

mab notes

An exceptionally promising place joined the biosphere reserve family in March, when the MAB Bureau approved **Land Between the Lakes Area (LBL)** in Kentucky and Tennessee. Managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), LBL is 95 percent surrounded by impoundments on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. This provides an opportunity, rare in the BR network, for studying land-reservoir relationships.

Four watersheds of about 500 ha each and numerous smaller forest stands will serve as the core area. The buffer zone will consist of the rest of the largely forested 68,800 ha national recreation area, on which carefully managed timber harvesting, hunting, and other recreation, agricultural use, and a strong program of environmental education and conservation demonstrations are held. Research projects sponsored by nearby universities are underway.

To coordinate the MAB regional program, a cooperative along the lines of the Southern Appalachian MAB Cooperative is planned. Proposed members include TVA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee and Kentucky state agencies, colleges and universities, four Area Development Districts, conservation organizations, and the Land Between the Lakes Association, which can develop public support and raise funds.

The U.S. biosphere reserve network will be further strengthened if **additions to two existing BRs** are approved. Four areas – Bodega Marine Lab (UC/Berkeley), Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (Stanford), Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marin County, and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary petitioned to join the Central California Coast BR. In the Southern Appalachians, Mt. Mitchell State Park and Grandfather Mountain petitioned to join that BR. This would bring state (North Carolina) and private sector representa-

tion to the Southern Appalachian BR for the first time. All the above add-ons have been recommended for nomination by the MAB National Committee but must wait nearly a year for the next meeting of the MAB Bureau to gain approval.

Use of and communication among BRs has been made easier by publication in January of the **Directory of Biosphere Reserves in the United States**. Compiled by Leslie Bord and David Figlio of the NPS Wildlife and Vegetation Division, the directory lists basic information for each BR, including names, addresses, and phone numbers of site managers, administrative staff, and professional staff. Copies may be had from the Executive Director, U.S. MAB Secretariat, Dept. of State OES/EGC/MAB, Washington, DC 20520-7818.

A briefing on the **Southern Appalachian MAB Cooperative (SAMAB)** was held at the Department of the Interior on April 25. Tommy Gilbert (filling in for Blue Ridge Parkway Supt. Gary Everhardt), Bjorn Dahl, supervisor of North Carolina national forests, and Hubert Hinote, executive director of SAMAB, presented their views on the cooperative's progress. The greatly increased communication among SAMAB members was seen as a primary benefit of the program. Ongoing projects focus on important regional resource issues such as dogwood anthracnose, the overharvesting of native plants, and the demonstration of ecologically and culturally appropriate alternatives for development.

A plan for Pittman Center, TN, has been completed with support from the Economic Development Administration, as a model for environmentally sound community development in the region. The SAMAB Foundation planned to hold its first fund drive in Spring 1991 to help support SAMAB projects.