe upon the laws enacted by Congress.

Answer: The Federal or state agencies responsible for various biosphere reserve protected areas are agencies

with Congressional, state or local authority for managing the lands within those areas. Most often, the agencies are the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Areas which are recognized as Biosphere Reserves receive no special land use authority or regulations which might conflict with the authority of the Congress, the state government agencies, or county and local authorities. Biosphere Reserves have no international or other authority. They receive Biosphere Reserve recognition and status, in part, because the land management authority for the protected and managed use areas must already exist within domestic legislation. National Parks, for example, have Congressional authority for the management of the park. Such parks have a "management plan" for the park. Frequently these park management plans identify specific "wilderness areas" for research and study thus serving as the "Protected Area" of the Biosphere Reserve. The entire surrounding park area is the "Managed Used Area" because the Park Service or other authority is mandated to manage that area.

These local or national authorities must pre-exist before an area can be nominated as a Biosphere Reserve. No new regulations are created with Biosphere Reserve recognition that in any way could diminish the authority of the U.S. government, Congress, or any state, county or local legislative body to make rules and regulations respecting these lands.

Charge Number 4: UN Troops are moving into a region to depopulate it in order to establish a Biosphere Reserve; or UN roadblocks have been set up; or that some type of "animal worship" is going to be imposed though the "secret AGENDA 21" or through a Seville Strategy or a UN truck depot base, etc.

Answer: It is impossible to keep up with all of these erroneous claims. No such proof or evidence has ever been offered to substantiate these claims. They have no basis in fact. Agenda 21 is a lengthy compilation (40 chapters, each of which has multiple subsections) of resolutions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992 to promote sustainable development. It is not secret and can be obtained from many public sources and bookstores. The official U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) statement about recent misinformation circulated, and the truth, about "Agenda 21" may be found at the Web site (<http://www.mabnet.org>).

The primary objective of the Seville Strategy is to promote and encourage greater involvement by local citizens and officials in the management of biosphere reserves — not to depopulate areas or impose new laws or regulations upon them.

It does seem that the burden of proof ought to reside on those that make these fearful charges. Certainly it would seem that with 47 biosphere reserves in the U.S., that if any of these charges were true, someone, somewhere, somehow, would have some proof or evidence of increased land use restrictions, etc. Yet, no one has and no one ever will, because all of these charges are false.

Charge Number 5: The U.S. MAB Program operates without legal approval.

Answer: U.S. MAB is a voluntary, interagency, effort which operates within the existing authorities of the participating agencies. No specific law exists for the U.S. MAB Program.

Federal agencies were directed by the "Memorandum for Heads of Certain Departments and Agencies, Subject: U.S. Participation in UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program," Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC, March 9, 1979, to

participate in the U.S. MAB Program.

Other applicable authorities which are cited in Interagency agreements to participate in the U.S. MAB program include: the Economy Act of 1932, as amended, 31 U.S.C. 1535; An Act Authorizing the Secretary of State to Manage Foreign Affairs, 22 U.S.C. 2656; House Joint Resolution 305, July 30, 1946 (PL 565, 79th Congress); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Act, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 287m-287t; House Joint Resolution 305, July 30, 1946 (PL 565, 79th Congress); and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and PL91-190, 91st Congress. Again, while none of these laws specifically cite the MAB Program, they do authorize the federal agencies to cooperate and support programs within which they have an interest.

Charge Number 6: What is unreasonable about Congress being involved in the biosphere reserve nomination process?

Answer: Nothing. Indeed Congressional involvement in the process of the recognition of biosphere reserves would probably be desired by the U.S. MAB Program. However, to tie up Congress with the naming of areas, most of which in the future will likely be non-federal lands which are nominated by their state park authorities or the private organizations or individual owners, seems unwarranted.

However, it does not seem reasonable for Congress to terminate all of the currently existing Biosphere Reserve designations. According to currently proposed legislation (HR 901) Congress would have to specifically authorize the existence of each and every biosphere reserve in the U.S. before 2001. That would involve at least 47 specific acts of Congress. If specific allegations are being raised against any specific U.S. biosphere reserve concerning any of the above charges, then perhaps a case could be made.

Please review the USMAB web site carefully (<http://www.mabnet.org>). All U.S. Mab publications are posted there so you — the concerned citizen — can knowledgeably determine the truth about biosphere reserves and MAB.

1 This is my personal statement. The opinions, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this statement are mine and do not necessarily reflect the view of the participating and supporting agencies of the U.S. MAB.

ANNOUNCEMENT

On May 19, 1997, KarenWade, Chair of the SAMAB Executive Committee, announced that Nancy Herbert, the Assistant Station Director for Research-East, U.S. Forest Service (Asheville) will serve six months as the co-chair. After that, John Ramey, Forest Supervisor, National Forests of North Carolina will serve as co-chair.

SEPTEMBER 1997 NEWSLETTER**SAMAB Sponsors Workshop on Sustainability Issue**

Community and ecosystem sustainability are concepts that are gaining widespread interest. On July 15 and 16, SAMAB conducted a workshop in Asheville, North Carolina, on the subject of Community Sustainability Indicators. The workshop was organized at the request of the President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD). Almost 150 people were invited to discuss community level issues and information needs, and to clarify a process by which communities can use social, economic, and environmental indicators to foster sustainable community development.

People attending the workshop represented communities from across the SAMAB region and from federal and state agencies at national, regional and community levels. Many communities within the region have started to discuss their vision for the future and the community values that are important to them. The workshop highlighted work underway in Chattanooga, Tennessee; Russell County, Virginia, Sevier and Hancock counties in Tennessee; Asheville and Hendersonville, North Carolina and Swain Co., North Carolina.

SAMAB's role was to organize the workshop and to demonstrate how the Southern Appalachian Assessment data base might be used by communities. The data base contains both maps and statistical data that can be translated into sustainability indicators. A second objective was to encourage communities to discuss the indicators that were important to them, and if possible, to identify those that were widely accepted.

The North Carolina Arboretum provided an ideal setting for the workshop. Other important sponsors included Western North Carolina Tomorrow (WNCT), and the Institute for Community and Area Development (ICAD) of the University of Georgia. WNCT provided very valuable liaison with the North Carolina communities and ICAD facilitated the indicator identification discussions.

It is hoped that the workshop will be the first step in a continuing relationship between SAMAB and local community development groups. One product of the workshop that should prove useful in this effort is the workbook that contains community data, maps prepared from the SAA GIS Data Base, and reference materials. The SAA GIS Data Base CD-ROM set may be purchased from the SAMAB Foundation for \$20.

SAMAB Discusses Threat to Biosphere Reserve Programs.

At the August 14 meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the American Land Sovereignty Bill introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) which, if passed, would terminate and prohibit existing Biosphere Reserves and seriously curtail World Heritage Sites. It would also restrict the President's right to create national monuments under the Antiquities Act.

As of last June, the bill had 169 cosponsors including the chairs of 11 committees. A strategy for meeting this challenge is being developed. To help SAMAB in getting out accurate information about the Biosphere Reserve program, Tommy Gilbert produced a write-up defending the Man and Biosphere program.

Gilbert said a reasonable approach to the issues raised by the Land Sovereignty Act is urgently needed. "If Congressional action is to be based on factual information rather than divisive propaganda," he said, "it will have to be through constructive legislation.

There has been increased scientific knowledge and public understanding of environmental and natural resource issues, an integrated inter-agency approach to conservation and economic development, and increasing cooperation among government agencies, the private sector, and the public to conserve and sustain natural resources and economic development.

SAMAB Executive Director Hubert Hinote distributed a brief chronology of Biosphere Reserves also prepared by Tommy Gilbert which presents factual information about development of the program. He pointed out that as early as 1960, scientists concluded that cooperation among government agencies was urgently needed to save important ecosystems. Contact the SAMAB office for a copy of Tommy Gilbert's paper.

Reassess SAMAB Program? Perhaps It's Time

Executive Director Hubert Hinote suggested that SAMAB reassess its program and objectives in view of a number of factors. "Our situation is changing," Hinote said. The Cooperative has grown from six federal agencies to 12 and has added three state agencies. Moreover the situation with TVA is changing and TVA funding for 1998 is in question.

"Our whole situation needs to be examined," Hinote said. He said this is particularly urgent now in view of the potential shortfall in funding in FY 1998, and since he intends to retire in the next year or so.

Charles Van Sickle, U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station (retired), referred to the SAMAB Foundation's plan to reassess its role in SAMAB, and suggested that the cooperative consider a similar move. Executive Committee Chair Karen Wade noted that reassessment of SAMAB will be a major effort requiring "a lot of hours."

Van Sickle said it appears that a restructuring plan for the Cooperative hasn't been thought out as well as the Foundation's plan. He suggested that the Executive Committee review responses to the Foundation's survey and then appoint a committee to start an assessment of the SAMAB Cooperative and coordinating office.

The Foundation survey asked members to consider questions such as:

- What primary functions should the Foundation serve?
- How should the Foundation relate to the SAMAB Cooperative?
- What sources of support, other than funding, can the Foundation obtain?
- Is the designation, "Foundation," misunderstood? Should it be changed to coalition, organization, or whatever?
- What are the immediate issues the Foundation should address?

Elk Once Native May Be Re-introduced In the Smokies Joe Clark of the U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resources Division announced at the SAMAB Executive Committee meeting that elk may be reintroduced in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Elk was a native in the East, but was extirpated by the mid-1800s due to extensive hunting and land use changes.

Park Superintendent Karen Wade said the park has been considering the program for almost a decade, and after reviewing a recent study which assessed the Park's potential elk habitat, managers decided to proceed with plans for an experimental release to determine whether the Park can sustain and hold an elk population.

The Park will be working with wildlife management agencies, adjoining land managers, agricultural interests, and other stakeholders. They will also be preparing an Environmental Assessment prior to the arrival of any elk to consider possible impacts of the move and to solicit public comments regarding impacts.

The project will be in partnership between the National Park Service, the Biological Resources Division of the USGS, and the Rocky Mountains Elk Foundation (RMEF). The RMEF is a national non-profit organization, like Trout Unlimited, dedicated to elk and elk habitat protection.

Executive Committee Vice-Chair Nancy Herbert (USDA Forest Service) reported that SAMAB's working committee chairs met in Asheville on August 5 to decide on a " Program of Work."

Following a discussion of priority issues, the committee chairs proposed the following three initiatives for 1997-1998. A draft program of work was circulated by Herbert for review and comments to the working committees and to the executive committee.

(1) A **sustainable development initiative** recommended by Betsy Smith, John Peine, and Ruthanne Mitchell. The Izaak Walton League has asked SAMAB to produce resource atlases for eight counties in East Tennessee: Knox, Jefferson, Cocke, Sevier, Blount, Loudon, Monroe, and Polk. All these counties have problems with unplanned development and increasing tourism, which puts pressure on the natural resource base.

Members of SAMAB's Sustainable Development and Research- Monitoring committees plan to meet with county and

municipal leaders to find out what their major concerns are and what information from the Southern Appalachian Assessment database would help them.

All the other committees: Resources Management, Public Affairs, and Environmental Education, and Cultural and Historic Resources would provide assistance for this effort.

Cory Berish of EPA stated that grants are available for sustainable development projects but many communities are not aware that they are eligible. He suggested that someone compile a brochure that lists available sources for grants and technical assistance. It was decided that SAMAB's Sustainable Development Committee would draft a proposal for producing the brochure and include the cost.

(2) A **watershed initiative** proposed by Executive Committee member Charles Van Sickle to help counties cope with problems associated with streams and rivers. The proposed initiative is based upon suggestions from the EPA and the Southeastern Natural Resource Leaders group. Two projects were suggested: (1) Establish an information clearing house to provide public information on community based watershed conservation programs, sources of technical assistance, potential funding sources and lists of who to contact for watershed conservation. Relevant information will be put on the Internet through the SAMAB's web page (<http://www.lib.utk.edu./samab>).

Initially, the focus would be on the Hiwassee and Little Tennessee watersheds. A second element of the proposed work plan is to hold a riparian restoration symposium during SAMAB's Annual Fall Conference in Gatlinburg (Nov. 5-7, 1997). Bob Butler, US Fish & Wildlife Service - Asheville, is coordinating this event which will take place on November 7, the Friday morning session.

(3) An **exotic (non-native) species/native plants program**. The concept for this initiative was developed by SAMAB's Environmental Education Committee and follows up on the Bio-Control Workshop held at the North Carolina Arboretum in September 1966. Gene Cox of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Hilary Vinson of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service chair the committee and offered the work plan to promote the use of native plants and to control exotic pests. Their plan will encourage the use of native plants by natural resource land managers and will also stress the importance of using native plants in residential landscape design.

Finding funding for an Exotic Species Coordinator is an important part of the work plan. Public education materials and exhibits will be prepared with assistance from the public affairs committee, chaired by Terry Seyden of the National Forests of North Carolina.

Executive Committee Chair Karen Wade recommended that an Executive Committee member be assigned to each of the proposed initiatives on sustainable development, watersheds, and exotic species to provide coordination and oversight to the working committees.

Cory Berish and Boyd Rose of the Economic Development Administration will work with the Sustainable Development Committee. Nancy Herbert (US Forest Service, Southern Research Station) and Brian Cole (US Fish & Wildlife Service-Asheville) will assist the Environmental Education Committee, and Dana York and Briane Adams will work with the Resources Management Committee as they look into the watershed initiative.

TVA's Native Plant Guide for Streambanks

A publication entitled, "Banks and Buffers: A Guide to Selecting Native Plants for Streambanks and Shorelines," was circulated. The guide was developed by TVA's Clean Water Initiative and Environmental Research Center to support comprehensive efforts to improve water quality in the Tennessee Valley through watershed protection and restoration activities.

An accompanying plant database and computer software on CD ROM includes 117 native species. The computer software is compatible with Microsoft Windows 3.1 and Windows 95. The cost is \$25.00, plus \$5.00 for shipping.

To order copies please call:(423) 751-7338, e-mail, cadavis@tva.gov or write:TVA Water Management, 101 Market Street, TVA CST 17B, Chattanooga, TN 37402-28

Committee meeting.

The Resource Management Committee has a new chair, James "Chip" Ramsey, District Conservationist with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Knoxville. Chip will be looking for new and old members of the committee for assistance. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact him at 423-525-9361 or by e-mail at jramsey@tn.nrcs.usda.gov.

Dr. Elizabeth Smith (TVA), who co-chairs the Research and Monitoring Committee with Allen Ratzlaff (US Fish & Wildlife Service), announced they are restarting an old committee, GIS/Database Subcommittee. The subcommittee will be chaired by Dr. Frank van Manen, senior computer systems specialist with the Biological Resources Division-Southern Appalachian Field Laboratory. The GIS/Database Subcommittee will facilitate updates to the SAA database. Members of the subcommittee will be people involved in maintaining databases within their agencies. According to Dr. Smith, the subcommittee will produce an annual report to document updates to the SAA.

The Cultural and Historical Resources Committee will search for funding to support the North Carolina Trail of Tears Association's historical Cherokee archeological and historical research program. A research proposal prepared by David Moore, North Carolina Department of Archives and History, was presented to Boyd Rose of the Economic Development Administration office in Atlanta. For more information about the North Carolina Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, contact David Moore, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Western Office, 1 Village Lane, Suite 3, Biltmore Village, Asheville, NC 28803 or call 704-274-6789.

Terry Seyden of the Public Affairs Committee said his committee will provide assistance to the proposed Program of Work initiatives outlined at the meeting by Nancy Herbert.

Harold Draper of TVA-Knoxville, who chairs the Environmental Coordination Committee, reported that his committee is responsible for a half-day session at SAMAB's Fall Conference November 5-7. He asked for help in lining up speakers to discuss National Environmental Policy Act Compliance and Endangered Species topics.

New Members Needed For SAMAB Committees

At the suggestion of Executive Committee Chair Karen Wade, Executive Director Hubert Hinote is to lead an effort to beef-up the committees. Of the seven committees, six need new members

Kerr Resigning As Foundation President

G. Robert Kerr, president of the SAMAB Foundation since 1992, announced at a July 30 meeting that he will resign as soon as a replacement is found. He said his growing workload makes it impossible to continue to serve.

Kerr was recently named chairman of the National Parks and Conservation Association, and is active in trying to settle a waterway dispute involving Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.

A Vision and Search Committee was formed to seek a successor to Kerr and to redefine the Foundation's mission. Charles Van Sickle, former associate director of Forest Service's Southern Research Station in Asheville, heads the committee. Tommy Gilbert suggested that now would be a good time also to redefine the Foundation's mission. The Board concurred.

Kerr said the Foundation will continue to play a strong role in the SAMAB organization. "The Foundation has an important role in shaping natural resource and policy management for the Southern Appalachian region in the future," he said. The Foundation Board approved four new members at its meeting and is looking for more. Those approved were: Don Barger, southeastern regional director for the National Parks and Conservation Service Association; Lynn Cox, executive director of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy in Asheville; Dr. James Dooley, director of Western North Carolina Tomorrow and emeritus professor at Western North Carolina University; and Tommy Gilbert of Knoxville, who was instrumental in establishing the Man and Biosphere program in the United States.

Hubert Hinote reported on legislation introduced by Don Young (R-Alaska) to eliminate Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites. Another congressman is reportedly attaching a rider to all FY 1998 appropriation bills stating that no money will

go to Biosphere Reserves. Gilbert said there is an opportunity to "turn this around" and get legislation introduced that would be favorable to the Biosphere Reserve concept.

Hinote recommended that stronger linkage be made with the Southern Growth Policies Board, which sponsors a Commission on the Future of the South. A committee for the 1998 commission has already been named. The Foundation approved \$3,300 for a Exotic Pest public education materials and a web site . The Board will meet next during the SAMAB Fall Conference in Gatlinburg in November. Fall Conference Announcement and Call for Papers Goes Out SAMAB's eighth annual Fall Conference will be held November 5-7 at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The planning committee sent out the announcement and the call for papers to more than 3,700 persons and organizations. The announcement is posted on the SAMAB web page at (<http://www.lib.utk.edu./samab>).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cooperative Faces Fund Shortage: The Cooperative faces a difficult financial situation. To date indications are that contributions from member agencies will not be enough to meet expenses for FY 1998.

On Other Matters:

The US Geological Survey plans to produce a video to increase public appreciation for Southern Appalachian's historical and physical geology. A tentative title for the film is "Reading the Rocks-The Billion-Year Story of the Southern Appalachians."

The intended audience for the video would be visitors to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the National Forests of southern Appalachia, and residents of the region.

The Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB) named a new Commission on the Future of the South for 1998. Hubert Hinote urges the Southeastern Natural Resources Leaders Group and the SAMAB Cooperative to become involved in this. It should be noted that the SGPB does not effectively address natural resource issues. We may be able to get them interested in that field.

The Southeast Working Group of "Partners in Flight" will meet October 3-4 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. For information contact Bob Ford, Tennessee Conservation League, 300 Orlando Ave., Nashville, TN 37209 - phone: 901-327-1752.

Environmental Partnerships for a Sustainable Future: Lessons for a New Era, is the title of an environmental science symposium to be hosted by Ferrum College at Vaughn Chapel in Ferrum, Virginia on October 1-3, 1997. For more information see the web site at <http://www.ferrum.edu/environment> or call Donna Dougherty at 540-365-4241.

US EPA Region 4 and SAMAB will co-sponsor the Pollution Prevention/Green Manufacturing Conference on Nov. 17-19, 1997 in Atlanta. Contact Douglas C. McCurry, USEPA Region 4 at 404-562-8649.

SURF THE WWW:

the Environmental Working Group

<http://www/ewg.org>

EPA Surf Your Watershed

<http://www.epa.gov/surf>

American Heritage Rivers

<http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/heritage/rivers.html>

Terrene Institute

<http://www.terrene.org>

Save Our Streams

<http://www.iwla.org>

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

<http://www.riverkeepe.org/>

Native Plant Organizations

<http://www.wildflower.org>

Georgia Trail of Tears History

<http://www.ngeorgia.com/history>

DECEMBER 1997

SAMAB-NEWS

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

The executive committee met on November 4 in Gatlinburg and directed Hubert Hinote to meet with committees and proceed with the actions to implement the Program of Work 1998-2000. The working committee meeting is scheduled for December 16 in Clayton, Georgia at the US Forest Service's Tallulah District Ranger Office.

Geri Spring, Program Manager for The Chattanooga Institute requested SAMAB's assistance to develop a comprehensive database from the SAA and to track key indicators of sustainable communities. Jon Loney of TVA, Cory Berish of EPA, and Boyd Rose of EDA applauded the proposed Chattanooga project and encouraged the member agencies to get involved. Executive Committee Chair Karen Wade asked John Peine, Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee, to prepare a proposal which would provide technical assistance to The Chattanooga Institute and the New Century Council in Roanoke, Virginia.

EIGHTH ANNUAL SAMAB CONFERENCE IN GATLINBURG ATTENDED BY 200

Karen Wade, Executive Committee Chair, welcomed about 200 people attending the Eighth Annual Conference (November 5-7). Cory Berish, EPA Region 4, presented a review of the SAMAB cooperative's program to the plenary session. The conference theme: "Working with Communities" was addressed by three invited speakers: Adela Backiel, Director Sustainable Development, US Dept. of Agriculture; Sakina Thompson, Senior Policy Advisor to the Federal Co-Chairman, Appalachian Regional Commission; and Supt. Pat Reed, of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park.

Appalachian Regional Commission's New Strategies -- Sakina Thompson reported that ARC's new strategies to achieve long-term development in the region include two key components: civic capacity building and entrepreneurial development.

Thompson discussed how many of our communities are small and isolated, often without professional staffs with the experience to garner resources necessary to solve local problems. As such the Commission has set aside funds to invest in the skills of local leaders and institutions to increase their ability to better address their needs.

Thompson remarked that while large businesses are downsizing, small businesses that learn to exploit these new market niches are becoming important contributors to the restructuring of the national economy. The ARC believes that such entrepreneurial firms can play a pivotal role in creating self-sustaining local economies and has committed \$15 million over the next three years to pursue entrepreneurial development in the region.

Building Local Partnerships -- Supt. Pat Reed of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park, spoke on building local partnerships. Reed explained how Park officials worked with local, regional, state, and federal planning groups, community groups, and landowners from two states and several counties to implement a multi-jurisdictional planning effort. As the result, historic sites associated with the Chickamauga Battlefield were identified and protected within and beyond park boundaries.

Supt. Reed recounted the benefits of public outreach efforts which helped to build strong local partnerships in the Chattanooga-Ft. Oglethorpe area. Downtown Development Authority and main street corridor planning are underway for this gateway community.

Sustainable Communities Session

Professor Bowen of the Graduate School of Planning, UT-Knoxville began this session by presenting a model for sustainable communities. This served as a useful starting point for presentations to follow.

Chattanooga and Roanoke -- Geri Spring of the Chattanooga Institute and Dr. John Leffler of the The New Century Council of Roanoke, VA then discussed how their respective communities were going about building benchmarks and indicators of sustainability.

New Data Sources -- Brand Niemann of the Center for Environmental Information & Statistics, EPA in Washington, D.C. presented information on new data sources that are readily available from which to create indices of community sustainability.

Grassroots Activism -- Hugh Irwin of the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition (SAFC) spoke of efforts to conduct conservation planning in the Southern Appalachians, integrating grassroots activism and community ideas. SAFC has been very active in analyzing the Southern Appalachian Assessment data base to define critical habitat.

Land Tenure -- Next graduate student Shirley Hollis Rice from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville Department of Sociology discussed land tenure and its threats to sustainable communities in the Southern Appalachians.

Recycle -- Phillip Araman of the USDA Forest Service, Brooks Products Center at Virginia Tech University discussed how wood pallet recovery, reuse and recycling provides an eloquent example of a community based environmental and resource sustainability program.

Protect Tennessee Network -- Arleen Barnett concluded the session with a description of the Protect Tennessee Network program established by the Tennessee Environmental Council. A statewide toll-free phone number (1-888-PROTEKT) was set up for citizens to report environmental problems in their community. She described how the program works and how the complaints are followed up by notification of appropriate authorities.

Cultural Heritage Seminar

Historic Cherokee landscapes, archaeology and Twentieth century history were the focus of the Cultural Heritage Seminar.

Archaeology -- Archeology professor Anne Rogers from Western Carolina University spoke about building community partnerships to foster public awareness and protect sensitive archaeological resources. The university archeologists work with the US Forest Service's Passport in Time Program and hold summer field schools each year in the Nantahala National Forest.

Trail of Tears -- A reconstruction of western North Carolina's historic Cherokee landscape at the time of Trail of Tears (1838) was presented by archaeologist Brett Riggs from the University of Tennessee. Riggs said that a Trail of Tears Chapter is being established in North Carolina. Contact Dave Moore at the NC Dept of Archives and History (704-274-6789) for membership information.

Curatorial Facility -- US Army Corps of Engineers archaeologists: Richard Lewis (Wilmington District) and Chris Pulliam (St. Louis District) reported on the need to develop a partnership in North Carolina for museum collection management and curatorial facilities. They said that Federal agencies have been collecting archeological materials from their properties for nearly 100 years. The partnership effort is needed to upgrade the State's curation facility.

Oral History -- Univ. of Tennessee anthropology student, Chris Parker, gave a review of oral history studies conducted this summer in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He highlighted an interview with a WW II conscientious objector who served at one of several Civilian Public Service camps.

Walker Papers -- Holly Hodges, of the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, Lupton Library, described the Robert Sparks Walker special collection. An on-line catalog is being prepared to access information on Walker papers. Walker was a well-known Chattanooga naturalist and author.

Cocke County, TN -- Origins of the Dead Pigeon River Council and the 90 year history of the people of Cocke County and their struggles about the toxicity of the Pigeon River were the subject of Dr. Jamie Branam Kridler's presentation.

Local History -- Sarah Hilten spoke about preserving local history. She described the construction of Norris Dam and the planned development of the town of Norris, Tennessee in the 1930s. Her presentation included fascinating historic photographs which will be preserved by the Norris Historical Society in a new museum.

Cumberland Trail Conference -- Arleen Barnett discussed the newly formed nonprofit Cumberland Trail Conference's 1997 projects to maintain and build sections of the historic Cumberland Trail, one of Tennessee's State Scenic Trails. Visit their website for information -<http://users.multipro.com/cumberlandrail>.

Research & Monitoring Presentations

SAMI -- Thursday afternoon's Research and Monitoring Session began with a talk by Patricia F. Brewer of the Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative (SAMI). Brewer reported on SAMI's Phase I Visibility Assessment that includes monitoring data from 2 sources - the IMPROVE (Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments) network and the Electric Power Research Institute's SEAVS (Southeastern Aerosol and Visibility Study) network. The visibility assessment combined monitoring data with 5 sets of assumptions regarding extinction efficiencies and relative humidity to represent the current range of scientific opinion.

Forest Heterogeneity -- Stephanie Zucker of Utah State University spoke on research ongoing at Noland Divide Watershed in the GRSM that examined whether variability in inorganic soil Nitrogen dynamics is related to above ground characteristics of red spruce - Fraser fir forest stands. Unfortunately, high variability in data collected rendered study results statistically insignificant.

USMAB -- Roger Soles, Executive Director of the U.S. Man and the Biosphere Directorate, gave a presentation on MAB's Inventory and Monitoring programs.

Seed Banks -- Carol Wells of Univ. of North Carolina-Asheville presented a study that looked at seed banks of a Southern Appalachian fen and an adjacent disturbed floodplain.

GAP Analysis -- Alexa McKerrow, NC Fish & Wildlife, gave an update of State Gap Analysis activities that are underway in the Southern Appalachian Region. Gap Analysis is underway in TN, VA, WV, NC and SC and it is expected that GA and AL will be underway in the coming year.

Wood Thrush -- NC State University zoologist, George Farnsworth, reported on research that is evaluating the Great Smoky Mountains as a population source for wood thrush. Research results indicate that the park may be serving as a significant population source for the regional meta-population of wood thrush.

Breeding Birds -- S.A. Shriner of NC State University presented results of an extensive survey of breeding birds that is being conducted in the GRSM. Initial results of this survey indicate that old growth sites exhibit greater diversity of bird species than second growth sites, but some species are more abundant in second-growth stands.

Critical Habitat Model -- John Boetsch and Frank van Manen presented a newly developed model that may be able to predict critical habitat for 4 rare vascular plant species in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Woodland Salamander -- Andy Ash of the University of North Carolina-Pembroke discussed differences in size, sex and age for the Southern Appalachian woodland salamander that occur ten years following a clearcut. Adult animals were bigger on the clearcut areas but a smaller proportion were in breeding condition.

Black Bears -- Rick Eastridge, Dept. of Forestry Wildlife & Fisheries, University of Tennessee presented tracking results following repatriation of black bears in the Big South fork area of Kentucky and Tennessee.

Northern Hardwoods -- Wade Davidson, University of Kentucky, closed the session with a presentation on survey results that document decline of northern hardwoods in Southern Appalachia.

New Environmental Coordination Session

The first SAMAB Conference with an environmental coordination session was held this year. The initial Environmental Coordination session on November 6 attracted about 30 attendees. It was sponsored by the new Environmental Coordination committee, authorized in 1997 by the SAMAB Executive Committee.

NEPA -- Harold Draper of TVA presented a historical overview of the committee and its goals. He explained that the idea for the committee grew out of a 1995 Federal Highway Administration meeting on the 25th anniversary of the National Environmental

Policy Act.

At that meeting, the coordination and sustainable development goals of NEPA were emphasized. It was apparent that the goals of SAMAB and NEPA were very similar, and it was decided that an effort should be made to determine whether individuals involved in environmental coordination and NEPA activities should be encouraged to participate in the SAMAB organization.

USFS Uses SAA Data -- Paul Arndt, US Forest Service planner, organized a panel discussion which featured talks by Glen Gaines and Larry Hayden of the Forest Service and Hugh Irwin with the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition.

Glen Gaines (USFS) gave an overview of the SAA process and how the data was acquired. Larry Hayden (USFS) described how the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAA) is being used in efforts to revise the land and resource management plans for the National Forests in the Southern Appalachians.

Hayden said the SAA identifies issues common to the various forests, helps in assessing cumulative effects, and establishes goals common to several forests.

SAA Aids NEPA -- The SAA also provided assistance in the NEPA process because it scoped a wide range of public issues, sorted out the most pressing questions, and provided up-front federal and state agency coordination.

The SAA established a foundation of facts, helped planners to bound impact zones, raised public awareness, and connected public agencies on key issues. All of these helped to get the forest plan revision process off to a good start.

Roadless Areas -- Hugh Irwin, of the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, contrasted the roadless landscape of Native America before settlement to the SAA data which reveals a scattered patchwork of roadless areas. Two examples where landscape views will be important are in the Chattooga watershed, which is split between three national forests and the Unicoi Mountains area of the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests.

Environmental Decision Making in Atlanta -- Niki Nicholas of the Tennessee Valley Authority provided a case study of how environmental decision making took place in the Atlanta ozone non-attainment region. This is relevant to the Southern Appalachian region because the problems of Atlanta are the problems of Knoxville and Chattanooga in the future, as ozone standards are strengthened in the future and population growth continues in the region.

Ecoregional Planning -- Susan Andrews of the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition spoke about ecoregional planning in the Nature Conservancy's Southern Blue Ridge ecoregion. The major initiative is to select conservation targets. Current planning partners: The Nature Conservancy, Natural Heritage Programs, and the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition are locating examples of old growth forest.

Stekoa Creek Watershed -- Donald Van Blaricom of the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson University described a study on the Stekoa Creek watershed, a tributary of the Chattooga River which has been impacted by residential, agricultural, and road impacts and is currently listed as an impaired watershed by EPA. Image processing techniques were used to determine which subwatersheds had the most bare soil and were contributing the most to stream impairment.

Assessing Bioregional Health -- John Nolt, Athetia Lee Bradley, Mike Knapp, and Earl Lampard of the Foundation for Global Sustainability concluded the session with an overview of a newly published book on the state of the bioregion of the Upper Tennessee Valley. Nolt said that most environmental impact assessments on new projects emphasize how minimal the impact of the project is. What is not done is a larger explanation of how it fits into the entire picture. The speakers emphasized that further progress in environmental cleanup in the region is likely to require new environmental values. In addition, sustainable development that seeks to close the cycle of production and consumption needs to be promoted.

[Resources Management Committee Session](#)

Chip Ramsey of USDA-NRCS in Knoxville reported that the presentations focused on wetland restoration, wetland protection, restoring riparian vegetation, water quality issues and the ecological recovery of the Pigeon River.

Monitoring Wetlands Restoration -- Reed Rossell, Warren Wilson College, reported on monitoring pre- and post restoration of a mountain wetland mitigation bank in western North Carolina.

Stream Restoration in North Georgia -- Charlene Neihardt from Clemson University described the efforts of the Stekoa Creek Water Quality Committee's design, monitoring, implementation, and documentation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). The project included the City of Clayton, EPA, GA EPD, USDA Forest Service, USDA-NRCS and several regional groups, consultants, and volunteers.

ROW Mitigation -- K.D. Choate from TVA spoke about on-site mitigation of right-of-way impacts to riparian zones and wetlands. A demonstration study of proposed guidelines for mechanical or chemical treatments of streamside and wetland sites was completed in northern Georgia.

USDA - Forest Service -- John Vann reported on the use of Bio-Engineering techniques to revegetate and protect streambanks and hill slopes in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest and other National Forests in the South.

Pigeon River -- S. Marshall Adams reported on a study of fish populations in the Pigeon River before and after modernization of a kraft mill facility in western North Carolina. Post modernization studies showed noticeable improvement in fish health in the past three years.

Geochemistry -- Robert Seal reported on USGS geologic and geochemical studies to determine the controls on acid mine drainage, acid-rock drainage, and atmospheric deposition in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

[Environmental Awareness](#)

The Environmental Education Committee's program moderator emphasized environmental awareness.

Kudzu -- George Markin from the US Forest Service reports on the potential for long-term biological control project for kudzu.

Gypsy Moth -- Donna Leonard of the US Forest Service in Asheville reported on slowing the spread of Gypsy Moth.

Safety Testing of Biological Control Agents -- Jennifer Birdsall said that the US Forest Service in Bozeman, Montana is working to develop a host specificity plant list to infer the host ranges of potential biological control agents. The list will follow the proposed guidelines recommended by the USDA.

Herbaceous Plant Diversity -- Scott Pearson from Mars Hill College presented the results of a study to determine the effects of disturbances, terrain, and soil chemistry on cove forest herb communities.

Brook Trout -- University of Tennessee biologists, R.J. Strange and J.W. Habera reported on the distribution of brook trout. Matt Kulp from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park presented information about brook trout research and the partnership with Trout Unlimited.

Plans for USGS Video -- Sandra Clark presented a series of slides and a narrative to show the thematic and technical basis for the proposed video of the Geology of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Teacher Workshops -- Carol and Johnny Kimmons from the Sequatchie Valley Institute reported on workshop for teachers which emphasize ecology, forest health, sustainable technology, and herbs-agriculture.

[Riparian Restoration Symposium](#)

Bob Butler from the US Fish & Wildlife Service in Asheville organized the symposium which was facilitated by Peg Jones who represented Save Our Rivers, Inc. of Franklin, North Carolina.

Four Case Studies of Partnering in Urban Settings -- Case studies of stream restoration and reservoirs in urban settings was the theme of Ruth Anne Hanahan of the Water Resources Research Center, University of Tennessee.

Community-Based Protection: Etowah River -- University of Georgia Institute of Ecology's Laurie Fowler discussed community-based environmental protection on the Etowah River in Georgia. She said a stress analysis, funded by USFWS is underway to prioritize restoration projects.

Little Tennessee Watershed Association -- A success story from the Little Tennessee Watershed Association and the Southwestern RC&D Council was the subject of Kenneth Futreal's presentation. State grants have been awarded to Macon County, North Carolina from the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

Citizens' Role -- Peg Jones spoke about the role of citizens in successful local watershed projects. She encouraged volunteerism and in-kind services to support environmental education efforts.

Protecting River Heritage -- Leslie Colley from The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee reported on watershed conservation efforts in Virginia, Tennessee, and Georgia. The Nature Conservancy has adopted new strategies to protect difficult to conserve ecosystems. Conservancy representatives are now working with local communities and individual landowners to implement landscape scale river conservation on the Clinch and Conasauga rivers.

[Watchable Wildlife Posters Win Award](#)

The watchable wildlife posters that SAMAB contributed funds to win a 1st place award from the National Association for Interpretation. Dr. Mary Ball of Carson-Newman College and Laura Mitchell of the Cherokee National Forest were the primary developers of the poster text and activities. They did an outstanding job on this project and contributed many hours in-kind. If you are interested in ordering some poster call the SAMAB office or Hilary Vinson of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Asheville at 704/258-3939 ext. 234.

[SAMAB Conference Poster Session](#)

Federal and state agencies and community-based organizations contributed significantly to an exceptional poster session at this year's conference. Pictured above is the exhibit from the Tennessee Valley Authority. The Little River exhibit emphasized watershed conservation. It was one of several outstanding posters/exhibits.

[EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT -- Hubert Hinote](#)

8th Annual Conference -- I want to thank everyone-- registrars, presenters, including those who prepared and presented posters and exhibits, attendees, and all others -- who helped make this year's annual conference one of the best. Moreover, we should all express our gratitude to Bobby Boone of The Chevron Companies who made a generous donation in order for the registration fees to be kept at a reduced level. Our annual conference just seems to get better every year. We are already receiving program suggestions for next year's conference, which will be held in Gatlinburg in the first part of November (likely Nov. 3-6, 1998).

Thanks also to all of you who took the time to fill out the evaluation forms. There were many compliments and two common complaints: (1) inadequate audiovisual equipment and (2) lack of recycling bins. Every effort will be made to improve the audiovisual equipment next year.

Regarding recycling, Sevier Solid Waste, Inc. (a nonprofit corporation) which handles solid waste for Sevier County and the Cities of Sevierville, Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg, and Pittman Center has one of the most comprehensive solid waste management programs in the country; for example, in 1995, 72.3% of the solid waste generated in the county was recycled - thus, no need for recycling bins!

Obviously, with the exception perhaps of SAMAB, recycling is one of the best kept secrets in Sevier County; but, like SAMAB, not across the country and worldwide. In fact, visitors from as far away as St. Petersburg, Russia, Beijing, China, and many countries in Europe have come to Sevierville, Tennessee to tour these facilities. Your comments have resulted in my bringing this to the attention of the Gatlinburg City Commission, The Gatlinburg Tourism Advisory Board, and the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce. Already several major hotels - including the Holiday Inn - have indicated that they will prepare materials making our visitors aware of the great recycling efforts underway in Sevier County.

SAMAB Foundation Role -- An unheralded aspect of SAMAB is the role the Foundation plays in expediting cooperative activities across the region. In addition to sponsoring the annual SAMAB conference in November, it also cosponsored with EPA's Region 4 Waste Management Division, EPA's Partnership Programs Coordinating Committee, and the Region 4 State Pollution Prevention Offices an "EPA Pollution Prevention/Green Manufacturing Conference for Business and Industry" in

Atlanta. This was a comprehensive pollution prevention conference highlighting management, technical and regulatory aspects of pollution prevention, green manufacturing, and waste minimization.

The conference included presentations by industry leaders on how to reduce and even eliminate hazardous waste, solid waste, wastewater discharges, and air emissions. In one of the plenary sessions, I made presentation on SAMAB. Significant interest was expressed by the audience, especially in the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAA).

Beyond SAMAB Region -- Reaching beyond the region, both Charles Van Sickle and I made presentations in Minnesota during November. Charlie was invited to speak to Region 3 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service project leaders about the SAA. They considered the SAA a model of effective intergovernmental interaction on a critical need. I was asked by the Center for Resource Management, Salt Lake City, to speak to the "Northern Minnesota Conference on Land Use Planning Issues and Processes." The Center for Resource Management has a contract to provide technical assistance to the ten northernmost Minnesota counties. This area includes the Voyageurs National Park and two National Forests. They view SAMAB as an outstanding model of an institution promoting cooperation, coordination and integration. I was the luncheon speaker to a group of about 150 local leaders.

Global Warming -- As I write this, preparations are underway for the Global Warming/Climate Change Conference in Kyoto, Japan, in early December. As most of you know, global warming is an issue that is gaining international attention, especially in the political and scientific communities. However, many of you may not be aware that SAMAB has played and continues to play an increasing role in addressing this issue (as well as other issues).

Many individuals and several organizations from the SAMAB "family," especially the US Geological Survey (USGS) and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), have been significantly involved in this effort.

Back in June, there was a workshop at Vanderbilt University, sponsored by the USGS, NASA, and NOAA, on "Climate Variability and Water Resource Management in the Southeastern US." One of the sessions focused on "Parks and Public Lands"; and Suzette Kimball, NPS, and I served as recorder and facilitator, respectively. It was made clear during this session that any changes in climate, as it could effect migration of species and changes in catastrophic events such as hurricanes and/or droughts, require better and more information and could significantly impact the ability of land managers to effectively plan for and manage parks and public lands.

Since this summer, there have been a number of meetings and conferences across the country focusing on global change. I was invited (along with Briane Adams, USGS, and Dave Shriner, ORNL, who both serve on the SAMAB Executive Committee) to participate in the "U.S. Climate Forum: the Consequences of Global Change for the Nation" in Washington in mid-November. In this conference, it was made clear that global change could seriously impact ecosystems, water resources management, and ultimately result in significant changes in the way we manage our resources. Briane Adams and Dave Shriner are assuming increasing roles in this area and we will be hearing more about this in the future. For example, SAMAB, in cooperation with the American Water Resources Association will likely sponsor a conference on "Water Resources in a Changing Climate" in Gatlinburg in early 1999.

One of my major concerns is that, as yet, those working on global warming and its potential impact have not effectively communicated these concerns to those who day-to-day manage our resource base, including, most importantly, private land owners. Moreover, I do not perceive that there is any significant effort to link "global warming" to "sustainable development." Yet these are two issues where significant national funds and manpower are being expended. It appears to me that there are two separate and distinct efforts sweeping Washington in this regard. An analogy might be the 1960's when there were the "economic developers" and the "environmentalists." Over time these polarized viewpoints seemed to moderate and compromises were reached, but unfortunately many of the compromises resulted from court actions.

I believe SAMAB is in a unique position to demonstrate the links between the potential impacts of global warming and sustainable development. The SAA provides an invaluable data base for beginning such an effort, but it must be kept up to date. The "Community Sustainability Indicators Workshop" that SAMAB cosponsored this past July provides additional background and information. In addition, the **SAMAB Program of Work: 1998-2000 Proposed Initiatives** offers other opportunities to demonstrate these links. These three initiatives grouped under the general subjects of (1) sustainable development, (2) native plants and exotic pests, and (3) watersheds offer us the opportunity to again demonstrate the value of SAMAB to the region and the nation. However, just like in the SAA, every agency/organization and its leadership and staff must recognize the value of such a demonstration. In this regard, I am somewhat concerned when I hear representatives of the organizations make statements like "SAMAB has to put more projects on the ground." There is absolutely no question that

SAMAB must be project oriented; however, everyone should recognize that the types of programs and projects that SAMAB undertakes are demonstration projects that are unique and different. This is what SAMAB is all about; it was established to be a demonstration model of cooperation, coordination, and integration in defining and addressing issues that reach beyond the boundaries of any single agency, administrative/political jurisdiction, and any single landowner or land manager.

This is the first report where I have laid out some of my observations, opinions and biases. I hope it will stimulate your thinking - take me to the woodshed, offer your views and suggestions, but "step up to the plate" and "take your best swing" and recognize the value of SAMAB to your agency and to the region, then let us move forward to really demonstrate its value with the proposed initiatives in the "SAMAB Program of Work: 1998-2000."
