



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Newsletter No. 262

July 17, 2005

Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

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lands on Plateau 1A, 3A

Bowater promises
forest protection ¶1B

Obed lands acquired ¶2A

A crucial time for
Arctic Refuge ¶8A

Bill seeks to restore
Roadless Rule ¶7A

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Shaded box or star means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed – check the ACTION SUMMARY on p.2!

11. ACTION SUMMARY

#No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Fund for lands needing protection	Governor Bredesen	"Thanks for your actions to preserve Cumberland Plateau!"
1C	Mining and logging at Frozen Head		Watch TCWP web site for needed actions
4A	Mining: stream buffer zones	Office of Surface Mining	Watch TCWP web site for needed actions
5A	TVA sale of public lands	Print media	Write a letter to the editor protesting this policy
7A	Bill to restore Roadless Area Rule	Your U.S. Representative	"Co-sponsor the Inslee/Boehlert bill!"
7C	New logging roads in Tongass NF	Sens. Frist and Alexander	"I am very disappointed in your vote!"
8A	Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	Your U.S. Rep. and Senators	"(1) Oppose all drilling; (2) Co-sponsor S.543/HR.567"
8D	Global warming	Sen. Alexander	"(1) Thanks for Resolution; (2) Support strong legislation!"
8F	Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Your U.S. Representative	"ESA has worked well. Oppose all attacks on it!"

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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Bredesen
Respectfully yours,

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Web: www.house.gov/wamp

To call any Rep or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772
URLs: <http://www.house.gov/lastname/> and <http://lastname.senate.gov/> General contact info: <http://www.hcr.org>
Note that mail to Congress is still slow following the anthrax scare. Consider faxing, phoning, and other modes of communication.

WHAT IS TCWP?

TCWP (Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning) is dedicated to achieving and perpetuating protection of natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. While our first focus is on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of East Tennessee, our efforts may extend to the rest of the state and the nation. TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to an issue, informing and educating our membership and the public, interacting with groups having similar objectives, and working through the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government on the federal, state, and local levels.

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1. GOOD NEWS FOR THE CUMBERLANDS

1A. New opportunity for protecting special lands in the Cumberlands

The Cumberland Plateau Conservation Foundation that would have been created by an Administration bill (NL260 §1C) eventually morphed into the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, that has now become state law. While this new Trust Fund will concern itself with the state as a whole (§3A, this NL), its early emphasis will be on the Cumberland Plateau. The main purpose will be the acquisition of special lands that might otherwise fall prey to adverse developments.

The vision for this initiative was stated in Gov. Bredesen's State of the State address (NL260 §4A). "... I want us to start protecting more of our natural resources," he said. "While there are enormous opportunities all across our state, I am asking that we start this year on the Cumberland Plateau. It is one of the most beautiful and biologically diverse places on the planet, and yet it is being clear cut, vast tracts of land owned by timber companies are on the market, and in many cases are being bought by speculators from out of state. Nothing good can come of this." He went on to propose formation of the Cumberland Plateau Foundation and initial state funding for it, and concluded that these initiatives "will allow us to take the first steps in preserving this unique and beautiful part of Tennessee."

The plan for the Trust Fund's early emphasis on the Cumberland Plateau notes that of a minimum of 545,000 acres in need of protection, 197,000 acres are presently for sale. There are at least 70 significant projects on the Plateau. The Trust Fund's Board of Trustees will develop the criteria around which projects will be judged, and it will make decisions as to which tracts will be acquired. Start-up money will be available from the State Treasury, after which the Trust Fund will raise much of its needed funding.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Gov. Bredesen (see p.2) for his vision and his actions in helping to preserve the Cumberland Plateau.

1B. Bowater signs Memorandum of Understanding to protect Cumberland Plateau forests

Last year, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) designated the Cumberland Plateau as one of 7 BioGems in the USA, and one of 12 in the Americas (NL255 §4A). Within a year, petitions from 14,000 BioGem Defenders encouraged Bowater, the single largest landowner on

the Plateau, to negotiate with NRDC to stop converting hardwood forests into sterile pine plantations. This effort has now borne fruit.

Near the end of June, Bowater Inc., NRDC, and the Dogwood Alliance jointly announced the signing of an accord to enhance the protection of the forests of the Cumberland Plateau and other parts of the Southern United States. The following are highlights of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

- Within 3 years, Bowater will end conversion of natural hardwood forests to pine plantations on all the land it owns in the United States. Such conversions recently have totaled approximately 500 acres per year.
- Starting in 2007, Bowater will stop buying from third-party suppliers any pine fiber obtained from the conversion of natural forestland to pine plantations. The phase-out will take place over the next three years.
- Bowater will expand its buffer zones during aerial applications of herbicides and fertilizers to a uniform 300 feet. The company will also formalize a public communication program of these activities.
- Bowater is in the process of studying approximately 7,000 acres of particularly sensitive areas (especially those with "gulfs," coves, and ephemeral ponds) on its Tennessee land to identify those of exceptional ecological, geological, or historical significance. The company has committed to take appropriate measures to protect these areas as they are identified. While the study is underway, Bowater has agreed not to sell or harvest these areas.
- Bowater will adopt Forest Stewardship Council hardwood management practices. The company will also work toward increasing the use of recycled fiber in its paper products.

Bowater's operations are supported by approximately 1.4 million acres of timberlands owned or leased in the U.S. and Canada (plus 30 million acres of timber-cutting rights in Canada). NRDC, which has over a million members, is a national organization of scientists, lawyers, and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. The Dogwood Alliance is a regional network of 70 grassroots organizations in 17 states, sharing a mission of protecting Southern forests and communities by ending unsustainable industrial forest practices.

Governor Phil Bredesen thanked the signers of the MOU and added "... we encourage others -- from individuals to partners in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors -- to contribute to the preservation and protection of special places and natural resources in Tennessee." May other timber companies listen!

1C. Disturbing "noises" from Frozen Head

(1) Within the past few days, Forestlands (a timber investment company) has carved a major access road into the bottom of the Rocky Fork watershed, very near the entrance to Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area. The road appears to be in preparation for logging Rough Ridge to the north and/or Love Mountain to the south. The State has said in the past they would like to buy the Love Mt. tract, and Forestlands has entertained selling it; however they are allegedly insisting on a price above the assessed land value (NL260 ¶1D). The State and Forestlands are reportedly meeting again in early August.

(2) The National Coal Company has applied to the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) for a permit (#3188) to open a new deep mine on the NE side of Stallion Mtn. above the 3000 ft. level. The SW slopes of Stallion Mtn. form much of the headwaters of the New River, and the lower parts of these slopes are actually within the Frozen Head State Natural Area. Probably the mine, and certainly the haul road, would be easily within 300 ft. of the boundary near the NE corner of the park. The currently planned route for the Cumberland Trail leaves the park at about this same location. In addition to the obvious water-quality concerns, the impact of dust and noise from the mining operation on the Natural Area are of concern. We're told that the State Park has already sent comments about the proposed mine to OSM. A period for public comments will be announced. Jeff Coker in the Knoxville OSM office is handling this permit application.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Watch the TCWP web site (www.tcwp.org) for information on the OSM comment period and / or on other action opportunities concerning Frozen Head.

1D. Another Cumberland Plateau treasure: its caves

A recent field survey of 100 caves on the Cumberland Plateau has yielded "astounding" results. The study, commissioned by The Nature Conservancy's Tennessee Chapter, has led to the identification of 24 new, and as yet unnamed, species, as well as more than 100 insects considered globally rare. TNC will use the information to develop protection strategies for these delicate ecosystems. For more information, visit www.nature.org/tennessee

1E. Alliance for the Cumberlands receives grant

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The Alliance for the Cumberlands, in partnership with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Kentucky Department of Fish and

Wildlife Resources, and the Tennessee and Kentucky Chapters of The Nature Conservancy, received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to do work across the Kentucky-Tennessee border. The Grant will augment the Stewardship Planning process the group is undertaking. The purpose of the grant is to coordinate the Comprehensive State Wildlife Strategies (see ¶4B, this NL) across state boundaries.

In June, there were several National Heritage Corridor public-input meetings on the Plateau. Overall, they were a great success and much was learned from those who attended. Edwin Gardner, who is conducting the Suitability/Feasibility Study, will be at the next Alliance meeting (Cookeville, July 26) to talk about his efforts and update us on the progress.

The Alliance has a beautiful new website thanks to our friends at Lovelady Graphics and 2theNet. The address is www.alliancefortheCumberlands.org

2. OBED: LAND ACQUISITIONS AND OTHER NEWS

2A. Good news: some land acquisitions being implemented

[Information transmitted by Sandra Goss]

In the fall of 2003, after considerable effort by TCWP and its allies, and with the support of Reps. Zach Wamp, Lincoln Davis, and our senators, the Congress appropriated \$750,000 for acquisition of lands within the Obed Wild & Scenic River (WSR) boundary. (NL254 ¶1A). There followed months of surveys, appraisals, and land-owner negotiations.

Now, the National Park Service's SE Regional Lands Office has closed on the purchase of a tract of approximately 85 acres bordering Clear Creek and including land that extends from the river to the park's exterior boundary. Closing is pending on a second tract of 92.62 acres that borders a section of the Obed River below the confluence with Clear Creek. It, too, includes land extending from the river to the exterior boundary.

Negotiations are ongoing for a third and fourth tract. The purchase of the fourth property is contingent on the availability of funds. These acquisitions are indeed good news, but much land within the purchase boundary remains to be protected, while development pressures in the region are on the increase. When the presently available sums are expended, we must remount our efforts to gain additional acquisition funds for the Obed WSR.

2B. Obed Climbing Plan follow-up

TCWP members attended a follow-up meeting on the Obed Climbing Management Plan of

July 2002 (NI.247 ¶2E). Reports on two studies that had been commissioned by the National Park Service (NPS) were presented and may be viewed in the documents section of the Obed web site (www.nps.gov/obed). Dr. Gary Walker (Appalachia State University, Boone, NC) summarized findings on plant communities, and Dr. Donald G. Hodges (U.T.) presented results of a socio-economic survey of climbers. There followed a general discussion involving NPS staff, 6 representatives of the climbing community, and 4 representatives of conservation groups.

Dr. Walker noted the unappreciated species diversity of the Cumberland Plateau (734 species of vascular plants alone, including 16 species of special concern), and the fact that some plants in the study area constitute a genetic reservoir of northern species left from the last ice age (glacial relics), with the genetic variation here greater than it is in the northern range. Snags of 968-year old trees were found at one of the sites.

The study sampled cliff face, upper edge, and pediment (i.e., talus at the bottom) at 6 climbing areas (5 in the lower Clear Creek gorge, one in the Obed gorge just upstream from the Clear Creek confluence). Climbed and unclimbed sites were matched as closely as possible.

Among the findings:

- Each of the 6 cliff faces had a different composition of plants, indicating a need for site-specific management;
- Climbing has led to a decrease in species richness, especially of lichens, though not necessarily in total plant number;
- The talus area showed the heaviest impact of climbing, indicating a strong need to preserve pristine areas of talus (through consolidation and proper placement of access trails);
- On the edge, there were significant impacts of climbing at three of the six sample sites, strongly justifying the "no topping-out" policy that was adopted in the Climbing Plan.

The moratorium on fixed routes is being continued, and new routes/bolts require a permit. Permits will be issued based on resource effects and density. A Fixed Anchor Advisory Committee will be formed to interact in this process.

Additional points emerged in the discussion that followed presentation of the reports.

- The "no topping-out" policy will be institutionalized;
- The two rappelling sites that were permitted in the Climbing Plan require additional study and possible modification because of the harmful nature of edge impacts;
- The effects of bouldering (which is not limited as to location) need to be further studied, e.g., with regard to impact on salamanders;
- An archeology survey needs to be completed before any access trail can be located.

TCWP will remain involved in future NPS actions concerning climbing policy in the Obed WSR.

2C. Review of water quality in the Emory River watershed

In 1996, TDEC's Division of Water Pollution Control initiated the watershed approach under which, each year, a staggered one-fifth of Tennessee's watersheds enter a 5-year management cycle. The Emory River Watershed (which includes the Obed and its tributaries) is midway in the second 5-year cycle.

On July 14, the most recent water-quality information was presented for public review and discussion. Maps and data were available, including the most recent 305(b) Report (Status of Water Quality) and 303(d) list (Nonconforming Waters). TDEC staff was on hand to explain, answer questions, and to hear comments, suggestions, and concerns.

To view some of this information, visit <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/publications>, and chose the appropriate links. For more information, contact David Duhl, Watershed Coordinator, at 615-532-0438 or david.duhl@state.tn.us.

2D. New Obed Chief of Interpretation to lead bird watch

[Contributed by Sandra Gose]

Joe Zagorski joined the Obed team in late May as Chief of Interpretation and Park Ranger. His most recent assignment was at the Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site in Pennsylvania.

On Saturday, August 6, he will lead a bird watch at the Nemo Picnic Area at 6:00 p.m. Participants may see thrushes, herons, and hawks. There will be a discussion about the birds of the area, and bird lists will be available for those wishing to keep a record. The event is appropriate for all ages. Binoculars are recommended but not required.

3. STATE GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATURE

3A. Good news: Legislature establishes the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund

Toward the end of the session, the General Assembly passed the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2005, the product of an Administration bill (SB.2259/HB.2274). Originally written for the Cumberlands (see NI.260 ¶1C), the bill had to be refashioned to apply to the state as a whole so as to attract the support it needed for passage. The initial em-

phases of the Trust will, however, be on the Cumberland Plateau (¶1A, this NL).

The Trust Fund shall "assist the state in permanently conserving and preserving tracts of land ... for the purposes of promoting tourism and recreation, including outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing; protecting, conserving and restoring the state's physical, cultural, archeological, historical and environmental resources; and preserving working landscapes."

The Act establishes a Board of Trustees of 11 non-salaried members (appointed by the governor) that is to be independent of the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation, but attached to TDEC for administrative purposes. The Commissioners of TDEC and TDA (Agriculture), and the executive director of TWRA (or their designees) will serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members of the Board.

The Trust Fund, as well as any non-profit organization created by it, is authorized to request and receive assets (from gifts, donations, bequests, grants, etc.) and will be fiscally independent; no part of its assets, or the earnings from such assets, shall be diverted to the general fund.

The main purpose of the Fund is the acquisition of "real property" (i.e., land), or interest in "real property" (i.e., easements) for the state. It may do so by any number of means (donation, sale, exchange, lease, etc.), but may not use eminent domain. In addition to carrying out such acquisitions itself, the Trust may make grants or loans to various government agencies or to non-profit organizations to fulfill the stated purposes.

The board of 11 is charged with developing the criteria around which projects will be judged (i.e., it will not have to abide by existing plans or priority lists). The board will also make decisions as to which tracts are to be acquired. Because the Board has these powers, it will make a lot of difference who gets appointed to it.

3B. New law opens water-permit appeals process to all parties

[Source: Tennessee Clean Water Network, TCWN]

Passage of HB 2273 (McMillan)/SB 2258 (Kyle) assures all "affected persons" the right to appeal pollution and other water quality permits. This means that citizens, municipalities, and other third parties -- and not just the permit applicants (usually, polluting industries) -- can participate in appeals (NL261 ¶2G). The right to appeal covers pollution-discharge permits, aquatic resource alteration permits (ARAPs -- often, requests to relocate streams or pave over wetlands), and inter-basin water transfers.

TCWN and TCV (Tenn. Conservation Voters), leaders in the successful effort to pass this legislation, note that the new law will also:

- Raise Tennessee's program up to federal standards,
- Offer the same protections as those offered by surrounding states,
- Simplify and shorten the process to resolve citizens' grievances,
- Ensure that new facilities are built after (not before) valid concerns are addressed,
- Reduce the money parties spend on long administrative procedures.

On a related issue, TCV and TCWN also joined forces to defeat SB 1278/HB 0925, which would have allowed individuals with a conflict of interest to sit on the Water Quality Control Board. This bill had called for a removal of the conflict-of-interest clause in the rules governing who may vote on permit cases.

3C. Bills on conservation easements: one success and one failure

[Information from Tennessee Conservation Voters]

- TCV worked with the Land Trust for Tennessee, the Nature Conservancy, and other groups to help pass SB 1869/HB 2029, which specifically states who does and does not have the right to enforce conservation easements. This bill makes it easier and more appealing for landowners to place permanent development restrictions on their property.
- Last year, the State Legislature passed a bill that requires non-profit organizations to be assessed for property tax on any undeveloped land holdings over 100 acres per county; such land was formerly tax-exempt (NL261 ¶2F). This misguided legislation affected churches, summer camps, youth organizations and schools, and hit conservation groups especially hard. Attempts to get this law amended or repealed failed this year.

3D. Groups gearing up to pass bottle bill next time

[Information from Scenic Tennessee]

Bottle bills have been working successfully in 11 states, and there was great support for such a bill (sponsored by Sen. McNally and Rep. Russell Johnson) during the Tennessee legislative session just past. Not just citizens' groups but also tourism-based businesses, recycling companies, and the media supported the measure. Yet, it never even got put to a vote.

Gearing up for the next session of the General Assembly, the Tennessee Bottle Bill Project has been organized and is holding its kick-off meeting on July 23 in Nashville. For further information, contact Marge Davis (Scenic Tennessee), Coordinator, Tennessee Bottle Bill Project, 615-758-8647, margedavis@comcast.net.

3E. TDOT's Long-Range Transportation Plan almost complete

For the past 19 months, TDOT has been engaged in gathering public input, reviewing previous plans, and studying technical and financial data with the objective of generating a 25-year Long-Range Transportation Plan (NL261 §2C). The final draft should be available this month, after which TDOT will request additional comments before preparing the final plan. Information on the process and draft is available at www.tennessee.gov/tdot, or by calling (toll-free) 1-866-389-8443, or e-mailing PlanGo@state.tn.us.

4. OTHER STATE NEWS

4A. Proposal to eliminate stream buffer zones being revisited

In recent years, East Tennessee residents have, unfortunately become all too familiar with the civil consequences of cross-river mining, and especially with its effect on streams, such as Dan Branch off Zeb Mountain. This type of mining essentially takes off the top of a mountain and dumps the rocks and soil into surrounding valleys. Things looked even worse when, in January 2004, the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) proposed to essentially eliminate the 20-year-old stream "buffer zone" rule, which prohibits mining activity within 100 feet of streams.

The coal industry strongly pushed to get a rule change that would make it infinitely easier to obtain a variance. Area residents and concerned groups (including TCWP) overwhelmingly opposed the rule change at a March 2004 hearing in Harriman (NL255 §3A; NL256 §4B).

After first asserting that elimination of the stream buffer zone would "not significantly affect the quality of the human environment," OSM has now apparently softened its position. In mid-June the agency announced that – just as citizens had urged – it would generate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed rules change. According to the Environmental News Network, this could delay any such change by two years or more.

As a first step in the NEPA process, OSM will conduct scoping meetings in mid-August (if there is sufficient demand, they say). Such meetings could be held in 5 locations (none of them, however, in the nation's top three coal-producing states). It is virtually certain that East Tennessee will be one of the meeting sites. Written comments will be accepted until mid-August.

WHAT YOU CAN DO. Please watch the TCWP web site for the meeting date and site, and the address for sending written comments. This is a highly important issue, and we hope you will have an input.

4B. A Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for Tennessee

Tennessee is home to a wide array of wildlife species, approximately 90% of which are non-game species. Many of the problems that confront game species, such as habitat loss or poor water quality, also affect non-game species. In recent years, Congress has appropriated new funding to the states to address the issues that face many of these non-game species.

To be eligible for the new funding, states must develop a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) that identifies species of greatest conservation need, their habitats and the problems they face, as well as needed conservation actions and monitoring. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and its conservation partners are working on a draft of the CWCS. Details of the planning process and information in draft form can be found on TWRA's website, www.tnwildlife.org, or www.state.tn.us/twra/nongmain.html. Draft chapters will be posted on the website as they become available. Public meetings are scheduled in 4 locations, including:

- Knoxville, July 21, 7:00 p.m., U.T. Agricultural Campus, Plant & Soil Science Bldg, Auditorium
- Nashville, July 26, 7:00 p.m., TWRA Region-2 Office, TWRC Meeting Room
- Crossville, Aug. 2, 7:00 p.m., TWRA Region-3 Office.

4C. Proposed Lodge at Norris Dam

[Based on contribution by Sandra Goss]

A proposal for a privately owned lodge and convention facility at Norris Dam has aroused much local and regional opposition. Commercial development would be allowed on land that belongs to the public, and there would be major aesthetic intrusions into the landscape (the plans include – in addition to motel and restaurant – a 70-foot lighthouse, a man-made waterfall, an ice-skating rink, and a tram). According to a recent *Knoxville News Sentinel* article, state legislation authorizing Campbell County to issue \$11 million in tax-exempt bonds to finance the development has passed into law without the governor's signature.

The land that is eyed for the lodge is owned by TVA and given in easement to the state, which leases the property to Pemberton. In a complicated proposal, Pemberton would give the property back to the state, which would then lease the land to Campbell County. The bonds issued by Campbell County would finance the project, and revenue from the lodge would pay off the bonds.

TCWP and Sierra Club member David Reister, who has been researching this project, has received the following message from Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Commissioner James H. Fyke: "We have

not yet received a proposal from Campbell County in this regard. However, please be assured a meeting will be held at the park seeking public input before any consideration for approval of this project would take place." Keep watching for announcements.

5. TVA NEWS

5A. Comments on Watts Bar Plan

On June 8, TCWP and AFORR co-hosted a meeting with a TVA representative to discuss salient features of the Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan and Draft EIS. Subsequently, comments for the July 8 deadline were submitted by TCWP as well as by a considerable number of individuals who support TCWP's position.

The comments deplored TVA's recent willingness, or even eagerness, to sell or trade its public lands. This policy has been evident from TVA actions on Tellico and Nickajack Reservoirs. For Watts Bar, TVA will be making decisions on proposals by developers and development agencies to allocate more public land on the reservoir for private development.

TCWP commented that TVA public lands, many of which were acquired by eminent domain for the public good, should stay in public hands for public use. These lands are an irreplaceable resource. As the population grows, the need increases to protect lands for public enjoyment for the preservation of water quality, and as habitat for animals and plants.

TVA, as steward of major southeastern reservoirs, must play a strong, proactive role in protecting water quality. Preserving riparian zones on the widest possible buffer zones around the perimeter of reservoirs is a key element toward this goal and will save towns and cities significant water treatment costs for years to come.

Of the three alternatives outlined in the Draft EIS, we strongly favored Alternative C ("Balanced Conservation and Recreation"), over Alternative B ("Balanced Development and Recreation"), or Alternative A ("No Action"). Some of the comparisons are summarized in the following table.

Allocations	A	B	C
Acres public land converted to private economic development	1,471	2,278	52
Acres high-class terrestrial habitat used for economic or recreation development	3,400	3,700	0
Acres allocated to sensitive/natural resource management	6,764	6,467	8,763

As regards specific parcels, we strongly endorsed Zone 3 ("Sensitive Resource Management") for the Whites Creek Small Wild Area, as well as for the neighboring parcel to the north, which we have proposed as an addition to the Small Wild Area. The Draft EIS lists both of these parcels as Zone 3 under all three alternatives, TVA has also proposed that islands and peninsulas be managed as Zone 3, a designation we endorse.

We also agreed with TVA's designation (under all alternatives) of the Fingers Area as partly Zone 3 and partly Zone 4 ("Natural Resource Conservation").

Finally, we joined AFORR (Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation) in recommendations for the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site. Specifically, portions of the previously disturbed area at the southern end of the peninsula, and the relatively level land immediately surrounding it to the north and away from the reservoir should be designated Zone 5 ("Economic Development"); and all of the upland area on the northern half of the peninsula should be designated Zone 4, with a 75-300 m strip maintained along the edge of the reservoir within this parcel.

We also urged TVA to fund positions and to leverage volunteers to enforce the zoning of Zone 3 and Zone 4 parcels.

TVA documents are available on www.tva.gov/environment/reports/wattsbar/index.htm

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you are concerned about TVA's sale of public lands to private commercial interests, write a letter to the editor of your paper.

5B. TVA personnel capsules

- Pres. Bush nominated Bill Baxter (one of the two remaining members of the TVA Board) as TVA Chairman. He will remain in this position until the full new board of nine part-time members is confirmed and picks a new chairman.
- John Shipp, Vice President for Environmental Policy & Planning, will retire in August. Shipp has led EP&P since 1999 when the organization was formed. Kate Jackson, Executive Vice President for River System Operations & Environment, has named Bridgette Ellis to serve as acting vice president of EP&P. Ellis assumed this role on July 7, in addition to her present position as VP for Resource Stewardship. She and Shipp have already begun working together to ensure a smooth transition. -- This interim arrangement is being made while options for the long-term leadership of TVA's environmental functions are being evaluated.
- Earlier this year, 9 new individuals were appointed to the 20-member TVA Regional Re-

source Stewardship Council, established in 2000. Among them are Jim Fyke, Deputy TDEC Commissioner (now full commissioner), and Michael Butler, executive director of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation (formerly, the Tennessee Conservation League).

5C. Green Power facts

[Information from Green Power Switch and
Chattanooga Times Free Press]

The composition of renewable resources in TVA's Green Power Switch program is as follows:

0.5% solar
26.5% methane
73.0% wind

During FY2004, greenpower contributed slightly more than 0.01% to the TVA generation mix. A long way to go! (but it's a start). For additional information, visit www.greenpowerswitch.com.

This summer, to meet its peak power demands, TVA will use all 5 of its nuclear reactors, 72 of its combustion turbines, 101 of its 109 hydroelectric units, and 58 of its 59 coal-fired units.

6. SMOKIES

6A. Camporee against the North Shore Road, July 23-24

[Because of the need to publicize this event, we are re-running an article from NL261 ¶4C]

In order to give its supporters an opportunity to hike in the heart of the Smokies threatened by the North Shore Road, the Great Smokies Coalition will hold a camporee July 23-24. Participants can set up their tents on Friday, July 22 at the Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground near Bryson City.

On Saturday, 23 July, there will be a mix of hikes, from short to long, some supported by boat or ferry across Fontana Lake. Depending on demand, a series of shorter hikes will be held on Sunday. Note that a full moon falls on 21 July, a solace to hikers of long trails after sundown.

A Bar-B-Que supper, standard fare for camporees, will be held Saturday night. The campground fee is \$6 per person, per night. The Bar-B-Que will be on a break-even basis, estimated around \$10 per person. For those taking hikes supported by boat or ferry service, that cost will be split among the users.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Registration is necessary; contact Ted Snyder, 864-638-3686, or tedsnyder@nuvox.net. Directions to the campground can be obtained from him.

6B. U.S.321 plan modified

Segments of U.S.321 east of Gatlinburg border the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

boundary, and many citizens have for sometime been very concerned over a proposed highway-widening project (NL237 ¶4A; NL238 ¶7A). TDO has now modified the proposal for a 2.6-mile segment that was to have had 15 lanes with a continuous center turn lane, and a concrete retaining wall as high as 50 feet in places. TDO will lower the speed limit to 35 mph, reduce lane width, and restrict the turn lane to about 1/3 of the project, landscaping the median in the remainder of the segment. The retaining walls will be painted to resemble natural rock surfaces (what'll that look like?).

7. THE CHEROKEE IS AMONG NATIONAL FORESTS UNDER SIEGE

7A. Bill seeks to restore

Roadless Area protection that the Administration has undone

In May 2005, the Bush Administration repealed the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (NL261 ¶16C), effectively removing federal protection from 58 millions acres of roadless national forests nationwide, including over a half-million acres of pristine forests in the Southern Appalachians, which include Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest. The Cherokee NF has 18 inventoried Roadless Areas.

The Bush Administration's ruling disregards over 4.2 million comments received by the end of 2004, the vast majority of which supported the Roadless Area Conservation Rule of 2001 and/or rejected the Administration's proposed changes.

Under the Administration's new plan, State Governors must petition the Forest Service if they wish roadless protection to be re-instated on national forest lands in their state. The state investment of substantial time, funds, and personnel required by this process is, however, likely to be wasted since the Forest Service is free to reject or modify petitions. The Administration has thus burdened states with a costly bureaucratic process while ensuring them no effective influence. Furthermore, by requiring State action to effectuate Federal resources (resources that belong to the whole nation), the policy sets a dangerous precedent.

Recently, Congressmen Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) introduced the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2005. These Congressmen (along with half a dozen others of both parties) are circulating a Dear Colleague letter that may be viewed on <http://www.ourforests.org/risk/DearColleague-5-10-05.pdf>. Currently, there are 106 bipartisan co-sponsors. We hope our readers will urge their Congressman, too, to co-sponsor this bill; Rep. Ford (D-TN) has already done so!

The Inslee-Boehlert bill would codify the 2001 Rule, and, by protecting roadless areas, would ensure that pristine forests provide sources of public drinking water (a continuously shrinking resource), undisturbed habitat for fish and wildlife (another seriously shrinking resource), recreation opportunities, and barriers against invasive plant and animal species and pathogens. More than half of our National Forest System lands would still remain open to road building and economic utilization.

Roads in forests damage watersheds, destroy wildlife habitat, and ruin scenic vistas. They allow for the spread of both native and exotic pests and pathogens, and increase the chances of wildfires. America's National Forests are already crossed by 386,000 miles of roads (enough to encircle the Earth 15 times), constructed primarily for extractive uses that benefit the logging, mining, and oil-drilling industries, though built at the expense of American taxpayers. Currently, there is a \$10 billion backlog on their maintenance.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your U.S. Representative (see p.2) and urge him to sign on as co-sponsor of the important Inslee-Boehlert bill. Thank Rep. Ford for having signed on already.

7B. *Compromise averts unlimited sale of public lands by Forest Service*

The Interior Appropriations bill passed by the Senate on June 29 originally contained a provision that could have dismantled the National Forest System. This so-called Title V, "The Forest Service Land Disposition and Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act," would have allowed the Forest Service to sell publicly owned land and facilities to private entities without any limitations.

While Title V unfortunately remains in the bill, Sen. Bingaman (D-NM) succeeded in somewhat improving its provision. The compromise prohibits the sale of any facilities or adjacent lands "within a unit of the National Forest System specifically designated for resource protection, conservation, or recreational purposes, including land within the National Wilderness Preservation System, the Wild and Scenic River System, and National Monuments or land that is needed for resource management purposes or that would be in the public interest to retain."

The original Title V language also waived all requirements for the Forest Service to conduct environmental reviews and seek public comment. The compromise requires the agency to consider an alternative under NEPA - not ideal, but better than doing away with NEPA altogether.

7C. *Bad news about the Tongass*

A year ago, the House passed a measure that prevented taxpayer funds from being used to build new commercial logging roads in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. This year, the Senate unfortunately went the other way.

Late in June, during the debate on the Interior Appropriations bill, the Senate defeated an amendment (sponsored by Senators John Sununu, R-NH, and Jeff Bingaman, D-NM) that would have prevented the Forest Service from building new logging roads on the Tongass NF. Even though the amendment was defeated, the debate over logging and road building helped shine much needed light on the mismanagement of, and the wasteful timber program in, the Tongass NF, which is not only America's largest national forest, but the largest, most intact temperate rain forest in the entire world. We are sad to report that both Senators Alexander and Frist voted against the Sununu-Bingaman amendment.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Express your disappointment to Senators Alexander and Frist. Thank Senators Sununu (R-NH), Bingaman (D-NM), McCain (R-AZ), and Feingold (D-WI) who showed great leadership in championing this issue.

7D. *New hiking guide for the Cherokee National Forest*

(From a contribution by Will Skelton)

Stretching across the Tennessee-North Carolina state line, the 640,000-acre Cherokee National Forest includes much of the western slopes of the southern Appalachian Mountains, north and south of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The lack of a general hiking guide to the Cherokee, together with a desire to introduce more of the public to the Cherokee, prompted the Harvey Broome Group of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club to publish the first such guide in 1992 (U.T. Press). This first guide covered only trails in the Cherokee's "protected areas," such as wilderness, scenic and primitive areas. A new edition, "Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide," edited by William H. Skelton and just published by U.T. Press, covers ALL of the Cherokee's trails - altogether 675 miles in 198 trails. It represents the work of over 30 Sierra Club members.

The book (which has a foreword by Sen. Alexander) is divided into geographic sections, includes 45 photographs and 43 maps, and provides detailed trail descriptions and difficulty ratings. It also includes much information on the Cherokee's geology, vegetation, wildlife, human history, and the political history of how the Cherokee and its protected areas came to be.

See \$10 for publication details and price.

8. NATIONAL ISSUES

8A. Arctic Refuge - a crucial time for you to contact your legislator

Because proponents of oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge could not pass such a provision as a free-standing bill, they tried to slither it in by way of the budget process. Almost 3 months ago, revenues from Arctic Refuge drilling were included by very narrow margins in the budget resolutions of both the House and the Senate (NL261 ¶6A). The number of Republicans who broke with their party's position were 15 and 7, respectively, a very encouraging sign. In Tennessee, unfortunately, all Republicans (in both House & Senate) voted the party line, while all Democrats voted to protect the Refuge.

Later this summer, Congress must still pass a "budget reconciliation" bill, which contains the details on how each congressional committee plans to meet the targets established by the budget resolutions. While the resolution is only a non-binding blueprint, the budget reconciliation has the force of law. It will be up to the Resources Committee in the House and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the Senate to decide on whether or not to open the Refuge to drilling.

More recently, each House of Congress passed an energy bill, two very different documents (§8C, this NL). The House bill authorized drilling in the Arctic Refuge, but the Senate bill did not. Actions of the conference committee will be crucial.

Members of Congress who care about the Refuge need to make it clear to their Congressional leadership that inclusion of an Arctic Refuge drilling provision threatens passage of the budget, and threatens passage of the Energy bill. That is why it is essential that you tell your legislators that the Refuge must be preserved - it is an irreplaceable national treasure that must not be destroyed for the sake of less than a year's supply of oil that wouldn't even become available for a decade or more. Tell them, also, that you resent the backdoor budget maneuvers that were used to circumvent the will of the people (polls show that Americans oppose Refuge drilling by a margin of 55:38).

One of the Bush Administration's myths about oil development is the claim that only 2,000 acres of the 1.5 million-acre Coastal Plain would be disturbed by drilling. The oil, however, is located not in a single deposit, but in over 30 small ones, spread across the Coastal Plain. The massive industrial network needed to support and link the actual drilling facilities (pipelines, roads, gravel mines, exploration trails, water-reservoir excavations, etc.) would completely fragment the vast, fragile wilderness of the plain. To see the truth for yourself (and to transmit it to your legis-

lator), go to www.nrdactionfund.org/arcticmap.asp.

There is an ultimate solution: passage of legislation that would add the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge to the National Wilderness Preservation System. A bill to that effect has been introduced in both Houses - S 543/HR 567, sponsored by Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT) and Representatives Nancy Johnson (R-CT) and Ed Markey (D-MA).

- WHAT YOU CAN DO.** Contact your Representative and both your Senators and urge them to oppose any legislation (budget reconciliation, energy bill) that would authorize oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (see arguments in article, above), and become a co-sponsor of S 543/HR 567. Depending on how your legislators voted on the budget resolution (see article), tell them that you were disappointed or pleased. If they voted for drilling, tell them of your hope that they'll do the right thing in the future on this vitally important issue. See p.2 for contact information.

8B. Interior Appropriations bills slash land-acquisition funds

The Bush Administration's FY 2006 budget had asked Congress to cut the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) by 42%, most of the reduction coming from the termination of state grants (which total \$91 million in FY 2005). The House made things even worse by completely zeroing out the LWCF.

The Senate bill, passed in late June, has several improvements over the House bill. For one thing, it restores \$162 million for federal land acquisition and \$30 million for state park and recreation projects (still only 1/3 of this year's sum). The Senate also more than doubles the amount the House had included for the Forest Legacy program, raising this figure to \$63 million, though falling short of the President's budget request of \$80 million for this vital conservation program. -- Sadly, during the debate on the Interior Appropriations bill, the Senate defeated an amendment that would have prevented the Forest Service from building new logging roads on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska (§7C, this NL).

The bill will go to conference with the House bill when the Congress reconvenes. For more details, visit <http://www.wilderness.org/NewsRoom/Release/20050701.cfm>.

8C. Energy bill: better news from Senate than from House

An important thing happened during debate on the Energy bill: the Senate passed a resolution favoring a program of mandatory controls

of emissions of the gases that contribute to global warming (§8C, below). The House will not be able to tamper with this resolution, which represents the "sense of the Senate."

The Senate Energy bill itself, passed June 29, differs markedly from the House bill, and the process of reconciling the two versions will undoubtedly be a heated one. For one thing, the Senate bill contains no language for drilling in the Arctic Refuge (see §8A, above). The bill is also superior to other recent energy bills with regard to tax incentives for energy efficiency and renewable, nonpolluting fuels. It includes a provision, sponsored by Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), that would require that at least 10% of the country's electricity be generated by nonpolluting energy sources by 2020.

On the other hand, the Senate again rejected all efforts to require higher fuel efficiency for cars and trucks, even though that is the surest way to ease the country's dependence on foreign oil and would greatly reduce atmospheric CO₂. "Clean coal" provisions in the bill fall short of what's needed. Additionally, the Senate would grant some \$18 billion (as compared to the House's \$8 billion) in tax breaks over 10 years to polluting methods of power generation.

While the Senate bill has incentives and measures to encourage renewable, non-polluting energy sources, Senator Alexander (R-TN) has opposed wind as a source which, he says, "produces puny amounts of high-cost unreliable power." He is also concerned about the marbling of scenic vistas. The group *Scenic America* recognizes the benefits of wind power and is working on decreasing the aesthetic impacts of wind turbines (as well as of other large structures, such as cell towers) on surrounding landscapes by designing a system based on assigning values to significant landscapes and views.

8D. Global warming:

what the Senate achieved

[Information from NRDC, and from clearenvironment.org]

During the debate on the energy bill (§8C, this NL), the Senate went on record (by a vote of 53 : 44) as favoring the enactment of mandatory controls of emissions of the gases that contribute to global warming. The resolution recognizes the reality of global warming, its associated risks, and the scientific consensus that human activity is a substantial cause of greenhouse gas accumulation in the atmosphere. "It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should enact a comprehensive and effective national program of mandatory, market-based limits and incentives on emissions of greenhouse gases that slow, stop, and reverse the growth of such emissions at a rate and in a manner that—

(1) will not significantly harm the United States economy; and

(2) will encourage comparable action by other nations that are major trading partners and key contributors to global emissions."

While this was a nonbinding "sense of the Senate" resolution, the action was anything but meaningless. The vote erases the Senate's 1997 vote against mandatory pollution limits, which the Bush Administration has relied on to justify inaction for the past five years. It represents a major turnaround in attitudes, especially among prominent Republicans (Domenici, Alexander, DeWine, Specter, and Warner), who only a short while ago doubted a problem even existed and opposed mandatory measures. Sen. Pete Domenici, the most influential Senate Republican on energy matters, has already scheduled hearings to see what sort of legislation can be devised down the road. Tennessee's Sen. Alexander was a co-sponsor of the resolution (while Sen. Frist opposed it), and TCWP has signed a letter of thanks to him (also, see action box, below).

Hopefully, Pres. Bush's voluntary approach to the problem (which his administration has consistently sought to minimize—see §8E, below) will no longer be taken seriously.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Now that Sen. Alexander is on the record in the resolution, it is critical that we build on this momentum to secure his vote on global warming legislation that will actually enact a mandatory, market-based system for reducing global warming emissions. Please contact Senator Alexander today to thank him for his vote on the Bingaman resolution, and to encourage his support for strong legislation to limit global warming pollution.

8E. Administration positions on global warming:

Bush's and Schwarzenegger's

[Sources: NY Times, Union of Concerned Scientists]

Some of the nitty-gritty of how the Bush Administration seeks to convey uncertainty about the reality of global warming and to minimize its dire consequences to the well-being of our planet was recently revealed in the press. The NY Times of 6/7/05 printed a copy of handwritten revisions and comments by Philip A. Cooney, chief of staff for the White House Council on Environmental Quality. These appear on two draft reports by the Climate Change Science Program and the Subcommittee on Global Change Research. Mr. Cooney's inked-in changes were incorporated into later versions of each document.

In the first draft, Mr. Cooney deleted an entire paragraph detailing the consequences of glacier and snow melts in polar regions, adding this marginal comment: "straying from research strategy into speculative findings/musings here." In the second draft, a statement urging "full use

of scientific information in policy and decision making ... " was modified by a phrase stating that the role of the Program was to "reduce the significant remaining uncertainties associated with human-induced climate change" [italics mine. Ed.].

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced an amendment to the energy bill that would have required any White House edits to climate-related science documents to be made public on the Internet. The amendment also would have prohibited the manipulation or censorship of climate-related science documents and would have extended whistleblower protections to government scientists who report such abuse. Sadly, the Senate leadership would not allow the amendment to come to a vote.

At least one state is, however, taking significant action. On June 1, Governor Schwarzenegger committed California to reducing the state's heat-trapping emissions as follows:

- by 2010, to 2000 levels;
- by 2020, to 1990 levels;
- by 2050, to 80% below 1990 levels.

California is the tenth largest carbon emitter in the world. Implementation of the Governor's targets will lead to greater emission reductions over the next five years than will be achieved in the larger economies of either Britain or France. The targets demonstrate important political support for climate action in the United States.

8F. Serious threats to

the Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) faces attacks on all fronts. It has been one of America's most important and successful environmental laws; 98% of the wildlife protected under the ESA are still alive today, and many are stable or improving. Without the Act, the American alligator, California condor, Florida panther, and many other species would almost certainly have disappeared from the planet years ago.

Now, the ESA is facing threats to its very existence.

- (1) In March, Representative Dennis Cardoza introduced his deceptively-named "Critical Habitat Enhancement Act" (H.R. 1299). The ESA works because it protects the places that imperiled plants and animals need in order to survive and recover. But H.R. 1299, instead of enhancing this protection, would make it far more difficult to designate "critical habitat" by creating a series of loopholes, unattainable standards, and hollow duties.
- (2) A bill about to be introduced by Representative Richard Pombo (R-CA), Chair of the House Resources Committee would, according to those who have read it, "take a wrecking ball to the whole Endangered Species Act." It would change ESA's mission, disable enforcement tools, and

provide extensive loopholes for corporate special interests. Among other things,

- it allows federal agencies to ignore their responsibility to protect threatened and endangered species;
- it allows legal appeals during every step of the endangered species conservation process;
- it includes a "takings" provision that requires the federal government to pay landowners for the costs of complying with the law -- a terrible precedent to set with regard to environmental protections,
- it sets the year 2015 as the expiration date for the Endangered Species Act -- a timetable for ending protection of our endangered species!

For more information on the Act and for an analysis of the Pombo draft bill, visit <http://www.SaveESA.org>

WHAT YOU CAN DO. Contact your U.S. Representative (see p. 2) and tell him why the ESA must be protected. Urge him to strongly oppose all attacks on the Act, including Cardoza's H.R. 1299 and the bill about to be introduced by Rep. Pombo.

9. TCWP NEWS

9A. Larry Pounds Joins TCWP Board

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Citing family priorities at this time, Mark Peterson has decided to be relieved of his position on the TCWP Board. Mark has served on the Board as director or as Vice-President for the past 5 years. His knowledge of regional watersheds and his scientific expertise have been great assets to TCWP's work; we are deeply grateful for his generous service.

Larry Pounds, long-time Service Committee member, has graciously agreed to fill out the remainder of Mark's term this year. Larry is no stranger to participants in hikes and wildflower tours organized by TCWP and others. With his extensive botanical knowledge and keen interest in the natural world, he is not only a great trip leader, but a valuable asset to the Board. Welcome!

9B. Upcoming activities

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

[For additional information on any of the listed events, call Sandra K. Goss at 865-522-3809 or e-mail skgoss@espr.com.]

Raft on the Pigeon River, August 13

The TCWP Service Committee has organized a rafting trip on the Pigeon River on Saturday, August 13. Once known as the "Dirty Bird," the Pigeon and its wildlife are much healthier now after years of work to clean up industrial

discharges. We will be in rafts that seat 7 people plus our guide, and each person will be provided an orientation session, a lifejacket, helmet, and paddle by the outfitters, Rafting in the Smokies.

Reservations by August 5 are required to participate in the event on these Class III/IV water. Participants must be at least eight years old or weigh 70 pounds or more. The cost will be \$12/person, including tip for the guide. This is a phenomenal deal due to the generosity of Rafting in the Smokies.

We plan to be at Rafting in the Smokies, located at exit 447 off I-40, by 3:00 that afternoon. We will put in at 4:00, and be off the water by 6:00. Several area restaurants are open for those after-raft hunger pangs. We will organize a car-pool from Oak Ridge/Knoxville, meeting at about 1:00. To reserve your spot, e-mail or call Sandra at skgross@esper.com or 522-3809.

Other dates to save

The following events have been scheduled by the TCWP Service Committee. Details will appear in later mailings and on our website, www.tcwp.org.

- Clean up at Worthington Cemetery at Elza Gate, Saturday, Sept. 24.
This will be our National Public Lands Day activity.
- Annual meeting at Historic Rugby, Saturday, Oct. 15.
- Clean up at Oak Ridge Cedar Barren, Saturday, Nov. 19.

9C. TCWP receives funds

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

- Community Shares (you can help us increase this for the future!)

As a result of the year-2004 Community Shares campaign, TCWP received \$4,157 in designated gifts and \$6,792 in undesignated gifts, for a total of \$10,949.

The Community Shares workplace campaign will kick off in August. If Community Shares is a workplace-giving site where you work, please remember TCWP as a possible designee for your charitable contributions.

If your workplace does not have Community Shares as a giving option, call Sandra for information on how to accomplish that.

- Tennessee Paddle has closed out their account and donated the balance of \$600+ for TCWP's work on the Obed. We are most grateful!

9D. Selected TCWP actions since NL 260 (mid-March through mid-July)

Meetings organized and/or attended

TCWP spring forum by Kris Light - Wildflower slide show

TCWP summer forum by Tennessee Riverkeeper Leaf Myczack

Wildflower walk in Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement

With AFORR, hosted TVA public meeting on Watts Bar DEIS

Exhibit at Ripley's Aquarium (Earth Day)

Exhibit at Wildflower Pilgrimage

Exhibit at Southern Highlands Conference

Exhibit at Oak Ridge Secret City Festival

Cherokee National Forest planning

Co-sponsored program through Cumberland Green on Cumberland County's Nature-Based Recreation and Tourism Opportunities

Organized Crab Orchard Mt. tract meeting

NPS's follow-up meeting on Obed Climbing Plan

North Ridge Trail strategy meeting and recognition of Susan Donnelly, Trail Steward

Alliance for the Cumberlands meetings and Steering Committee conference calls; Meet-the-New-ED meetings with Upper Cumberland Devt. Distr., SOG/M, Cumberland Cy. Mayor

Land Trust Alliance and SE Watershed Forum Conference

East Forest Partnership forum on "Conserving Private Forestlands in the Southeast"

Community Shares Annual Meeting; local monthly coordinating meetings; Circle-of-Change Banquet planning meetings

Tennessee Forest Council

Goodbye dinner and presentation for Chris Stubbs

Earth Day talk presented at ORNL on Obed and Big South Fork preservation

Requested and attended meeting with TWRA director concerning Cumberland lands and protection

Emory River Watershed Water Quality meeting

TCWP Board, monthly meetings

TCWP Mailing, Nominating, and Service Committees

Letters (L)/Comments (C)

Scoping comments on Watts Bar Reservoir Land Management Plan (C)

Comments on Watts Bar Reservoir DEIS to TVA (C)

Thanks to Sen. Alexander for Senate resolution on global warming (L), with SACE

Appeal to congressmen to reverse tax disincentive for land protection (L)

Letters to Reps. Duncan and Wamp to support National Forest Protection and Restoration Act (L)

Letters to Reps. Duncan and Wamp urging support of 2005 Roadless Area Conservation Act (L)

Letter to Forest Service opposing changes in rules for National Forest Management Act (L)

Requested public hearing in Knoxville on OSM stream buffer zones EIS

Opposed state bill that would urge Congress to fund Elkmont historic structures (L)

Supported cash settlement alternative in North Shore Road DEIS (C)

Appealed to senators to support extension of Abandoned Mine Lands reclamation fee (L)

Requested State Recreation Trail logo for North Ridge
Trail signs (L)
Letters to several owners off land in Obed viewed

Actions

Issued action alert and comment cards on Watts Bar
DEIS
Issued action alerts for TDEC watershed meetings for
Emory River and Watts Bar Reservoir
Cedar Barrens workday
Wildflower walk/invasive plant work session
North Ridge Trail work day
Issued action alert on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

10. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

- **Events and deadlines calendar.** (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, skgoss@esaper.com)

- Now through Aug. 28, *Trailblazers*, exhibit of photographs of the early years of the great Smoky Mountains National Park, Ewing Gallery, 1715 Volunteer Blvd., U.T.
- July 21, July 26, Aug. 2, TWRA meetings on Wildlife Conservation Strategy (¶4B, this NL).
- July 23-24, North Shore Road Camporee (¶6A, this NL).
- Aug. 6, Obed bird watching (¶2D, this NL).
- Aug. 13, Pigeon River float (9B, this NL).
- mid-August, scoping meeting on stream buffer zones (4A, this NL).
- Sept. 20, "A Voice for Water," a TCWN conference to build public participation in the Triennial Review Process that is slated for February 2006. More details later.
- Sept. 21-23, Knoxville, "Looking Back, Moving Forward" (planning, landscape architecture, transportation). Contact Kelley Segars, 865-215-3815, www.knox.org.
- Sept. 24, Worthington Cemetery work day (9B, this NL).
- October 7-9, Cumberland Trail Conference's Sixth Annual Trail Training Workshop. Call 931-456-6259, or visit www.cumberlandtrail.org (see ¶3E, this NL).
- Oct. 12-14, Watchable Wildlife Conference, Virginia Beach, VA (www.watchablewildlife.org).
- Oct. 15, TCWP Annual Meeting at Rugby (9B, this NL).
- Nov. 16-19, 2005 Conference on Urban Ecosystems, Charlotte, NC (visit www.americanforests.org).
- Nov. 19, Cedar Barren clean-up (9B, this NL).

Resources

- The Foothills Conservancy has launched a new recycling program that will provide operating funds for land-acquisition efforts. Items to be recycled are spent laser-printer and ink-jet-car-

tridges, and old cell phones. For information, call 865-681-8326.

- The *Cherokee National Forest Hiking Guide*, 2nd edition, edited by William H. Skelton, with a foreword by Lamar Alexander, has been published in U.T. Press's Outdoor Tennessee Series. See ¶7D, this NL. (Paper ISBN 1-57233-374-X, \$24.95, 45 photographs, 43 maps, 608 pages.)
- "Science Under Siege," a report released by the American Civil Liberties Union, examines government policies and practices that have hampered academic freedom and scientific inquiry since September 11, 2001. To view the report, visit <http://ucsaction.org/ci/mdSxrlV41zXd5/>.
- The 4th annual edition of "Rewriting the Rules" is a National Resources Defense Council report chronicling nearly 150 environmentally destructive policy changes, enforcement failures, and other action taken in 2004 by the Bush Administration. Available on www.nrdc.org/bushrecord.
- *Forests on the Edge: Housing Development on America's Private Forests* is a study by the US Forest Service and the private sector which suggests that by 2030 housing density will increase substantially on more than 44 million acres, or 11% of private forestland, an area greater in size than New England. The agency estimates that private forests in the Southeast, where three-quarters of all U.S. private forests are located, will experience the most extensive changes. For additional information, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2005/releases/06/forests-edge.shtml>.
- "Paper or Plastic: Searching for Solutions in an Overpackaged World," by Daniel Imhoff. The answer is, neither. Each American dumps 300 pounds of packaging a year, but other countries have made much progress. (Sierra Club Books, 168 pp., \$15.25).

"The idea of taking areas off land and not exploiting them, not using them, but rather loving them and caring for them is one of the most noble things that has ever come out of American Society"
William A. Turnage, The Wilderness Society

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