



**Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning**

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

9. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
5B	Stream Protection Rule	Sec. Sally Jewell	"Please finalize strong rule very soon!"
5C	Attack on Wilderness Act	Both your US senators	"Oppose allowing mountain bikes in Wilderness!"
5D	Protection of ANWR	Pres. Obama	"Designate ANWR a National Monument!"
Pre-face	New dangers to environmental gains	Various	Support those in forefront of fight to protect planet. Inform yourself. Communicate.
7C	TCWP activities	Sandra Goss and others	Pick activities from ¶7C and participate; volunteer.

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. John Doe
U.S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Pres. Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111 (comments);
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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

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Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:
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<https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me>

To call any Repr. 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.lcv.org>
With mail to Congress still slow following the anthrax scare, consider faxing, phoning, and other modes of communication.

You can find contact information in our Political Guide. It's on TCWP's website (<http://www.tcwp.org>), as are some current action calls.

You can also choose to receive e-alerts by contacting Sandra Goss (see below).

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 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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PREFACE

Rereading parts of this Newsletter that were written before the election brings the sharp realization that much of the future that we always took for granted, or at least hoped for, is now in imminent danger!

Already, there are depressing signs about cabinet appointments. It is rumored that Sarah Palin (“Drill, Baby, drill!”) is being considered for Secretary of the Interior. The EPA transition team is headed by Myron Ebell, a climate-change denier, who has called the Clean Power Plan “illegal.” An Energy lobbyist for Koch Companies may lead the DOE transition team.

But we must not give up in despair -- the issues are too vitally important. We may only have a handful of years left to stop the worst effects of climate change, and that makes four years of the next administration a very daunting prospect. As somebody said, “the mountain we are climbing just got a whole lot steeper,” but climb it we must if we do not want to doom our wonderful planet.

We need to be aware that it is not just the president, but the one-party Congress that will now use their joint power to work not only for Trump’s wish list (such as repudiating the Paris Accord, canceling payments for UN climate-change programs, allowing the Keystone XL pipeline to proceed), but for the Republican platform that calls for massive giveaways of public lands, an end to the Antiquities Act, and overturning of the Clean Power Plan as well as *all* climate-change regulations under the Clean Air Act. Boosting coal will replace support for clean energy. As somebody has said, “We now live in a country of fact-free ‘truth,’ where any information inconsistent with blind ideology is rejected.”

But also remember that our form of government has checks and balances (e.g., the filibuster in the Senate), and that not all paths to destruction are necessarily without obstacles. So do not sit back and despair. Instead, become even more informed and involved than ever, and support in every way possible those who’ll be in the forefront of the fight.

To end up, here is some *good* election news (from the Trust for Public Land). Voters across the nation approved local and state ballot measures creating \$6.3 billion in funds to protect and restore public land. Out of 86 measures on the ballot, 68 passed — a 79% approval rate.

1. TENNESSEE RIDGELINES DESIGNATED UNSUITABLE FOR MINING

The ruling has not yet been quite finalized, but we may tentatively rejoice.

On October 28, the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) published the final Petition Evaluation Document (PED) and PED/EIS for the Tennessee LUM (Lands Unsuitable for Mining) designation. It may be viewed at

<http://www.osmre.gov/programs/rcm/TNLUM.shtm>. Alternative 4 (NL325 ¶2) is the one chosen (see below). A final Record of Decision will be issued “at least 30 days after the documents are published in the *Federal Register*.” This means that OSMRE will not make a final decision until after November 27, 2016.

In September 2010, the State of Tennessee, under Gov. Bredesen, petitioned OSMRE to designate certain ridge lines and connecting corridors within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement under the discretionary provisions of Section 522 of the 1977 Surface Mining Act (the so-called “lands unsuitable for mining”, LUM, section). The petition seeks to prevent surface mining within 600 feet on either side of ridgelines within the 269 square miles of two areas: (a) the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, which stretches NE from Frozen Head, past La Follette, and (b) the Emory River Conservation Easement, much of which abuts the northern boundary of Frozen Head State Natural Area.

The PED/EIS was released in December 2015 and four public hearing were held during the following month, with 3220 individual, plus numerous group, comments submitted (TCWP and many individual TCWP members submitted comments, NL325¶2). The PED evaluated six alternatives (including “no action”) and OSMRE had initially chosen Alternative 3 as their preferred one. Based on the comments and OSMRE’s subsequent evaluation, the agency has now chosen Alternative 4, which defines a ridgeline corridor of about 75,000 acres, instead of the 67,000 in Alternative 3 (the state’s petition). The increase in acreage is due to improvements in the identifying technology subsequent to the time the state measured “all of the ridgelines” in the WMA that it wanted designated unsuitable for mining.

There is one possible fly in the ointment. Because the State requested that re-mining (resulting in ‘repair’ of previous damage) be available in the petition, OSMRE will permit re-mining of some sites on a case-by-case basis if the re-mining is consistent with the criteria for designation. That should mean that the operation must not be (a) incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs, and (b) “affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.” OSMRE has promised that, in the Record of Decision, it would “provide further guidance and explanation about how it would evaluate re-mining proposals for consistency with an unsuitability designation.”

2. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

2A. Big South Fork will benefit from strengthened oil & gas regulations

The NEPA process for rule revision has been completed, and implementation of the revised rule for oil &

gas operations in the National Park System will start very soon. The 30-day no-action period concludes December 5, 2016.

While these so-called 9B regulations apply to the entire National Park System, they have a major bearing on the Big South Fork NRRRA. Of 534 non-federal oil & gas (o&g) operations in the entire Park System, more than 300 are located in the BSFNRRA (and 7 in the Obed WSR) (NL324 ¶1A). The revisions, first proposed in December 2010 (that's how long it takes!), improve existing 9B regulations so as to eliminate some bad loopholes and to revise ineffective or inadequate provisions. This is the first substantive update in the 37+ years that the 9B regulations have been in effect.

The major elements in the Record of Decision (which completes the NEPA process) are as follows:

- Elimination of two regulatory provisions that have exempted 60% of all o&g operations in System units, 319 in all. Henceforth, *all* operations in System units will be required to obtain a permit and comply with the 9B regulations.
- To ensure that adequate funding for reclamation exists, elimination of the financial assurance (bonding) cap. Financial assurance will be equal to the estimated cost of site reclamation.
- Improvement in enforcement authority by incorporating existing NPS penalty provisions. Law enforcement staff would have authority to write citations for non-compliance with the regulations.
- Requiring compensation to the federal government for new access across federal lands and waters outside the boundary of an operator's mineral right.

The final rule can be found at www.regulations.gov (Title 36 CFR, Part 9B). Promulgation of regulation for pertinent EIS elements will be published in a separate Federal Register document.

2B. Special trees in the Obed WSR

Of the numerous species of trees in the Obed WSR, two have been of special concern in recent years. First, there are the hemlocks, threatened by a lethal pest, the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). Then there are red cedars, of which many remarkably ancient ones have been found in the Obed WSR, mostly at the base of cliffs in the river gorges.

Battle against the HWA has been waged extensively by the National Park Service, and on a smaller scale by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which has enlisted the annual help of climbers working in TNC preserves and TCWP properties on the annual Adopt-A-Crag Days (NL329 ¶1E). According to Trish Johnson, who has coordinated the HWA treatments for TNC, treatments for the key hemlocks in the general area of the climbing locations have been completed, and it is not yet time for re-treatments (which need to be given at three- to five-year intervals).

The remarkably ancient red cedars are a valuable resource of the Park that could be susceptible to damage

from climbing activities. In some locations, NPS is closing climbing routes to protect this resource. In Nature Conservancy preserves, some of which are popular climbing areas, TNC initiated a photographic documentation program during the months of February 2015 and 2016. On Adopt-A-Crag Day in September 2016, climbers photographed red cedars and filled in a short form about their condition. TNC is in the process of evaluating the information. This program of monitoring the red cedars will be continued several times annually by the climbers and by TNC.

2C. Trails in the Obed WSR

Whitewater sport and climbing are not the only options for recreation in the Obed WSR. There are over 18 miles of hiking trails in the Park. New trail brochures are available at the Visitor Center and on the website www.nps.gov/obed.

2D. Obed visitation has increased

Since last year, Obed visitation has increased 20%. The Rock Creek Campground (near Nemo) is now on the National Reservation System.

3. TENNESSEE NEWS

3A. Cumberland Trail Conference reborn

After its near-death in 2014 (NL316 ¶2A), the Cumberland Trail Conference, formerly part of the Tennessee Trails Association, was reborn in December 2015 as an independent 501(c)(3) organization. The name has been changed to Cumberland Trails (plural) Conference, to reflect "a long-term vision for an entire trail system that will draw hikers to the Cumberland Trail and connect to other special places."

The CTC currently operates three seasonal trail-building programs, Spring BreakAway, Spring Big Dig, and Fall Big Dig. The Spring BreakAway program brings college students from around the country to do volunteer service on their spring break. In 2016, the program operated for its 20th straight year. For the Big Dig programs, CTC provides food and lodging for volunteers who work for a 6-week period. At this year's Fall Big Dig, volunteers continued the trail route in the Crab Orchard segment near Hebbertsburg. Trail segments are also under development along McGill Creek in Rhea and Hamilton Counties. For more details, or if you want to help, go to www.cumberlandtrail.org, or e-mail to ctcoffice2014@gmail.com.

3B. Legislative Scorecard

The Legislative Score Card for the Tennessee General Assembly has been sent out by Tennessee Conservation Voters – unfortunately too late for the information to

be included in our previous Newsletter. It is thus reaching you only *after* the election is over.

Only a small number of bills was brought to the floor this year, so the scores, both positive and negative, are relatively low. TCV feels, nevertheless, that legislators who scored higher than their colleagues deserve our thanks. Listed here, from highest to lowest, are legislators whose net positive points (i.e., positive minus negative) is in the range from 7-3.

Representatives. Beck (D-51), Camper (D-87), Clemmons (D-55), Fitzhugh (D-82), Stewart (D-52), Windle (D-40), Hardaway (D-93), Mitchell (D-50), Towns (D-84), Turner (D-85), Gilmore (D-54), Armstrong (D-15), Cooper (D-86), Jones (D-59), Travis (R-31).

Senators. Yarbboro (D-21), Dickerson (R-20).

There are many more legislators with high net *negative* than high net positive scores, so we list only the range from -8 to -4. Listed from lowest (i.e., worst) to highest (not *quite* as bad) net negatives.

Representatives. Carter (R-29), Holt (R-76), Littleton (R-78), Durham (R-65), McCormick (R-26), Moody (R-81), Rogers (R-74), C. Sexton (R-25), Goins (R-10), Kumar (R-66), Lynn (R-57), Williams (R-42).

Senators. Kelsey (R-31), Roberts (R-25), Beavers (R-17), Gardenhire (R-10),

3C. Roadless areas have been saved in region's national forests

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule that was developed in the final days of the Bill Clinton Administration shields 58 million acres of national forests nationwide from road building and commercial logging. In the Southeast, where relatively little land is contained in national forests, the protected acreage still amounted to 700,000 acres in the six states served by the Southern Environmental Law Center (VA, NC, SC, GA, AL, TN). During the Bush Administrations, the Rule was challenged by many actions, and put on hold for several years. SELC challenged every threatening project in the states it was serving, and now takes pride in that not a single roadless acre was lost in the Southern Appalachians. In 2013, the Supreme Court finally allowed the rule to stand.

3D. Cherokee National Forest Wilderness

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The U. S. Forest Service revisits Forest Management Plans periodically to fine-tune management policies. In the most recent Cherokee NF Management Plan, six new areas were recommended for Wilderness designation. This most protective level of management is reserved for very special places in the forest.

After years of effort, there are currently bills in *both* the Senate and the House to designate two of these special areas (totaling 7368 acres) in the North Cherokee National Forest for Wilderness-level management (NL326 ¶2C). It is hoped that the bills can be reconciled and enacted before the end of the year.

4. TVA NEWS

Congress undoing TVA's good plan to phase out 'floating houses'

[With some information from Joe Feeman's LTE, *News Sentinel* 10/13/16]

After gathering quantities of environmental data and public input, TVA produced an EIS and developed a plan for gradually phasing out floating houses that have been cluttering up certain TVA reservoirs and polluting their waters (NL326 ¶3B). Instead of lending support, both Houses of Congress passed an amendment to a must-pass bill that would *prevent* this TVA initiative. The full bill still needs to be finalized by a conference committee.

The amendment was initiated by North Carolina representatives from the Fontana Reservoir area, and by Tennessee Congressman Roe (R-1) on behalf of floating-house owners in his district.

The floating houses have been illegal since 1978. They benefit a minute 0.018% of Tennessee's population (and 0.004% of North Carolina's), and they occupy public waters that flooded the lands of citizens displaced for the public good. A great majority of the testimonies at the public hearings supported the TVA phase-out. The Congress is ready to override all this to benefit just a few people.

5. NATIONAL NEWS

5A. Environmental accomplishments of the Obama Administration

[Includes information from *Sierra*]

Pres. Obama came into office facing the worst financial emergency since the Great Depression. An important part of the sweeping economic stimulus he got Congress to enact invested more than \$900 billion in renewable energy, energy efficiency, green jobs, and green technology. Since 2009, solar-energy generation has increased 30x, and wind-energy generation more than 3x.

Another economic rescue, the bailout of the auto industry, led to a big boost in fuel economy (a condition for the bailout), which has already prevented millions of tons of carbon pollution of the atmosphere by the transportation sector. The electricity-generating sector was addressed by the Clean Power Plan, which aims to reduce or eliminate CO₂ emissions from power plants. Control of methane pollution (more carbon in the atmosphere) is in the works.

The historic Paris Agreement on global climate that has just gone into effect (¶6A, this NL) was facilitated by US actions, most notably the joint climate statement issued by the United States and China in 2014.

President Obama has designated 23 national monuments, protecting 265 million acres of land and water – more than any president before him. He guarded the Arc-

tic environment in numerous ways – by protecting 11 million acres of key conservation lands in Alaska’s National Petroleum Reserve, by stopping o&g drilling in the Arctic Ocean, by bestowing Wilderness Study status on ANWR. He rejected the Keystone-XL tar-sands oil pipeline, and he put in place a moratorium on new coal leasing on public lands.

More details about these and many other actions may be found in past Newsletters. How we’ll miss Pres. Obama!

5B. Need Stream Protection Rule to control devastation from strip mining

[With information from EarthJustice]

A Stream Protection Rule that would supersede the existing Stream Buffer Zone Rule enacted in 2008 (and based on the 1983 Stream Protection Rule) has been in the works for several years, strongly opposed by the coal industry. The proposal (NL324 ¶4D) is intended to avoid or minimize adverse impacts of coal mining (especially mountaintop removal) on surface water, groundwater, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources by limiting the mining of coal in or through streams, placement of waste in streams, and generation of mining waste.

One component of the rule has a strong bearing on reclamation. Coal company after coal company has filed for bankruptcy in recent years, often trying to escape its environmental and other obligations. In the wake of coal’s financial collapse, the Department of Interior has finally recognized that current rules that allow companies to “self-bond” (in lieu of providing firm financial backing for needed reclamation) do not work. The Stream Protection Rule requires coal companies to put in place financial assurances so that essential stream restoration and reclamation will *actually* be accomplished. Devastated communities would no longer be just abandoned.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Interior Secretary Sally Jewell (sallyjewell@ios.doi.gov; or see Political Guide on www.tcw.org) to finalize a strong Stream Protection Rule before the Obama Administration leaves office.

5C. Another attack on the Wilderness Act

The latest nibbling away at the 1964 Wilderness Act is being performed by Utah’s two Republican senators, Mike Lee and Orrin Hatch. (In other actions, both of these gentlemen have supported transfer of federal land management to state and local governments.) Their bill, entitled the “Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Areas Act” is driven by the Sustainable Trails Coalition, whose objective is the opening of Wilderness areas to mountain bikes.

The 1964 Wilderness Act states that, in designated wilderness areas, “there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, *no other form of mechanical transport.*” The objective of the authors of the Wilder-

ness Act was protection the nation’s last wild places from excessive human intrusions, present and future (mountain bikes were not specifically named because they were not around in 1964).

There are plenty of places mountain bikers can enjoy now. More than 600 million acres of federally managed land in the United States is open to mountain biking, as are many areas managed by state and local governments.

Beyond the practical reasons for keeping Wilderness free of mountain bikes (damage to fragile soils, conflicts with other users, spooking of wildlife) is the fundamental one, well stated by FSEEE*: “A wilderness, as conceived by those lawmakers more than half a century ago, is a place of solitude and peacefulness, a place offering refuge to all things nonhuman, a place of quiet reflection for our own harried selves.”

*[Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics]

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your senators (address p.2) to oppose the Hatch/Lee Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Areas Act.

5D. ANWR should be a National Monument

Almost two years ago, Pres. Obama took an important step toward temporary protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We hope he can now bring about ANWR’s permanent protection by designating it a National Monument.

In January 2015, the US Fish & Wildlife Service chose a Conservation Plan for ANWR under which 12 million acres of the Refuge will be managed as a Wilderness Study Area (NL326 ¶4E). Significantly, this Wilderness Study Area includes ANWR’s biological heart, the 1.4 million-acre Coastal Plain. To become a designated Wilderness, however, will require Congressional legislation.

The coastal plain, sometimes called America’s Serengeti, is home to more than 250 animal species, including polar bears, wolverines, musk oxen, arctic foxes, and grizzlies. More than 180 species of birds migrate there each year from all 50 states. A huge herd of caribou (the so-called Porcupine herd) annually migrates across the Coastal Plain to bear and rear their calves in this unique habitat. The Gwich’in people, whose home has for centuries been the Arctic, call the Coastal Plain the “Sacred Place Where Life Begins,” because a key part of their culture and their primary food source is the Porcupine caribou.

Despite its biological uniqueness, the Coastal Plain has for over 30 years been coveted by oil companies, which would unleash destructive oil & gas exploration and development. In addition to destroying landscape and habitat, such activity would have a dire impact on climate change. Alaska has warmed twice as fast as the rest of the country, partly because melting permafrost and melting ice initiate feedback loops. President Obama could save

ANWR from dire impacts by designating it a national Monument under the Antiquities Act.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Pres. Obama (address, p. 2) to designate the Coastal Plain of ANWR as a National Monument. There is, alas, little time left before he leaves office.

6. ENERGY; CLIMATE CHANGE

6A. *The Paris Agreement for global CO₂ reduction becomes international law*

On November 4, the Paris Agreement to combat climate change (NL325 ¶7B) became International Law. The Agreement was signed by more than 190 countries in December 2015. It needed to be formally ratified by at least 55 countries representing at least 55% of global CO₂ emissions. On October 2, India, the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases, formally joined the Paris agreement. The following week, the parliament of the European Union completed the ratification by taking approvals past the 55% mark.

Pres. Obama remarked, “the Paris Agreement alone will not solve the climate crisis. Even if we meet every target embodied in the agreement, we’ll only get to part of where we need to go. But make no mistake, this agreement will help delay or avoid some of the worst consequences of climate change.”

6B. *Status of the Clean Power Plan*

The Clean Power Plan (CPP) was formulated by the Obama Administration because of the dire need to reduce carbon pollution of the atmosphere, and the Congress’s refusal, ever since 2010, to consider any climate policy at all. The 1970 Clean Air Act broadly confers on EPA the responsibility to address air pollution from industrial sources that endanger human health and welfare. In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled that EPA has the authority and the obligation under the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases, and found that the Clean Air Act “speaks directly” to the carbon pollution from existing power plants. Essentially, the Court ordered EPA to consider CO₂ a pollutant, subject to regulation under the Clean Air Act. The CPP, which limits carbon emissions from future as well as existing power plants (NL320 ¶8A), is based on this ruling. It is because of the CPP that the US can meet its commitments under the Paris Accord.

Almost as soon as EPA announced the rule, 27 states with Republican governments sued to block it. On September 27, the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit heard oral arguments in the case. The states argue that the EPA is overstepping its authority in forcing them to restructure their power portfolios. The CPP does not specify specific methods of emission controls. Instead, the system for emissions cuts applies to the entire grid, allow-

ing electric generation to shift from more polluting sources to less polluting ones.

The 10 judges of the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit have not yet ruled in the lawsuit.

6C. *Canada is moving to carbon pricing*

Prime Minister Trudeau has announced in the House of Commons that provinces can craft a cap-and-trade system or put a direct price on carbon pollution, a price that must meet the federal benchmark or ‘floor price.’ If neither price nor cap-and-trade is in place by 2018, the government of Canada will implement a price in that jurisdiction.

6D. *DOE reports increase in renewable power deployment*

To add to the encouraging clean-energy statistics from the Department of Energy reported in our latest Newsletter (NL329 ¶5C), here are some facts about renewable power deployment, which DOE says has “increased really dramatically” over the past eight years.

- Since 2008, the cost of five clean energy technologies — from wind and solar power to LED lighting — has declined between 40% and 94%, depending on the technology,
- Wind and solar power accounted for two-thirds of new electricity capacity installed last year, and together produce enough electricity to power 19 million homes.

Energy Secretary Moniz, recognizing sentiments against nuclear power, *suggests* that “it will help a lot to reach the deep decarbonization we need by mid-century and beyond.”

The U.S. Congress recently extended federal tax incentives that encourage the development of wind and solar power, so experts predict continued gains in renewable output for the next few years.

6E. *Balancing renewable energy with land conservation in the desert*

[Information from Pew Charitable Trusts]

“Empty” deserts, many of them on public lands, seem like logical sites for developing solar or wind energy facilities; but some deserts contain habitats and other resources that must be considered. In 2014, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released a land-use plan for the California Desert. BLM’s *final* Record of Decision (ROD) for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan was published just a couple of months ago, after interaction with state agencies and local stakeholders. The Plan designates wildlife habitat and spectacular landscapes as National Conservation Lands, while also identifying areas that may be appropriate for renewable-energy development.

The ROD includes significant conservation gains beyond the 2014 draft land-use plan. The acreage recognized as having wilderness characteristics is doubled; and

permanent National Conservation Land protections are provided for certain special wild places.

6F. Integrating climate change into national security planning

[US Ambassador to the U.N, Susan Rice, September]

Pres. Obama has said “the growing threat of climate change could define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other challenge.” In late September, he signed a Presidential Memorandum requiring the federal government to fully consider the impacts of climate change in the development and implementation of all national-security policies and plans.

- First, the President’s memorandum directs 20 agencies from across the government to establish a dedicated working group to identify the U.S. national security priorities related to climate change.
- Second, it instructs these agencies to develop a Climate Change and National Security Action Plan outlining how they’ll develop and share information on these risks.
- Third, it directs each agency to develop strategies to address climate-related threats, from impacts on our economy to our food security to the flow of migrants and refugees.

The system this memorandum puts into place will ensure that data and insights from climate science become a meaningful component of national security policymaking.

6G. Climate-change capsules

- According to the US Energy Information Administration, our CO₂ emissions hit a 25-year low during the first half of 2016, helped in large part by (a) power plants switching to natural gas and renewable sources of energy (see Clean Power Plan, ¶6B, above), and (b) federal- and state-level mandated reductions in the energy consumed by a variety of products, i.e., energy efficiency. Full-year emissions for 2016 are on pace to be the lowest on record since 1992. Still, the drop from the previous year is not huge – probably 1.5+%. Speaking about our reduction of CO₂ levels, Pres. Obama said: “the skeptics said these actions would kill jobs. And instead, we saw — even as we were bringing down these carbon levels — the longest streak of job creation in American history.”
- A 400 ppm CO₂ level was recently recorded at Mauna Loa, Hawaii. This follows a similar high reading recorded on Antarctica (NL 329 ¶5D). CO₂ levels above 400 ppm make it even harder to prevent global temperatures from rising beyond the goal of 2° Celsius agreed to in Paris. To meet this goal, 80% of the planet’s coal reserves, ½ of its natural-gas reserves, and 1/3 of its oil reserves must remain unexploited.
- Climate change is worsening wildfires. According to a recent article in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, since 1979, climate change is respon-

sible for more than half of the dryness of Western forests and the increased length of the fire season. Since 1984, those factors have enlarged the cumulative forest fire area by 16,000 square miles, about the size of Massachusetts and Connecticut combined ... Every degree that temperatures warm has a much bigger effect on the fire area than the previous degree did.

7. TCWP NEWS

7A. TCWP Boards: new and ancient

At TCWP’s Annual Meeting, the following Board of Directors was elected for 2017;

Jimmy Groton (President)	John Cosgrove
Mark Bevelhimer (Vice Pres.)	Susan Donnelly
Carol Grametbauer (Secretary)	Larry Pounds
Tim Bigelow (Treasurer)	Liane (Lee) Russell
	Michele Thornton
	Hannah Tippet
	Warren Webb

Nominating Committee: Chuck Coutant (Chairman),
Don Barger, Sam Suffern

As we are celebrating our 50th anniversary, it may be of interest to look at our very first Board, a Board that was in session 50 year ago (through 1967).

Dick Lorenz (President)	Ed Clebsch
Lee Russell (Vice Pres.)	Rod Davis
Ruth Young (Secretary)	Ernie Dicker-
	man*
Jean Bangham (Treasurer)	Bob McNees*
	Roy McDonald*
	Liz Peele
	Dick Reed*

*deceased

Three officers of TCWP’s first Board attended our Annual Meeting on November 12, 2016 (TCWP service must be good for your health!).

Rounding out the list of officers and directors who served during the first of our five decades are the following:

Lee Russell (Pres. 1969-70)
Bill Russell* (Pres. 1971-73)
Don Todd* (Pres. 1974-76)
Fred Sweeton* (Treas. 1969-71)
Charlie Klabunde* (Treas. 1972-2015)
Ernie Dickerman* (Vice Pres. 1968-69)
Bob Lefler* (Vice Pres. 1970-71)
Ed Clebsch (Vice Pres. 1972)
Hal Smith* (Vice Pres. 1973)
Reid Gryder (Vice Pres. 1974)
Jack Sharp* (Vice Pres. 1975)
Mike Holland (Vice Pres. 1976)
Helen Ward (Sec. 1972-73)
Martha Kettle (Sec. 1974)

Mary Headrick (Sec. 1975)
 Margot Spore (Sec. 1976)
 Bob Peelle Jack Gibbons*
 Stan Auerbach* Rob Farmer
 Will Skelton Bill Countess*
 Ken Warren* Don Jared

7B. TCWP featured in

The Tennessee Conservationist

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

TCWP was featured in an article entitled “Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning Works to Preserve Water Quality, Wildlife and Natural Wonders” by Nancy Adgent in the July/August 2016 issue of *The Tennessee Conservationist*. In our last two newsletters (NL Nos. 328 [§7C] and 329 [§9C]) we somewhat casually mentioned the article and the availability of “reprints”. There are a couple of things that we need to clarify in regard to our reporting of the availability of the article.

First, Nancy Adgent worked very hard for several months preparing this article. She made several trips to East Tennessee to attend several of our events in order to get to know TCWP and its members. She also made trips to the area to conduct additional research and to interview other TCWP supporters. We are very grateful for her efforts and for the wonderful job she did chronicling our ongoing efforts to Take Care of Wild Places.

Second, the reprints we offered to interested readers were not actually reprints of Nancy’s excellent article. Rather they were entire issues of *The Tennessee Conservationist* that included Nancy’s article about TCWP, which *Conservationist* staff generously contributed when we inquired about the possibility of getting an electronic copy of the article to share on our website and other social media. Although electronic copies of the article were not available, *The Conservationist* very generously gave us 20 extra issues of the magazine to make available to interested TCWP members.

We salute Nancy for her hard work and dedicated interest in TCWP. We also commend *The Tennessee Conservationist* staff for their generosity in donating issues of the magazine so we could share the TCWP article with other members of the public. We apologize for any misconceptions that may have been fostered by our inaccurate wording in the last two newsletters.

7C. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

[NOTE: Times listed for all events are Eastern time unless specified otherwise.]

Southern Environmental Law Center Program on Coal Ash Disposal – Tuesday, November 29

In a program to be held at 7 p.m. November 29 in the Oak Ridge Civic Center Craft Room, Amanda Garcia, will discuss the Southern Environmental Law Center’s current

work on coal ash issues. Ms. Garcia is a staff attorney in the Nashville office of SELC, where she focuses on energy policy in Tennessee.

The Bull Run Fossil Plant sits at the confluence of the Clinch River and Bull Run Creek, with the drinking water intake for the West Knox Utility District just over a quarter-mile downstream from several of its ash pits. In her presentation, Garcia will discuss TVA’s plans for closing ash ponds at Bull Run, the pollution and risk involved, the role of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in reviewing TVA’s plans and addressing the pollution at Bull Run and other sites, and opportunities for the public to weigh in.

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 8

This annual event, which has become one of the most popular of the year, will again be held at the home of Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen, 371 East Drive, Oak Ridge.

All members and friends are welcome! The hours are 7 – 9:30 p.m. Please bring an hors d’oeuvre or dessert to share; beverages will be provided.

Whites Creek Trail workday – Saturday, January 14

TCWP will sponsor a day of trail maintenance work at Whites Creek Small Wild Area in Rhea County at 10 a.m. as part of our ongoing stewardship activities for this TVA Small Wild Area trail. The trail loops onto land that TCWP purchased from Bowater several years ago, thanks to the generous support of our members.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring work gloves, loppers, and small bow saws or folding saws. Some hand tools will be available at the event. Please be sure to bring clothing appropriate for weather conditions, water, snacks, and/or a lunch.

Participants can meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge at the Gold’s Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita’s). We will leave Oak Ridge at 9 a.m., or volunteers can join the crew at the trailhead at 10 a.m. We plan to spend three or four hours at the site, but volunteers may come and go as they wish. (NOTE: If the weather is uncooperative—excessive rain, or snow and ice—we will reschedule for the following Saturday.)

For additional information, contact Jimmy Groton at 865-805-9908 or at groton87@comcast.net.

“Delights and Frights Along the Cumberland Trail” – Thursday, Feb. 2

TCWP board member Larry Pounds and his son Ben spent a month in 2012 hiking all then-existing 200 miles of the Cumberland Trail, then documented their experience in a book, *Wildly Strolling Along*. In a 7 p.m. program on February 2, they will share slides of their favorite sights along the Cumberland Trail and provide basic information about the Trail. They will also give a short reading from their book. The location for this program

has not yet been determined; see the January newsletter for additional details.

Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at (865) 583-3967.

7D. Recent events

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

“Fall Flowers in a Powerline Prairie” – Saturday, Sept. 10

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

Fifteen folks braved a sultry day to tour a path and prairie to see wildflowers that bloom in the fall. Goldenrod, several kinds of asters, rabbit tobacco and beggar-lice were among the specimens identified during the outing. A regrettable sighting was profuse bicolor lespedeza, an invasive exotic plant. A non-botanic highlight was the opportunity to observing a praying mantis eating a wasp!

This outing was in the North Chickamauga Watershed in Hamilton County. Part of the trail was on a State Natural Area. TCWP cosponsored this event with the Tennessee Native Plant Society. It was led by well-known botanist and author Larry Pounds, who serves on the boards of both organizations.

National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, September 24

(Contributed by Jimmy Groton)

Once again TCWP celebrated National Public Lands Day (NPLD) at TVA’s Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. NPLD is an annual event that focuses on both user enjoyment and celebration of volunteer conservation efforts on public lands. As in years past, TCWP partnered with TVA for a day of observation of and education about the unique native plants in the study area, as well as the exotic invasive plants that also grow there.

In the spirit of NPLD, we worked to remove exotic invasive plants and restore the native cedar barren. This year, more than 35 people helped with the event, including several Oak Ridge High School students and ORHS teachers Beth Adler and Deni Sobek. We began the activities with an interpretive walk, and a talk on birding by TVA retiree (and TCWP Program Committee member) Wes James, followed by a discussion of the plants of the ESA by TCWP Board member and botanist Larry Pounds. After that we continued our work to restore the native cedar barren and to remove exotic invasive plants and trash. TVA also provided several birdhouses that we helped put up in the wetland near the bird-watching area and around the cemetery. At the completion of our work, TCWP provided a pizza lunch for all volunteers.

Hike at the Norris Municipal Watershed – Saturday, Oct. 29

(Contributed by Joe Feeman)

The weather was beautiful, with clear skies, and the air was crisp and cool as 14 hikers left the trailhead in the Norris Watershed on Saturday, October 29. Although this may not be the prettiest fall, there was plenty of color in the leaves to make this hike pleasant. The hickories and sugar maples provided some nice yellows while the red maples and sourwoods pitched in the red hues.

Our trip took us up Clear Creek Trail to Lower White Pine Trail and then up to Raccoon Run Trail. After a short climb we reached Red Hill Trail and walked down to the old Red Hill Cemetery, which has graves dating back to the 1800s. As the temperatures rose, we were peeling off layers of clothes. We then took White Oak Spring Trail down by the former Charlie Nine house site to Clear Creek Trail. Following the creek downstream, we soon reached Lower White Pine Trail and retraced our steps on Clear Creek to the trailhead at the Norris Municipal Water Treatment Plant.

Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup – Saturday, November 5

(Contributed by Tim Bigelow)

We had a great workday on November 5, with fabulous fall weather. Seventeen workers came out, including five from the Oak Ridge High School AP Environmental Science class.

Volunteers cleared Chinese lespedeza, mimosa, privet, and other invasives from the ellipse area, and worked with weed wrenches and loppers to eliminate a large number of bush honeysuckle and other exotic species over to the fence. Some stumps and cut branches were also cleared out from this area, and the trail to the front area was trimmed a bit. A crew also worked on clearing brush around the wetland area. The water level is very low currently due to the drought.

After a guided walk to the front area led by Larry Pounds and Jimmy Groton, the group returned for a pizza picnic.

7E. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...



From Sandra Goss

- Larry Pounds for leading a flower-filled walk on a power-line prairie on September 10.
- Francis Perey for handling our web site edits.
- Tennessee Native Plant Society for cosponsoring outings with TCWP. They’re invariably interesting.
- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Bob Compton, Jimmy Groton, Katherine Hensley, Eileen Neiler, Lise Neiler, Dick Raridon, and Michele Thornton for helping with distribution of the TCWP Newsletter.

--Jean Bangham, John Bates, Bob Compton, Katherine Hensley, Joe Horton, and Michele Thornton for helping with mailing the Annual Meeting brochure.

--Joe Feeman for leading the enjoyable hike at Norris Municipal Watershed on October 29.

--Tim Bigelow for stewarding the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens cleanup, and Jimmy Groton and Larry Pounds for their help with this effort.

for organizations and citizens to continue to educate our officials and others about threats to the environment. Thanks for your support of TCWP this year, and we invite to rejoin for 2017, committed to making a difference in this planet of ours.

I close with Best Wishes for a great holiday season, and joy and comraderies with family and friends, and a Happy New Year to us all.
Sandra

7F. Friends and members in the news

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

--Mike Sale has been elected president of the Morgan County Humane Society, as reported in the September 7 *Morgan County News*.

--Dick Raridon was mentioned as a story source in Ray Smith's August 22 *Oak Ridger* column.

--Harry Shatz contributed an article to the September 14 *Norris Bulletin*.

--Dick Raridon penned a letter to the editor of the September 6 *Oak Ridger* about junk phone calls.

--Joe Horton wrote a letter to the editor of the September 19 *News Sentinel* about energy sources.

--Billie Minser wrote a letter to the editor of the October 7 *News Sentinel* about Congressional action on floating houses on TVA reservoirs.

--Mike Butler wrote an op-ed column in the October 8 *News Sentinel* about TVA's Floating Houses policy.

--Don Barger was honored at the Salamander Ball at Zoo Knoxville, as reported in the October 9 *News Sentinel*.

--Joe Feeman penned two articles about his recent Wyoming travels in the September 28 and October 5 *Norris Bulletin*.

--Deni Sobek has been appointed to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board, as reported in the October 9 *News Sentinel*.

--Lee Russell polled all candidates for Oak Ridge City Council and Schoolboard for their position on constructing a preschool building *inside* Elm Grove Park, then presented the results (along with her opposition to the proposal) in a letter to *The Oak Ridger* on October 18.

--Mary Headrick coauthored an article about the Affordable Care Act Marketplace in the November 3 *News Sentinel*.

8. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR

(For more information, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967, or Sandra@sandragoss.com)

- November 19, ranger-led hike along the Emory River Nature Trail (moderate, under 1 mile). Meet at 10:00 ET at Rock Creek Campground. There will be discussions on erosion, wildlife, the human history of the area, and the water itself.
- November 29, Southern Environmental Law Center Program on Coal Ash Disposal (see ¶7C, this NL).
- December 8, TCWP Holiday Party (see ¶7C, this NL).
- January 14, Whites Creek Trail Workday (see ¶7C, this NL).
- February 2, "Delights and Frights Along the Cumberland Trail" (see ¶7C, this NL).

•• RESOURCES

- More information about the Southern Environmental Law Center's work in connection with coal ash disposal (see ¶7C, this NL) is available at southernenvironment.org/cases-and-projects/coal-waste.
- If you know of a group that would be interested in having the science of climate change presented in an understandable and concrete format, e-mail Chris Iversen (cmiversen@gmail.com). She can arrange for a speaker from ORNL's Climate Change Science Institute.
- SELC's *Stories of Solar* campaign shares accounts from real people throughout the Southeast who have gone solar. Visit www.stories.solar to hear about cost savings, employment opportunities, and other experiences.

7G. Executive Director's Column

[By Sandra Goss]

I write this column after undergoing an emergency appendectomy two days ago. My recovery is going quite well and surprisingly rapidly. Nonetheless, I was put to sleep, and that is a difficult state from which to recover.

The election results are in, and reinforce the need

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Michele Thornton..... Director
Hannah TippetDirector
Warren Webb.....Director
Sandra GossExecutive Director

Coming Events

Thurs., Nov.29 Presentation on TVA Coal Ash Policy
Thurs., Dec. 8 TCWP Holiday Party

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!